

TRAVEL TIPS for Persons in Wheelchairs

Kentucky Parks: Part 3



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

1. *Boone Station State Historic Site*
2. *E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park*
3. *John James Audubon State Park*
4. *Kenlake State Resort Park*
5. *Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park*
6. *Land Between the Lakes National Park*
7. *Mineral Mound State Park*
8. *My Old Kentucky Home*
9. *Taylorsville Lake State Park*
10. *Waveland State Historic Site*
11. *Wickliffe Mounds 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!

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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. Boone Station

240 Gentry Road, Lexington, KY 40502 · (859) 527-3131

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

Boone Station is the site of a historic settlement established by the Boone family in 1779, located in Lexington, KY. This site includes a 1 mile self guided hiking trail with a grassy picnic area. This trail is a mowed grass path that may be quite difficult to access in a wheelchair. There is also no paved parking area or bathrooms.



2. E.P. “Tom” Sawyer

3000 Freys Hill Road, Louisville, KY 40241 · (502) 429-7270

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

E P Tom Sawyer state park is located in the heart of suburban Louisville and is an ideal park for family fun. The park has many activities available including archery, swimming pool, indoor tennis courts, outdoor play areas for children, community gardens, and fitness trails. The large paved parking lot has some parking spots marked handicap-accessible, but lacks access aisles. Bathrooms and changing rooms are available; however the showers are open areas with no doors, railings, or shower chair. The fitness trails are wide crushed-gravel paths, although they may not be easily wheel chair accessible from the street parking. With an all terrain wheelchair and a flat piece of wood to overcome the curb one may enjoy the 1 mile fitness trail.

3. John James Audubon State Park

3100 U.S. Highway 41 N., Henderson, KY 42419 · (270) 826-2247

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

Snuggled up to the Ohio River, John James Audubon State Park has cottages, golf, camping, hiking and much more. Park headquarters are easily accessible (although the handicap button to access the bathroom was broken at the time of assessment). The park headquarters are also located at the bottom of a hill and to access the museum you must drive and park nearby. Well marked with accessibility signs, the museum is wide and easy to navigate with an exception being the door to the bathroom has a handle without a handicap button. There are 6 miles of trails on the premises; only one is paved, and may prove difficult to navigate due to steep grades and tree roots growing through it. The picnic area shelters have a 2 inch ledge with the exception of Lake View shelter which

has an access ramp, but the tables (like the other shelters) lack a spot to pull a wheelchair up and the trash cans are raised and outside the picnic area. One 2-bedroom cottage designated ADA-accessible is available, call ahead to reserve. The camping area has 69 campsites with a narrow concrete pad for a camper without paved access aisles, but the sites are relatively flat in the grassy areas. The bathhouse at the campground is accessible but the showers are narrow and without a padded chair.

4. Kenlake

542 Kenlake Road, Hardin, KY 42048 · (270) 474-2211

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

Located on the shores of beautiful Kentucky Lake, Kenlake is one of the most popular parks in the state. Activities which can be enjoyed at Kenlake include camping, hiking, boating, fishing, and much more. Park headquarters are located overlooking the lake at the beautiful Kenlake Lodge. There are 4 handicap parking spots, although the access aisle is narrow at 33". The check-in counter is 5 feet high which can present a problem to a visitor in a wheelchair. Bathrooms at the check-in section of the lodge are labeled handicap accessible and are very accommodating. The lodge has 48 rooms, 2 of which are handicap accessible with wide aisles, flat ledges between rooms and accommodating restrooms. The lodge has a swimming pool but there is no lift for access. The boating marina at Kenlake has steep stairs and no real access ramp. Visitors in a wheelchair may call ahead and a vehicle may be driven up to the marina to allow for wheelchairs to be unloaded. Once on the stable pier, you should navigate with caution as the slip width is relatively narrow and there is no edge protection to prevent rolling off. All trails at Kenlake are dirt trails and none of them are marked handicap accessible. Kenlake has 90 campsites available with paved pads for campers (none are specifically marked accessible). The campsite bathhouse is relatively inaccessible with narrow stalls (25"X56"). Showers are also narrow and a 3" ledge separates the shower from the changing area. Kenlake was developed in 1948 and many of the amenities have yet to be updated to present day standards.

