JOHN B. STEPHENSON Memorial Forest State Nature Preserve was dedicated into the state nature preserves system on December 10, 1996. The Cobb-Venable family owned this 123-acre wooded gorge for nearly five decades before it was sold to Friends of Anglin Falls, a non-profit organization, for preservation purposes. Ownership was then turned over to Berea College, which now manages the site. The preserve is named after the late Berea College president, John B. Stephenson, who was so inspired and moved by this site that he spent the last years of his life campaigning for its protection.

John B. Stephenson Memorial Forest SNP is a scenic, wooded ravine that protects Anglin Falls, a wet-weather waterfall of nearly 75 feet. On both sides of Anglin creek there are steep slopes that lead up to rocky ridgelines with many rock outcrops and small caves. As the trail ascends to Anglin Falls, large moss-covered boulders and the sounds of water trickling onto rock entice hikers to the serene view at the top of the gorge. The forest provides peaceful escape from urban living for those seeking solitude and renewal. The public has been generously granted access to this tract for as long as people can remember.

The preserve has more than 450 species of native plants including 32 ferns. Visitors to the forest can experience one of the Commonwealth's most spectacular springtime wildflower displays as they hike on the trail. Wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*), cut-leaf toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*), catchfly (*Silene rotundifolia*), broadleaf waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum canadense*), purple trillium (*Trillium erectum*), dwarf larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*), wood poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), sharp-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) and spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) are among the wildflowers that can be observed there.

The preserve harbors a mixed mesophytic forest community consisting of mainly yellow-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), oaks (*Quercus* spp.) and hickories (*Carya* spp.). Other tree species present are basswood (*Tilia americana*), beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) and black walnut (*Juglans nigra*). A rare tree, butternut (*Juglans cinerea*), is found in the preserve near the falls.

The preserve provides an outdoor laboratory for environmental education. Research conducted by students and faculty from nearby universities help us to understand the forest's ecological significance.

The preserve is open year round, sunrise to sunset, for non-consumptive recreation such as hiking, birding and nature study. The trail is considered moderate to strenuous.Visitors are asked to remain on the marked trail at all times for their safety and to protect the integrity of the biotic community surrounding them.

For more information please contact:

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www.naturepreserves.ky.gov

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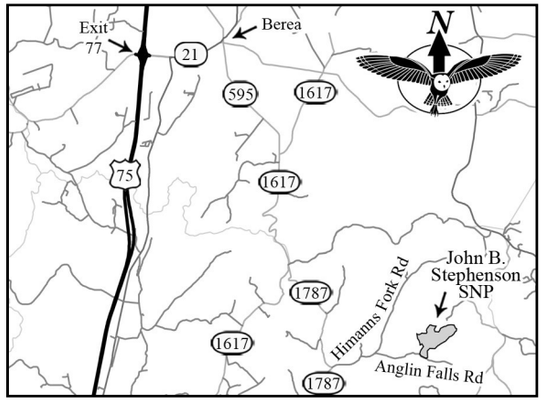
Cover: Photo by Thomas G. Barnes

