

Blackacre Exploration and Discovery Guide:

Using Your Knowledge About the Natural World



www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/ee

Jefferson County Public Schools
Center for Environmental Education

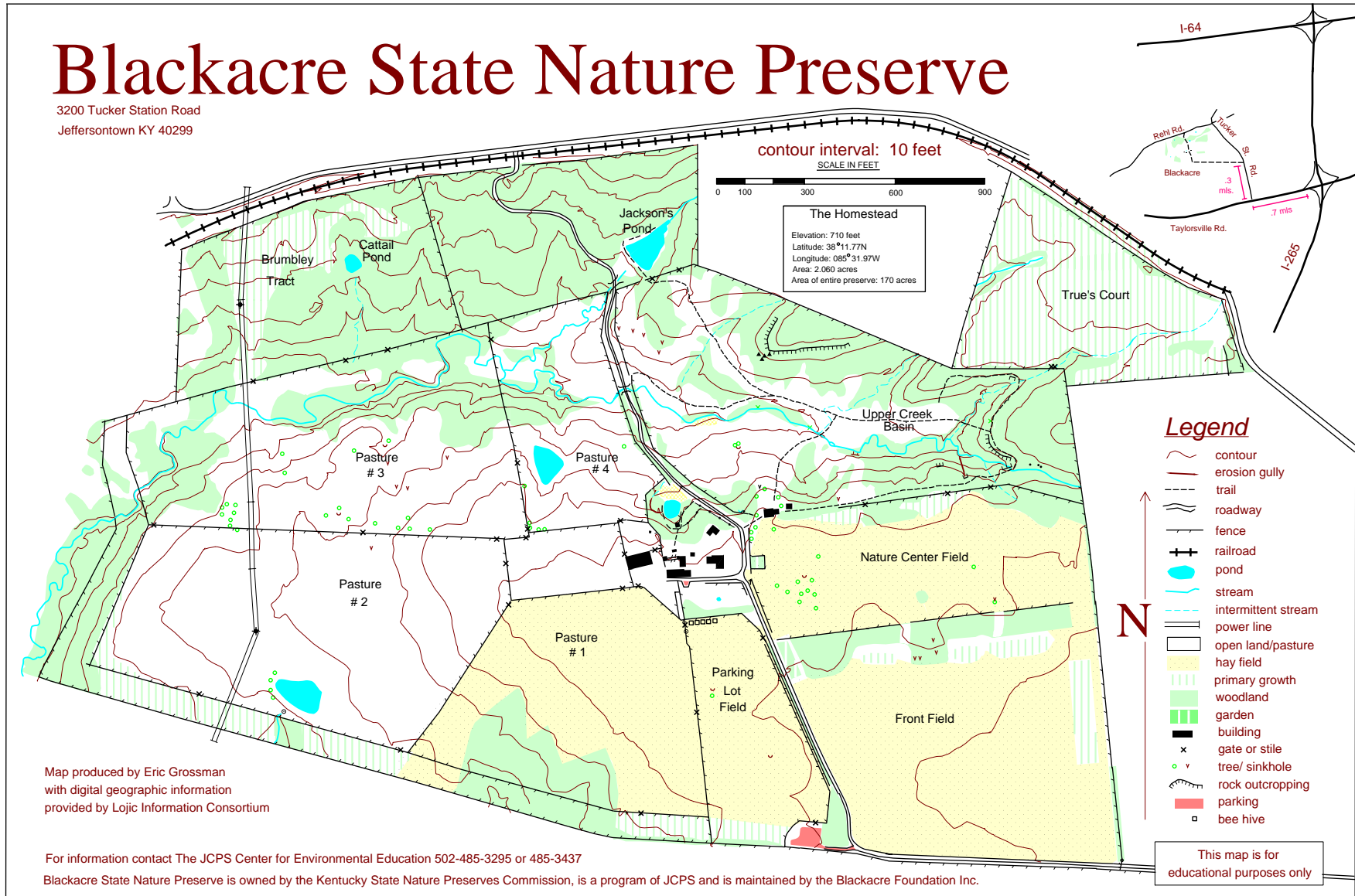
What Do You Do with What You Know?

When you explore and make discoveries, the excitement of that moment can be enough. The greater pleasure, however, may be in using your discoveries creatively. That is what this handbook will help you do.

As you explore Blackacre and record new knowledge in this handbook; remember that this is not the end; it is the beginning. Each exploration may be used creatively through all kinds of writing, artwork, presentations, posters—there's no limit. In this handbook, you will find pages for recording information you discover or observe. Then you will find pages to help you brainstorm. After you brainstorm about things you found interesting, amazing, or just plain weird, ideas will come to mind about good ways to use your information and brainstorming ideas. Blackacre is waiting for you!

Blackacre State Nature Preserve

3200 Tucker Station Road
Jeffersontown KY 40299



contour interval: 10 feet

SCALE IN FEET



The Homestead
Elevation: 710 feet
Latitude: 38°11.77N
Longitude: 085°31.97W
Area: 2.060 acres
Area of entire preserve: 170 acres

Legend

- contour
- erosion gully
- trail
- roadway
- fence
- railroad
- pond
- stream
- intermittent stream
- power line
- open land/pasture
- hay field
- primary growth
- woodland
- garden
- building
- gate or stile
- tree/sinkhole
- rock outcropping
- parking
- bee hive

N

Map produced by Eric Grossman
with digital geographic information
provided by Lojic Information Consortium

For information contact The JCPS Center for Environmental Education 502-485-3295 or 485-3437
Blackacre State Nature Preserve is owned by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, is a program of JCPS and is maintained by the Blackacre Foundation Inc.

