

Backyard map

Woodlands Nature Station

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area | Western Kentucky and Tennessee

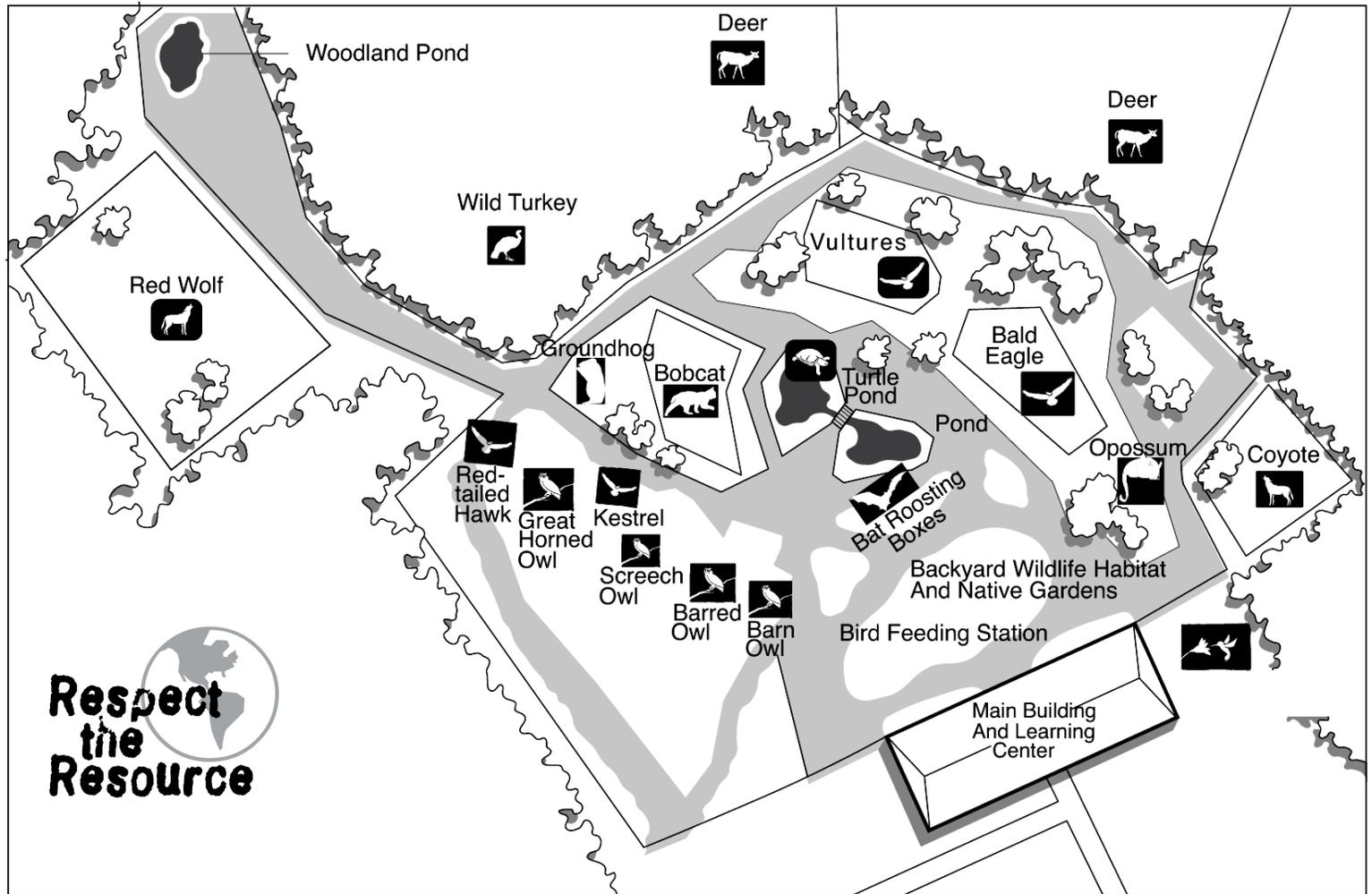
Welcome to our Backyard and Learning Center. Here you can get up close with nature and encounter some wild animals. The animals you will meet have been orphaned, injured or born in captivity. None would survive in the wild.

Other wild animals visit our feeders and gardens. These include a multitude of songbirds and butterflies.

Nestled in the woods between Honker and Hematite Lakes, wildlife surrounds the Nature Station. In addition to our Learning Center and Backyard, we also serve as the gateway to our 8,500-acre Nature Watch Area. The USDA Forest Service manages the Nature Watch specifically for wildlife viewing and conservation.

As part of the Mississippi River Flyway, Land Between the Lakes attracts over 240 species of birds.

We can help you find these and other wildlife throughout the 170,000-acre National Recreation Area—just ask.



The Learning Center

We encourage you to explore our live reptile and amphibian exhibits and working beehive. We offer special programs, from cooking to puppet shows, to make learning about nature fun.

