



# Kincaid Lake State Park

**Location:** Pendleton County KY: 565 Kincaid Park Rd, Falmouth, KY 41040. Phone: 859.654.3531

**Website:** <http://parks.ky.gov/parks/recreationparks/kincaid-lake/default.aspx>

**Directions:** Travel US-27 south into Falmouth, then turn east on KY-22. After the Licking River bridge, then turn left on KY-159 and go 3.5 miles. Turn right at the park entrance and drive 1.5 miles, turning right at the recreation area. A paved path from the shelter building leads to the trailhead at the woods' edge. The shelter has restrooms.

**Trail Miles:** Upto 2.5 miles overall if hiking all portions of the 2 connected trails in loops.

**Trail Features:** Two trails named for native flora, Ironwood and Spicebush, travel through a variety of nature habitats, covering upto 180' elevation change from creek valley to hilltop. Some low areas can have water flowing over the trail. Some trail sections are steep, rocky and/or damp, creating sometimes slippery conditions. Trails are not complicated, but in fall 2013 there were a few signs uprooted or giving incorrect directions or showing incorrect trail name. Some newly installed sign posts hint new signs may be coming. In the meantime, trust the map in this guide or in the trail shelter more than the signs, especially at trail junctions.

Each trail is reached via a path between the trailhead and a suspension bridge. Descend into the woods until reaching a trailside shelter with plaques on flora and fauna. Trail continues through the shelter, exiting the opposite side, descending initially on imbedded wood steps, finally entering a marshy meadow. Turn left, following the creek until reaching a wood suspension bridge over the creek. Ironwood Trail veers left before the bridge. Spicebush starts on the bridge's other side.

Ironwood roller-coasters along the left of the creek for a half mile before crossing the creek on flat rocks. Then it climbs, gradually becoming steeper, eventually entering a Cedar grove. Continue climbing another half mile then turn right, walking a quarter mile on a wider park maintenance trail. At a 3-trail junction, choose either to path to loop back via Spicebush.

Spicebush Trail is a 1-mile loop. After crossing suspension bridge, turn right, following the creek

along its opposite bank back to the marshy meadow. Turn left, climbing steeply into a hardwood forest. Pass a stand of Virginia Pines, a clearing, a stand of Cedars, finally reaching the 3-trail junction. Turn left to return on Spicebush or right to return via Ironwood (maybe twice as long).

**Dogs:** Leashed dogs are allowed.

**History:** Kincaid Lake joined Kentucky State Parks in 1958 when the Kincaid Park Development Assn transferred 800 acres to Kentucky for the creation of a lake and state park. Kincaid Creek’s dam was constructed in 1961 and by 1963 Kincaid Lake opened to the public.

**Other Activities:** The main attraction is boating, fishing and swimming in the 183 acre lake surrounded by a second-growth hardwood forest. The park also has 9-hole golf, miniature golf, playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, picnic areas and a year-round campground.

