

## Director’s Message

On behalf of Daviess County Fiscal Court, Daviess County Parks and Recreation Department, and the Daviess County Park Board, I would like to welcome you to Panther Creek Park. Please enjoy the facilities and beauty that lies within its 125 acre boundaries. We dedicate ourselves daily to providing the best parks possible and will continue to work diligently with the resources entrusted to us to ensure that you will visit our facilities and be proud of all the amenities they offer.

Panther Creek Park offers natural amenities seldom found in other parks. Local flora and fauna such as squirrels, white-tail deer, muskrats, blue birds, woodpeckers, ducks, geese, turkeys, may apples, wildflower and cottonwood trees are all in abundance while you quietly walk on the handicapped accessible elevated trails over the forest floor. Other features include the Pleasant Grove one room school house, swinging bridge, covered pedestrian bridge, and a 250 foot suspension bridge over Panther Creek.

Great efforts have been made in the park and will continue in the future to access the needed resources to maintain, improve and develop facilities where individuals and groups can relax, learn, and enjoy the beauty of our great county.

Park Director,  
**Ross Leigh**

## Park Features

Panther Creek Park offers many unique features. Visitors may get a glimpse into the past while viewing the fully restored one room schoolhouse or enjoy a hike around the spoil banks created to make Panther Creek a more efficient drainage system.

Sport enthusiasts can also enjoy the multitude of recreational opportunities the park has to offer. Panther Creek Park has 1 full basketball court, 1 half basketball court, 4 sand volleyball courts, 6 tournament level softball/baseball diamonds, 5 playgrounds, 18 hole disc golf course and a paved walking path.

Panther Creek Park host two big events each year. The annual Fireworks Festival is held Labor Day weekend where families can come to the park and enjoy food vendors, inflatables, petting zoo and fireworks. “Christmas at Panther Creek” delights visitors annually beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving to January 2nd and features over 500,000 Christmas light around the park.

Host your special event at Panther Creek Park in one of the four enclosed shelters. All shelters boast ceiling fans, charcoal grills, picnic tables, lights, and a variety of leisure activities. Shelters are available April 1st to October 31st. Shelters may be reserved by calling our office at 270-685-6142.

## Park Rules

These rules and regulations have been established and will be enforced by Daviess County Park and Recreation, Daviess County Sheriff’s Department and/or the Daviess County Game Warden.

- No peddling, soliciting, or commercial enterprise permitted.
- Any damage or removal of parks property, living or otherwise, will be grounds for prosecution.
- Disorderly conduct, abusive language, noise disturbance, or disregard of rules and regulations will be grounds for immediate removal.
- Children under the age of 12 must have adult supervision. Parent or guardians will be held responsible for unacceptable conduct or any damage caused by their children.
- No alcohol, drugs, or weapons are permitted on park property.
- Equipment is used at your own risk.
- Metal detectors are not permitted.
- Non-licensed motorized vehicles are not allowed at any time in the park. Motor vehicles shall stay on the park road and park only in designated areas.
- Disturbing or careless operation of motorcycles, automobiles or other types of motor vehicles will be grounds for removal from the park and/or citation by law enforcement authorities.
- Pets must be on a leash that is five feet or less in length. Pets shall be kept under supervision at all times and not allowed to run at large or to commit any nuisances in the limits of the park.

- Horses and other animals (excluding leashed dogs) are permitted per park director approval.
- Swimming, frog gigging and boating are prohibited.
- Garbage must be placed in the proper receptacles.
- Fires are permitted only in fire rings. No open fires are permitted elsewhere on park property.
- Bar-B-Que grills are allowed but must be in grassy area.

## Maintenance

Trail maintenance is provided by the Daviess County Parks Maintenance staff except for volunteer organized efforts. Any maintenance or safety issues should be reported to the Daviess County Park department by calling (270) 685-6142.

## Exercise Safety

We hope that you have a safe and enjoyable experience while visiting Panther Creek Park. You can assist in safety efforts by practicing good safety habits and by reporting any unsafe situations. We also encourage trails users to note the following:

- No motorized vehicles except those used for maintenance are allowed on trails.
- Etiquette rules are posted for users
- Appropriate signage is displayed throughout the trail system.
- Trails close at dusk.
- Daviess County Park Attendants and the Daviess County Sheriff’s Department patrol the park.

### WALK WITH A FRIEND

### TRAILS CLOSE AT DUSK

### RESPECT BIRDS & WILDLIFE

### CLEAN TRAILS OR PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT

### LEAVE PLANTS AND WILDFLOWERS

### OBEY ALL SIGNS

### PETS

### STOPPING

### WARN OTHERS BEFORE PASSING

### KEEP RIGHT

### Trail Etiquette

- Improves strength, endurance and flexibility
- Reduces stress and enhances mood
- Boosts energy level
- Improves body composition (increases muscle, decreases fat)
- Refines balance
- Lowers the risk and/or severity of numerous diseases associated with a sedentary lifestyle such as hypertension, coronary artery disease, osteoporosis and diabetes.

### BENEFITS OF WALKING

Exercise is a well-known path to better health. What better way of making lifestyle changes than by using walking trails. Walking trails may be beneficial in promoting physical activity among segments of the population at greater risk for inactivity. Our trails make it easier for people to increase their exercise levels. Most adults simply do not move enough to meet the minimum recommendation of 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity on most days of the week. That is including the time adults spend in leisure activities that are not likely to cause them to break a sweat, such as vacuuming, washing the car, gardening and slow walking.

