



Tower Park

Location: In Fort Thomas KY, a few miles south of downtown Cincinnati

Website: <http://www.ftthomas.org/Recreation/TowerPark.html>

Driving Directions: From I-471 take Exit 3, Grand Ave. Coming south off 471, turn left on Grand and go about 2.5 miles toward Fort Thomas. Coming north off 471, veer right on the Fort Thomas ramp and go about 2.1 miles on Grand. When finally reaching a 3 way stop where Grand Ave merges with South Fort Thomas Ave, continue straight on South Fort Thomas Ave a few blocks, then turn left at the big water tower & canon. Turn left again at the first stop sign and park. One of the trailheads is marked with a sign and located right off of the parking lot as you drive in.

Hiking / Mountain Bike Trail Miles: Several Miles (over 4)

Dogs: Allowed but must be leashed

Description: Hilly soil and gravel trails wind through the park. Names like Battle Row, Old Fort Supply Rd and Major Brown Path recall the era when the park was home to an active military post. Located on 86 acres of forest on an old army post, much of the military housing for the officers is still standing, some vacant, some restored and occupied. Trails loop and interconnect but none are very long, so there is little danger of getting lost. Although a few hills are very steep, most are moderate in angle & length. The park is open dawn to dusk. Deer frequent the area at quiet times, and recently a bald eagle was spotted soaring overhead.

Other Activities: There are several large picnic shelters with numerous tables. a large well-equipped playground, restrooms, and a water fountain. There are basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts, and a baseball field. There are also 10 signs in the park with “QR” codes visitors can scan with their smart phones to retrieve further information from the website.

Ecological restoration is in progress, a project of Northern Kentucky University’s Center for Applied Ecology. Down the gravel road alongside the tennis courts, look for posted marker #30 on the right. Parts of the trail are red blazed. It is a loop trail about a mile long. Returning to the gravel road, continue down it for a close-up look at the stream restoration which parallels the road.

For less adventuresome souls, paved and tree-lined sidewalks run through the park, winding around playground areas, old and new military housing, also past Veterans Hospital. Following the blacktop loop road at the south end of the park that goes by the Army Reserve Center, find the historic Fort Thomas Landmark Tree Trail which is not part of Fort Thomas Tower Park. (This 1-mile trail is described elsewhere in this hiking guide.) Fort Thomas Military and Community Museum is open noon to 4pm Wed-Sun (check times), including a display on the Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire which was featured on the TV program “Mysteries at the Museum” which aired on the Travel Channel.

