



Bledsoe's Fort Historical Park



Bledsoe's Fort Historical Park Hiking Trail Descriptions: All trails begin at the parking lot.

Holston Road Hiking Trail

This is a section of the first wagon road to the Cumberland Settlements from East Tennessee. The trail passes several interpretive signs telling about the area, the Pioneer/Belote Cemetery and 2 spur trails. The spur trails go to the Cavern of the Skulls, the other to the Spring and Long Hunter Camp. The end of the trail you will pass Bledsoe's Fort. Be sure to walk on the platform to see the painting and diagram of the original fort. From the parking lot, round trip, your hiking distance is a total of 0.8 miles.

"Abram" Hiking Trail

This trail is named for Abraham Bledsoe, the mulatto slave of Anthony Bledsoe (1733-1788). The only description found regarding Abraham was given by General William Hall who said of him, *"He was a brave, active, and intelligent fellow, and indeed a good soldier and marksman."* The Nashville Banner, 1897, stated *"Abraham Bledsoe lived to be old, and died in the first decade of this century. A braver man never lived. Several of his descendants are, at present, living in Sumner County"*. This trail begins at the parking lot then turns off the Holston Road Trail before reaching the pioneer cemetery. The trail has several Leopold benches and has view points, one of the Cheskiki Indian Mounds. You will pass the Long Hunters Camp, and cross over the Thurman Bridge and pass Pioneer Spring. If you choose to visit the Cavern of the Skulls it's up the natural stone stairway before reaching Bledsoe's Fort. From the parking lot, round trip, your hiking distance is a total of 0.8 miles.



Bledsoe's Fort Historical Park



"Katy" Bledsoe Bluebird Hiking Trail

This trail is named after Katherine Montgomery Bledsoe, Isaac Bledsoe's wife. They had 8 children and 31 Grandchildren. Katy was born in Northern Ireland. She was a woman of superior character, very brave and was loved, honored and respected by all those who knew her. The hike: Head toward the Fort and then to the back field. From the parking lot and back is 0.9 miles.

Mary Bledsoe Spur Hiking Trail

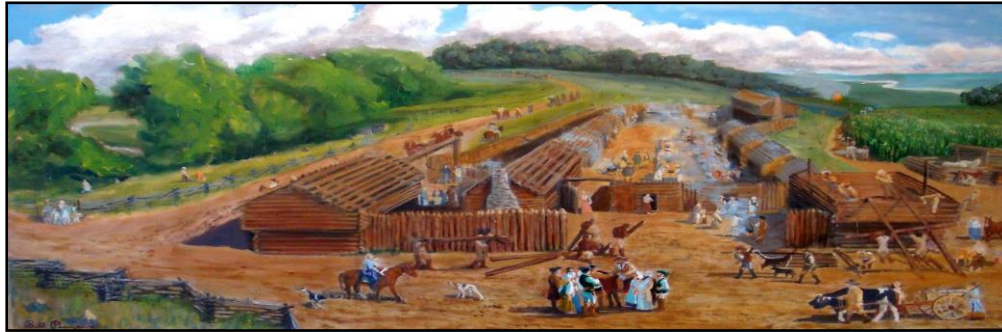
This trail is named after Mary Ramsey, born in Augusta County VA. She was the wife of Col. Anthony Bledsoe. They had 11 children and 47 Grandchildren. She had remarkable energy and was noted for her independence, both of thought and action. This spur trail is considered sacred ground. It follows the treeline around the field where the fort once stood, is a way to get extra mileage and reflect while walking in the same area as the Bledsoe families once did. Total mileage from the parking lot is 0.5.

Under construction "Abram" Hiking Trail phase 2, distance undetermined.

**Please practice Leave no Trace Ethics. This is a trash free park.
Please take all trash and dog waste bags with you.**



Bledsoe's Fort Historical Park



Points of Interest: Please visit each site and discover more from the posted interpretive signage.



Bledsoe's Fort Site 1783-1806. This fort site was a safe haven for the Bledsoe Family and other pioneer settlers during times of Indian hostility. On the deck overlooking the excavated fort area, please see the painting of the fort by Bill Puryear.



Hugh Rogan Irish Stone Cottage, Rogana, Built within 1796-1802, moved here 1998.



Nathaniel Parker Log Cabin, Earliest log cabin in Sumner County, built 1790, moved here 1994.



Horace Lawson Hunley Log Cabin. Innovator and designer of the H. L. Hunley civil war submarine.



Bledsoe's Fort Historical Park



Cavern of the Skulls, Please do not touch or damage. The Tennessee Cemetery statutes that prohibit disturbance of graves of any age (historic or ancient).



Pioneer Spring. An intact natural stone stairway leads down to this spring once used by Native Americans, Pioneers and wildlife.



Long Hunter Half-face Camp (recreated). This three sided open log dwelling was used by Longhunters 1760's till the 1780's for protection from the weather and to store their animal hides.



Pioneer/Belote Cemetery with Bledsoe's Brothers Monument. One of the oldest cemeteries in Sumner County. First a cemetery for the Bledsoe family and other unknown pioneers in the late 1700's, then bought by the Belote family in 1807 and served as their family cemetery. Please be respectful while visiting.



Bledsoe's Fort Historical Park



Katy Bledsoe Bluebird House Hiking Trail (please do not touch the Bluebird houses).



Cheskiki Indian Mounds (1,000 B.C. - 500 A.D.) (this area is not open to the public) located the other side Rock Springs Road.



Pioneer School (no longer standing, location was the backside of the cemetery)

**Please practice Leave no Trace Ethics. This is a trash free park.
Please take all trash and dog waste bags with you.**

This park is protected under the Antiquities Act. If violated persons may suffer both fine and imprisonment. The park is also a member of National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's list of cultural resources considered worthy of preservation.

Please help us protect our park. If you see something, please say something. Call 911.