

TRAVEL TIPS for Persons in Wheelchairs

Kentucky Parks: Part 4



A RESOURCE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE
KENTUCKY APPALACHIAN RURAL REHABILITATION NETWORK

Wheelchair accessibility of Kentucky parks and recreation areas

State Parks Covered in this Edition

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11. *White Hall State Historic Site*



The following park descriptions are meant to act as a guide for persons in wheelchairs, so that these individuals may more fully enjoy Kentucky's beautiful and diverse state parks and recreation areas. It is always recommended to call the park prior to arrival to check on current conditions and find out if any changes have occurred, especially if you plan to go boating or fishing as water levels can greatly change the steepness of dock ramps. Remember that even if a park does not have some wheelchair-friendly features in place, there are many tools that you can bring or make to help you to enjoy your visit— see Travel Tips edition 1 for ideas. Be creative, stay safe, and enjoy the great outdoors!



Key to the park descriptions:

Parking: Are there handicap-designated parking spots with adequate width and aisles?
Bathrooms: Do bathrooms have adequate door width, stall size, and commode height to accommodate wheelchairs?
Food/Drink access: Are drinking fountains and picnic pavilions wheelchair accessible?
Boating/Fishing: Is there a ramp to access docks?
Trails: Are any trails in the park wheelchair friendly?
Camping: Is there a concrete pad and/or paved camping spots available?
Lodging: Do park lodgings (hotels, cabins) have rooms designed to accommodate wheelchair users?
Pool: Is there a ramp and/or a chair lift into the pool?

Y= Yes, meets ADA guidelines for accessibility **N** = Not designed for wheelchair accessibility
n/a = amenity not available at this park

***If you see an asterisk (*),** it means that accessibility may be questionable or requires further explanation; see the written description of the park, and call ahead to check park conditions.

TRAVEL TIPS for Persons in Wheelchairs

1. Big Bone Lick

3380 Beaver Road, Union, KY 41091 · (859) 384-3522

Parking:	Y
Bathrooms:	Y
Food/Drink access:	Y
Boating/Fishing:	N*
Trails:	Y
Camping:	Y
Lodging:	n/a
Pool:	Y*

Big Bone Lick is a state park home to a herd of bison reintroduced to the region. The museum is of recent construction and is wheelchair accessible. The bathrooms are accessible at the headquarters; however, the campground bathroom entryway is narrow. The bathroom facilities at the picnic area have a few steps, making it difficult for people in wheelchairs to enter. Parking spaces are of adequate width at the picnic area, but are slightly narrow at the headquarters and campground. The trails leading to the bison are narrow and hilly, making them very difficult to access in a wheelchair. However, the park does have a 4.5-mile Discovery Trail, which is wheelchair accessible and features educational displays of the prehistoric animals that once lived on the park grounds. There is also another one mile paved trail that is accessible to people in wheelchairs. The trail leading to the lake consists of rough and hilly

terrain not designed for wheelchair access. The camping and pool areas are wheelchair accessible. At the time of our visit, the pool lift was out of order, but park officials reported that it would be fixed shortly. The campsite has wide cement pads to allow for wheelchair mobility. However, the shower at the campgrounds was too small to allow for wheelchair mobility.

2. Blue Licks Battlefield

10299 Maysville Road, Carlisle, KY 40311 · (859) 289-5507

Parking:	Y
Bathrooms:	Y
Food/Drink access:	Y
Boating/Fishing:	n/a
Trails:	N
Camping:	n/a
Lodging:	Y
Pool:	Y

Blue Licks Battlefield is the site of the final battle of the Revolutionary War. The site's salt springs attracted prehistoric animals, Native Americans, and pioneers. The resort park consists of several attractions including a museum, trails, monuments, campsites, a pool, and a lodge. The museum is wheelchair accessible on the first floor only. The park has several trails which, cover uneven, rocky, and steep terrain, making travel in a wheelchair extremely difficult. The parking spaces are of adequate width at the lodge but are narrow at the pool and museum. The pool features a lift to aid swimmers into and out of the water. The shower area at the pool does not have adequate floor space for wheelchair mobility. Campers in wheelchairs should call ahead to reserve spots

#10 or #51, which are larger and allow for easier mobility and transfers. The wheelchair accessible cabin room and cottages offer railings, shower chairs, and even lowered sinks and refrigerators. Visitors should call ahead to reserve either the wheelchair accessible cabin room, or one of two accessible lodge rooms. Note that the railings on either side of path to the handicapped cottage make it fairly narrow, (33 in) which may pose difficulty for getting wider wheelchairs to the cottage.

