

The Recreational Trails System Located at the Saunders Springs Nature Preserve

Within the Saunders Springs Nature Preserve located just off N. Wilson Road in Radcliff, KY and the Saunders Springs Annex area adjacent to it (about 100 acres in total area) are a series of 20+ named trails totaling more than 10 miles in combined length. Eleven of the trails are located within the Preserve (about three miles in total length) and the remainder within the Annex (about seven miles in total length). There is a 200+ foot elevation differential within both the Preserve and Annex areas.

The 11 nature and hiking trails located within the Preserve generally contain steps or stairs (some 900 total) to assist with safety and to help control erosion along the trails. Due to these steps/stairs, the Preserve trails are not usually used by bikers. The terrain in the Annex area is less severe and there are no steps/stairs making the Annex area trails more suited for runners, hikers and mountain bikers.

There is no charge to utilize the trail system at Saunders Springs and the trails are open for use (weather permitting) 365 days per year from dawn to dusk. For more information about the trails call the City of Radcliff, 270-351-4079.

Below is information about the 11 nature trails within the Preserve.

North Cabin Trail. This 900' long trail has five steps and starts/ends at the Stovall Cabin parking area and starts/ends at the entrance overlook.

South Cabin Trail. This 900' long trail has 60 steps and starts/ends near the Atcher Cabin and ends/starts at the entrance overlook.

Canyon Trail. This trail starts adjacent to the entrance overlook. The first 450' of this 1,200' trail is gently rolling before descending down some 160 steps to the Lake Trail below, a drop of about 120'. Midway down this trail there is a side trail about 400 feet in length which leads to the Eagle Trail and the dam at the end of the Lake Trail.

Wilderness Trail. This 3,500' long trail starts/stops across from the entrance overlook and starts/ends near the lower pavilion and ascends/descends some 200 feet in elevation along its route. There are almost 100 steps/stairs along this trail.

Lake Trail. This trail encircles the Saunders Springs Lake (the High Reservoir) with an "inner" trail (about 1,700' in length with no stairs and an "outer" trail which is 700' longer and contains 60 stairs. There are five wooden bridges along the Lake Trail.

Eagle Trail. This 500' long trail starts/ends near the upper pavilion and descends some 120' ending at the intersection of the Lake and Tranquility Trails and includes more than 100 steps/stairs. Midway down this trail there is an overlook which looks out over the lake and Saunders Springs Stream

Fern Trail. This 1,500' foot long trail has an upper and lower portion with about 100 steps/stairs within it. This trail starts/ends near the main cave and starts/ends at the foot bridge just down from the two water "tanks". The Fern Trail also intersects with the Scout Trail.

Tranquility Trail. This 400' long handicap accessible trail starts/ends near the main cave and ends/starts at the Lake Trail-Eagle Trail intersection. It follows the cascading stream.

Scout Trail. This 500' long trail connects the Scout Camping Area to the Fern Trail.

Cascade Trail. This 300' long trail has 60 steps, two wooden bridges and links the lower pavilion to the lake/reservoir and Lake Trail.

Stream Trail. This 500' long trail follows both sides of the stream that flows from the cave.

These are the trails within the Annex area:

Knox Trail is the widest trail and is located along the center of the Annex area. The Knox Trail provides a total trail length of just over one mile.

Perimeter Trail, the longest trail in the Annex at 5.2 five miles in length, and encircles the entire Annex area. There are 10 wooden foot bridges along this trail.

Evergreen Trail links the South Cabin Trail (Preserve Trail) to the Perimeter Trail at two locations as well as links to the Snake Trail and is 1,200' in length.

Bambi Trail starts along the Knox Trail and goes south for about 800' linking with the Snake Trail and the Center Trails. The Pond Trail intersects at two points along the Bambi Trail

Pond Trail, a 900' circular trail, ties in with the Bambi Trail at two locations. There is one wooden foot bridge along this trail.

Snake Trail is about 1,200' long connecting with the Bambi, Center and Evergreen Trails.

Center Trail is 1,250' long and intersects with the Perimeter (two locations), Knox, Bambi and Snake Trails. It begins/end at the Wilderness Trail (Preserve trail) and begins/ends at the Perimeter Trail.

Hi-Low Trail follows the far NE side of the Annex area and is 800' long. This trail starts/ends at the Perimeter Trail and ends at the lowest level of the Preserve near Saunders Springs Lane. There is a 100' elevation change along this trail.

Wild Goose Trail (mountain biking only) is 3,000 feet in length and designed with skill features for the intermediate mountain biker and is located directly off the Perimeter Trail. The Knox Trail encircles Wild Goose.

Starcluster Area is a mountain biking only area which contains three trails: Misery which is a 2,500 foot long uphill trail, the Sabot Trail which is a 750 foot downhill trail and Hellfire which is a 2,500 foot long downhill trail. All these trails are designed for intermediate level mountain bikers.

Connector Trails. There are several connector trails ranging in length from 100'-650' which link the Perimeter Trail to the Knox Trail or Saunders Springs Lane.