5. Kentucky Dam Village

113 Administration Drive, Gilbertsville, KY 42044 · (270) 362-4271

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

Kentucky Dam Village is located in Gilbertsville, Kentucky on beautiful Kentucky Lake. Kentucky Dam Village offers a Village Inn, cottages, boating, fishing, camping, swimming, golf and more. The Village Inn offers 6 accessible rooms that include 2 queen beds, accessible bathroom and patio. The only access to the marina is through the boat parking lot. From the parking lot there is a sidewalk that has a protective edge, but in order to get to the boat slips and marina you must cross a walkway over the water that has no railing or protective edge. The fishing pier is accessible, as well as the shelters and pavilions with paved pathways. The public beach is only accessible with assistance or all terrain wheelchair due to the sandy surface. The camping area does have paved and concrete camper pads. The bathrooms and shower on the campgrounds are not accessible and modifications would be needed in order to shower at the campground.



Kentucky Dam Village marina, courtesy of www.parks.ky.gov

TRAVEL TIPS for Persons in Wheelchairs

6. Land Between the Lakes

100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, KY 42211 · (270) 924-2000

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

Land Between the Lakes (LBL) is a national recreation area located in western Kentucky and Tennessee. LBL offers a variety of activities including camping, hiking, boating/fishing, and horseback riding. All campgrounds (Hillman Ferry, Piney, Energy Lake and Wranglers) have accessible campsites. These sites also include accessibility to the bath house with a paved direct connection, as well as additional parking. Long Creek Trail, on the north side of the park near the nature station, is a .25 mile paved accessible trail. The Golden Pond visitor center was mostly ADA compliant and the staff was knowledgeable about accessibility through the park. At LBL, there is no marina but has several boat ramps throughout the area. At Hillman's Ferry there is a fishing pier/boat

ramp that is difficult to access via wheelchair. The park website, www.lbl.org, has further information about accessibility within the park.

7. Mineral Mound State Park

48 Finch Lane, Eddyville, KY 42038 · (270) 388-3673

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

Mineral Mound State Park is located on the shore of Lake Barkley in Eddyville, Kentucky and offers an 18-hole golf course, boating, and picnic areas open year round. The golf pro shop serves as the headquarters/visitors area. Paved wheelchair accessible parking is available near the entrance, including a van accessible space. While access aisles are present, only one meets ADA guidelines for width. The bathroom facilities meet ADA guidelines with the exceptions that the light switch is too high off the ground and the entries to the bathrooms are slightly narrow. Two water fountains are available, one of which is accessible. Designated handicap parking is available near the boat ramp along with non-designated access aisle/areas. There is a floating boat

dock (without protective edges) that can be reached via a sidewalk from the parking lot. However, the sidewalk is steeper than ADA guidelines and is difficult to access due to a 4" ledge between the parking lot and sidewalk. There are no railings on the sidewalk or dock, railings are only present on the steel ramp between them.

8. My Old Kentucky Home

501 Stephen Foster Avenue, Bardstown, KY 40004 · (502) 348-3502

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

My Old Kentucky Home State Park offers mansion tours, camping/picnic areas, 18 hole golf course, outdoor summer drama, and a playground. Accessible parking is available close to the visitor center but only 5 of 10 handicap spaces have extra access space, which is limited. The visitors center is accessible via entrance and exit ramps. One wheelchair is available to guests for use if needed. Bathrooms are located in the visitor center and are accessible with the exception of the urinals in the men's bathroom, which were too high. Brick trails allow easy access to the gardens and mansion site. A chair lift provides persons in wheelchairs entry to the first level of the mansion. However, other levels are not accessible so tour guides provide

pamphlets and additional information on the rest of the mansion. Due to the limited access, persons in wheelchairs are not charged admission fees into the mansion. The campground has 39 sites and provides concrete pads for campers. The bathrooms and showers on the campsite are not wheelchair accessible. The picnic/playground area has no marked handicap parking and only provides one narrow access aisle.

