

Crossing on Area

HAWTHORNE CROSSING CONSERVATION

ell County Conservation District
t from the Kentucky Heritage
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Conservation Area to
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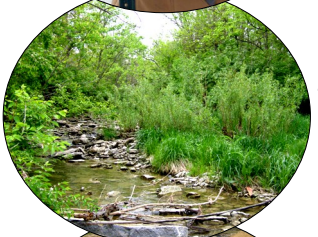
eological inventories
d. This work was

done to ensure that natural resources and cultural resources are not disturbed by habitat restoration work or installation of parking facilities and trails that will allow visitors on the site. Conservation, Forest Stewardship and Wildlife Habitat Plans have also been developed and are a part of the resource management plan. Restoration work began with a project designed by the Northern Kentucky University Center for Environmental Restoration that restored degraded stream banks and removed invasive species.

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board (KHLCFB) was established by the 1994 Kentucky Legislature and is administered by a 12-member board. The board's mission is to award funding for preserving and conserving natural areas that possess unique features such as:

- * Areas that are a habitat for rare and endangered species.
- * Areas important to migratory birds.
- * Areas that perform important natural functions that are subject to alteration or loss.
- * Areas to be preserved in their natural state for public use, outdoor recreation and education.

Land is acquired only from willing sellers. The fund is supported by the state portion of the unmined minerals tax, environmental fines, the \$10 additional fee to purchase a Kentucky Nature License Plate, and interest on the fund's assets. To learn more, visit <http://www.dnr.ky.gov/heritageland/> or call 502-573-3080.



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All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and conservation districts are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. June 2023

Purchased with funds
Kentucky Heritage
Conservation Fund



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Thorne Crossing Conservation Area

and protection are the primary. The Conservation District most demonstration projects and habitat restoration and resources that may benefit other

Currently closed to public use.

will be open in the future for various uses, including hiking and mountain biking. When the property is opened to the public, some areas may be closed due to the sensitivity of plants or animals being protected, or for safety reasons. Boundaries will be marked with signs and fence posts to delineate the property. Rules for the property will be posted at the corner and at strategic sites,



emergency, contact local law enforcement officials.

The land is protected by a Conservation Easement held by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. That easement is a condition of accepting the grant funds for the purchase of the property and outlines uses that can and cannot be permitted on the land.

Please help us protect Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area. Uses that are *not permitted* include:

- Use of all-terrain vehicles or other motorized vehicles;
- Mountain bikes and bicycles;
- Overnight parking or camping;
- Hunting;
- Horseback riding;
- Domestic animals, with the exception of service animals;
- Fires;
- Collecting plants, animals, soil, rocks or other specimens (i.e. shells, berries, nuts, mushrooms and wildflowers);
- Removal, disturbance or defacement of natural and built features;
- Introduction of non-native plant or animal species.

Activities that are planned to be permitted include:

- Hiking;
- Scientific research;
- Nature study and educational programs;
- Bird watching;
- Photography;
- Canoe/Kayak access from the Licking River;
- Vehicles will be permitted only in parking areas and on designated roads;
- Service animals welcome.

A History of Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area

Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area, Campbell County's first natural area, was acquired through the combined efforts of the Campbell County Conservation District, The Campbell Conservancy Inc., and the Campbell County Fiscal Court. The property is bordered by the Licking River and Ripple Creek, both of which give a unique character to the land. Two knolls, often disappearing in the morning mist, provide outstanding views of the river valley.

The property came to the attention of the Campbell Conservancy when it was listed for sale in 2006. The Conservancy pursued private funding to purchase the property and ultimately turned to the Campbell County Conservation District to assist. Being a governmental unit of the state, the Conservation District was eligible to apply for, and received, a grant through the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund. In August 2008 the Conservation District purchased 135 acres of land. The Campbell Conservancy, Inc., with assistance from the Campbell County Fiscal Court, acquired an additional five acres. Those five acres were given to the Conservation District in April 2012.

The name Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area was chosen to honor the history of this land. In earlier days, the shallow riffle in the Licking River near the community of

Hawthorne allowed travelers into present-day Kenton County. The community of Hawthorne has since disappeared, although its name appears on county maps.

Although history is silent on the name, Hawthorne was once a small community with a school, bus stop, and office. Service was discontinued and mail was sent to Alexandria.



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One family what the Cross Area area, family

family recalls a midwife who lived on the hill. A member of the Seibert family and wagon shop in the community. An old House, was located on the property.

located at the inn on their way to Newport, Cincinnati to sell their pigs, produce. The Mile House is located how many miles away the barn is from Newport, Kentucky. The barn is located in the community, and is the present day Tollgate Road.

Compiled from: An oral history project of students of Dr. Doug Hume, Northern Kentucky University; Mr. Buck Seibert; and the Hawthorne Historical Society.

PHOTO CREDITS: Larry Varney - Licking River and Monarch Butterfly; Mark Leopold - students