

STATE NATURE PRESERVES & STATE NATURAL AREAS DIRECTORY



KENTUCKY STATE NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

801 Teton Trail
Frankfort, KY 40601
Tel: (502) 573-2886 Fax: (502) 573-2355
E-mail: naturepreserves@ky.gov
<http://naturepreserves.ky.gov>

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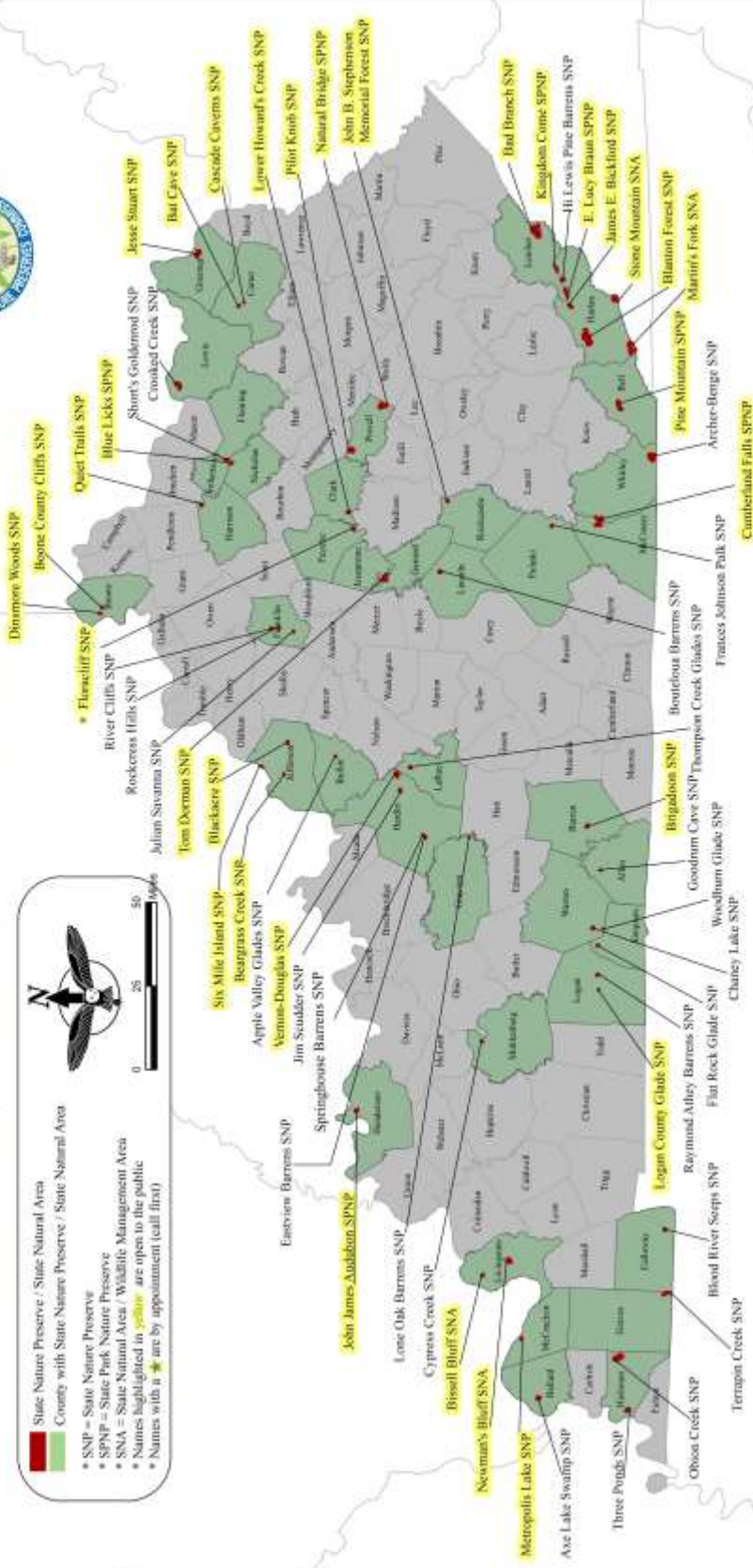


The Energy and Environment Cabinet does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability and on request will provide accommodations and services, including auxiliary aids, necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs, and activities.

Kentucky State Nature Preserves and State Natural Areas



State Nature Preserve / State Natural Area
 County with State Nature Preserve / State Natural Area
 * SNP = State Nature Preserve
 * SPNP = State Park Nature Preserve
 * SNA = State Natural Area / Wildlife Management Area
 * Names highlighted in yellow are open to the public
 * Names with a star are by appointment (call first)



Note: State Nature Preserve / State Natural Area Directory available online @
www.naturepreserves.ky.gov/state/naturepreserves.htm
 EPSG: 3089
 January 8, 2016

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SNP = STATE NATURE PRESERVE.

SPNP = STATE PARK NATURE PRESERVE.

SNA = STATE NATURAL AREA.

OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission to protect Kentucky's natural heritage by: (1) identifying, acquiring, and managing natural areas that represent the best known occurrences of rare native species, natural communities, and significant natural features in a statewide nature preserves system; (2) working with others to protect biological diversity; and (3) educating Kentuckians as to the value and purpose of nature preserves and biodiversity conservation.

OUR VISION

The people of Kentucky recognize, appreciate, endorse, and actively support biodiversity conservation, including the acquisition and maintenance of a state nature preserves system that represents the best possible examples of native biological diversity and significant natural features within the Commonwealth.

THE STATE NATURE PRESERVES SYSTEM

The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission has preserved in perpetuity **27,121** acres of ecological communities and natural habitat for rare species throughout the state. With the assistance of other state and county government agencies, private organizations, foundations, and individuals, the Commission is able to acquire land, dedicate it, and manage it as a state nature preserves. A State Nature Preserve (SNP) is a legally dedicated area which is recognized by the state for its natural significance, established to protect rare native species and ecological communities, managed to enhance and perpetuate these elements of biodiversity, and protected by the highest form of land protection by statute. An area may also be dedicated for the purpose of environmental education. A State Natural Area (SNA) is a site jointly managed as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR). These areas are also dedicated to protect them permanently. They are protected for the same purposes as State Nature Preserves (SNP), but a rule allowing hunting differentiates them from SNPs. The Commission manages a total of 62 places across the Commonwealth. Fifty-two are dedicated SNPs (nine of which are dedicated preserves on Kentucky state parks), four dedicated SNAs and four privately-owned conservation easements. Negotiations for acquisition of additional acres, often on land adjoining dedicated preserves, are ongoing.

PUBLIC ENJOYMENT

The majority of the preserves are open to the public (unless otherwise noted) throughout the year, sunrise to sunset, for non-consumptive recreation such as hiking, birding, photography, and nature study. Four State Natural Areas are open to wildlife-related recreation, including hunting and fishing in accordance with regulations established by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR). For the protection of sensitive species, visitation to the other preserves is restricted but guided tours are given periodically. Please contact the Commission for more information.

RULES FOR STATE NATURE PRESERVES AND STATE NATURAL AREAS

By observing these rules you will be helping to protect Kentucky's natural heritage.

