

LOGAN COUNTY GLADE State Nature Preserve is perched on the south-facing slopes of a knob within the city limits of Russellville. It is one of the best examples of a limestone slope glade community found in Kentucky. Limestone glades are naturally open areas with scattered ledges and slabs of limestone outcropping at or near the surface. The soil is thin and the hot, dry conditions on the south-facing openings leave exposed trees sparse and stunted. These seemingly adverse conditions offer a special refuge for many prairie and glade plants.

Logan County Glade protects several species that are considered state and globally threatened or endangered. These include the fame flower, for which this is one of only two known occurrences in the state; the Carolina larkspur, a tall, pale, whitish-purple flower similar in shape to the garden variety; a nondescript shrub commonly known as upland privet; and the glade violet. Many prairie species are found here because rocky soils and steep slopes made Logan County Glade unsuitable for agriculture, the fate of many of the other native grasslands in the area.

A forest of oaks (mostly post, southern red and blackjack) and red cedar surrounds the glades. In the past, fire played an important role in maintaining the balance between the forest and the glades. Since European settlement, the tendency to suppress fires has upset this balance and the glades are being colonized by trees and shrubs.

The Commission periodically conducts prescribed burns to reduce the build-up of grass and leaf litter and the number of woody stems on the glades. Without that leaf litter, less moisture and soil-making material will be retained out on the glades, making it harder for trees to become established.

There are a number of cultural features that hint at the area’s past uses. The limestone fence along the preserve’s southern border was built before the Civil War. The trail along the base of the knob was an old county road. In the early twentieth century, the John Dockins family farmed the top of the knob for corn and tobacco. Goats grazed in the grassy openings and in the woods. In 1960 the land was sold to the county to build a hospital. Other than constructing a radio tower and a small building that housed communication equipment for the hospital, the glade and knob were generally left undisturbed by the county.

The preserve’s ecological significance was discovered during the Commission’s Natural Areas Inventory for Logan County in 1988. In 1990, with much support from local county officials, the fiscal court agreed to dedicate 41 acres of county land as a state nature preserve, forever protecting it from development.

The preserve was officially opened to the public in 1991 after local Boy Scouts from troops 303 and 58 helped to clear cedars and other trees from one of the glades and built a trail through the property. The half-mile loop leads hikers to one of the glades, through the woods to the top of the knob and back to the trailhead.

Visitors must be careful to skirt the glade’s edge as the fragile flowers are easily trampled here. Excellent views of shooting star, bird’s-foot violet and side oats grama grass are possible from the trail’s edge. The preserve is open to hiking, nature study and photography from sunrise to sunset. Picnicking, camping, hunting, pets, bicycles and ATV’s are prohibited.



Owner:
* Logan County Fiscal Court
Manager:
* Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

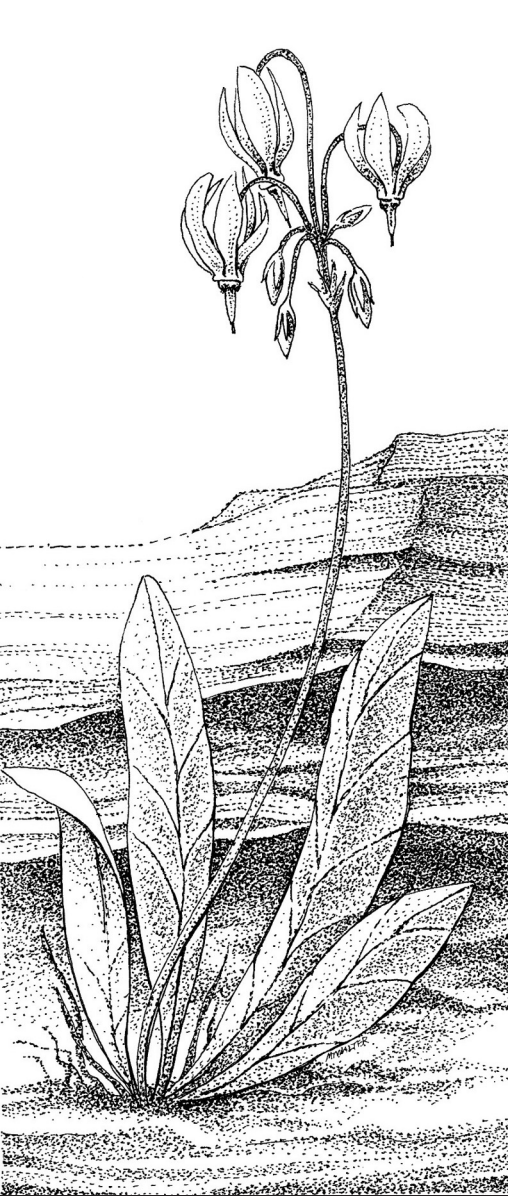
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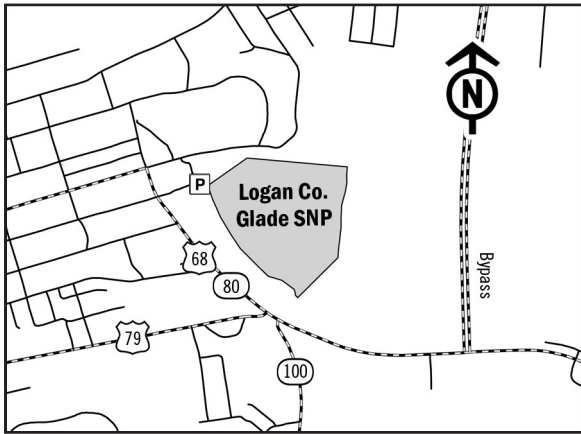
KSNPC ~ February 2012

cover artwork by Mary Walter

LOGAN COUNTY GLADE

STATE NATURE PRESERVE





From the junction of the Natcher Parkway and U.S. 68/KY 80 at Bowling Green, follow U.S. 68/KY 80 west for 24.4 miles to Russellville. Turn right into the parking area behind the Logan County Health Department.

By observing the rules for State Nature Preserves, you will be helping to protect Kentucky's natural heritage.

1. Preserves are open sunrise to sunset.
2. Trails are open to foot traffic only. The established trail system provides you with the safest and best way to travel through the preserve. Visitors must not re-route or shortcut the existing trail system.
3. Horses, bicycles, climbing and rappelling are not permitted in nature preserves because of their destructive impacts to the trails and natural features.
4. Motorized vehicles are not permitted.
5. Possession of drugs or alcohol is prohibited.
6. Collecting plants, animals, rocks, artifacts or wood reduces those things that are needed to maintain nature's delicate balance. Therefore, collecting, hunting and trapping are prohibited on dedicated state nature preserves.
7. To ensure the natural beauty of each preserve and to promote visitor safety and enjoyment, camping, picnicking, building fires, audio equipment and pets are not permitted.
8. Remember to carry out your trash.

THESE RULES ARE ESTABLISHED BY 400 KAR 2:090. ANY PERSON IN VIOLATION OF THIS REGULATION MAY BE LIABLE FOR A CIVIL PENALTY OF \$1000 PER DAY AND POSSIBLE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN KRS 224.

