

## Overview

The Saunders Springs Nature Preserve is a small, picturesque, heavily wooded natural area located on steep terrain with springs that feed a lake/ reservoir and cascading streams/waterfalls. The preserve provides opportunities for nature study, walking, hiking, picnicking, and historic interpretation.



The nature preserve has two parts: one is a 26 acre area owned and operated by the city of Radcliff and overseen by the Radcliff Forestry and Conservation Board and a 73 acre tract adjacent to the nature preserve named the Saunders Springs Annex which is leased from Fort Knox. The Annex Area offers additional hiking and biking trails. The Vincent Kieta Welcome Center at the Preserve provides additional information.

## Key Preserve Features

Cascading Streams  
Two Lakes/Ponds  
Fishing (with KY License)  
Three 1800s Vintage Log Cabins\*  
Diverse Terrain and Ecosystems  
Site of 1920s Water Plant  
Rich in History  
Very Convenient  
Pavilions/Picnicking Areas  
KY Native Plants Garden  
Vincent Kieta Welcome Center  
More than 12 Miles of Trails

## Special Events/Programs

Educational Activities For School Groups \*  
Group Nature Hikes  
Guided Tours  
Supervised Mountain Bike Rides  
Mountain Bike Skill Clinics  
Youth Fishing Events



Radcliff/Fort Knox Tourism  
Phone: (270) 352-1204  
Website: radcliff tourism.org



*Paid in part by the Kentucky Department of Travel*

# Saunders Springs Nature Preserve & Annex

*Radcliff, KY*

## Visitor's Guide



**Entrance to Saunders Springs**

**City of Radcliff and the  
Radcliff Forestry and Conservation Board**

Open year around  
(Weather Permitting)  
Hours: Dawn - Dusk  
Admission: Free

### Location

100 Saunders Springs Lane  
Radcliff, KY 40160  
Entrance off North Wilson Road,  
Between 31W and Fort Knox

IN EVERY WALK WITH *nature* ONE RECEIVES FAR MORE THAN HE SEEKS.

-JOHN MUIR

## History

A grist mill was operational in the early 1800s along the stream that runs through the Preserve. During the U.S. Civil War both Union and Confederate forces were known to have camped in the area.

The lower Preserve area was the site of a water processing plant, remnants which are still on location, which provided drinking water to Camp Knox, later becoming Fort Knox, from the 1920's to the 1950's. Hardin County Water District #1 then processed water for Northern Hardin County from the 1950's—1970's and later sold the area to Radcliff. In the mid-1990's Radcliff started developing the Saunders Springs Nature Preserve.



Waterfall from the upper lake overflow



Stroll on one of 11 named nature trails

## Trails

There are 11 named nature/hiking trails within the Preserve\* totaling approximately three miles in length. The terrain from the upper to the lower portion of the Preserve drops more than 200 feet in elevation with 900 steps/stairs being built into some trails, making most of these trails unsuitable for biking. Two hand-capped accessible trails are also offered.

The Annex provides more than eight miles of named trails\* suitable for hiking, jogging or mountain biking and four additional mountain biking/skills only areas.

## Water Features

Two spring fed lakes are located within the Preserve. The upper lake, known as the High Lake which served as the water plant reservoir, has been stocked with fish. Waterfalls/cascades created by springs and lake overflows are popular backdrops for photographers while youngsters and the young at heart enjoy playing in the streams.

## Scout Camping Areas

The Preserve and the Annex both have Scout Camping Areas which are used regularly by scout units. For additional information or to reserve a camp area please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at (270) 351-4079.

## Picnicking Areas/Pavilions

There are two pavilions in the Preserve. The largest located in the upper Preserve area contains eight large picnic tables and the smaller pavilion is in the lower Preserve. Pavilion reservations by individuals or groups require a modest fee and may be reserved by calling Radcliff Parks & Recreation at (270) 351-4079. A number of other picnic tables, some with BBQ grills, are located near the pavilions and are available on a first come, first served basis.

## Log Cabins

Three log cabins have been constructed at the entrance of the Preserve from their original setting in Radcliff. They consist of the Raine Cabin—1836, the Stovall Cabin—about 1873 and the Atcher Cabin—approximately 1875.\* The cabins are a favorite of photographers, both professional and amateur.

\*Additional brochures/information available at the Vincent Kieta Welcome Center.

Radcliff Parks & Recreation

Phone: (270) 351-4079

Website: radcliff.org