9. Taylorsville Lake State Park

P.O.Box 205, Taylorsville, KY 40071 · (502) 477-8713

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

Taylorsville Lake State Park is located in Taylorsville, KY, just outside of Louisville. Taylorsville offers fishing, boating, hiking trails and camping. Parking spaces and access aisles in the main parking lot are not wide enough to meet ADA criteria. The fishing pier is wheelchair accessible with a paved path to the floating dock. Taylorsville offers a 45-site RV full service campground. Two of the sites are accessible with paved sidewalks to the bath house, as well as handicap accessible parking beside the camper pads and bath house. The bath house showers are accessible, with low seating, handle bars and a removable shower head. The hiking trails are multi-use trails for hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders. Trails have gravel and mulch surfaces

which would be best accessed in an all-terrain wheelchair. The marina is accessible from the parking lot where there is a ramp to the dock with high railing. The marina is a full service marina with 300 secure covered and open boat slips.

10. Waveland

255 Waveland Museum Lane, Lexington, KY 40514 · (859) 272-3611

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

Located just miles from downtown Lexington, Waveland offers a unique educational experience, providing tours of a 19th century Kentucky plantation built by a descendent of Daniel Boone. The site provides tours of the home, slave quarters, outbuildings, flower and herb gardens, nature trail, as well as picnicking and playground areas. The site as a whole is not very accessible. Only the men's restroom can be entered via wheelchair, as the women's restroom is three steps above the ground. Neither bathroom meets ADA guidelines, as the doors are too narrow and stall dimensions are inadequate to accommodate a wheelchair. There are no handle bars or rails present. Accessible parking is limited, with only one marked handicap space and a very

narrow access aisle. The space is not in close proximity to the headquarters entrance. Food and drink are available in vending machines but aren't easily accessible. The short nature trail is a dirt/grass path with no benches along its length. The plantation home itself must be reached by stairs and therefore is not easily entered via wheelchair.

11. Wickliffe Mounds

94 Green Street, Wickliffe, KY 42087 · (270) 335-3681

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

This state historical site was once home to a Native American Village and currently this archeological site and museum is home to many artifacts. The facility has a paved parking lot with accessible ramps into the welcome center. Access aisles do not meet ADA guidelines, but the parking spaces are well over the required width, therefore providing space needed to make up for the smaller aisles. The bathroom facilities meet ADA guidelines with the exceptions that the entry to the bathroom is slightly narrow and handle bars are a little low. One water fountain is available and accessible. There are some short wooded walking paths; however, they are not built to be accessed by a standard wheelchair.

TRAVEL TIPS for Persons in Wheelchairs

Uncharted Observations

Analysis of each park suggested potential limitations that may have not been covered in the ADA Guidelines chart. The following items are common issues that may be encountered when visiting some of these parks:

- It was noticed that surface terrain was inconsistent in many cases, not only on trails and camping areas, but also throughout the rest of the parks.
- In many places, uneven pavement with cracks and buckling could present an obstacle, as well as uneven dirt and gravel surfaces.
- It is likely that trails and other areas of the parks will have downed trees or branches that pose an issue for mobility to desired areas.
- Navigating steep and winding pathways can pose problems for many of the larger, less agile wheelchairs.
- Access to bathrooms and other park features may require maneuvering along steep inclines or lengthy ramps on hills.
- Many parks had automatic flushing systems in the restrooms, however some used handles, touch buttons and levers.

Additional Resources

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

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