**NEARBY TRAILS**

- **Wild Hyacinth Trail**—1.67 miles. Hike only. “More difficult” trail. From the Ben Stout House kiosk, the trail roughly follows the contours of Turkey Run Creek and routes through forests and bottomlands before converging with the Louisville Loop. Look for numerous small waterfalls along the way. The trail then crosses the Louisville Loop and meanders through forests and flowers, crosses a tributary with a small waterfall, and climbs gently to patches of flowers—including hyacinths. Pass by the Chinkapin sawmill and a stone wall before heading south through older forests with beautiful views from the ridge.

- **Boone Bottoms Trail**—1.2 miles. Hike only. Easy trail. Trail begins and ends behind Ben Stout House. The easy loop routes through open meadow and the Stout bottomland reforestation area. Continuing through a forested area along Floyds Fork, you will find Mussel Shoals, a great gravel bar for uncovering fossils. The trail also offers easy access to Floyds Fork for fishing.

**WILD HYACINTH**

Along the northern loop of the Wild Hyacinth Trail, after crossing a tributary of Turkey Run Creek, you begin a gentle climb that leads you to a place where wild hyacinth and other native wildflowers bloom among the upland forest. Look for clumps of star-shaped blooms of white-blue or violet in late spring and early summer. Though slow to cultivate, wild hyacinth is a long lived perennial, returning year after year and spreading to blanket the understory with pops of color.

**SILO OWL BOXES**

Pouring out from the top of the Stout House silos are two small circles. These two owl nest boxes provide North American Barn Owls a place to nest, while the nearby meadows provide the perfect hunting ground for the owls to find their next meal. Though common throughout the world, the barn owl is rare in Kentucky. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife encourages residents to mount owl nest boxes to counteract the decline of this species. At The Parklands, we are currently identifying ideal locations with hopes of encouraging the species to reside here.

**WATERFALLS OF THE ROWLAND**

Floyds Fork and its tributaries cut through layers of sedimentary rock that were laid down hundreds of millions of years ago, including sandstone, limestone, shale, and coal. The Rowland Member is a soft limestone and shale layer that erodes very easily. It can be found along Boone Bottoms Trail has an abundance of streams and drain the floodplains in order to plant landscape. Stone walls were often used to separate livestock from the crops growing in the bottomlands. Stacked stone walls can be found along Boone Bottoms Trail has an abundance of freshwater mussel shells.

**STONE WALLS**

Stacked stone walls can be found throughout The Parklands—remnants of the agricultural past of the landscape. Stone walls were often used to route streams and drain the floodplains in order to plant crops in the nutrient-rich soil. Sometimes they were used to separate livestock from the crops growing in the bottomlands. The most impressive stone walls can be accessed from the Wild Hyacinth Trail, near the north corner.

**MUSSEL SHOALS GRAVEL BAR**

Floyds Fork’s swift-flowing currents cut away at the outer banks and carry sediment downstream. Slower currents in shallow areas cause the sediment to be deposited on the inner banks of the river forming a gravel bar. The bedrock, made of limestone (the Grant Lake formation) and shale, erodes and releases fossils that the stream deposits on the gravel bars. The Grant Lake formation is rich with fossils, such as brachiopods, byssocyans, cephalopods, clams, and gastropods. Additionally, the Mussell Shoals Gravel Bar found along Boone Bottoms Trail has an abundance of freshwater mussel shells.
THE BEN STOUT HOUSE

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Ben Stout House is approximately 200 years old and is the oldest man-made structure within The Parklands. It was constructed from limestone rock found around Floyds Fork. The house, most likely built during the early 19th Century by Daniel Omer, was sold to Ben Stout in 1867. Thanks to a grant from a generous donor, The Parklands has restored this historic home, inside and out, in ways that will preserve this site for future generations to admire and enjoy. The home will be a gathering spot for hikes and used by interpretive rangers to share the history of human settlement and the way of life in Kentucky during the 1800s.

Mysterious Origins
The story of this house, its origins, and history of ownership is a bit of a mystery. The land was part of a 1500-acre tract originally owned by Squire Boone (Daniel Boone’s brother), but he never lived here. Instead he sold 500 acres to John Mundle in 1792 and over the next 12 years various pieces of the property were bought, sold, and merged until 160 acres was conveyed to Daniel Omer, III in 1814. The house itself was built in the vernacular style of 1800, but it is not clear who built it. Some suggest that the house was built by the Omer family, others by Christian Swartz, the previous landowner and brother-in-law of Daniel Omer, III. Either way, the historic property was sold to Benjamin Stout in 1867, from whom the house gets its name.

Full House, Enduring House
The Ben Stout House was home to several families over the years, beginning with the Omer family in 1814. Daniel Omer, III, and his wife Martha, spent the next 30-plus years raising 15 children in that small stone house. When Daniel died in 1858 the land went to his son Charles, who later sold it to Benjamin Stout and his wife Charlotte in 1867. The Stouts lived in the house for more than 40 years and raised their seven children there. Their daughter Fannie Stout, and her husband Foree Jean, inherited the house and property. The house passed in and out of the Jean family until The Parklands purchased the property from Fannie and Foree’s great-grandchildren in 2006. The house is a testament to the endurance and fortitude of the early Kentucky settlers. Preserved and restored, it will bring joy to countless other families and Parklands visitors.

Stout Bottomland Reforestation Project
The flat, moist bottomlands of Floyds Fork and its tributaries attracted many farmers to the area, even though it was prone to flooding. Farmers cleared away hardwoods such as oak, hickory, American elm, ash, and basswood to make way for crops. Nowhere in The Parklands is there intact bottomland forest. Since 2012, Parklands staff and volunteers have been reforesting over 40 acres of bottomland behind the Ben Stout House—more than 30,000 trees—with oaks, hickory, walnuts, persimmons, cherry, hazelnuts, and pecans.

Reforestation of the bottomland forests is important because the trees filter floodwater, trap sediment, slow flooding, and add structure and habitat to the landscape. Not only will this help restore the natural environment, it will increase both the diversity and the size of the Turkey Run Forest block. At 500 acres, Turkey Run Forest is the largest forest block in The Parklands and the reforestation project will increase it by 10%. This will increase essential wildlife habitat and allow interior forest species, such as some warblers and flying squirrels, to thrive.

Your Role
What does it mean to be a steward of the environment? It means working to sustain our natural resources and the environment for future generations. It means taking an active interest in the land you live on, preserving it for the natural community, as well as enhancing the quality of life for your human community. You can do this by being responsible in the way you use natural resources, by adopting environmentally friendly and sustainable practices, and by giving back to nature. What will you do to become a steward of The Parklands of Floyds Fork and the Louisville community? As a donor-supported public park, we rely on donations, not tax dollars, to deliver world-class amenities to citizens of the region without an entry fee. Please consider supporting us at TheParklands.org/member.

IT IS VALUES PASSED ALONG TO OUR GRANDCHILDREN.

www.TheParklands.org/member

BECOME A MEMBER