- Preserves are open sunrise to sunset.
- Trails are open to foot traffic only. The established trail system is the safest and best way to travel through the preserve. Visitors must not re-route or shortcut the existing trail system.
- Horses, bicycles, climbing and rappelling are not permitted on State Nature Preserves/ State Natural Areas because of their destructive impacts to the trails and natural features.
- Motorized vehicles are not permitted.
- Possession of drugs or alcohol is prohibited.
- Collecting plants, animals, rocks, artifacts, or wood reduces those things that are needed to maintain nature's delicate balance. Therefore, collecting, hunting and trapping are prohibited on dedicated State Nature Preserves.
- Fishing is allowed **ONLY** at Metropolis Lake SNP and Six Mile Island SNP.
- Hunting is allowed **ONLY** at Stone Mountain State Natural Area (SNA), Martin's Fork SNA, Bissell Bluff SNA and Newman's Bluff SNA, in accordance with regulations established by KDFWR under KRS 150 and 300 KAR chapters 1 – 3.
- To ensure the natural beauty of each preserve and to promote visitor safety and enjoyment, camping, picnicking, building fires, audio equipment and pets are not permitted.
- Remember to carry out your trash.

Rules for State Nature Preserves are established by 400 KAR 2:090. Any person in violation of this regulation may be liable for a civil penalty of \$1,000 per day and possible criminal prosecution as provided for in KRS 224.

APPLE VALLEY GLADES STATE NATURE PRESERVE

The preserve protects a unique dolomite-limestone glade and barrens system, now rare in Kentucky. Kentucky gladecress (*Leavenworthia exigua* var. *laciniata*), a state endangered species and federally threatened, occurs at Apple Valley Glade. It is endemic to Bullitt and Jefferson counties, growing nowhere else in the world. The gladecress was first protected under a 23-acre conservation easement on June 27, 2003. An additional 37 acres were purchased and dedicated as Apple Valley Glades State Nature Preserve on June 14, 2012. The small rocky glade openings scattered among cedar and oak woodlands contain many rare plant species, including Craue's sedge (*Carex crawei*) and Ringseed rush (*Juncus filipendulus*). Access is by written permission only.

ARCHER-BENGE STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated on March 14, 2013, the Archer-Benge State Nature Preserve encompasses 1,864 acres on both the south and north faces of Pine Mountain in Whitley County. The preserve is named in honor of two individuals, Kentucky Natural Lands Trust Director, Hugh Archer who worked diligently on the creation of this preserve as well as working on many other state conservation projects throughout his long career. William Dennis Benge, who wished to see nature protected permanently for the benefit of Kentucky's wildlife left a generous contribution to help with the purchase of the preserve. The preserve also protects a significant portion of a large forest block located along Pine Mountain. Several unique community types can be found here that include small seeps and bogs, rock outcrops, caves, cliffs and small openings associated with numerous prairie species. Laurel Fork stream protects the federally threatened Cumberland arrow darter (*Etheostoma susanae*). The plants include several that are state listed such as filmy angelica (*Angelica triquinata*), golden club (*Orontium aquaticum*) and rock harlequin (*Corydalis sempervirens*). Access is by written permission only.

AXE LAKE SWAMP STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated February 20, 1991, 146 acres of Axe Lake Swamp in Ballard County, KY established the Axe Lake Swamp State Nature Preserve. An additional tract of 312 acres was dedicated December 11, 2001 increasing the size of the preserve to 458 acres. This preserve was acquired with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy and represents the first step for the Commission in assisting with the long term protection of the entire 3,000-acre Axe Lake Swamp wetlands complex which supports at least eight rare plant and animal species. Axe Lake Swamp State Nature Preserve is a portion of Kentucky's best-known example of a large, intact bald cypress-tupelo swamp. The 3,000-acre wetland contains a large great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) rookery and is the only known nesting site for the great egret (*Casmerodius albus*) in Kentucky. Thousands of waterfowl, particularly wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), roost here during the winter, and the site has been recognized as a priority wetland in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Access is by written permission only.

BAD BRANCH STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Initially 435 acres of land in Letcher County were dedicated September 26, 1985, establishing Bad Branch State Nature Preserve. Additional acreage owned by The Nature Conservancy was dedicated March 4, 1992. To date, 2,785 have been protected. The preserve contains Bad Branch Gorge and the majority of the Presley House Branch watershed. The preserve protects the scenic beauty of the gorge and one of the largest concentrations of rare and uncommon species known in the state. Kentucky's only known nesting pair of common ravens (*Corvus corax*) makes Bad Branch its home. Along the 7.5-mile trail system visitors may experience Bad Branch Falls, a 60-foot waterfall plunging down the south face of Pine Mountain, and unparalleled views from High Rock. The Pine Mountain Trail runs along the crest of the mountain and joins the preserve trail system before crossing into the Jefferson National Forest. Kentucky Division of Water has designated Bad Branch as a Kentucky Wild River.

- Features* - hemlock gorge, waterfall, high quality stream, numerous rare species, trail along mountain crest
- Access* - foot trail and bridges, 7.5 miles of trail over uneven terrain, very strenuous
- Facilities* - none
- Parking* - 10 cars, 1 bus. No overnight parking is allowed.
- Hazards* - steep cliffs, falling ice in winter, venomous snakes (rare)
- Activities* - hiking, birding, nature photography, research
- Directions* - Letcher County. From the junction of KY 15 and US 119 in Whitesburg, follow US 119 south 8.0 miles. Turn left at the junction with KY 932 and travel east for 2.0 miles to the gravel parking area on the left side of KY 932.

BAT CAVE (ROGER W. BARBOUR) & CASCADE CAVERNS STATE NATURE PRESERVES

Dedicated December 16, 1981, Bat Cave/Cascade Caverns State Nature Preserves consist of two tracts totaling 146 acres located in Carter County within Carter Caves State Resort Park. Bat Cave was dedicated into the nature preserves system for the protection of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). This federally endangered species' wintering numbers in Bat Cave are estimated at 28,000. The Cascade Caverns portion of the park was dedicated into the nature preserves system to protect two rare plant species, the mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*) and the Canadian yew (*Taxus canadensis*). To prevent disturbance of the bats in hibernation, the caves are closed to public visitation from October through May. However, hiking trails on the portion of the preserve that is above ground are open year-round.

- Features* - 2 cave systems, rare bat winter roost, rare plants
- Access* - cave tours (Bat Cave closed in between months of October and April), 1 mile of trails on surface
- Facilities* - state resort park
- Parking* - abundant
- Hazards* - steep banks above Tygarts Creek at Cascade Caverns
- Activities* - hiking, geological study, birding
- Directions* - Carter County. From the junction of I-64 and U.S. 60 N.E. of Olive Hill, follow U.S. 60 east 1.5 miles. Turn left at the junction with KY 182 and drive east for 2.5 miles to Carter Caves State Resort Park entrance. Inquire about the preserve at the lodge.

BEARGRASS CREEK STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated February 17, 1982, Beargrass Creek State Nature Preserve is a 41-acre second growth forest located in close proximity to Joe Creason Park and the Louisville Zoological Gardens in Jefferson County. This urban green space is a popular birding area and offers passive recreation and nature education within the city limits of Louisville. The preserve is co-managed with the Louisville Nature Center and is also a Watchable Wildlife Site.

