

LOOP ISLAND WETLANDS

WALKING GUIDE

WELCOME! PLEASE - ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK – POISON IVY AND OTHER HAZARDS MAY EXIST

We hope you enjoy the 47 acres of natural beauty including 21 acres of water. Binoculars and bug spray are recommended. Numbers below correspond to locations shown on the map.

- 1. OVERLOOK** – Approach slowly and look through trees to observe large birds and wildlife in and around the pond. Herons, Egrets, Ducks, etc. can normally be seen feeding in this area. This was the old loop of Silver Creek and reaches a depth of about 7 feet.
- 2. RAILROAD BRIDGE** – CAUTION – DO NOT WALK ON BRIDGE – The steel Pennsylvania RR was one of the first across Silver Creek in the 1870's. Several railroad companies have owned this including the Jeffersonville, Madison, and Indianapolis (JM&I RR). The bridge was used until 1984 and is now part of the Loop Island Wetlands property. It is 247 feet long, includes 3 spans, and stands 68 feet above the bottom of the creek. Water sometimes reaches the bridge during flood season. Clarksville is just across the bridge.
- 3. AQUATIC PLANTS** – Look for Bald Cypress trees, Buttonbush and Arrow Root plants that were planted in 1993. Deer, turkey and other wildlife are often seen along the creek in this area.
- 4. DUELING GROUNDS** – RIVER OVERLOOK – From here you can observe the skyline of

Louisville over the trees, LG&E hydroelectric power plant, the lower tainter gates of McAlpine Dam, Falls of Ohio Wildlife Conservation Area and the K&I bridge. Famous duels fought here include Henry Clay and Humphrey Marshall in 1809, and Cassius Clay. This is the current proposed area for the 2 lane roadway with the "Greenway" being planned. Also note the erosion from the floods that remove river bank every year and washes depressions around some trees too.

- 5. LOOP ISLAND** – Originally Silver Creek formed a "loop" here which created an island. An 1854 map noted this "Loop Island" and was the inspiration for the current name proposed by Al Goodman in 1990. The island and adjoining marsh area is home to many types of wildlife. Boats were built on the island in early 1800's and the island had a cornfield on it in the 1940's.
- 6. TURTLES** – Approach slowly and note the abundance of large turtles resting on logs in the water. The turtles food source includes fish trapped in the pond after flooding. Watch also for roosting ducks, wading birds and egrets in low hanging trees.
- 7. WADING BIRDS** – These areas are where large Great Blue Herons, Egrets, Cormorants, etc. wade and feed. The large green sloped area is composting leather dust from the old vegetable tanning process and is covered with Japanese Hops (*Humulus Japonicus*).



- 8. LEATHER COMPOST** – Walk along the outside of the floodwall, behind the tannery, and note the small steel door installed to allow the tannery to dispose of scrap leather over the hillside. Large piles of leather are still composting there. The 1937 flood, which prompted the building of the flood wall, would have crested about a foot from the top of the existing wall.

Provided for the public by:
A. W. Goodman & Associates,
Environmental Consultants
(812 945 2333)
www.loopislandwetlands.com
al@loopislandwetlands.com