



Highland Cemetery Nature Preserve

Location: Kenton County KY: 2167 Dixie Highway, Fort Mitchell, KY
41017-2998. 859.331.3220

Website: www.highlandcemetery.com/facilities.html

Directions: Take exit 188 (Ft. Mitchell / Dixie Hwy.) off I-71 / 75. Go south on Dixie Hwy. Make a left at the white entrance gates of Highland Cemetery, directly across from the Kroger and Expressway Plaza. Bear to the right after you enter the Cemetery to find the trail entrances.

Trail Miles: 6 Trails totaling 3.4 miles

Dogs: Leashed dogs are allowed on the trails. Please keep dogs off the gravesites.

Description: The trails are located along a hillside and several spurs have inclines to lower or upper sections, some with wooden or stone stair-steps, some just long inclines on dirt trails. If you do all the trails in one loop hike, it can be a good workout. The trails have been installed as environmentally as possible. They are no wider than necessary to preserve the vegetation. Dead trees are left standing to provide food, nesting and den sites for a variety of wildlife.

Highland Pike, Ft. Wright, Ft. Mitchell, and the cemetery border the 150 acres of undeveloped cemetery property covered by the trails. The trails are a great place to view woodland wildflowers in the spring, peaking around mid-April. Early spring and summer are ideal times for bird-watchers wanting to see many of our native species and Neotropical migrants. A few years ago a bald eagle was sighted in the cemetery. The maple trees make for great color in the fall, peaking in mid- October. Winter is just as interesting with formations in streams and animal tracks in the snow. The Cemetery trails are open daily from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

History: The cemetery property contains three lakes, hundreds of large trees and rolling hills, waterfalls and streams. 150-acres of this 250-acre land was turned into a Wildlife Enhancement

Program and hiking trails were installed. The cemetery itself is also fairly interesting. The oldest grave is that of Mary Anne Blythe, born in Frederick, Maryland in 1798 and died in 1868. A number of civil war veterans are buried on the site along with many prominent northern Kentucky residents. One of the more interesting gravestones bears a life size likeness of J.D. Shutt, a businessman and state representative, who is buried beneath.

Other Activities: The Highland Cemetery is next to the Ft. Wright Nature Preserve that has its own trail system. The following trail and cemetery map was constructed from 2 separate downloadable maps available from the website.

