Nature Station Trails

Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area January 2014

Family friendly Nature Station trails offer good opportunities for viewing wildflowers, birds, and other wildlife. All the trails are located near the facility and the trailheads are easy to find. Remember to use tick and insect repellent, carry plenty of water, pack out your trash, and please leave the flowers for others to enjoy! Nature Station Hiking Trails are open year-round. The Nature Station Parking Lot is open until 5pm, March through November. Other parking areas are open year-round. Trails are for hiking only.

Center Furnace Trail (0.3-mile – 30 minutes)
The Center Furnace Trail gives visitors a look at historic Center Furnace and the impact the iron industry had on the land and its people. On this interpretive trail, you will see evidence of how this busy community thrived over 100 years ago.

Hematite Trail (2.2 miles – 1 hour, 30 minutes)
This scenic trail offers an opportunity to see various species of birds and other wildlife, as well as a diversity of plant life along the lakeshore and marshland. Two observation stations, a boardwalk, and scenic overlooks of Hematite Lake are located along the trail. Picnic and toilet facilities are available near trail entrance.

Honker Trail (4.3 miles – 3 hours)
Named for the Canada geese often seen along the trail, this loop meanders near the shoreline and through forests and fields along Honker Lake. Hikers might see deer, osprey, and bald eagles. Great views of Honker Lake are visible from the dam.

Long Creek Trail (0.26 miles – 20 minutes)
Boasting a rich variety of plant life, Long Creek Trail provides paved access for visitors to view a bottomland hardwood forest along a drifting creek. This area is often a favorite feeding and resting spot for many wildlife species.

Woodland Walk Trail (.9 miles – 1 hour) Beginning and ending at the Nature Station Parking Lot, this trail brings you through scenic woodlands and offers several scenic lookouts onto Honker Lake.

Length: Approximately 8 miles total
Trailheads: Nature Station, *small* Trailheads with parking located at Center Furnace Trail, Hematite Trail, and Long Creek Trail
Trail Connections: Nature Station Trails & North/South Trail
Surface Type: Dirt, Pavement
Difficulty Level: Easy to Moderate
Center Furnace Trail ~ Easy. Mainly flat; some stairs.
Hematite Trail ~ Easy to Moderate. Travels on flat land along the woods and lakeshore of Hematite Lake; some hills.
Honker Trail ~ Easy to Moderate. Travels up moderate hills and ridges, and along flat lakeshore meadows.
Long Creek ~ Easy. Flat, paved, and accessible.
Woodland Walk ~ Moderate. Meanders around the Nature Station with access to Honker Lake.
Recommended Seasons: Spring, Fall, Winter *(Some portions of trails may flood after spring rains.)*
Facilities: Nature Station (water, telephone, restrooms, recycling, nature programs, interpretive staff), Picnic Pavilion
Trail Markings: *Woodland Walk Trail*–White Paw Print Blazing
Honker Trail–White Diamonds ◊
Trail Ethics: Pack it in. Pack it out! If you want to see more wildlife, try to keep your group quiet and alert.
Backcountry/Trailside Camping: Camping is not allowed in the Nature Watch Area, including all of these trails.
Safety: ***You are responsible for your own safety.*** You may encounter a variety of unexpected and/or dangerous conditions. It is your responsibility to be informed and take precautions. Trail users need to look for overhead hazards such as snags, hanging limbs, and leaning or uprooted trees. During windy conditions, please take care to protect yourself. Trail Markers are placed to better orient hikers. Please refer to map for specific location. Protect yourself from Lone Star and American Dog Ticks which thrive in our area. Precautions need to be taken primarily from mid-March to through mid-October. Poison Ivy flourishes in many areas of LBL; please use caution.

Nature Station Trail Rules

1. Trails are open from dawn to dusk only. Camping is not allowed.
2. Low impact hiking techniques should be followed at all times. Stay on the trail, even through wet areas, to help prevent soil erosion. All garbage must be packed out.
3. Nature Station Trails open to foot traffic only. Motor vehicles strictly prohibited.
4. *Respect the Resource*–leave plants and flowers for others to enjoy, and do not harass the wildlife!
5. Firearms are strictly prohibited.
6. Pets must be on a leash of 6' or less and under physical control at all times. Respect other users.
7. LBL strongly encourages users to "Call Before You Haul" to check current trail conditions at 270-924-2000 or visit us on the web at **www.lbl.org** under *Alerts & Notices and click on Trail Update*.
8. ♻ Help us eliminate garbage–take your trash to the Recycling Station located at Woodlands Nature Station.

Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area has been set aside for your recreation and education. As you explore these trails, take time to enjoy the natural beauty and learn about the natural or cultural history of this special place.

{Various trail information originally compiled by Johnny Molloy and captured in his book, "Land Between The Lakes Outdoor Recreation Handbook."}

USDA Department of Agriculture Service

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Emergencies

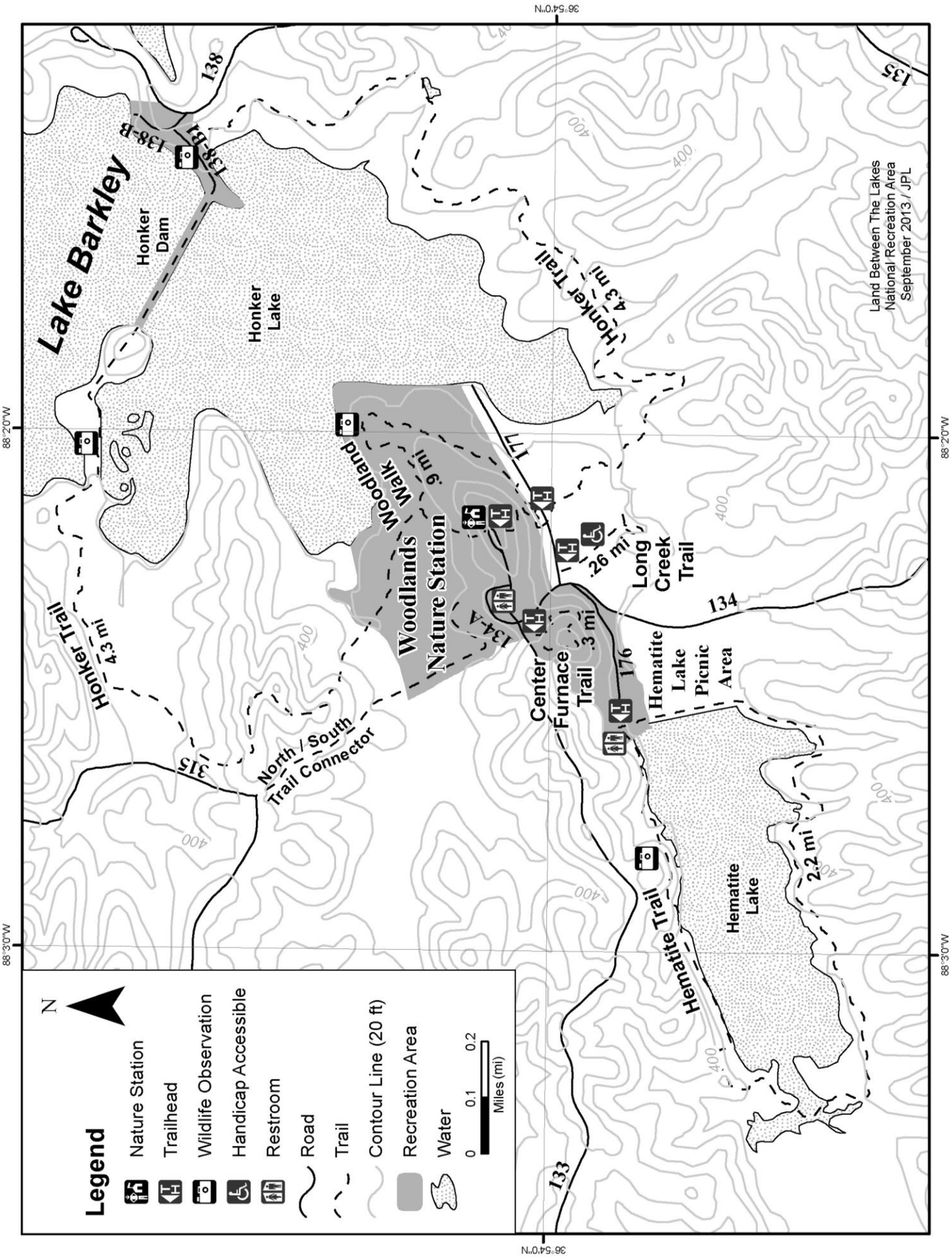
911

Non-Emergencies
270-924-2000, 8am-4:30pm M-F
or 877-861-2457 for
24-hr Dispatch

For More Information

USDA Forest Service
Land Between The Lakes
100 Van Morgan Drive
Golden Pond, KY 42211
270-924-2000 or 800-LBL-7077
www.lbl.org

Volunteer Opportunities

"Friends of LBL"
Volunteer Coordinator
270-924-2007
www.friendsoflbl.org

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