- Features* - wooded tract in urban Louisville, diversity of migrant birds
- Access* - 1.0 mile of trails on ridgetop and bottomland, easy
- Facilities* - Louisville Nature Center and adjacent Joe Creason Park
- Parking* - abundant
- Activities* - birding, hiking, nature study
- Directions* - Jefferson County. From the Watterson Expressway (I-264), take Exit 14 to Poplar Level Road North. Take Poplar Level Road to Trevilian Way (1.0 mile). Turn Right on to Trevilian Way and go 0.2 mile to Illinois Avenue. Turn Left on to Illinois Avenue. Take Illinois Avenue to the Louisville Nature Center parking lot on your right (0.2 mile)

BLACKACRE STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated March 19, 1979, Blackacre State Nature Preserve is a tract of approximately 175 acres located in Jefferson County near Jeffersontown that is used as an environmental education center by the Jefferson County Public School System and the University of Louisville. Since it is located adjacent to a large metropolitan area, it offers a unique outdoor laboratory for environmental education to a large number of children who otherwise might not have the opportunity for this experience. Through an agreement with the Commission, the Jefferson County Public School System and the Blackacre Foundation, Inc. are currently managing this area. Visits are scheduled by contacting the director at Blackacre or the Jefferson County Public School System.

BLANTON FOREST STATE NATURE PRESERVE

On September 15, 1995, 1,075 acres of the south face of Pine Mountain in Harlan County were dedicated, protecting half of the largest old-growth forest in Kentucky. As the preserve has grown with additions in 1996, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2014, Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve now protects 3,509 acres in total. As one of thirteen large old-growth tracts in the eastern United States, Blanton Forest is a diverse ecological treasure. Many of the trees are three to four feet in diameter, towering 100 feet above the forest floor. Blanton Forest contains several forest communities, including mixed-mesophytic deciduous forest. Many kinds of trees, such as sugar maple, tulip poplar, various oaks, hemlocks, beech and several magnolias make up the forest canopy. The preserve is open to the public.

- Features* - largest old growth forest in Kentucky
- Access* - loop foot trail (4 miles) up the south face of Pine Mt, foot trail (0.5miles) along Watts Creek.
- Facilities* - none
- Parking* - lot adjacent to Camp Blanton
- Hazards* - steep slopes, venomous snakes, and hazard trees
- Activities* - hiking, birding, nature study
- Directions* - Harlan County, approximately five miles west of the city of Harlan. From Interstate 75, take exit 29 onto U.S. Hwy 25E at Corbin. Travel south on U.S. 25E to Pineville. Turn left on U.S. Hwy 119 (crossing the Cumberland River) and travel north for 23.5 miles. Turn left on KY 840 at a sign for Camp Blanton. Follow KY 840 for approximately 2 miles; the parking area for the preserve is adjacent to Camp Blanton.

BLOOD RIVER SEEPS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

This 193-acre preserve in Calloway County protects an example of the globally imperiled coastal plain forested acid seep natural community type. This community is found where water continually percolates through sands and gravels at the base of dry, hardwood-dominated slopes, and above more extensive wet to mesic bottomland hardwood forests which lie along the Blood River. Rare species known to occur along the Blood River include the gray bat, central mudminnow, western mud snake, three lined salamander, threadleaf mock bishop-weed, sweetscent ladies' tresses and Nuttall's oak. From the endemic populations of the Blood River crayfish to large nesting populations of great blue herons, the area's seeps, swamps, sloughs and streambeds are unmatched in Kentucky, supporting one of the most biologically rich areas in the state. Access is by written permission only.

BLUE LICKS STATE PARK NATURE PRESERVE

Blue Licks State Park Nature Preserve is located in Robertson County within Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park. The original 15-acre tract was dedicated on December 16, 1981. Today the preserve protects a total of 53 acres within the park's boundaries. These areas were dedicated into the nature preserves system for the protection of Short's goldenrod (*Solidago shortii*), an extremely rare species of plant known to exist in only two locations in the world and protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

- Features* - globally rare plant, relict bison trail, glade
- Access* - 0.25-mile foot path along buffalo trace, easy
- Facilities* - state park
- Parking* - abundant
- Activities* - hiking, birding, nature study
- Directions* - Robertson County. From Maysville, take US 68 25 miles south to park entrance. From Carlisle, take US 68 10 miles north to Blue Licks State Park entrance.

BOONE COUNTY CLIFFS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Owned by the Boone County Fiscal Court, this preserve was originally acquired by The Nature Conservancy. It was dedicated November 5, 1987 as a state nature preserve to protect the unique glacial features and four forest community types that are present there. A total of 75 acres are protected within the preserve. The preserve protects a tributary to Middle Creek, and is named for the 20- to 40-foot conglomerate cliffs along the valley walls. The conglomerate is composed of gravel that was deposited as glacial outwash 700,000 years ago.

- Features* - glacial outwash cliffs, spring wildflower display
- Access* - 2.4 mile trail over uneven terrain, moderate
- Facilities* - none
- Parking* - 5 cars; 1 bus
- Hazards* - steep cliffs
- Activities* - hiking, nature study, birding
- Directions* - Boone County. From the junction of I-75 and KY 18 near Florence, follow KY 18 west for 10.8 miles, then left on Middle Creek Road for 1.5 miles to gravel parking area on left side of road.

BOUTELOUA BARRENS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Bouteloua Barrens in Lincoln County is named for the beautiful side-oats grama grass (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) that grows there. Dedicated on September 8, 2004 this 260-acre preserve protects a native grassland that is the largest known in the Bluegrass Region and one of the largest in the entire state. The barrens communities consist of a patchwork of grassy cedar barrens and open glades with exposed gravel. Other rare species known from the site include state endangered hairy false gromwell (*Onosmodium hispidissimum*), and two species of special concern: Eggleston's violet (*Viola septemloba* var. *egglestonii*), and Crawe's sedge (*Carex crawei*). The preserve is not open to the public except by Commission-sponsored hikes. Research may be conducted by written permission.

BRIGADOON STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Brigadoon State Nature Preserve is located in Barren County adjacent to the Barren River Reservoir. With assistance from The Nature Conservancy, 92 acres of mostly mature forest were dedicated into the preserve system on March 14, 1985. Another 88 acres were dedicated on June 12, 2001. Today, a total of 184 acres are protected. The rich woodlands contain an impressive array of spring wildflowers including several species that are considered rare or uncommon. The preserve also provides habitat for many resident and migratory birds.

- Features* - mature beech, maple, tulip poplar forest
- Access* - one-mile foot trail through ridgetops, mature forest and scenic ravines, moderately strenuous
- Facilities* - none
- Parking* - 10 cars
- Hazards* - steep cliffs, venomous snakes
- Activities* - hiking, birding, nature photography, research
- Directions* - Barren County - From Exit 43 on I-65, travel east on the Cumberland Parkway to its junction with US 31E in Glasgow. Follow US 31E south for 6.5 miles. Turn left onto Dover Church-Browning School Road and travel approximately 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Mutter Road. The parking area is approximately one-half mile on the left.

CHANEY LAKE STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated May 9, 1991, Chaney Lake State Nature Preserve consists of 169 acres of intermittently flooded low-lying fields and woodlands. The area was acquired with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy. Chaney Lake, located near Woodburn in Warren County, is one of two “transient” lakes in the area. The lake forms when heavy rains cause groundwater levels to rise and overflow onto the surface through several sinkholes located in the low-lying depression. The area is well known to birdwatchers for the abundance of migrant waterfowl and shorebirds that pass through the area in the spring. Access is by written permission only.