Ask to see what's happening while you're here. At 4:30pm stay to watch the Parade of Raptors as we move our birds to their nighttime shelter. You will learn about each bird and can take photos.

The Backyard

Our Backyard features wildlife native to this region. You'll find gardens, feeding stations, ponds, and shelters that house and attract wildlife. These same features can work in your backyard. Ask us how!



United States
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You are responsible for your own safety. | Phone: 270-924-2299 | www.landbetweenthe lakes.us

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Backyard Wildlife Habitat & Gardens

Sit back, relax, and watch the busy flights and movements of butterflies and scores of Hummingbirds attracted to our colorful blooms. We planted our gardens with native plants. Native plants tend to be hearty and resilient compared to cultivated varieties. Many nurseries and mail-order companies specialize in selling plants native to this region.

Bald Eagle - Found only in North America, you can spot a mature Bald Eagle by its brown body, white head and tail. Currently over 10,000 nesting pairs live in the lower 48 states, due to national conservation efforts. In 2007, the Bald Eagle came off the Federal Endangered Species List — a true conservation success story!

Bat Houses - Bats can significantly reduce insect pests in your backyard. Our bat roosting boxes on display provide valuable shelter for local bat species. Look and listen closely as they may be sleeping in there right now. Ask us about white-nose syndrome that is killing bats in our region.

Bird Feeding Station - Observe the garden additions and plantings that provide food, water, space, and shelter for a variety of wildlife.

Bobcat - Quite common in Land Between the Lakes, we rarely see bobcats in the wild. These secretive and

nocturnal predators try to avoid humans. The bobcat is our region's only remaining native cat.

Coyotes - Take a minute to watch this common nocturnal hunter and scavenger. We estimate about 400 Coyotes roam Land Between the Lakes. You'll rarely see them — only hear them. Coyotes eat almost anything and can survive in just about every habitat in North America.

Deer - White-tailed deer populations peaked with over 24 million deer when settlers first came to America. Due to the popularity of hides and meat, deer numbers declined to 12 million by the mid 1800s and down to 500,000 by the turn of the century. Because of this decline, residents brought Fallow Deer from Europe to Land Between the Lakes in the early 1900s. A small herd of Fallow Deer still roam the area.

Groundhog - A member of the squirrel family, the Groundhog (A.K.A. woodchuck or whistle-pig) will drop its body temperature nearly sixty degrees, may breathe only once every six minutes, and slow its heart rate for a long winter nap — hibernation.

Hawk, Red-tailed - With a body shaped like an arrow, Red-tailed Hawks hunt and dive at great speeds to catch their prey. With excellent vision, they can see a mouse from a mile!

Kestrel - Once nicknamed "Sparrow-hawk," this small but swift falcon preys mainly on insects and mice. Although common in farm country, people often mistake them for doves or blue jays, due to their small size.

Opossum - America's only native marsupials, Opossums have babies that develop in a pouch like kangaroos. At birth they're the size of a jelly bean!

Owl, Barn - Nicknamed "ghost owl," Barn Owls fly silently due to special feathers on their wings. They nest in barns and prefer to live and hunt in open fields, prairies, and even farmlands.

Owl, Barred - If you hear "Who cooks for you?" on a calm night at Land Between the Lakes, you probably hear the Barred Owl — the most common owl in the area. Though they look big, these owls weigh only 2 to 2 1/2 pounds due to hollow bones and lots of feathers.

Owl, Great Horned - Earned the nickname "Tiger of the Sky" by being a fierce predator. Powerful feet enable this bird to catch prey three times its own size. Like many birds, Great Horned Owls have a poor sense of smell and as a result, have a unique favorite food — skunks!

Owl, Screech - The pint-sized Screech Owl preys on mice and insects. You can easily attract them to your own backyard since they often use artificial nest boxes.

Turtle Pond - Look closely to find the Common and Alligator Snapping Turtles. By eating a variety of plants, fish, and other aquatic animals — these turtles help maintain our lakes and streams.

Vultures - Black Vultures and Turkey Vultures provide a tremendous service to humans. By way of a powerful immune system and other amazing abilities, vultures help keep our environment clean by feeding on dead animals.

Wild Turkey - Originally abundant in the region, by 1950 the Wild Turkey population had plummeted. Reintroduction efforts restored them to the area.

Wolves, Red - Take a look — this is the endangered Red Wolf brought to near extinction by humans. Fueled by stories of "the big bad wolf," humans have become afraid of these misunderstood animals. The Red Wolf is naturally shy and avoids people.

Woodland Pond - Many animals call this mud hole "home." In a place like this with plenty of food, water, shelter, and space — a frog might carry out its entire life cycle. You might also spot spiders, praying mantises, and other tiny insects throughout the vegetation.

For more information, we have various Fact Sheets at the reception desk and online and also books in our gift shop.

Scan to go to our website.

