



Quiet Trails Nature Preserve

Location: Harrison County KY, between Falmouth & Cynthiana

Website:

<http://naturepreserves.ky.gov/naturepreserves/Pages/quiettrails.aspx>

Driving Directions: From US-27 about mid-way between Falmouth and Cynthiana, go east on KY-1284 to Sunrise and what looks like a 3-way intersection, giving no choice but a left or right turn. However, go straight across this intersection onto Pugh's Ferry Rd on the right side of the old Sunrise General Store. Drive carefully on Pugh's Ferry Rd since it is very narrow and curvy. Bear left twice to avoid veering onto 2 little deadend roads. Quiet Trails is marked by a small parking lot on the right side of Pugh's Ferry Road about 1.8 miles from the Sunrise General Store.

Hiking Trail Miles: Almost 2 miles of unpaved wooded trails in 2 main trails, Challenger and Deep Hollow, which can be combined for a loop hike down to the Licking River and back. More distance can be achieved by hiking along the river, but no trail is defined down there.

Trail Features: Mostly wooded trails, mostly clear and well maintained. About 300' drop in elevation from parking lot to the banks of the Licking River. The climb back to the parking lot can be taxing for some. No restrooms, drinking water or facilities. A small roofed shelter is near the river. One mile long, Challenger Trail leaves the parking lot's left side, staying on the ridge while passing a couple ponds where birds, small amphibians and reptiles are often seen. Next it passes a now-discontinued "Sassafras Trail" junction on the left, where a wildlife-viewing blind still stands. Soon Challenger descends, passing an old barn then Deep Hollow Trail junction. Trail descent continues into a clearing with a small roofed picnic shelter, then drops to the Licking River. Returning via Deep Hollow Trail is a steady gradual uphill hike in a scenic creek-valley, with the trail much steeper near its end at the opposite side of the parking lot.

Dogs: Not allowed.

Preserve History: Dedicated as a nature preserve in 1992, Quiet Trails was donated to Kentucky in 1991 by Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Wigglesworth, Jr. They initially bought 110 acres of ridges and ravines bordering the Licking River in the 1970s, creating trails, also building birdhouses and planting native wildflowers, grasses and trees to attract and sustain wildlife. 55 more acres were purchased and dedicated in 1997. The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission manages the area primarily for environmental education and passive recreation. The preserve is a “Watchable Wildlife Site” with a diversity of birds, trees and wildflowers representing the richness of Bluegrass fauna and flora. Over 130 species of birds, 98 species of trees, over 100 species of wildflowers and at least 10 species of amphibians and reptiles have been seen at Quiet Trails.

