

# Turkey Bay OHV Trails

## At Land Between The Lakes



### WINTER CLOSURES/SPRING FLOODING

While overly dry weather dominated the last few months of 2010, the winter season and early spring has brought above average rainfall and record flooding to western Kentucky and the surrounding region in 2011.

Due to the increased rain and snowfall coupled with frequent freeze/thaw action and spring flooding, Turkey Bay was closed for 68 days between January and May.



**Camping Area at Turkey Bay  
During Record Flood**



**Entrance Road with Debris and Flood Waters**

While temporarily inconvenient, it is important to remember that these trail closures are intended to protect the long-term sustainability of the sport we all enjoy by promoting responsible trail riding etiquette and protecting trail condition integrity. Hopefully, Mother Nature will calm down long enough for us to enjoy the trails without interruption for a while.

During the first week of May, LBL experienced record high lake levels of 373.5'. (Summer pool is 359'.) This record flooding left the kid's trail submerged and debris deposited across many low lying trails. Cleanup efforts were completed quickly, but the remnants of the flood are still visible.



**Kid's Trail with Several Inches  
of Standing Water**

### 2011 SPRING CLEANUP

On April 16, volunteers braved windy and rainy conditions to participate in the annual Spring Cleanup Day at Turkey Bay. Thirteen people graciously volunteered their valuable time and energy to help complete a variety of tasks including sprucing up the kid's Turkey Trot area, re-marking riding area boundaries, removing hazard trees, and general litter pick-up. In all, 89 hours were contributed.

Thanks to all who helped out!



### 2011 JEEP JAMBOREE

For the first time, the Land Between The Lakes Jeep Jamboree had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Record-high lake levels and monthly rainfall totals were enough to postpone the annual event until August 18-20, 2011. Visit [www.jeepjamboreeusa.com](http://www.jeepjamboreeusa.com) for more information on the photo below and upcoming events.



Jeep Jamboree's "2010 Photo of the Year Winner" taken by Mark Purtilar

### TURKEY BAY WEATHER STATION

About a year ago, researchers from the San Dimas Technology and Development Center in California coordinated with the Forest Service to develop a remote weather station located within the boundaries of Turkey Bay.

The intent behind this station was to not only report accurate weather readings, but also supply accurate soil moisture readings as well.

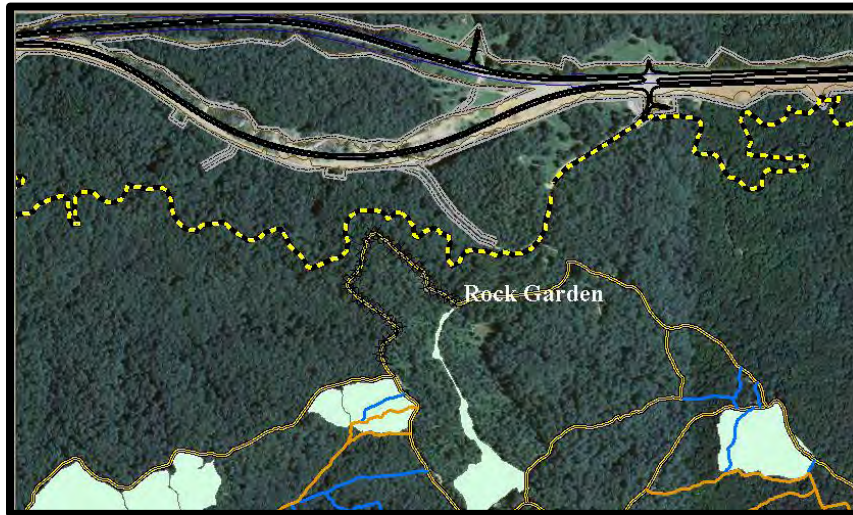


Turkey Bay Weather Station

Soil probes are buried in the general woods surrounding the station and in the trail bed itself to give accurate soil moisture readings, reporting changes hourly if necessary. Other observations such as temperature, relative humidity, dew point, and total rainfall are also available. In addition to staying informed on current and projected weather, being able to determine changes in trail soil moisture is an essential tool when making trail management decisions.

### PROPOSED TRAIL CLOSURE

Construction to transform US68/KY80 in LBL, from a 2-lane road to a 4-lane divided highway, is virtually complete. However, one mitigation measure included in the overall plan is just beginning to take shape. A 7.5-mile biking/hiking trail will be constructed later this year connecting Fenton to the Old Golden Pond area of LBL. This trail will provide the public with non-motorized access across LBL and ultimately trail access between three major western Kentucky tourist attractions: Kenlake State Resort Park, LBL, and Lake Barkley State Resort Park. A portion of the trail is already constructed; a 3-mile section located between the bridge crossing Lake Barkley and Forest Service Road 160.



Layout of New Bike and Hike Trail along US68/KY80

While laying out the initial flag line for the new trail, a significant management issue arose. It was deemed a concern that the proposed biking/hiking trail, the new US68/KY80 corridor, and an existing designated trail associated with Turkey Bay were located too close to each other. This pinch point could result in conflicts between motorized and non-motorized use on the new biking/hiking trail, or worse, conflicts on US68/KY80 itself. Several trail management alternatives are currently being considered to curtail this potentially hazardous issue:

1. Permanent closure and restoration of 0.6 miles of OHV Trail #3
2. Permanent closure and restoration of 0.6 miles of OHV Trail #3 and construction of approximately 0.25 miles of new OHV trail.
3. No action.



The map portrays the exact location of the area in question. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns regarding this topic, please contact Kyle Varel.

### INFORMATION

Check out the Land Between The Lakes website at [www.LBL.org](http://www.LBL.org) for our Calendar of Events, updates on programs and policies, safety information, maps, and temporary trail and road closures.

During times of inclement weather, "Call Before You Haul" at 270-924-2000 or visit us on the web for updates.

LBL Recreation Maps are available at LBL facilities, including Turkey Bay. For information on LBL's



Motorized Vehicle Use Maps, look for this logo on our website.

For other information concerning Turkey Bay OHV Area and Trails, you may contact a staff member listed below:

**Bill Ryan**  
*Natural Resource Specialist  
 Manager, Facility and Trails*  
 270-924-2179  
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**Kyle Varel**  
*Assistant Manager,  
 Facility and Trails*  
 270-924-2031  
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### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like information regarding worthwhile and rewarding volunteer opportunities at Turkey Bay or other facilities throughout LBL, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Emily Schmadeke, at 270-924-2007 or [eschmadeke@friendsofbl.org](mailto:eschmadeke@friendsofbl.org).

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