

Leslie Morris Park - Civil War Forts

See the Walking Trails self-guided tour map for other sites and trails

Trail loop distance: 3/4 of a mile



While in the park, please:

Leave no trace: pick up trash, pet waste, and respect signage Don't pick, pull, dig up, or remove anything from the park.

- 4. Scenic View
- 5. Capital Defense
- 6. Interior of the Fort
- 7. Cannon
- 8. South Wall
- 9. North Wall
- 10. Gen. Lindsey's Ride
- 11. Soldier encampment
- 12. The New Redoubt
- 13. Military Road

- 16. Magazine
- 17. Stonework
- 18. Artillery
- 19. Earthworks

- 1. **Stone Fence -** This 19th Century fence is a unique style of dry stone masonry, that is not bonded with any material. Portions of this fence have been rebuilt.
- 2. Fort Boone The earthen mound ahead of you isn't a hill--it's a fort! Built in 1863, the interior of the mounds are filled with stones and lumber and covered with tamped earth dug from the base of the walls. This formed a defensive ditch. With the solid exterior walls, earthwork forts protected their occupants much better than traditional lumber against artillery fire.
- 3. **Attack on the Fort -** June 10, 1964, a detachment of Confederate cavalrymen mounted an attack on the fort from the rock fence to your left.
- 4. **Scenic View -** The view from the top of the hill has changed a lot since the 1860s. The Old State Capitol, built in 1829, is one of the remaining landmarks.
- 5. **Capital Defense -** The stones in this area are the remains of a platform which supported a 20-pound Parrott Rifle. On June 11, 1864, artillery was fired across the Kentucky River at Confederate raiders.
- 6. **Interior of the Fort -** Inside the fort were two gun platforms, a magazine, and a stack of water barrels.
- 7. **Cannon -** Another Parrott Rifle platform was located here, along with additional three smoothbore, six pound cannons.
- 8. **South Wall -** Here is the entrance to the fort, as the southern wall was the least likely to be approached, as the hill was too steep.
- 9. **North Wall -** Portions of the wall project outward. Soldiers behind these walls could fire along the length of the wall, allowing for easy approach of those in the ditch at the base of the wall.

- 10. **Gen. Lindsey's Ride -** Inspector General Daniel W. Lindsey, defensive commander of the fort, feared for the safety of the Black laborers present during the attack. Many were slaves leased by the state. Lindsey directed them down the military road to safety, then rode through heavy fire back to the entrance of Fort Boone.
- 11. **Soldier encampment -** Except in emergencies, soldiers lived outside the fort. They stayed in crude cabins or winterized tents. Depicted here is different stages of encampment.
- 12. **The New Redoubt -** A "Redoubt" is an enclosed work used to defend a prominent position. Construction of this fort began on August 1, 1864. Runaway slaves, 50 inmates, and laborers constructed this fort. Erosion and human activity have drastically changed the original, hexagonal walls.
- 13. **Military Road -** This road is the main route from Frankfort to Fort Hill, much of the road is original to the 1800s.
- 14. **Walls -** Fort walls rose 9 feet above an 18 foot-wide ditch, dug to provide earth for packing the walls. Cedar and thorn locust branches projected out from the walls, much like barbed wire today.
- 15. **Gated Entry -** A heavy wooden gate secured the entrance to the fort.
- 16. **Magazine -** A storage bunker for ammunition. The original roof has eroded away, but would have been topped with timbers and soil.
- 17. **Stonework** The walls of this fort, unlike Fort Boone, are stone.
- 18. **Artillery** This fort had positioning for 19 cannons. This top of this ramp gives you the perspective of the fort's gunner.
- 19. **Earthworks** This section is nearly the original height and has remnants of the original ditch at the base. The original ditch would have been 9 feet deep.