BRIGADOON State Nature Preserve is a mixture of mature woods and old fields bordering the backwaters of Barren River Reservoir in Barren County. Named by the former owners for the mythical Scottish village that appears from the mists once every hundred years, the unique character of the preserve does bring to mind the sense of being someplace special.

The preserve was part of a 1,000-acre land grant given to John Renfro, one of Virginia's Revolutionary War veterans. Renfro and his descendants settled along what was then known as Skegg's Creek and derived their livelihood from the heavily forested land. In addition to farming, the family made coffins and furniture as a means of income.

Since the early 1800's, the landscape has been altered significantly. Today Brigadoon is encircled by farmland, and the Barren River Reservoir has overtaken Skaggs (formerly Skegg's) Creek. The preserve's forested ravines contain some old growth stands of beech and tulip poplar, adding credence to reports that a portion of the Renfro's forested land was never commercially logged.

A large portion of the old growth located along a narrow slope above the reservoir on the preserve's northern boundary was disturbed by a tornado in the mid-1970's. This area is recovering, but the difference in age and condition remains noticeable. The majority of the forest is intact, which helps keep species diversity high. Life sustaining springs feed the creeks, even in the driest summers. The woods abound with colorful spring wildflowers, and over 120 species of birds have been observed throughout the preserve.

The Nature Conservancy was instrumental in assisting with the protection of the original tract at Brigadoon in 1985. A bequest of additional acreage from Dr. Russell Starr was dedicated by KSNPC in 2001.

A one-mile hiking trail is open to the public at Brigadoon State Nature Peserve. The trail is of moderate difficulty and runs through ridge tops, mature forest and scenic ravines. The preserve is open to foot traffic from sunrise to sunset. Please be respectful of Brigadoon State Nature Preserve and follow the rules.

Owner/Manager:
* Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission
Purchased with Assistance of:
* The Nature Conservancy
* Land & Water Conservation Fund
* Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund

For more information please contact:
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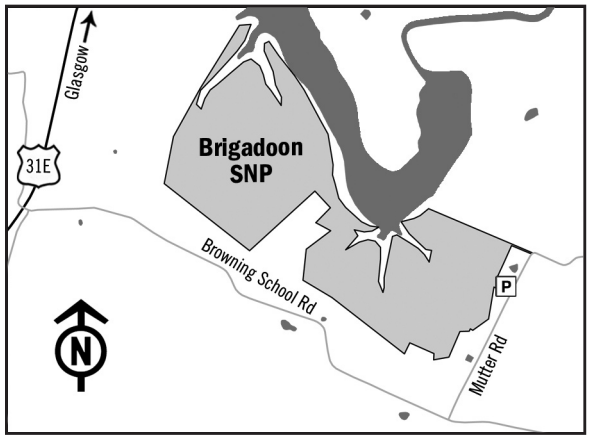
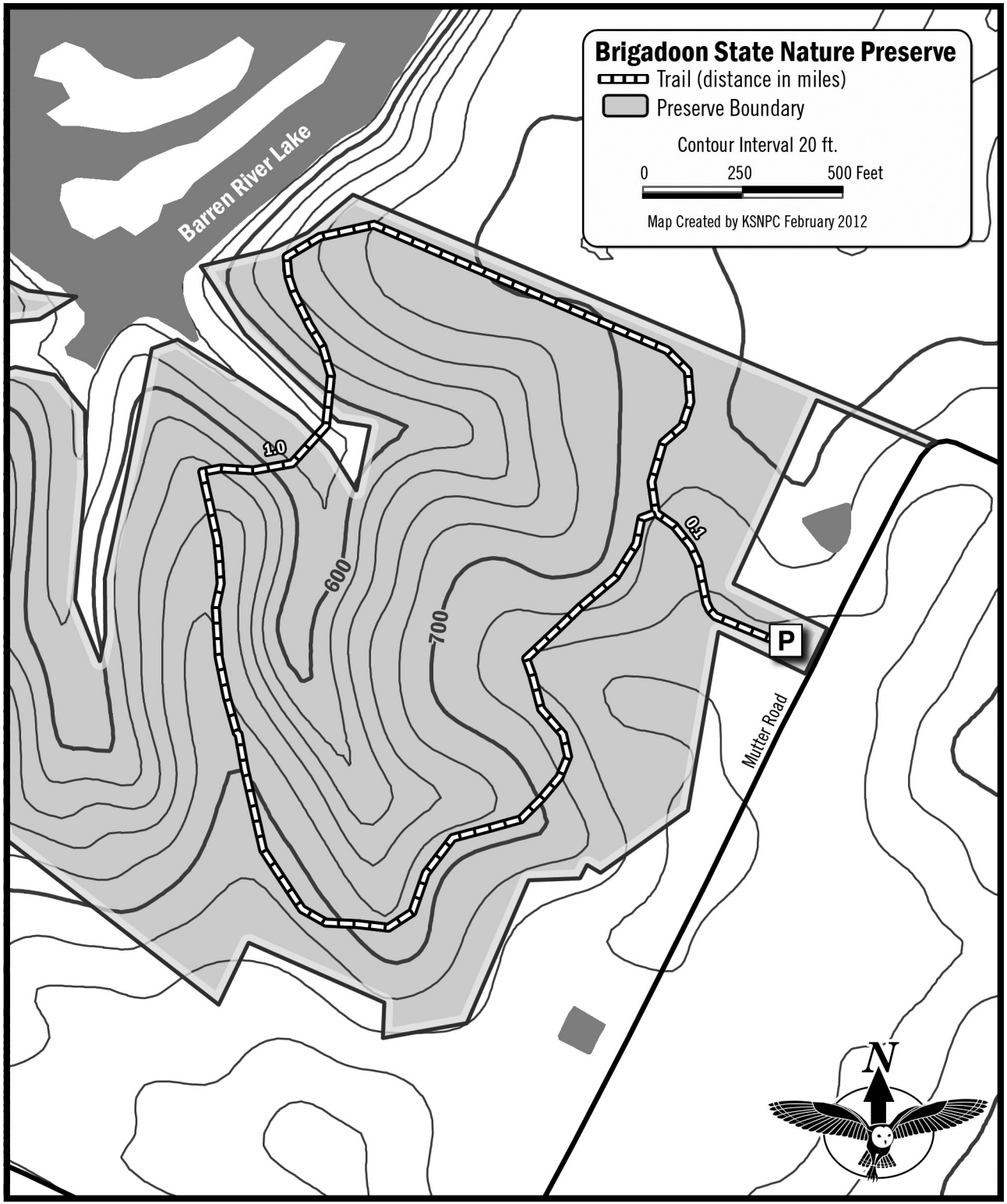
cover artwork by Ann DiSalvo

BRIGADOON
STATE NATURE PRESERVE



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 Browning School Road and travel approximately 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Mutter Road. The parking area is .5 mile on the left.

By observing the rules for State Nature Preserves, you will be helping to protect Kentucky's natural heritage.

1. Preserves are open sunrise to sunset.
2. Trails are open to foot traffic only. The established trail system provides you with the safest and best way to travel through the preserve. Visitors must not re-route or shortcut the existing trail system.
3. Horses, bicycles, climbing and rappelling are not permitted in nature preserves because of their destructive impacts to the trails and natural features.
4. Motorized vehicles are not permitted.
5. Possession of drugs or alcohol is prohibited.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Remember to carry out your trash.

THESE RULES ARE ESTABLISHED BY 400 KAR 2:090. ANY PERSON IN VIOLATION OF THIS REGULATION MAY BE LIABLE FOR A CIVIL PENALTY OF $1000 PER DAY AND POSSIBLE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN KRS 224.