

Elizabethtown

Nature Park & Veterans Tribute



There is so much to explore at the **Elizabethtown Nature Park**. Start off by paying homage to **Vietnam Veterans at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall**. The wall is an 80% scale of the Vietnam Veterans wall in Washington, D.C. In 2011 the American Veterans Traveling Tribute approached local

Hardin County Veterans about a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall replica in Elizabethtown, KY. The project was approved by the City of Elizabethtown, and the newly formed **Hardin County Veterans Tribute Group** began fundraising to pay for the project.

There were initially 10 Vietnam Veterans who each contributed \$1,000 for the down payment. With the help of donations from local veterans and the community, they were able to raise the funds to complete the project.

Make your way to the back of the wall to see inscriptions honoring different branches of the military.



As you're walking up you will see two memorials directly across from each other. One monument is dedicated to **POW and MIA**, the other is dedicated to Kentuckians who died, or remain missing in the Vietnam War 1959 - 1975. They even have a memorial for the sweet pups that served in Vietnam. You can find this to the left of the wall.





While there, you can also see the **Elizabethtown Veterans Tribute**. The tribute is 90 feet in diameter and is dominated by a star polygon walkway. Visitors can walk along the path to closely view the five life-size bronze sculptures. Each sculpture represents a branch of the military.



The Nature Park is located at 1900 Ring Road East and is home to beautiful veteran memorials, but also several scenic trails with over 104 acres to explore. The park is open from dawn to dusk. Start your visit by exploring the

Perimeter Trail. The trail is 2.52 miles, and it travels around the Nature Park with multiple access points. **Perimeter Trail is full of grassy hillside with two forested sections.**

After you explore the **Perimeter Trail**, take a quick break at the large pavilion. The pavilion has several benches and a restroom facility. If you're looking for a shorter trail check out the Creekside Loop. **Creekside Loop is .72 mile and travels along a portion of Freeman Creek.** This trail is entirely forested with several large oak trees. Creekside Loop can be accessed from the Perimeter Trail.

One of the most unique spots of the Nature Park is a tunnel that connects it to Freeman Lake! The tunnel is under Ring Road and can be accessed through one of the trails.



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