

Mountain Biking Options at Saunders Springs

The Saunders Springs Nature Preserve is located in Radcliff, Kentucky, and consists of a 26 acre Nature Preserve owned and operated by the city the city of Radcliff and overseen by the Radcliff Forestry and Conservation Board. Adjacent to the nature preserve is a 73 acre tract called the Saunders Springs Annex which the city has leased and from Fort Knox. There is no charge (entrance fee) to use the Preserve and Annex areas and they are open for recreational use from dusk to dawn year around, weather permitting.

The terrain within the Nature Preserve is quite steep (a 200 foot elevation differential within that 26 acre area). There are 11 named walking/hiking trails within the Nature Preserve with seven trails having over 50 steps/stairs built into them making them unsuitable for use by mountain bikers.

The terrain within the Annex is heavily forested and gently rolling. There are nine named trails and some short connector trails offering about seven miles of multi-use trails (bikers, runners, hikers) with no steps or stairs within the Annex area trail system.

The Annex trails are typically 3-5 feet in width with a dirt or crushed rock base. There are ten wooden bridges along the various Annex trails. Adjacent to some of the trails are optional mountain bike skills features such as “skinnies”, rock gardens, log piles, etc. Just as with the Preserve, there is a 200 foot elevation differential within the Annex area.

The trails within the Annex area were designed and built using IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association) suggested techniques and methods and their installation was overseen by members of KyMBA (KY Mountain Biking Association). The majority of the trail extensive signage located with the Annex area was funded by a grant received from Nolin RECC as part of their Round-up Community Support Program.

These are the trails located within the Annex:

1. The **Knox Trail** is located along the east-west axis of the Annex. The Knox Trail provides a total trail length of about one mile and forms several “loops”. This is the widest trail and is used by those who want to ride on a semi-improved gravel road. This trail intersects with the Perimeter Trail at a number of locations as well as most of the other trails.
2. The **Perimeter Trail**, the longest trail in the Annex, is almost four miles in length and encircles the entire Annex area intersecting at some point with all but one of the Annex area trail.
3. The **Evergreen Trail** links the South Cabin Trail in the Preserve to the Annex area Perimeter Trail at two locations and is 1,200’ in length.
4. The **Bambi Trail** starts along the Knox Trail and goes south for about 800’ linking with the Snake Trail and the Center Trail.
5. The **Pond Trail**, a 900’ circular trail, ties in with the Bambi Trail at two locations.
6. The **Snake Trail** is about 1,200’ long linking with the Knox, Bambi, Center and the Evergreen Trails.

7. The **Center Trail** is 1,250' long, goes generally north-south and intersects with the Bambi, Snake and Knox Trails and the Perimeter Trail (at two locations).
8. The **Hi-Low Trail** follows the eastern side of the Coffeepot Area, 800' long and connects with the Perimeter Trail at its highest point. There is a 100' elevation change along this trail.
9. The **Wild Goose Trail** is 2,500' long and is located near the Perimeter Trail and within one of the loops formed by the Knox Trail.
10. **Connectors Trails (5)**—these trails range in length from 100'-450' and link the Perimeter Trail to the Knox Trail or Saunders Springs Drive.

Within the Annex there are three areas that have been set aside for exclusive use by Mountain Bikers. These areas comprise about 20% of the total land area included within the Annex.

1. The **Mountain Bike Skills Development Area** is located within 200 feet of the upper restrooms (and the proposed Welcome Center). Yet to be completed, this area will contain a number of basic mountain biking skills features such a small rock garden, low “skinnies”, small log piles to negotiate, banked turns, small “rollers” and other elements. This is where the novice and young rider can develop the skills needed to best utilize the trail system in the Annex.
2. The entrance to the **Starcluster Area** is located off the Knox Trail. This area is about 1,200 feet in length with a terrain differential of about 100 feet. Not yet fully developed, there will be several sets of trails and features suitable for the intermediate and advanced rider. At the top of Starcluster will be a Pump Track.
3. The **Coffepot Area** is steepest area within the Annex with a 100 foot drop in height along its 800 foot length. Not yet fully developed, the Coffeepot area will have multiple trails, jumps, and steep drops. This area will be for the more advanced rider. The trail system here ends alongside the paved access road (Saunders Springs Drive) at that point where the road makes a 270 degree turn just down from the Scout Camping Area.

The maintenance of the trails within Saunders Springs is a joint endeavor involving the City of Radcliff and volunteers who collectively spend thousands of hours per year in maintaining and improving the trail system.

There are two restroom facilities located within Saunders Springs; one near the upper pavilion and one near the lower pavilion. The only source of drinking water (a drinking fountain) is located near the upper restrooms.

The nearest mountain bike sales and repair shop is located less than one-half mile from the Preserve (Outdoor Ventures Schwinn, 1498 N. Dixie Boulevard (31W), 270 351-5767).