CROOKED CREEK BARRENS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Crooked Creek Barrens State Nature Preserve was established when the original 60-acre tract was dedicated June 15, 1999. Today a total of 728 acres makes up this unique preserve in Lewis County. The preserve features a unique oak barrens community and adjacent oak-hickory forest. Prairie species such as big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), and prairie dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum* var. *luciae-brauniae*) occur in the barrens areas. This site also protects five rare plant species: starry false Solomon’s seal (*Maianthemum stellatum*), white rattlesnake root (*Prenanthes alba*), slender blazing-star (*Liatris cylindracea*), earleaf foxglove (*Agalinis auriculata*), and scarlet Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*). Access to this preserve is by written permission only.

CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated September 26, 1983, Cumberland Falls State Park Nature Preserve encompasses approximately 1,294 acres in Cumberland Falls State Resort Park in McCreary and Whitley Counties. This preserve protects several species of rare plants and animals. Additionally, a number of waterfalls are located within the preserve including Cumberland Falls, which plummets 67 feet into a rocky gorge and is the highest waterfall in the eastern United States south of Niagara Falls. The Cumberland River, designated as a Kentucky Wild River, flows through the preserve.

- Features* - waterfalls, rare plant and animal species, scenic views
- Access* - 4.5 miles of trail over uneven terrain, moderate
- Facilities* - state resort park
- Parking* - limited at trailheads; parking areas within short walk
- Hazards* - steep cliffs, waterfalls, venomous snakes (rare)
- Activities* - hiking, nature study, geological study, birding
- Directions* - Whitley and McCreary Counties. From the junction of I-75 and U.S. 25W southwest of Corbin, follow 25W for 14.5 miles. Turn right onto KY 90 for 8.8 miles to reach the Cumberland Falls State Resort Park Lodge area. Inquire at the lodge for information about the preserve.

CYPRESS CREEK STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated December 5, 1986, Cypress Creek State Nature Preserve consists of a 98-acre portion of bottomlands lying adjacent to Cypress Creek in Muhlenberg County. The preserve and adjacent areas contain a mosaic of natural communities including bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) swamp and bottomland hardwood forest complex, that support numerous rare species typically associated with wetlands. Access is by written permission only.

DINSMORE WOODS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated May 16, 1990, Dinsmore Woods State Nature Preserve is a 105-acre area that protects a relatively undisturbed maple-oak-ash forest in Boone County. Purchased by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in 1974, ownership was transferred to the Boone County Fiscal Court in 2010. Prior to TNC's ownership, the woods had been in the possession of one family dating back to the 1830s. The maturity and species composition of this woodland are attributed in part to the fact that it has never been commercially logged. The preserve is adjacent to the early 19th century Dinsmore Homestead, a historical landmark. Populations of the federally endangered running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*) are also adjacent to preserve property.

- Features* - mature forest
- Access* - 1.7-mile trail, moderately strenuous
- Facilities* - none
- Parking* - limited
- Activities* - hiking, nature study, birding
- Directions* - Boone County. From the junction of I-75 and KY 18 near Florence, follow KY 18 west for 11.3 miles, turn left into gravel parking lot for the county horsemen's area. Trailhead is across KY 18

E. LUCY BRAUN MEMORIAL STATE NATURE PRESERVE

The 609-acre E. Lucy Braun State Nature Preserve, formerly known as Pine Mountain Trail State Park Nature Preserve is located on the south slope of Pine Mountain in Harlan County. It contains a great variety of habitats and biological diversity. The preserve was dedicated into the state nature preserves system on June 13, 2007. Large sandstone outcrops found throughout the preserve feature gnarly old pitch pines (*Pinus rigida*) and Virginia pines (*P. virginiana*), colorful mosses and lichens. These openings offer striking views of Black Mountain across the valley to the south. Pine woodland, a rare community type recovering from the pine bark beetle outbreak in the late 1990s, fringes these outcrops to the north. An Appalachian bog, one of the rarest natural communities in the state, also is known from the property. The preserve provides habitat for rare plants such as showy gentian (*Gentiana decora*) and pale corydalis (*Corydalis sempervirens*), which are restricted to Pine Mountain. The only known state record of a globally rare club-moss occurs there as well. Facilities are planned for through-hiking on the Pine Mountain Trail on land adjoining the preserve. Hiking is available from sunrise to sunset.

EASTVIEW BARRENS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated Sept. 17, 1997, Eastview Barrens State Nature Preserve is 119 acres of grassland and open woodland co-owned by The Nature Conservancy and the Commission. The presence of globally rare species at Eastview Barrens makes protection a critical priority. Numerous rare species, including prairie gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*), barrens silky aster (*Aster pratensis*), frostweed (*Helianthemum bicknellii*), long-haired hawkweed (*Hieracium longipilum*), and spikemoss (*Selaginella apoda*) continue to survive on the fire-maintained grasslands. Due to the sensitivity of the preserve, Eastview Barrens State Nature Preserve is only accessible through guided tours with the Commission or The Nature Conservancy.

FLAT ROCK GLADE STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated Oct. 24, 1990, Flat Rock Glade State Nature Preserve was originally a 65-acre natural area in Simpson County. An additional four acres were acquired as buffer acreage and were dedicated March 11, 1994. The area was acquired with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy. On December 5, 2000, the Commission dedicated another 30 acres adjacent to the existing preserve. The preserve's name describes the large expanses of limestone bedrock that outcrop at the surface and form openings in the oak-hickory woods. The glades support seven rare plant species including limestone fameflower (*Talinum calcaricum*), which is only known from two sites in Kentucky. Access is by written permission only.

FLORA CLIFF STATE NATURE PRESERVE

The late Dr. Mary Wharton, former Botany Professor and Biology Department Head at Georgetown College, established Floracliff as a nature sanctuary. Dr. Wharton began acquiring the Floracliff property in 1958. The property is located on the Kentucky River in Fayette County. The Floracliff Board of Directors owns the preserve and jointly manages it with the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. This area was dedicated March 15, 1996. Floracliff consists of 287 acres of old field upland and second growth forest dominated by maple, oak and hickory. In addition to having a rich and diverse wildflower display, Floracliff also harbors a significant geologic feature. Below Elk Lick Falls is a tufa formation, which resembles a frozen waterfall. It is considered one of the best tufa formations in the eastern United States. Similar to stalagmites in caves, a tufa forms when minerals within dripping water are deposited on a surface. Travertine is the primary mineral composing this tufa. The formation is 61 feet high and 8-12 feet in diameter. The rich flora, ravines, cliffs and waterfalls of Floracliff make it one of the more scenic areas in central Kentucky. Visitation to the preserve is by appointment only and is restricted to small groups led by approved leaders.

FRANCES JOHNSON PALK STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Frances Johnson Palk State Nature Preserve was dedicated July 9, 2002 and is located in Pulaski County. Discovered in 1998 by KSNPC biologists, this 238-acre preserve contains a series of acid seep communities that can rarely be seen in Kentucky. These small wetlands are formed by seeps found at the heads of several small streams. Although much of the preserve is dominated by upland forest, over 70 species of plants occur within the bogs, several of which are considered rare. This preserve was acquired with a generous contribution from East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc. and the assistance of The Nature Conservancy. Access is by written permission only.

