Neds Branch Trail #405

Neds Branch Trail is accessed from Rockcastle Campground, located on the backwaters of Lake Cumberland at the mouth of the Rockcastle River, or from KY 3497. A hike on Neds Branch is downhill all the way if it is hiked from KY 3497. The trail drops 300 feet through a gorge carved out by the trail’s namesake. There are several stream crossings along the way, but hikers should be able to make most of them without getting their feet wet. The last quarter mile of trail passes through a stand of large beech and buckeye trees. Trail difficulty is easy to moderate if hiked from the highway to the campground, strenuous if hiked in reverse. During the winter when the campground gate is closed, walk out the campground entrance road, adding a half mile to the walk.

Begins: KY 3497
Ends: Rockcastle Campground
Parking: 4 cars at trailhead, 55 cars at campground boat ramp
Length: 1.75 miles
Difficulty: Easy to strenuous
Quadrant: Sawyer
Lat/Lon: 36.958671/-84.332815
Surface: Dirt

Rockcastle Campground

The campground is bounded on one side by the Lake Cumberland and on the other side by massive sandstone cliffs. Fishing is popular in the Rockcastle River and Lake Cumberland. Rockcastle Boat Ramp is nearby. A picnic shelter is located at the campground entrance and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

FOOD STORAGE REQUIRED.

Visitors in developed sites must store food, garbage and other odorous items that may attract bears in a bear-resistant container, inside their vehicle, or in an enclosed hard-body trailer.

Guides like this are available at fs.usda.gov/dbnf. 2/2/2015