



Here are a few things you should know before you travel into the backcountry:

Trailhead Registers

Sign in and out at the trailhead registers.

Backcountry Permits

If you intend to camp overnight, you must pick up a free backcountry use permit at the park Visitor Center.

Camping

In the backcountry you may only camp at the 12 designated backcountry campsites and along the floodplain of the Green and Nolin Rivers and on islands ½ mile or more away from ferry crossings.

Fires

Kindle fires only in existing fire rings at designated campsites. On the floodplain you may start a fire in any safe location. Collect only dead and down wood for fires. Be sure your fire is completely out before leaving the area. Use a self-contained stove if you have one. Take extra care during periods of extreme fire danger.

Water

All campsites except McCoy Hollow have a spring, stream or river nearby. For your safety, boil and treat water before drinking or carry your own drinking water.

Litter

Pack out all non-burnable litter. Never bury trash. Remember to leave your campsite clean for those who follow you.

Fishing

No license is required for fishing in the park; however, Kentucky state fishing regulations do apply. See the River Recreation handout for more information.

Vehicles

Motor vehicles, including motorcycles and bicycles, are prohibited on hiking trails. Drive slowly and use caution on all roads, particularly the gravel roads on the north side of the Green River. Five trailheads with established parking areas include Maple Springs, Good Spring, Lincoln, Temple Hill and Little Jordan Cemetery.

Pets

Keep pets on a leash and under control.

Wildlife

All park wildlife is protected. Do not feed, hunt or disturb wildlife. Mosquitoes are seldom a problem, but yellowjackets, horseflies and deerflies can be bothersome. The park also supports high tick and chigger populations. To minimize insect problems: 1. use insect repellent and reapply as needed; 2. stay on trails and away from brushy areas; 3. check yourself regularly for ticks. Ticks can cause serious illness – see the Tick Talk handout for more information. Rattlesnakes and copperheads live in the park. To avoid them, stay on trails, look before you step and use caution gathering firewood. Snakes are protected within park boundaries and are an important part of the natural community. Do not kill them.

Boating

Carry at least one Coast Guard-approved life preserver for each person. See the River Recreation handout for more information.

Safety Tips

- Leave an itinerary with a friend
- Stay on designated trails
- Wear appropriate clothing, including sturdy shoes and loose-fitting pants
- Carry emergency snack food, such as raisins, candy, dried fruits or freeze-dried snacks
- Carry extra drinking water
- Carry a first-aid kit
- Check the weather forecast
- Always carry a map and compass – and know how to use them
- Streams may rise rapidly in heavy rain. Use extreme caution crossing flooded streams
- Avoid boating near Lock & Dam no. 6. The current above the dam is very dangerous.