GOODRUM CAVE STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated Aug. 12, 1992, this preserve is a 51-acre area in Allen County containing one of the six most important maternity caves known in Kentucky. The site protects a maternity colony of approximately 13,000 gray myotis (*Myotis grisescens*) bats, one of three federally endangered bats found in Kentucky. The preserve includes a section of the wooded stream corridor and uplands surrounding the cave, which has been surveyed and mapped for a distance of approximately 6,200 feet. The acquisition of Goodrum Cave was the Commission's first purchase of a cave for the protection of an endangered bat species. Access is by written permission only.

HI LEWIS PINE BARRENS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Hi Lewis Pine Barrens State Nature Preserve protects an outstanding example of an open pine-oak woodland, dominated by pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) and chestnut oak (*Quercus montana*), on the steep, mid to upper south-facing slope of Pine Mountain in Harlan County. 164 acres were acquired with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy and dedicated into the State Nature Preserves System June 4, 1997. Today the preserve protects a total of 303 acres. Named for the branch that drains the area, this part of the mountain supports an extremely rare pine barrens community as well as a number of rare plants that are found in association with it. The open areas feature an unusual mix of plants typically thought of as prairie plants, such as little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) and drought tolerant plants such as low-bush blueberries (*Vaccinium sp.*). Rare plants found at the site include diminutive screwstem (*Bartonia virginica*), frostweed (*Helianthemum canadense*), and the largest known Kentucky population of yellow wild indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*). Spanning 1000 feet in elevation from the base of the mountain to the ridge crest, the preserve also protects flowering and fruiting American chestnut trees (*Castanea dentata*), hemlock-mixed mesophytic forest, and massive sandstone outcrops and cliffs. Access is by written permission only.

JAMES E. BICKFORD STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated June 30, 2003, James E. Bickford State Nature Preserve encompasses 348 acres on the north face of Pine Mountain in Harlan County. The preserve is named in honor of the former Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet Secretary James E. Bickford. The preserve is located on the grounds of the historic Pine Mountain Settlement School, a highly regarded community education facility founded in 1913. The preserve protects a relatively high quality mixed mesophytic forest, the typical natural community found on the north face of Pine Mountain. The preserve also protects Sawmill Hollow Cave, a small cave that developed in the limestone layer that is exposed on the north face of Pine Mountain. Additionally, the preserve supports a diverse invertebrate fauna including two rare beetles and two species new to science. Six rare plant species, including fetterbush (*Leucothoe recurva*) and golden saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium americanum*), are known to occur on the preserve. For access to the preserve, please contact the Pine Mountain Settlement School.

JESSE STUART STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated December 7, 1979, Jesse Stuart State Nature Preserve encompasses 714 acres located in Greenup County. The preserve was acquired through a gift-purchase arrangement with the internationally known author, Jesse Stuart. The area is used for passive recreation and environmental education. The preserve is also a Watchable Wildlife Site.

- Features* - hills and hollows made famous in Stuart's writings
- Access* - 3.0 miles of trail over uneven terrain, moderate
- Facilities* - none
- Parking* - 6 cars; 1 bus
- Activities* - hiking, birding, and literature study
- Directions* - Greenup County. From the junction of I-64 and KY 1 north of Grayson, follow KY 1 north for 20 miles. Turn left onto W-Hollow Road. Drive 1.5 miles to parking area on right side of road.

JIM SCUDDER STATE NATURE PRESERVE

The Hardin County Fiscal Court dedicated 58 acres of county property September 2, 1987, initiating the Commission's first land protection partnership with local government. The Commission purchased 109 acres of additional glades and surrounding second growth forest which were dedicated March 2, 2005. Today the preserve protects a total of 231 acres, and within its boundaries is one of the best remaining examples of limestone glades in Kentucky. These glades are dry, rocky openings on otherwise forested south-facing slopes. They provide habitat for several rare plant species, including the Barrens Silky Aster (*Symphyotrichum pratense*). Public access is by guided hike only.

JOHN B. STEPHENSON MEMORIAL FOREST STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated December 10, 1996, John B. Stephenson Memorial Forest State Nature Preserve in Rockcastle County protects a 123-acre wooded gorge with two waterfalls and a rich spring floral display. The preserve honors John B. Stephenson, the former President of Berea College who enjoyed the area's beauty and solitude and worked hard to preserve the forest surrounding Anglin Falls. Long open to the public, the preserve will remain a significant source for education, interpretation, and inspiration for the people of Kentucky and the students and faculty of Berea College.

- Features* - Anglin Falls (75 feet), Venable Falls (150 feet) spring wildflower display, Anglin Creek, forested gorge.
- Access* - 1-mile foot trail over uneven terrain, moderate to strenuous
- Facilities* - none
- Hazards* - cliffs at waterfalls, slippery rocks.
- Activities* - hiking, nature study, birding
- Directions* - Rockcastle County. From Exit 76 on I-75, go east 3.5 miles on KY 21 to the center of Berea. Turn right at the light (staying on KY 21), past the Boone Tavern and travel another 5 miles. Turn right (south) on to US 421 and travel 2.6 miles. Turn right on Burnt Ridge Road and travel .2 mile, then left on Hammonds Fork Road and travel 3.4 miles. Look for a red brick house on the right (box 919); approximately one-tenth of a mile past the house make a sharp left turn down a steep hill on to Anglin Falls Road. Travel .9 mile on Anglin Falls Road to a sign that says "Anglin Falls" next to a mailbox marked "542 R2". Turn left and travel .2 mile to the parking area/trail head.

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON STATE PARK NATURE PRESERVE

Located within John James Audubon State Park in Henderson County, the John James Audubon State Park Nature Preserve protects a mature mixed hardwood forest. More than 300 acres of the park was originally set aside as a bird sanctuary and memorial to the distinguished naturalist, John James Audubon. This area was dedicated September 19, 1979. Today a total of 339 acres have been protected in perpetuity. Rich displays of spring wildflowers and loess bluffs overlooking the Ohio River are some of the features to explore.

- Features* - old growth trees, lake, spring wildflowers
- Access* - 5.5 miles of trail over uneven terrain, moderate
- Facilities* - state park
- Parking* - abundant
- Activities* - hiking, nature study, birding
- Directions* - Henderson County. From the junction of US 60 and US 41 in Henderson, follow U.S. 41 north for 1.7 miles to the John James Audubon State Park entrance.

JULIAN SAVANNA STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Located in Franklin County, Julian Savanna protects 42 acres of remnant bluegrass savanna woodland. This globally imperiled community type is unique to the bluegrass region of Kentucky. The Commission will conduct research on methods to restore and enhance the woodland. Several other remnant sites in the region will benefit from the research results. Dedicated on October 22, 2002, this property is also privately owned and is accessible by written permission only. This preserve was made possible with the generous donation of a conservation easement by the owner.

