

The Saunders Springs Annex

What Is It? The Saunders Springs Annex is a 73 acre plot of land located on Fort Knox but leased to the city of Radcliff with the specific intent to have a series of recreational trails built in the Annex for use not only by soldiers and their families but also by members of the adjoining communities.

When Did Development of the Annex Area Trail System Start? The lease agreement between Fort Knox and Radcliff was signed in December 2011 and is expected to be renewed before December 2016.

Where Is It? The Saunders Springs Annex is located adjacent to the Saunders Springs Nature Preserve generally on the south side of the Preserve and includes all the land between the Preserve and the Fort Knox-Radcliff boundary.

When Is the Annex Open? The Annex, as well as the Preserve, is open year around, weather permitting from dawn-dusk. The Annex trails should not be used following wet weather to prevent damage to the trails. Allow the trails to dry out before using them.

Who Designed the Trail System? The Radcliff Forestry and Conservation Board in coordination with Fort Knox officials and with assistance from members of the Kentucky Mountain Bike Association (KyMBA) developed the trail system master plan.

What Is Located within the Annex? In addition to about seven miles of joint-use trails (hike/run/bike) there are four areas set aside specifically for use by mountain bikers. There are 16 cedar benches and 13 wooden bridges located along the trails. Most trails are 3-4 feet in width with the Knox Trail and some Connector Trails being 10-20 feet wide.

What is the Terrain Like in the Annex? The Annex area is gently rolling with more than a 200 foot elevation change from one end to the other. There are no steps or stairs in the Annex. All Annex areas are heavily forested with many trees being over 100 feet in height. There are no springs/flowing water in the Annex area.

Who Built It? Nearly all the trails development/construction completed in the Annex has been done by volunteers. Some of the organizations that have contributed their time and talent to trails construction include:

- 35+ Eagle Scout/Cub Scout Community Service Projects
- Bluegrass Challenge Academy cadet support
- John Hardin and North Hardin High School Day of Service Projects
- North Middle and JT Alton Middle School Junior Leadership Corps Projects
- Inmates from the Hardin County Detention Center (work program)
- Military personnel from Fort Knox

How Do I Enter the Annex? There are six different points of entry into the Annex from along Saunders Springs Lane, the paved road which runs through the Preserve.

What Is the Cost to Use the Annex? There is no entrance fee.

How Many Different Joint Use Trails Are There in the Annex? Nine.

Knox Trail—6,000 feet in length

Perimeter Trail—5.2 miles in length

Snake Trail—1,200 feet in length

Bambi Trail—800 feet in length

Center Trail—1,250 feet in length

Evergreen Trail—1,200 feet in length

Hi-Low Trail—800 feet in length

Pond Trail—900 feet in length

Connector Trails—several ranging from 100-400+ feet in length

Is Vehicle Traffic Permitted in the Annex? No motorized vehicles are allowed except for service vehicles.

What Kind of Trail Markings Area There? In part due to a Nolin RECC Round-up grant for \$5,990, all trails intersections are well marked with descriptive trail signs. Several large Annex Area map boards are also located at Annex area trail head locations. Other informational/educational signs are positioned as needed.

Are there Restrooms or Drinking Water Available in the Annex? No. There is a water fountain and restroom facilities immediately adjacent to the Annex near the upper Pavilion/Welcome Center.

What Mountain Biking Specific Areas/Activities Area There? Four.

Mountain Bike Skills Development Area is located less than 100 yards from the Welcome Center/Upper Restroom Area. This area is used to train novice and intermediate skill level mountain bike riders on how to best negotiate the various types of “obstacles” that they are likely to encounter at Saunders Springs and at other mountain biking venues. Classes/demonstrations are regularly conducted.

The Starcluster Area is located immediately north of the Knox Trail. Three trails will be built here, two downhill (Sabot and Hellfire) and one uphill (Misery). A 100 foot elevation differential occurs within Starcluster. Designed with the intermediate bike rider in mind.

The Coffeepot Area is located east of Saunders Springs Lane and north of the Perimeter Trail. Designed for the advanced rider with a 100 foot elevation differential along its 1,000 foot length. Trails in this area are now in the planning stage development.

The Wild Goose Area is located within one of the “circles” formed by the Knox Trail with one 3,000 foot one direction trail completed there. A 40 foot elevation differential.