Seniors can benefit from trail walking. Seniors are the least active age group. Research has shown that seniors who have healthy lifestyles reduce their risk of chronic diseases and have half the rate of disability of those who do not.

## Lifestyle Changes

Panther Creek Park provides wonderful opportunities for outdoor classroom experiences. Dozens of bird species and hundreds of wildflowers and trees may be observed from the trails. Educators from around the region have used these facilities to enhance and bring the classroom work to life. Families may contribute to the classroom experience by providing their children extracurricular activities in a natural setting. These outdoor experiences will last a lifetime.

## Education



[www.daviesscountyparks.com](http://www.daviesscountyparks.com)

**Park Winter Hours**  
November 1st – March 31st  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Park Summer Hours**  
April 1st – October 31st  
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

The Mission of the Daviess County Parks and Recreation is to provide an environment conducive to leisure activities, family recreational opportunities and unique experiences for nature enthusiasts in facilities that are clean, safe and well maintained.

**Park Administrative Hours:**  
8:00am-4:30pm



2620 KY Hwy. 81  
Owensboro, Kentucky 42301  
270-685-6142

**Daviess County Parks  
& Recreation**

# Trail Guide

5160 Wayne Bridge Rd., Owensboro, Kentucky 42301



# Panther Creek Park



# PANTHER CREEK PARK

5160 Wayne Bridge Road

START HERE  
Nature Center Shelter

LAKE

Kuegel

Small Gazebo

Lakeview North & South

Butterfly Gazebo

Whispering Wind

Feather Landing

Pleasant Grove School

Keystone Sack

Home Plate

Nature Lair Gazebo

Swinger

Debbie's Dream Catcher

Joe Ford Loop Starts Here

Panther Creek Park South

Compass Course Starts Here

## TRAILS

- Tall Timbers .37 miles
- Sycamore Hill .48 miles
- Cool Springs .63 miles
- Trail of Dreams 2.7 miles
- Marksberry Special 3.98 miles
- Joe Ford Loop 1.28 miles
- Trail of Trees .24 miles

Wayne Bridge Road

## Tall Timbers

**Length:** .37 miles  
**Location:** Nature Center Shelter, Nature Lair Gazebo, caboose  
**Activities:** Walking, nature studies, jogging  
**Surface:** Elevated wooden surface, asphalt  
**Access Point:** Nature Center Shelter, Nature Lair Gazebo, Caboose  
**Note:** Handicap accessible

## Sycamore Hill

**Length:** .48 miles  
**Location:** Nature Center Shelter, Nature Lair Gazebo, Panther Creek Park Drive  
**Activities:** Walking, nature studies  
**Surface:** Elevated wooden surface, asphalt, stone stairs  
**Access Point:** Nature Center Shelter, Nature Lair Gazebo, Panther Creek Park Drive  
**Note:** Stone stairs prevents complete access

## Cool Springs

**Length:** .63 miles  
**Location:** Nature Center, Nature Lair Gazebo, Panther Creek Park Drive (park's west gate)  
**Activities:** Walking, jogging  
**Surface:** Elevated wooden surface, swinging bridge, asphalt  
**Access Point:** Nature Center, Panther Creek Park Drive (park's west gate), Nature Lair Gazebo  
**Note:** Swinging bridge prevents complete access  
**Special Features:** Covered bridge, swinging bridge, restored one-lane bridge

## Trail of Dreams

**Length:** 2.7 miles  
**Location:** Nature Center Shelter, full perimeter of Panther Creek Park (includes spoil bank)  
**Activities:** Walking, jogging, bicycling, skating, nature studies  
**Surface:** Elevated wooden surface, asphalt, swinging bridge, mulch  
**Access Point:** Nature Center Shelter, Panther Creek Park west & east gate entrance, park's main & secondary parking lots  
**Note:** Trail surface constructed of multiple surfaces  
**Special Features:** 6 acre lake, spoil bank parallels Panther Creek

## Marksberry Special

**Length:** 3.98 miles  
**Location:** Nature Center Shelter, Panther Creek Park east & west main gate/Panther Creek Park south parking lots, park's main & secondary parking lots  
**Surface:** Elevated wooden surface, swinging bridge (wooden), asphalt, mulch  
**Access Point:** Nature Center Shelter, Panther Creek Park east & west main gate/Panther Creek Park south parking lots, park's main & secondary parking lots  
**Note:** Trail's surfaces are constructed of multiple materials  
**Special Feature:** Trail encompasses every feature park has to offer

## Joe Ford Loop

**Length:** 1.28 miles  
**Location:** Panther Creek Park south (west parking lot)  
**Activities:** Walking, jogging, bicycling, nature studies  
**Surface:** Rock, asphalt, mulch, wooden elevated trail  
**Access Point:** Panther Creek Park south (west parking lot)  
**Note:** Trail is completely accessible  
**Special Feature:** Special interpretive nature signage

## Trail of Trees

**Length:** .24 miles  
**Location:** Between ball diamonds, center of park  
**Activities:** Walking, jogging, nature studies  
**Surface:** Asphalt  
**Access Point:** Information booth located in main parking lot  
**Note:** Trail is completely accessible  
**Special Feature:** Trivia questions along trail test your athletic knowledge about baseball/softball

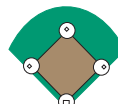


Shelter



Ticket Booth

KEY



Baseball Diamond



Fire Tower



Basketball Court



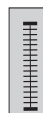
Caboose



Playground



Spray Park



Parking Lot



School



Gazebo



Disc Golf



Road



Walkway



Walking Bridge



Restrooms

