



Clay WMA Expands

ANGLERS NOW HAVE additional access to the muskellunge-rich Licking River in Nicholas County. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has added 464 acres to Clay Wildlife Management Area (WMA), including a mile-long stretch of river on an inside bend.

The new property, located east of Carlisle near the community of Meyers, provides opportunities for deer and turkey hunting in addition to fishing.

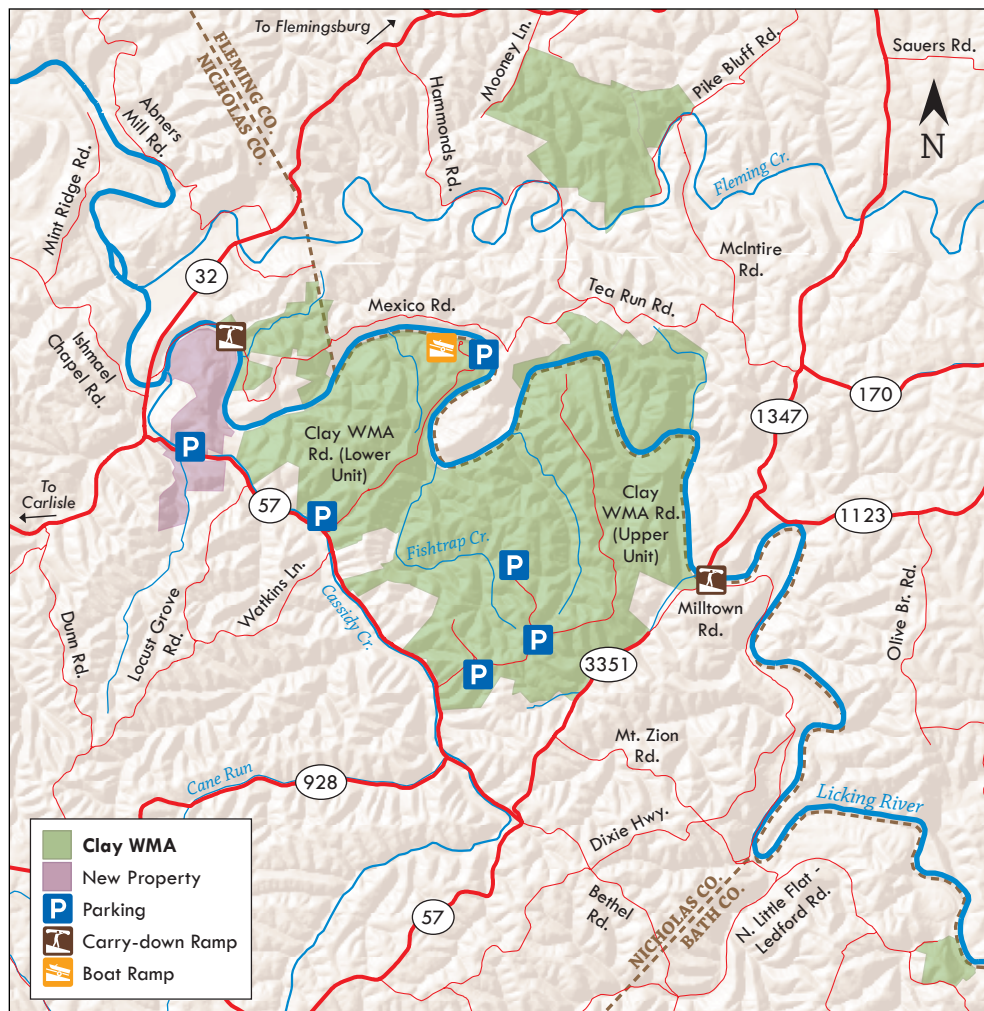
The new area, which is bisected by Cassidy Creek, will be open for the spring turkey season. “The turkey hunting will be best on the side south of Cassidy Creek,” said Clay WMA Biologist Nathan Gregory. “It is more forested on the south side and better for turkey.”

The parcel of the new addition on the northern side of Cassidy Creek has productive small game habitat with good populations of rabbits and squirrels. Woodcock also use the area during their annual migrations.

“The northern side of the property is much more open as it is a former farm,” Gregory noted. “In addition to small game, you can harvest a deer throughout this new property.”

This tract also adds public access on the Licking River, a designated Outstanding State Resource Water by the Kentucky Division of Water. “The Licking is one of our native and historic muskellunge streams,” said Gerry Buynak, assistant director of fisheries for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

Gregory suggests using the river to access the Cassidy Creek confluence and northern sections of the new property.



ADRIENNE YANCY ILLUSTRATION

The management area has two nearby boating access points upstream of the property on the Licking River. A boat launch ramp is located off Clay WMA Road on the south side of the river. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife also recently completed a carry-down access area on the north side of the Licking River, just off Mexico Road.

“The lower section of Cassidy Creek has a really good population of smallmouth bass,” Gregory said. “Muskellunge use the mouth of the creek in spring. I’ve seen some big muskellunge in there in spring. The Licking River is extremely underutilized.”

The rest of the new property is open to foot traffic only. “Parking is a little bit of a challenge,” said Chris Garland, assistant director of wildlife for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. “You can park on both sides of

Cassidy Creek Road with some temporary signs showing locations. There will be improvements to the parking in the future.” ■

HOW TO GET THERE

From Carlisle, take KY 32 north to the community of Meyers. Turn right onto Cassidy Creek Road (KY 57).

GPS Coordinates

-83.9433, 38.3516

