

Gunpowder Creek (Sperti) Nature Park

Location: central Boone County in Northern KY, south of Burlington

Address: 6750 Sperti Lane, Burlington KY 41005

Website:

https://www.boonecountyky.org/departments/parks/gunpowder_creek_nature_park.aspx

<u>Driving Directions</u>: From Burlington KY on KY-18, go south on East Bend Rd at the old Boone County Courthouse. Go 1 mile then turn left onto Hanover Blvd. Then turn right onto Sperti Lane. The park is at the end of Sperti Lane on the left.

Hiking Trail Miles: About 1.25 each way, making for a 2.5 round-trip.

Relatively easy and not too long, but the creek is about 210' below the elevation of the parking lot, so there's a 210' climb on the return hike, which some will find difficult. There are no restrooms or water supplies along the trail.

<u>Trail Features</u>: The trail is an unpaved, mostly gravel-covered 1800's logging trail that travels from an elevation of 830 feet to 620 feet and ends near Gunpowder Creek at a stone seating area. The creek over many years has eroded its bank along some sections of creek-side trail, so be careful about footing especially when the trail is wet or slippery.

If hiking along the creek during or after a rainy spring, expect to see a lively, aggressive stream, sometimes with floating debris washed from elsewhere in the county or uprooted mature trees tossed into creative logiams. If hiking in late summer, expect to see a calm, shallow stream you can skip rocks across.

Dogs: Permitted if on a leash.

Park History: Owned and managed by Boone County Parks, Gunpowder Creek Nature Park covers 122 wooded acres and includes a stand of mature oak trees on the northern hillside that is one of the best remaining undisturbed areas of woodland in the region. Many rocks along the creek contain a rich fossil record of when this region was once below a tropical sea.

If you visit when the creek is calm and low-level, or if you bring a horse, you can cross the creek and explore the more than 100 acres of the park on the opposite side of the creek from the trail.

Besides the trail and creek, there's a childrens' playground near the parking lot and a shelter with electricity and a water fountain which can be reserved.

Trail map courtesy of Boone County Parks:

