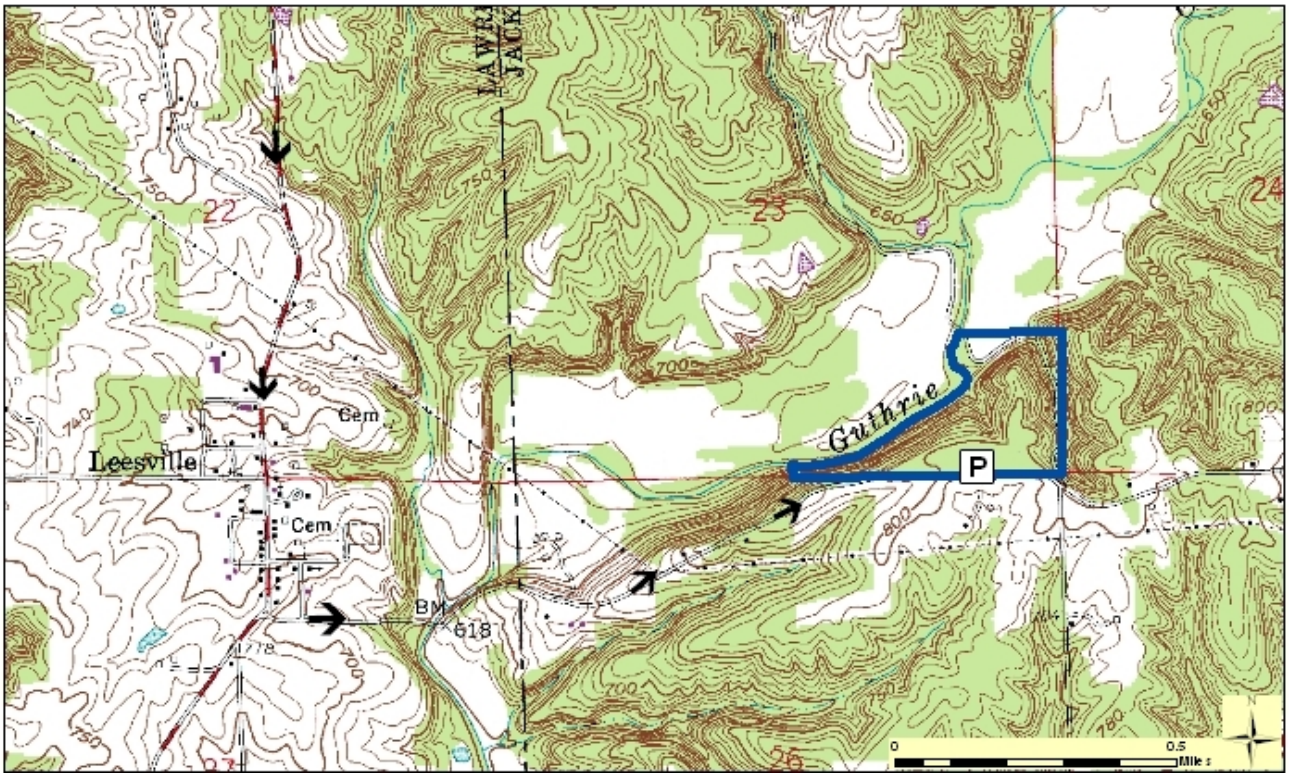
Hemlock Bluff Nature Preserve

County: Jackson Size: 44 acres
Ownership: Nature Preserves - IDNR

Location and Access

Parking and trail. From US 50 between Bedford and Brownstown near the Lawrence-Jackson County line, drive south to Leesville. Take the first left south of town proper (a fork in the road), which is CR 126S. This road eventually becomes 200S and leads to the parking lot. A trail loop leads from the parking lot along the bluff top.



Description: Most of the preserve is located on the steep slope along the south bank of Guthrie Creek. The slope supports mixed stands of eastern hemlock and hardwood trees. The hemlocks are remnants of a previous glacial period. They persist this far south only on cooler north-facing slopes. The largest hemlock in the state, 33 inches in diameter at 4.5 ft. above ground level, is found here. In addition to the hemlocks, the slope forest includes American beech, sugar maple, red oak, basswood, and red elm.

Guthrie Creek contains water most of the year, but may be dry during part of the summer. At one place the creek cuts into the bluff, exposing a steep bank of Mississippian shale.

Further Information:

Division of Nature Preserves Southeast Regional Ecologist, Jason Larson: jlarson@dnr.in.gov

USGS Quad map: Tunnelton
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