KINGDOM COME STATE PARK NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated March 4, 1992, Kingdom Come State Park Nature Preserve consists of 225 acres on the north face of Pine Mountain in Letcher County within the Kingdom Come State Park. This preserve protects Kentucky's third largest colony of the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). Line Fork Cave, located in the preserve, is the winter roost for over 3,000 bats. Historically, 10,000 Indiana bats inhabited Line Fork Cave. This serious decline in bat population is due to human disturbance and vandalism to the cave. Consequently, cave visitation has been restricted to the days between May 1 and August 31 and can be arranged through the Kingdom Come State Park office.

- Features* - cave system, rare bat winter roost
- Access* - at your own risk, due to rugged terrain and absence of trail
- Facilities* - state park
- Parking* - limited
- Hazards* - steep cliffs, venomous snakes
- Activities* - caving, hiking, birding
- Directions* - Harlan and Letcher Counties. From junction of KY 160 and U.S. 119 in Cumberland, take U.S. 119 1.0 mile to the east. Turn left at entrance to Kingdom Come State Park and follow signs to the park office.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA AND STATE NATURAL AREA - BISSELL BLUFF

Dedicated into the preserve system in December 2004, management of this site is shared between the Livingston County Fiscal Court, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), and the Commission. The Livingston County Fiscal Court owns the property and agreed to dedicate the 563 acres they purchased along the Cumberland River in central Livingston County. It contains at least seven natural communities, including steep forested bluffs on both limestone and sandstone, mesic ravine forest, bottomland hardwood forest, bald cypress slough, and riparian forest. Although most of the forested areas are second growth, a small area of very mature mesic forest occurs in one of the ravines within the site and a portion of the bottomland hardwood forest is also quite mature. A great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) rookery is located within the bottomlands along Bissell Creek, which is a slow, meandering tributary of the lower Cumberland River. Once facilities are completed, the area will be open for hiking, nature study, and wildlife-related recreation, including hunting and fishing in accordance with regulations established by KDFWR.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA AND STATE NATURAL AREA – NEWMAN’S BLUFF

Dedicated into the preserve system in December 2004, management of this site is shared between the Livingston County Fiscal Court, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), and the Commission. The Livingston County Fiscal Court agreed to dedicate the 169-acre property that is part of a larger tract they own along Sugarcamp Creek and Newman’s Bluff. The tract protects a federally threatened species as well as habitat along the forested slope of Newman’s Bluff and the creek. Once facilities are completed, the area will be open for hiking, nature study, and wildlife-related recreation, including hunting and fishing in accordance with regulations established by KDFWR.

LOGAN COUNTY GLADE STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated October 24, 1990, Logan County Glade State Nature Preserve is the result of a cooperative effort between the Logan County fiscal court and the Commission to protect 42 acres of limestone glades in Russellville. The glades occupy the southwest facing midslope of an 810-foot high knob located within the city limits. The steep rocky slope is dominated by prairie grasses such as little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and side-oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*). Rare plants include Carolina larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*), glade violet (*Viola egglestonii*), and limestone fameflower (*Talinum calcaricum*). The county and the Commission manage this preserve jointly.

- Features* - high quality limestone glades
- Access* - 0.5 mile trail over uneven terrain, moderate
- Facilities* - none
- Parking* - parking lot adjacent to preserve, space for 15 cars
- Hazards* - steep slopes, loose rock, venomous snakes (rare)
- Activities* - birding, hiking, nature study
- Directions* - Logan County. From the junction of the Green River Parkway and U.S. 68/KY 80 at Bowling Green, follow U.S. 68/KY 80 west for 24.4 miles to Russellville. Turn right into parking area between Health Department and old hospital.

LONE OAK BARRENS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Lone Oak Barrens State Nature Preserve was dedicated on September 25, 2014. Located in Grayson County, the 34-acre preserve protects a unique limestone slope glade community with barrens and prairie remnants adjoining the glade. A state threatened plant, the hispid falsemallow occurs in the glades and Kentucky's best population of a globally rare invertebrate species has been documented on the preserve. At this time, access is by written permission for scientific research.

LOWER HOWARDS CREEK HERITAGE PARK AND STATE NATURE PRESERVE

228 acres surrounding Lower Howards Creek in southwestern Clark County that is owned by the Clark County Fiscal Court was dedicated into the Nature Preserves System January 22, 2001. A tributary to the Kentucky River, Lower Howards Creek flows through a deep, twisting gorge. Second growth forests cover the slopes and cliff tops, and a showy array of spring wildflowers grace the valley bottoms. The steep topography has left refuge for two rare plants, the federally endangered running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*) and state threatened water stitchwort (*Stellaria fontinalis*). Located downstream from Boonesborough, Lower Howards Creek valley was an industrial center for water powered stone milling in the 18th and 19th centuries. Five of the stone buildings that remain are on the National Register of Historic Places, and one can still find the rock fences and hike the historic wagon road winding down into the steep, forested gorge. Presently, access is by guided hike only.

MARTIN'S FORK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA AND STATE NATURAL AREA

Martin's Fork of the Cumberland River is a scenic, high quality mountain stream that originates in the higher elevations of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park in Bell County, Kentucky. Dedicated into the preserve system on March 8, 2006, this 1,601-acre site is located on Cumberland and Brush mountains in Harlan County. Management of this site is shared between the Kentucky Division of Water Wild Rivers Program, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), and the Commission. Martin's Fork and its watershed constitute a significant natural resource for Kentucky. Nine plants and three animals listed by the Commission as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern are known from the property. The property protects six natural community types and one new state record insect. Once facilities are completed, the area will be open for hiking, nature study, and wildlife-related recreation, including hunting in accordance with regulations established by KDFWR.

METROPOLIS LAKE STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated July 16, 1984, Metropolis Lake State Nature Preserve is a 123-acre tract in McCracken County, which contains 50-acre Metropolis Lake, one of only a few remaining natural lakes in the Ohio River floodplain. The area was acquired with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy. The lake is ringed with bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and swamp tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) and provides habitat for five species of fish that are rare or uncommon in Kentucky. The preserve is also a Watchable Wildlife Site.

- Features* - natural floodplain lake, rare species
- Access* - 0.75 mile interpretive trail over uneven terrain, moderate
- Facilities* - none
- Parking* - 20 cars; 2-3 buses
- Activities* - birding, hiking, nature study
- Directions* - McCracken County. From the Junction of I-24 and US 60 in Paducah, follow US 60 west for 7.0 miles, then turn right on KY 996 for 5.5 miles. Turn right onto Stafford Road, drive past gate to lake parking area.

MUTTER'S CAVE

Mutter's Cave is located in Barren County, Kentucky. The cave is a high-priority maternity cave for the federally listed gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*). The 108-acre property protects the cave entrance, the land overlying the primary cave passage, and important travel corridors to foraging areas for the gray bats inhabiting the cave. Management efforts are focused on limiting unauthorized access to the cave, controlling exotic plant species and restoration and reforestation of the riparian corridor and associated uplands. Due to the extreme sensitivity of the federally listed species present, access is strictly limited to researchers and management personnel.

NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated December 16, 1981, Natural Bridge State Park Nature Preserve consists of approximately 1,188 acres and is located in Powell County within Natural Bridge State Resort Park. This area was dedicated into the nature preserves system to protect a significant geological system and rare species habitat. The rare Virginia big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*), a federally endangered species, has been recorded from the preserve.