This map is for
educational purposes only

Blackacre State Nature Preserve Overview

Welcome to Blackacre State Nature Preserve! Blackacre was donated to the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission in 1979 and became Kentucky's first state nature preserve. Blackacre was named by Judge Macauley Smith, its donor. As a Jefferson County Public Schools community resource, our 170 acres provide a variety of locations for your environmental field-study experiences.

The Blackacre State Nature Preserve

On the Nature Preserve you can find four, major natural communities: forests, fields, ponds, and streams. A variety of trails provide access to these areas, and maps are available. Centrally located is the Susanne L. Schick Nature Center. A study site within itself, this passive, solar-heated building is a demonstration of our commitment to the environment. Here we reduce waste through our Recycling Center. We collect rainwater for our gardens and livestock and utilize composting rest rooms. The Schick Nature Center also houses a variety of nature-investigation equipment, available for your use. Lights and vent fans are powered by the sun's energy, converted by an active solar panel.

The Homestead

Beginning in the 1790s, the homestead area was constructed by four generations of Tylers and other families. It includes an Appalachian double-crib-style barn, one of the oldest two-story springhouses in Kentucky, a stone cottage, an old toll road, a stone wall, the Tyler home, and a variety of other outbuildings. An historical interpretive brochure, which serves as the basis for a self-led history hike, is available. For additional background information, ask for a copy of *The History of Blackacre*.

Three agencies maintain Blackacre as a result of the ten-year Management Agreement signed in 1996:

Jefferson County Public Schools Center for Environmental Education

The Jefferson County Public Schools Center for Environmental Education is responsible for designing and implementing the programs at Blackacre. The Schick Nature Center offers unique experiences that help teachers and students interpret and understand the natural environment and their responsibility for it. In addition to programs at Blackacre, we provide school-program support and professional development for teachers. For further information on any of our programs, please contact the Center for Environmental Education Office at 485-3295, or send a request via the Pony mail.

The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC)

Blackacre was donated to the state in 1979 for use as a nature preserve. The KSNPC is a state agency, created in 1976 and directed by a five-citizen board appointed by the governor. The KSNPC mission is to protect Kentucky's natural heritage by (1) identifying, acquiring, and managing natural areas that represent the best known occurrences of rare native species, natural communities, and significant natural features in a statewide nature preserve system; (2) working with others to protect biological diversity; and (3) educating Kentuckians as to the value and purpose of nature preserves and biodiversity conservation.

The Blackacre Foundation, Inc.

The Blackacre Foundation, Inc., is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to protect and preserve the natural historic and aesthetic character of the land and buildings it manages, to promote education, and to ensure responsible use by the public. For public tours and dates, call 897-0362.



Center for Environmental Education

Jefferson County Public Schools
Gheens Academy
4425 Preston Highway
Louisville, KY 40213
(502) 485-3295 • Fax: (502) 485-6472



801 Schenkel Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 573-2886



Blackacre Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 6053
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 897-0362



Commonly Asked Questions About Kentucky State Nature Preserves



What is a state nature preserve?

A state nature preserve is an officially dedicated area that has been recognized for its unusual natural significance. The area may protect rare plant and animal species, possess unique scenic or geologic features, or be utilized for environmental education activities. These areas are set aside to preserve Kentucky's natural heritage for the benefit of this and future generations.

How does a nature preserve differ from other state-owned conservation areas?

A nature preserve is established solely to protect and preserve rare species and the natural environment. Only minimal development, such as trails and informational signs is permissible. Areas such as state parks, state forests, or wildlife-management areas are developed to provide outdoor-recreation opportunities, such as camping, fishing, boating, hunting, and golfing, and to protect the natural environment. These types of activities would destroy the unique features that are protected in a nature preserve.

Why do we need state nature preserves?

Nature preserves provide us with an opportunity to enjoy the serenity of the natural world and to retreat from the rigors of everyday life. Nature preserves offer excellent opportunities for research and education; they serve as living museums that enable us to look back into Kentucky's unspoiled past.

What can I do at a state nature preserve?

Passive recreational pursuits such as hiking, bird watching, and photography are acceptable activities in a nature preserve. Visitors are encouraged to use their senses to fully explore all aspects of the natural world that a nature preserve can provide.

How many state nature preserves are there?

Currently, there are 39 preserves in Kentucky, consisting of more than 12,434 acres.

Who administers the Kentucky State Nature Preserves System?

The Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission administers the Kentucky State Nature Preserves System. For further information, contact the Stewardship coordinator.

Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

801 Schenkel Lane
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-1403
(502) 573-2886

Rules for Kentucky State Nature Preserves

- * Preserves open at sunrise and close at sunset.
- * Access is restricted to designated trails.
- * Motorized vehicles are not permitted beyond designated parking areas.
- * Possession of firearms is prohibited.
- * Do not collect plants, animals, rocks, artifacts, or firewood.
- * Hunting and trapping are prohibited.
- * Fishing is allowed only where authorized (Metropolis Lake State Nature Preserve and Six Mile Island State Nature Preserve).
- * Camping, picnicking, or building fires is prohibited.
- * Radios or tape decks are not permitted within the Nature preserves.
- * Pets are not permitted in Nature preserves.
- * Please do not litter.