

# HISTORY OF THE GREEN RIVER STATE FOREST

In 1978 the Kentucky center for research purchased 703 acres as a possible site for a synthetic fuels plant. This was in response to the rising gas prices of that time. this site was chosen due to the proximity of the Green River to the north and the CSX railroad to the south. For various reasons the plant was never built.

The state held the land, leasing the farm ground to local farmers, until July of 1998, when it was transferred to the EPPC and put into the hands of the Division of Forestry. In May of 2001, 133 acres (known as the Bush tract) was added to the forest and in December of 2004, the 271 acre LG&E tract was purchased. These lands were bought in part from the Kentucky Heritage license plate sales. Today the forest is 1107 acres with the goal of having 3000 contiguous acres in the future.

The fields that were once farmland have now been planted with 229,450 seedlings of various site specific species. The vast majority of these are oak species, which include white, northern red, southern red, cherry bark, shumard, swamp chestnut and bur. Other species include black walnut, cypress, pecan and hickory.

The forest is now comprised of 512 acres of seedlings, 407 acres of established woodland, and 188 acres of slough and grown up areas.