- Features* - Natural Bridge, rare species, scenic views
- Access* - 13.7 miles of trail over uneven terrain, moderate to strenuous
- Facilities* - state resort park
- Parking* - abundant
- Hazards* - cliffs, venomous snakes (rare)
- Activities* - hiking, nature study, geological study
- Directions* - Powell County. From the junction of the Mountain Parkway and KY 11 at Slade, follow KY 11 south for 2.0 miles to the Natural Bridge State Resort Park entrance.

OBION CREEK STATE NATURE PRESERVE

This preserve in Hickman County protects a mosaic of wetland communities and upland slopes. The property includes shrub swamp, marsh, and bottomland hardwood forest and is part of one of the largest remaining tracts of wetland in Kentucky. The entire Obion Creek watershed is a haven for numerous rare plants and animals. The original 1,402-acre tract was acquired with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy in 1992. Murphy's Pond, a 175-acre tract owned by Murray State University, was dedicated into the State Nature Preserves system in October 2005. Additions dedicated June 13, 2007 brought the total acreage protected to 1,601. Access to the original tract is for scientific research only and requires written permission from KSNPC. Written permission from Murray State University is required for access to Murphy's Pond.

PILOT KNOB STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Pilot Knob State Nature Preserve protects 741 acres of natural area in Powell County. The original 308 acres were acquired with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy and dedicated September 26, 1985. Today the preserve encompasses 742 acres. A sandstone outcrop at the southeast end of the 730-foot high knob is considered to be the prominence upon which Daniel Boone first stood and looked out over the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky. The Pilot Knob trail is approximately 1.25 miles one-way to the top of the knob. Due to elevation gain it is considered very strenuous. The Sage Point Loop trail is approximately 2 miles and connects to the Pilot Knob Trail near the pinnacle. The Millstone Quarry trail is 1 mile round trip from the parking area.

- Features* - cultural history, scenic views, historic millstone quarry
- Access* - Pilot Knob trail to overlook, very strenuous; Sage Point Loop trail, strenuous; Millstone Quarry trail, moderate
- Facilities* - none
- Parking* - 7-8 cars; 1-2 buses
- Hazards* - cliffs, poison ivy, venomous snakes (rare)
- Activities* - hiking, nature study, birding, geological study
- Directions* - Powell County. From the junction of the Mountain Parkway and KY 15 at Clay City, follow KY 15 north for 2.7 miles. Turn right on Brush Creek Road for 1.5 miles to gravel parking area.

PINE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated September 26, 1983, Pine Mountain State Park Nature Preserve consists of two tracts of approximately 868 total acres within Pine Mountain State Resort Park in Bell County. This area contains an old growth forest of hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and white oak (*Quercus alba*), many of which are 200-300 years old. Within the preserve is a significant archaeological site now known as 'Rock Hotel', a large sandstone shelter that was inhabited by Native Americans. The Pine Mountain fault block is also one of the most prominent geological structures in the eastern United States.

- Features* - old growth hemlocks, fault-block mountain, scenic views, rare species
- Access* - 3.0 miles of trail over uneven terrain, strenuous
- Facilities* - state resort park
- Parking* - abundant
- Hazards* - cliffs, venomous snakes (rare)
- Activities* - hiking, nature study, birding, geological study
- Directions* - Bell County. From Pineville follow U.S. 25E south for 1.5 miles. Turn right onto KY 190 for 1.5 miles. Then turn right on 1491 for 1.5 miles to the Pine Mountain State Resort Park Lodge parking lot.

QUIET TRAILS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Quiet Trails consists of 165 acres of ridges and ravines bordering the Licking River in Harrison County. Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Wiglesworth, Jr. donated the original 110 acres to the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 1992. For years the property was set aside as a private nature sanctuary and was utilized by local scout troops, schools and private organizations for nature study and as a place for quiet reflection. The diversity of birds, trees and wildflowers represent the richness of the Bluegrass fauna and flora. An additional 55 acres were purchased and dedicated in 1997. The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission manages this area primarily for environmental education and passive recreation. The preserve is also a Watchable Wildlife Site.

- Features* - great diversity of birds, trees, wildflowers and mussels
- Access* - 3.1 miles of trail, moderate
- Facilities* - none
- Parking* - 4 cars
- Activities* - hiking, nature study, birding
- Directions* - Harrison County. From Cynthiana, take US 27 north approximately 10 miles. Turn right onto KY 1284, which leads to Sunrise. Continue on Pugh's Ferry Road after crossing the four-way intersection. The preserve is located on the right, 1.8 miles from the intersection.

RAYMOND ATHEY BARRENS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

This preserve was named in honor of the man who discovered the site's significance as a natural area. Raymond Athey, a self-taught botanist, freely gave of his extensive knowledge to help in the protection of Kentucky's unique natural areas. Initially, 63 acres of land in Logan County were acquired with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy and dedicated October 24, 1990. Additional tracts were dedicated February 20, 1991 and March 11, 1994. Today the 156-acre preserve supports several plant communities with a high diversity of associated species. The barrens are typified by the open-grown post (*Quercus stellata*) and black jack (*Quercus marilandica*) oaks that dominate the woodland canopy. Glades occur as small openings within the woods. The soils are characteristically thin with bedrock at or near the surface. Several rare species are known from this preserve, including the prairie gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*), a wildflower with vibrant deep blue petals. Access is by written permission only.

RIVER CLIFFS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

River Cliffs State Nature Preserve consists of 210 acres located along the Kentucky River palisades in northwest Franklin County. It was established October 22, 2002 by the generous donation of a conservation easement from the owner. The original 112-acre tract was one of the first privately owned tracts dedicated into the State Nature Preserves system. The preserve protects Lucy Braun's rockcress (*Arabis perstellata*), a federally endangered species. Access is by written permission only.

ROCKCRESS HILLS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated June 13, 2007, Rockcress Hills SNP is 65 acres located in Franklin County. The preserve consists of steep wooded ravines and bluffs along the Kentucky River and its tributaries. The site contains occurrences of globe bladderpod (*Lesquerella globosa*), a species that is a candidate for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. *Lesquerella globosa* is a diminutive plant that is covered with dense hairs that give its leaves a gray-green appearance. The small flowers have beautiful spoon-shaped petals that are displayed from April to early June. The name of the plant is derived from the globe-shaped fruits it produces. This species is restricted to the Kentucky River drainage within the Bluegrass Region. Also, the site possibly contains high quality occurrences of one of the Commonwealth's rarest plants, Braun's rockcress (*Arabis perstellata*), which was listed as an endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1995.

SHORT'S GOLDENROD STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Originally dedicated December 8, 2004, the 210-acre natural area in Fleming County protects the northernmost known occurrence of the federally endangered Short's goldenrod (*Solidago shortii*). Other than a recently discovered population near the Blue River in southern Indiana, all documented occurrences of this endemic species are from a two square mile area around Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park covering portions of three counties (Fleming, Nicholas and Robertson) in Kentucky. The preserve is managed to enhance habitat for the goldenrod. Access is by written permission only.

SIX MILE ISLAND STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated June 24, 1979, Six Mile Island State Nature Preserve is an 81-acre island located in the Ohio River in Jefferson County near Louisville that is noted for its variety of water birds. This island was protected so that it would be allowed to return to its original natural state. With time, this island will allow researchers and citizens the unique opportunity to study the ecology of riverine island systems.

