

Canal Loop Trail

Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area

August 2014



The Canal Loop Trail is the premier mountain biking trail at Land Between The Lakes. Canal Loop Trail is an 11-mile single-track loop trail with 4 connectors that consist of another 3 miles of trail. It offers a variety of loops ranging from a little over 1-mile to the full 11-mile outer loop. Canal Loop Trail can be accessed from the North Welcome Station and Kentucky Lake Scenic Drive.

Canal Loop Trail receives a very high amount of use on weekends by mountain bikers and hikers, and offers many scenic overlooks of Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley, and the Canal.

Canal Loop Trail – Blue Diamonds ◇ – 11 miles

The Canal Loop Trail is a fast single track trail for mountain bikers with challenging hills on the Kentucky Lake portion of the trail. The trail crosses multiple creeks, old home sites, and forest roads. Canal Loop Trail offers opportunities to access both lakes' shorelines.

Canal Loop Trail A Connector – Yellow Diamonds ◇

The A Connector is a .5-mile trail, but when combined with a portion of the Canal Loop, forms a 1.4-mile loop that starts and finishes at Kentucky Lake Scenic Drive.

Canal Loop Trail B Connector – Yellow Diamonds ◇

The B Connector is a .5-mile trail that can have loops made from either the south or the north. The trail intersects Woodlands Trace.

Canal Loop Trail C Connector – Yellow Diamonds ◇

The C Connector is an interior .6-mile trail that takes users through stream sides and old home sites. The C Connector can only be accessed by traveling the Canal Loop Trail.

Canal Loop Trail D Connector – Yellow Diamonds ◇

The D Connector is .8 miles long and is accessed from the North Welcome Station. This trail grants access to the Canal Loop Trail, North/South Trail, and the North End Paved Trail.

Length: 11-mile loop with 3 miles of connectors

Trailheads: North Welcome Station

Kentucky Lake Scenic Drive

(Seasonal Hunting Information available here.)

Surface Type: Dirt

Difficulty Level: Moderate to Difficult

Recommended Seasons: Spring, Fall

Facilities: Parking, accessible restrooms, picnic area, grills

Trail Markings: Main Loop–Blue Diamonds ◇

Connector Trails–Yellow Diamonds ◇

N/S Trail–White Diamonds ◇

Trail Ethics: Pack it in. Pack it out! Share the trail with mountain bikers and hikers.

Backcountry/Trailside Camping: Overnight camping is permitted along the Canal Loop Trail. All campsites must be at least 50 feet from marked trail. Bury all human waste 200 feet from marked trail. An overnight Backpacking Permit is required; free permits may be obtained at North Welcome Station Trailhead.

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. Properly treat all trailside water before consuming. Springs may not be flowing during July, Aug., & Sept. Plan to bring water with you. Potable water can be found at Hillman Ferry Campground and North Welcome Station.

LBL Trail Rules

1. For your safety, all overnight backpackers are requested to register at North Welcome Station Trailhead.
2. Low impact camping/hiking/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. Mountain biking is discouraged during periods of wet trail conditions.
4. 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.
5. Horses and mountain bikes allowed on designated trails only. Motor vehicles strictly prohibited except for approved organized events.
6. *Respect the Resource*—leave plants and flowers for others to enjoy, and do not harass the wildlife!
7. Firearms are strictly prohibited except during established LBL gun hunting seasons by legally licensed hunters with permits.
8. Pets must be on a leash of 6' or less and under physical control at all times. Respect other users.
9. 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.jbl.org under *Alerts & Notices*.
10. ♻️ Help us eliminate garbage—take your trash to the Recycling Stations located at Hillman Ferry Campground or North 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.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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.friendsofbl.org

Canal Loop Trail

