

St. Anne Woods & Wetlands

In 2013, the Campbell County Conservation District was awarded a grant from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board (KHLCFB) to purchase 146 acres of the St. Anne property.



The KHLCFB grant included funds to acquire the land as well as to assist with land restoration and making the area accessible for compatible public uses such as hiking, bird watching, environmental study, scientific research.

This is the second project funded by the KHLCFB in Campbell County.



The property will be managed to protect and restore the land.

Biological and archaeological inventories have

been completed 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.

A Resource Management Plan has been developed. Areas have already been identified that are important to pollinators. Pollinators are in decline

due to habitat loss, disease, parasites and environmental factors. The identified areas will be managed using minimal mowing, minimal pesticide use, and the protection and promotion of native pollinator-friendly plant 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 about the KHLCF, visit https://eec.ky.gov/Nature-Preserves/conserving_natural_areas/KHLCF/Pages/heritage-land-conservation-fund.aspx.



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ST. ANNE WOODS & WETLANDS CONSERVATION AREA



Purchased with funds from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board



St. Anne Woods & Wetlands

Habitat restoration and protection are the primary goals of this project. The Conservation District and partners will host demonstration projects and workshops about habitat restoration and management practices that may benefit other landowners.



Portions of the property are currently closed to public use. The property will be open in the future for compatible public uses, including hiking and educational programs. When the property is opened to the public, some areas may be restricted based on the sensitivity of plants or animals that are being protected, or for safety reasons.

Contact Us

To help us be good stewards of the land, and good neighbors, please report any problems or issues that may arise. Our contact information is listed in this brochure. In the event of an emergency, contact local law enforcement officials.

The land is protected by a Conservation Easement. 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 St. Anne Woods and Wetlands. 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 permitted:

- Hiking;
- Scientific research;
- Nature study and educational programs;
- Bird watching;
- Photography;
- Vehicles will be permitted only in parking areas and on designated roads;
- Service animals welcome.

We have partnered with NKU Research Education Field Station (REFS) to maximize the usage of the property for education and research purposes. Visit www.nku.edu and search NKU REFS.



A History of St. Anne Woods & Wetlands

The St. Anne Woods and Wetlands near Melbourne hold a unique place in the history of Campbell County. The original parcels of land were acquired by the Sisters of Divine Providence in the early 1900s when the St. Anne Convent was established. Additional acreage, now known as the Wetlands, was acquired in 1945.

The property is ecologically and historically significant, having been studied by Dr. E. Lucy Braun in the early 1900s. This area represents one of the last remaining undisturbed wetlands along the Ohio River in Northern Kentucky and supports an array of species that are restricted to this portion of the region. Several amphibian



species that are in decline in surrounding areas due to land development exist in this unique habitat. The property provides a critical link in maintaining habitat in an area under increasing development pressure. In the 1980s, Thomas More College and Northern Kentucky University began using the property for studies and scientific research. The Sisters of Divine Providence, in order to protect the wetlands, granted a conservation easement to The Campbell Conservancy, Inc. An educational strategy for the wetlands was developed with the founding of the St. Anne Woods & Wetlands Research and Education Center.

In September 2013 the Campbell County Conservation District purchased 146 acres of this land through a Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund grant, which was focused on protecting mature forest and improving wetland habitat. The land is now protected in perpetuity



by a conservation easement held by the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Educational and research activities will continue at the

site, guided by the St. Anne Woods & Wetlands Research and Education Center, Campbell County Conservation District and the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board. Habitat restoration and protection including control of invasive species will be continued at the property. Before further work ensues, a complete archaeological assessment and biological inventory will be conducted to ensure that natural and cultural features are protected.

The southern portion of the wetlands area is currently open for educational and research purposes. The public is permitted to access this section of the wetland during daylight hours for hiking and nature study. The northern portion is open by appointment only. The Woods is located adjacent to the St. Anne Retreat Center. This area will be open to the public for hiking and nature study following establishment of a public entrance and parking facility.

The Campbell County Conservation District will work with our partners, the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board, Sisters of Divine Providence, St. Anne Retreat Center, St. Anne Woods & Wetlands Research and Education Center, Campbell Conservancy, and Campbell County Fiscal Court to ensure the continued stewardship of this unique place. The Conservation District also looks forward to continuing to work with the many people in the community who have shared in the stewardship of the St. Anne Woods & Wetlands with their time and talents over these many years.