3. Carter Caves

344 Caveland Drive, Olive Hill, KY 41164 · (606) 286-4411

Parking:	Y*
Bathrooms:	Y
Food/Drink access:	Y
Boating/Fishing:	Y*
Trails:	N
Camping:	Y
Lodging:	Y
Pool:	Y

Carter Caves State Park is home to six caves, two of which are currently open. This park is a great place to camp, fish, or swim. The handicap accessible parking spots are not in closest proximity to the headquarters, and the access aisle width at this location is narrow, making it difficult to enter and exit vehicles. The lodge has two handicap accessible rooms, and there is an elevator that leads to the dining room. There are two cottages that are also accessible to those individuals using wheelchairs. Unfortunately, the caves and trails are not accessible by wheelchair due to narrow, steep paths and rough terrain. However, there are many other activities to enjoy while visiting this park. There is a swimming pool with a chair lift, fishing is available from the bank or boat ramp, and camping is also available. The campsites are paved or gravel and can be managed by persons using a wheelchair.

4. Constitution Square

134 S. Second Street, Danville, KY 40422 · (859) 236-7794

Parking:	Y
Bathrooms:	Y
Food/Drink access:	Y
Boating/Fishing:	n/a
Trails:	Y
Camping:	n/a
Lodging:	n/a
Pool:	n/a

Constitution square is a state historic site where Kentucky's constitution was adopted, making it the 15th state of the Union. The site covers about a block in downtown Danville, Kentucky. It is fairly accessible to patrons in wheelchairs. The parking spaces are of adequate width, however the access aisles are slightly narrow. The paths are brick, allowing for easy access to most of the buildings. The doors to the headquarters and gift shop are slightly narrow, and the check in counter at the headquarters is too high for a person in a wheelchair to access. Most of the cabins and historic buildings on site are not open to the general public, so those visitors in wheelchairs should not be limited.

5. Dale Hollow

5970 State Park Road, Burkesville, KY 42717 · (270) 433-7431

Parking:	Y
Bathrooms:	Y
Food/Drink access:	Y
Boating/Fishing:	Y*
Trails:	N
Camping:	Y
Lodging:	Y
Pool:	n/a

Dale Hollow State Park is located on the border of Kentucky, near Tennessee. It consists of campgrounds, trails, lodging, pools, golf, and a marina. Overall, the park is extremely accommodating to people in wheelchairs. It is important for campers to note that the only handicapped shower and stall is hidden behind the pool, and does not have a sign identifying that it is wheelchair accessible. Overall, the bathrooms are accessible, however the handlebars are low at the marina, but of adequate height at the headquarters. The nine hole mini golf course is also accessible to persons in wheelchairs. The trails consist of uneven and rough terrain, making them dangerous to attempt in a standard wheelchair. If you are planning on going to the marina, it is important to call

ahead to ask about the water level, as the ramp to get down to the boat dock is very steep when water levels are low. A person in a wheelchair would need assistance from 1-2 people to get up/down the ramp leading to the dock. There is only one pier slip that is wide enough for wheelchair users to access, so it is important to call ahead and reserve this slip.



6. Grayson Lake

314 Grayson Lake State Park Road, Olive Hill, KY 41164 · (606) 474-9727

Parking:	Y
Bathrooms:	Y
Food/Drink access:	Y
Boating/Fishing:	Y
Trails:	Y*
Camping:	Y
Lodging:	n/a
Pool:	n/a

Established in 1970, Grayson Lake State Park consists of 1,512 acres of wooded natural habitat that surrounds 74.2 miles of shoreline. Guests can find pleasure in boating, hiking, camping, golfing, and picnicking with friends and family. The trails are dirt/gravel with some large rocks mixed in, making wheelchair propulsion difficult, but potentially manageable to offer the opportunity to observe the different flora and fauna. All other amenities at this park are easily manageable for visitors using a wheelchair. There is a marina that offers access to the lake for those in wheelchairs, which is located 3 miles from the state park, however there is no edge protection on the docks. The trails and bathrooms do not have clearly marked accessibility signs.

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7. Green River Lake

179 Park Office Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718 · (270) 465-8255

Parking:	Y
Bathrooms:	Y
Food/Drink access:	Y
Boating/Fishing:	Y*
Trails:	N
Camping:	Y
Lodging:	n/a
Pool:	n/a

Green River Lake State Park is a beautiful park located near Campbellsville, KY. This park offers camping, hiking, fishing, a marina, and boat rentals. Most of the trails are steep, dirt or gravel trails that would make traveling by wheelchair extremely difficult. The campground is gravel and paved, making it easily manageable for visitors in wheelchairs. This park lacks signs of accessibility at water fountains and fishing docks. One sink in the campground's bathroom facility was too high for use by those in wheelchairs, and nearly all urinals throughout the park were also too high. There are multiple floating docks around the lake that would be accessible to persons traveling by wheelchair, but use caution around the areas that do not have a railing. There are also only

a few slips that are of adequate width for boaters in wheelchairs, so it is recommended to call ahead in order to reserve one of these slips.