- Features* - undeveloped riverine island
- Access* - by boat
- Facilities* - none
- Hazards* - barge and motorboat traffic
- Activities* - nature study, birding
- Directions* - Jefferson County. From the junction of I-71 and Zorn Avenue, turn right onto Zorn Avenue for 0.2 mile. Then turn right on River Road for 0.5 mile to the Cox Park boat ramp. Island is 1.5 miles upstream from landing.

SPRINGHOUSE BARRENS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Springhouse Barrens is located roughly a half-mile north of the Eastview Barrens State Nature Preserve in western Hardin County. Dedicated September 8, 2004, the 54-acre preserve contains a highly significant limestone barrens and glade community and supports a wide variety of grassland species including the state-endangered Prairie gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*). An occurrence of the federally threatened Eggert's sunflower (*Helianthus eggertii*) is present on the preserve. This site is privately owned and is not open to the public except during a Commission-sponsored event. Research may be conducted by written permission.

STONE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA AND STATE NATURAL AREA

This 1,025-acre property located in Harlan County was dedicated December 8, 2004 and is jointly managed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and the Commission to protect rare species and high quality examples of the natural communities occurring on Stone Mountain's north face. Public ownership also provides opportunities for wildlife and nature-related recreation and education. Dedication and management of this area helps to protect at least nine rare plant species that have been documented there including Appalachian sedge (*Carex appalachica*), rock harlequin (*Corydalis sempervirens*), Fraser's sedge (*Cymophyllus fraserianus*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*), showy gentian (*Gentiana decora*), variable-leaved heartleaf (*Hexastylis heterophylla*), jointed rush (*Juncus articulatus*), southern bog clubmoss (*Lycopodiella appressa*), and mountain decumbent goldenrod (*Solidago caesia* L. var. *curtisii*). Once facilities are completed, the area will be open for hiking, nature study and wildlife-related recreation, including hunting and fishing in accordance with regulations established by KDFWR.

TERRAPIN CREEK STATE NATURE PRESERVE

The Terrapin Creek drainage in Graves and Calloway counties is a highly significant aquatic system that supports an unusual diversity of fishes including several species found nowhere else in Kentucky. The area is characterized by extensive wetlands, springs and spring runs unlike any other in Kentucky that are home to a broad array of plants and animals. The Commission's goal is to protect this important system from future modifications that could result in the loss of a unique Kentucky resource. With the assistance of The Nature Conservancy, 22 acres of land in Graves County were dedicated June 3, 1992 establishing Terrapin Creek State Nature Preserve. With the addition of several tracts, today the preserve encompasses a total of 268 acres. Acquisition of land in this area is the first step for the Commission in the long-term protection of the Terrapin Creek wetlands complex. Access is by written permission only.

THOMPSON CREEK GLADES STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Thompson Creek Glades State Nature Preserve is a high quality limestone glade complex located in Larue County. Several hill glades occur on thin-bedded Salem limestone outcroppings on south- and west-facing slopes above Thompson Creek. These areas are characterized by shallow, rocky soils and a number of showy prairie/glade plant species that are able to survive the harsh, dry conditions. This preserve is managed to maintain the glade openings from encroaching woody vegetation. The original 64 acres were acquired with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy and dedicated March 4, 1992. Today the preserve protects a total of 169 acres. Access is by written permission only.

THREE PONDS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Originally dedicated June 12, 2001 and with an addition dedicated June 13, 2007, Three Ponds State Nature Preserve protects 528 acres of loess bluff, bottomland hardwood forest, and coastal plain slough communities on the Mississippi River floodplain. Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) surround a series of three small ponds, which have a surface area of about 20 acres, and which drain into Obion Creek. The preserve currently encompasses the upper two ponds. Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) and sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) dominate the bottomland hardwood forest, while sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) dominates the bluff. Access is by written permission only.

TOM DORMAN STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated as the Kentucky River Authority Palisades State Nature Preserve on December 20, 1996, this preserve was renamed in 1999 to honor Thomas Dorman for his service as former director and commission chairman of the Kentucky River Authority, and his efforts to acquire this site. With additional acreage dedicated September 25, 2001, October 22, 2002, December 2, 2003 and March 24, 2011, the preserve now protects a total of 908 acres, including spectacular 220-foot palisades along the Kentucky River in Garrard and Jessamine counties. Several rare plants are located in the thin soils on the limestone cliffs including starry cleft phlox (*Phlox bifida* ssp. *stellaria*) and Eggleston's violet (*Viola septemloba* var. *egglestonii*). Due to hazardous cliffs, fragile habitat and limited access on the Jessamine County tract, the preserve is open to the public on the Garrard County side of the Kentucky River only.

- Features* - 220-foot limestone palisade walls, rare plants, Kentucky River
- Access* - Foot trail through the forest and to the river, 2-mile loop.
- Facilities* - None
- Parking* - 8 cars
- Hazards* - Extremely high cliffs
- Activities* - hiking, nature study, birding
- Directions* - Garrard County. From Nicholasville, follow Rt. 27 south for approximately 9 miles. After crossing the Kentucky River into Garrard County, continue for an additional 1-1/4 miles. Turn right on Rt. 1845 and follow it for 1 mile. At the road next to Lambert's Chapel turn right. Follow this road for approximately 3/4 mile (go straight, do not take the fork to the left). Park in the gravel parking lot at the end of this road.

VERNON-DOUGLAS STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Dedicated August 12, 1992, Vernon-Douglas State Nature Preserve is located within a rugged, steep forested section of Hardin County. This 730-acre preserve protects one of the most mature second growth forests in the Knobs Physiographic Region. Hall Hollow, a north-facing valley in the preserve, supports a rich array of spring wildflowers. A trail system passes through the valley bottom to the dry ridges above Hall Hollow. A spur trail takes hikers onto a narrow point locally known as "the pinnacle", which provides a bird's-eye view of the Younger Creek valley.

- Features* - stands of sugar maple, beech and tulip poplar, spring wildflower display
- Access* - 4.5 miles of trail over uneven terrain, moderate to strenuous
- Facilities* - none
- Hazards* - venomous snakes (rare), steep slopes
- Activities* - hiking, nature study, birding
- Directions* - Hardin County. Nine miles east of Elizabethtown on the Bluegrass Parkway. Eastbound (from E'town): Take Exit 8 (KY 583), turn right on KY 583 and take an immediate right on Audubon Trace Road. Westbound (from Lexington): Take Exit 10 (KY 52), turn right on to KY 52, turn left on US 62, turn left on KY 583, cross over the Parkway and turn right on Audubon Trace Road. The parking lot for the preserve is approximately 0.5 mile on the left.

WOODBURN GLADE STATE NATURE PRESERVE

Acquired with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy and dedicated March 15, 1996, this 20-acre tract in Warren County consists of several rocky glade openings. Six rare plants occur in these openings: Carolina larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*), upland privet (*Forestiera ligustrina*), Butler's quillwort (*Isoetes butleri*), necklace glade cress (*Leavenworthia torulosa*), Gattinger's lobelia (*Lobelia appendiculata* var. *gattingeri*), and eastern eulophus (*Perideridia americana*). This is the only known population of Gattinger's lobelia in Kentucky. Access is by written permission only.