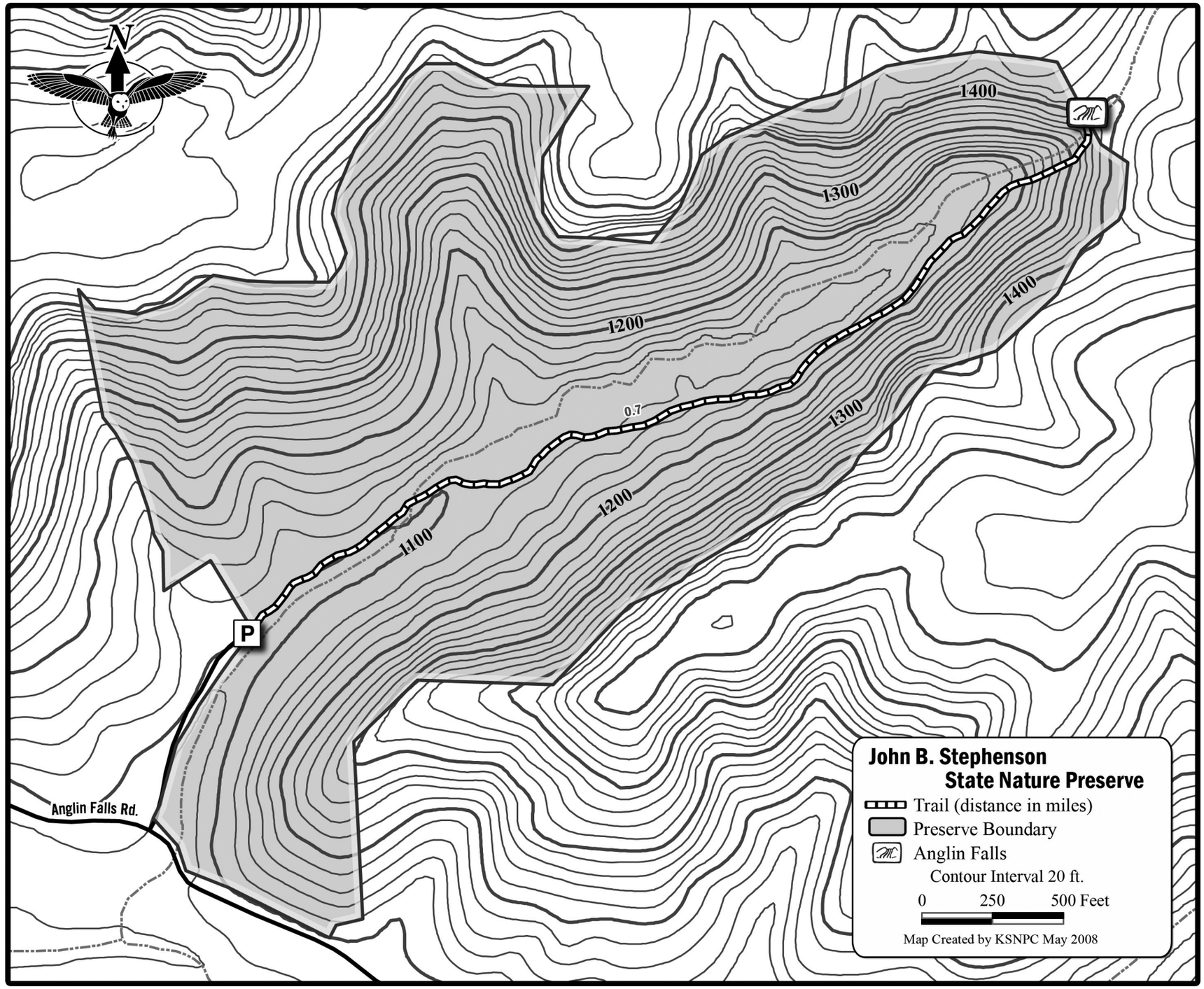
Kentucky UNBRIDLED SPIRIT

JOHN B. STEPHENSON MEMORIAL FOREST STATE NATURE PRESERVE



From Exit 76 (Berea) on I-75, go east on KY 21 for 8.5 miles (through the center of Berea). Turn right on to US 421 and travel 2.6 miles. Turn right on Burnt Ridge Road and travel 0.2 miles. Turn left on Himanns Fork Road and travel 3.4 miles. Look for a red brick house on the right (box 530). Approximately one-tenth mile past the house make a sharp left turn down a steep hill on to Anglin Falls Road. Travel 0.9 miles on Anglin Falls Road to a sign that says "Anglin Falls". Turn left and travel 0.2 miles to the parking area/trail head.

Help protect Kentucky's natural heritage by observing State Nature Preserves rules.

1. Preserves are open sunrise to sunset.
2. Trails are open to **foot-traffic only**. The established trail system provides the safest and best way to travel through the preserve. Visitors must not re-route or shortcut the existing trail system.
3. Motorized vehicles, as well as horseback riding, biking, climbing and rappelling are prohibited because of their destructive impacts to trails and natural features.
4. Possession of drugs or alcohol is prohibited.
5. Possession of firearms is prohibited.
6. Hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting of plant, animals, rocks, artifacts and other items are prohibited.
7. Camping, picnicking, building fires, audio equipment and pets are prohibited.
8. Remember to pack out your trash.

These RULES are established by 400 KAR 2:090. Any person in violation of this regulation may be liable for a civil penalty of $1000 per day and possible criminal prosecution as provided for in KRS 224.