



## Morning View Heritage Area

**Location:** southeast Kenton County in Northern KY - about 25 minutes southeast of Independence.

**Address:** 15168 Decoursey Pike, Morning View 41063.

### **Website:**

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=edc5a552867545ce81b806330798e2ab>

**Driving Directions:** From Independence KY, go south on KY-17 (Madison Pk). Continue south through the KY-16 intersection. After an "Atwood" community sign, turn east (left) on KY-2042 (Moffett Rd). After 5.2 miles turn right on Kenton Station Rd (which is still KY-2042). Turn right on KY-177 and drive south about 5 minutes. Look for the preserve's parking lot about ½ mile south of the KY-14 intersection where there is a Morning View Post Office. There is no sign yet but the new gravel parking lot is on the west side of Decoursey (KY-177), on the opposite side of the road from the railroad track. It has 2 entrances. A black barn is obvious behind a wood fence.

**Hiking Trail Miles:** 3.13 miles. There are several loop hike options with upto 175'-200' elevation change. The shortest loop hike is flat and only about 0.4 miles. The trails are recently blazed, temporarily marked with small flags and plastic strips attached to bushes and trees.

**Rating:** Easy, but there are multiple climbs & descents upto 200'. Unpaved trails can be slippery or tricky, especially in wintery or wet weather. There are no restrooms or water supplies onsite.

### **Trail Features:**

**Wetlands Trail**, a flat mowed loop path thru tall grass, is 0.43 miles if walked as a simple loop. It starts at the barn's right and leads thru the wetlands and past bat habitats. It also leads to the rear trailhead of Dickerson Trail.

**Dickerson Trail**, a mostly wooded path with some nice ridgetop vistas, is 0.65 miles if walked end-to-end and includes about 175' of elevation change. There are red markers along the trail. It intersects with both Kreissl trailheads. The front trailhead starts at barn's left and the rear trailhead is in the back corner of Wetlands Trail.

**Kreissl Trail** traverses a nice valley along a stream but also visits a ridgetop about 200' higher than its lower trailhead. The trail is 0.76 miles end-to-end and there's about 190' elevation gain from the lower trailhead to its high point. There are white markers along the path. The trailhead for Steinhauser Trail is 0.41 miles from the lower trailhead off Dickerson Trail.

**Steinhauser Trail** offers a 1.57 mile round-trip hike and is marked with orange markers. From its only trailhead on Kreissl Trail, it starts by crossing a creek then climbing into the preserve's southern ridges, gaining about 200' elevation from trailhead to high point. There are nice viewing opportunities to the north from the east-most high point, including Licking River and railroad track.

**Dogs:** Not permitted even if leashed.

**Park History:** This preserve is part of the upper Licking River watershed, one of the most biologically significant rivers in the nation. Most of the preserve's land was once owned by German immigrants, the Steinhausers, who settled in Kenton County in 1858. The land remained in the family through 6 generations before they decided to sell it. In 2010, Kenton County Conservation District (KCCD) received a grant from Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board to purchase the 204 acres of fields and forests, plus more than 3,600' of Licking River frontage. KCCD was awarded the 2015 Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Stewardship Award for its efforts at Morning View, including participation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to install roosting structures for endangered Indiana bats, doing bottomland hardwood forest restoration and building constructed wetlands. Trail blazing since 2016 has been led by volunteers from Northern Kentucky Sierra Club.

