“We’ve known of The Nature Conservancy for years, and we just know they are a great organization. It gave us comfort knowing an organization of this scale and strength would be managing it.”

— The late Marty Roenigk in 2004, as he and his wife, Elise, transferred their property to The Nature Conservancy to establish Smith Creek Preserve.

-Smith Creek Preserve
- 3 miles south of Boxley Baptist Church
- 1.2 miles south of the Upper Buffalo Wilderness Trailhead off of Highway 21

The Nature Conservancy’s Smith Creek Preserve is 1,226 acres of beautiful Ozark forest bisected by Smith Creek, a tributary to the Buffalo National River. The preserve lies above Sherfield Cave, where the largest colony of Indiana bats in the state hibernates each winter. The surrounding forest is used by the bats for foraging and roosting and is also home to gray bats, turkeys, black bears and elk.

The forest helps water flowing into Sherfield Cave and the Buffalo River remain clean. Smith Creek Preserve is also a vital connector between the 1.2-million-acre Ozark National Forest and the 95,000-acre Buffalo National River Wilderness Area, allowing wide-ranging animals to move from place to place.

We invite you to enjoy the beauty of Smith Creek Preserve on foot and on marked trails only. No hunting, camping, ATVs or horses on the property.

Please help keep the preserve clean—Leave No Trace
Skill level – Mild to Strenuous

The Smith Creek entrance gate is off of Highway 21. The gate is approximately one mile to the foot bridge. To complete the full circle starting at the entrance gate, to Smith Creek, to Upper Trail, back to Smith Creek Road is approximately 3 miles by foot traffic only.

Distances:
- Bridge to end of Big Spring Trail = approx. 1.75 miles
- Upper Trail = approx. 1 mile
- Lower Trail = approx. 1.25 miles
- Smith Creek Road to Elise Falls = approx. .25 mile

1 mile = 5,280 feet
1 acre = 43,560 square feet