



# Boone Cliffs Nature Preserve

**Location:** western Boone County KY: 4990 Middle Creek Rd, Burlington KY 41005

**Website:** <http://www.boonecountyky.org/parks/ParkInfo/19>

**Directions:** From the junction of I-75 and KY 18 (aka Burlington Pike) near Florence, follow KY 18 west for 10.8 miles, then left on Middle Creek Road for 1.5 miles to gravel parking area on left side of road

**Trail Miles:** 2.4 hilly miles. There are 3 nice old benches strategically placed atop the ridge.

**Dogs:** Dogs are not allowed in the nature preserve.

**Description:** Situated along a tributary to Middle Creek, Boone Cliffs State Nature Preserve boasts 74 acres of rich flora, fauna and unique geological features. The preserve derives its name from the 20- to 40-foot conglomerate "cliffs" that rise above the valley slopes. The "cliffs" are not actually cliffs but rock outcroppings amidst deposits of pebbles and soil left behind in the most recent glaciations. Now managed by Boone County, the Nature Conservancy had recognized and managed the site because the cliffs are unique geologic features in the northern Kentucky landscape. One of the first sites established by the Kentucky chapter of the Nature Conservancy, it boasts one of the most diverse examples of mixed mesophytic forest in the area. Wildflowers here are brilliant in the spring and there are over 300 species of plants that have been catalogued in the preserve.

A species to look for in the preserve is salamanders. Look for the Northern Redback Salamander in the leaf litter. The preserve is one of the few places where this species can be found in Kentucky. Other species may be seen closer to the unnamed tributary of Middle Creek that flows through the preserve. Especially impressive is the Dusky Salamander, which is used as an indicator species for exceptionally high water quality.

**Other Activities:** Activities in the preserve should be limited to low impact ones, such as hiking, wildlife viewing and nature photography. During hunting season, use caution since private lands used for hunting surround this park.

