Fort Henry Trails System

The Fort Henry Trails System offers some of the most scenic forest settings in Land Between The Lakes (LBL). Located in southwestern LBL, the system consists of nearly 30 miles of trail through forest uplands and bottomlands. View maple, ash, and sweetgum bottoms, mature oak-hickory uplands, as well as native shortleaf pine stands. Hike along historic routes used by General Grant’s Civil War troop movements from Fort Henry to Fort Donelson.

This trail system offers several opportunities— you can make your own loop, short or long, connect to the North/South Trail, or even hike the entire length. Fort Henry Trails are for hiking only, and offer some of the best opportunities for viewing a variety of hardwood and pine forests, deer and turkeys, and enjoying the solitude.

Preliminary plans have been approved to construct a new multi-purpose trail system in the Oak-Grassland Demonstration Area near Prior Creek. Until this new trail project is complete, the Fort Henry Trails System will open to bicyclists on a TEMPORARY basis. Visitors seeking bicycling opportunities are expected to utilize existing Fort Henry trailheads and parking areas, practice proper trail etiquette, and always Respect the Resource, i.e. old home sites, Civil War remnants, wildlife habitats, etc.

Artillery Trail (Yellow 17, 18, 20, 4) - This 3.2-mile trail follows a historic wagon road used by Ulysses Grant and his troops heading to Fort Donelson. This trail begins at Telegraph Trail and gradually rises in elevation before flattening along the ridgeine and eventually dropping off to meet with the Peytona Trail.

Devils Backbone Trail (Blue 5, 19, 18) - One of the most unique trails in the Fort Henry System, Devil’s Backbone follows along a ridge overlooking opposing hills. In places the knife-edge ridge is barely wider than the trail itself. Look for mountain laurel growing out of the bluffs.

Peytona Trail (Yellow 11-17) - As you hike this 1.3-mile trail, you will pass along old home sites and beaver dams. You may notice remnants of the 1800’s iron industry along this trail.

Pickett Loop (Blue 1, 23, 24, 26) - This 2.2-mile loop passes many old home sites and offers views of Kentucky Lake. It can easily be accessed by the Fort Henry Trailhead or Boswell Landing Backcountry Area.

Piney Trail (Red 20-22) - Use this trail from Piney Campground to access the rest of the Fort Henry System. This 2.3-mile trail starts in a bottomland and ascends to a ridge top to meet up with the Volunteer Trail, as well as General Grant’s historic route, the Artillery Trail.

Telegraph Trail (Red 1-14) - This 7.5-mile trail is the longest in the Fort Henry Trails System and connects with many others trails in the system, as well the North/South Trail, proving to be the backbone of this system. This follows along stream sides and creeks, and then climbs ridges only to come back down along the streams. Notice old home sites, cemeteries, springs, and beaver dams along this trail.

Tennessee Ridge Trail (Blue 9, 16) - Hike along this easy 1.8-mile trail that traces the physical divide between the Cumberland and Tennessee River watersheds. This trail lays furthest interior, thus providing some of the best opportunities for solitude.

Volunteer Trail (Yellow 2, 21) - Mostly traveling through bottomlands and low hills, this 2.2-mile trail connects Telegraph and Piney Trails.

Fort Henry Trail Rules
1. For your safety, all overnight backpackers are requested to register at South Welcome Station Trailhead.
2. Low impact camping, hiking, and biking 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. Campfires are permitted in previously used spots except during periods of high fire danger. Only dead or down materials may be used for fuel. The fire should be attended at all times and completely extinguished before departure.
4. Horses and mountain bikes allowed on designated trails only. Motor vehicles strictly prohibited except for approved organized events.
5. Respect the Resource—leave plants, flowers, heritage, and cultural resources for others to enjoy. Do not harass the wildlife!
6. Firearms are strictly prohibited except for groups with permission from the Forest Service. Firearms are prohibited on backpack trails.
7. Pets must be on a leash of 6' or less and under physical control at all times.
8. LBL strongly encourages persons 18 or older to attend trailhead orientations at Pierce Lake on the first day of the hunting season (July 18).
9. Help us eliminate garbage—take your trash to one of the Recycling Stations located at The Homeplace or South Welcome 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.

Fort Henry Trails System

Legend
- Trailhead
- Telephone
- Spring
- Distance Marker
- Temporary Trail Closure
- Fort Henry Trail
- Other Trails
- LBL Roads
- Other Roads
- Water
- Recreation Area
- Non-Forest Service Land

Emergencies
Forest Service
Law Enforcement
911 or 877-861-2457

For More Information
USDA Forest Service
Land Between The Lakes
270-924-2000 or 800-LBL-7077
www.LandBetweenTheLakes.US

Volunteer Opportunities
Friends of Land Between The Lakes
Volunteer Coordinator
270-924-2007
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