8. Kincaid Lake

565 Kincaid Park Road, Falmouth, KY 41040 · (859) 654-3531

Parking:	Y*
Bathrooms:	Y
Food/Drink access:	Y
Boating/Fishing:	Y*
Trails:	N*
Camping:	Y
Lodging:	n/a
Pool:	n/a

Kincaid Lake is a manmade lake in Northern Kentucky that offers a place to get away and relax with friends and family. Amenities include camping, a gift shop, a grocery store, a multipurpose room, and an amphitheatre that shows movies every night. There is a 38-slip marina that offers boat rentals. The lake provides fishing opportunities for bass, bluegill, catfish, and crappie from the bank, boat, or floating dock. Persons in wheelchairs should use caution at the floating dock due to the lack of edge protection. The slips are also fairly narrow, and there are not any wider slips available for visitors in wheelchairs. Utilizing the floating dock requires caution due to the unstable surface. The park lacks signs of accessibility at the trails, docks, and bathrooms. The bathrooms

throughout the park are accessible, except that the urinals are higher than ADA guidelines. The park has a nine-hole golf course with a handicap cart, and hiking trails. Most of the trails are on rough terrain and are not designed for wheelchair access. One trail is relatively flat and grassy and may be accessible for individuals with the strength to propel themselves through the tall grass. Concrete pads are not present in the campground, however campers in wheelchairs should still be able to navigate the gravel surfaces.

9. Lincoln Homestead

5079 Lincoln Park Road, Springfield, KY 40069 · (859) 336-7461

Parking:	Y
Bathrooms:	Y
Food/Drink access:	Y
Boating/Fishing:	n/a
Trails:	Y
Camping:	Y
Lodging:	n/a
Pool:	n/a

Lincoln Homestead is a state historic site, which preserves President Lincoln's parents' childhood. Lincoln Homestead consists of a gift shop, two large cabins, and an open field separating the two. The trails leading to the cabins are grassy, posing some difficulty for wheelchair mobility, but adventurous individuals may be able to navigate the terrain. The historic site tour is not wheelchair accessible due to the nature of the historic cabins. The cabins are cramped spaces with steep stairs, and do not have ramps to allow entry. The Blacksmith shop is the only accessible building on the tour. The headquarters are accessible, although the check in counter is too high for people in wheelchairs. The bathrooms and gift shop are also wheelchair accessible.

10. Perryville Battlefield

1825 Battlefield Road, Perryville, KY 40468 · (859) 332-8631

Parking:	Y*
Bathrooms:	N*
Food/Drink access:	Y*
Boating/Fishing:	n/a
Trails:	N*
Camping:	n/a
Lodging:	n/a
Pool:	n/a

Perryville Battlefield was the site of a civil war battle, and it spans several acres. The main area consists of a museum/gift shop, a civil war monument, bathrooms, and a covered picnic area. The museum and gift shop is wheelchair accessible. One area of concern includes the bathrooms. The door width is too narrow for a standard wheelchair, which may prevent access. Within the bathrooms, the commode heights are lower than ADA guidelines, and there are no handle bars in the stalls. The water fountain is accessible but was not working at the time of our assessment. Parking space width is of adequate size; however there is no access aisle, only a grassy incline on the side of the parking spot, which may pose difficulties for transfers. For all visitors, most of the park

can be experienced via a 2 mile driving tour in the patron's personal vehicle. On the scenic driving tour, visitors may stop to enjoy several historic sites. The large battlefield would be difficult to navigate in a wheelchair due to the grassy and hilly terrain. Historic reenactments are held on the battlefield at various times throughout the year; call for details.

11. White Hall

500 White Hall Shrine Road, Richmond, KY 40475 · (859) 623-9178

Parking:	Y
Bathrooms:	Y*
Food/Drink access:	Y
Boating/Fishing:	n/a
Trails:	n/a
Camping:	n/a
Lodging:	n/a
Pool:	n/a

White Hall is a beautiful historic home located near Richmond, KY. The house, originally named Clermont, was built by Revolutionary War veteran, General Green Clay. In the 1860's his son, Cassius M. Clay, rebuilt around the original house and renamed it White Hall. The state of Kentucky bought the estate and opened it to the public in 1978. The grounds outside the house are wheelchair accessible, but use caution on one steep ramp. There is one set of accessible bathrooms on the grounds; however, the commode heights are very low, and there is no sign of accessibility. The aisle width in the parking lot that is wheelchair accessible is slightly narrow, but manageable. The inside of the house and corresponding tour of White Hall are not wheelchair accessible due

to the structure and number of steps inside the mansion. In order to preserve the historic home, no elevators are present. Patrons in wheelchairs are still able to enjoy the grounds by navigating the brick paved garden path, and viewing the marvelous architecture the outside of the home offers.



Additional Resources

Kentucky Department of Parks	www.parks.ky.gov	(800) 255-PARK
KARRN	www.karrn.org	(859) 218-0515

These Educational materials were developed by:

Mr. Dustin Arthur, Ms. Rachel Boyken, and Mr. Camden Campbell, students in the University of Kentucky Physical Therapy Program, as well as Ms. Chandra Lloyd and Patrick Kitzman MSPT, PhD