



Eagle tracking
Page 7

Voluntary Public Access (VPA) Fishing/Boating Access Sites Update

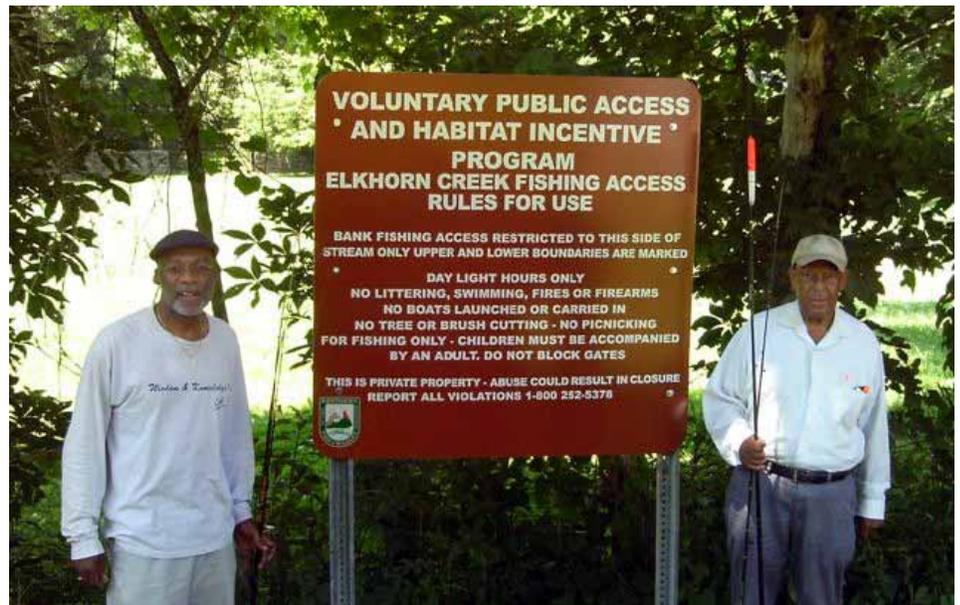
In September 2010, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources was awarded federal grant moneys to implement a new Voluntary Public Access (VPA) program in Kentucky.

This program is comprised of three main parts and includes: (1) dove field access; (2) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) hunter access; and (3) landowner fishing access program.

The Landowner Fishing Access Program focuses around increasing access for anglers and boaters by compensating private landowners who allow the public access to their stream bank lands, private boat ramps, and private ponds and lakes. A year's time is quickly approaching since receiving notification that the Department was awarded the grant. Here is a quick update on what has been accomplished pertaining to the landowner fishing access program.

A VPA website has been developed and is currently posted on the Department's webpage [here](#).

The first VPA site was signed into agreement in April and officially opened in June when signage was posted. There are presently 21 sites enrolled in the VPA fishing access program and open to the public.



The first two anglers awaiting the opening of a fishing access site along Elkhorn Creek in Franklin County, Kentucky. *Kerry Prather photo*

Seventeen of the sites are bank access sites along streams, ponds, or lakes. Three sites are boat ramp sites along the Barren River and Tradewater River. One canoe/kayak site is open to the public on Eagle Creek.

Individuals can view all VPA sites that are officially open to the public by accessing the Department's webpage listed above.

Nine additional landowner sites have recently signed the VPA agreement to enroll in the program and are currently awaiting regulation signs to be placed before the site can officially be opened.

Thirteen other landowner sites have been inspected by Department staff and

See "Access," page 11

INSIDE:



2 Emmy repeat



5 Retiring employees



10 Santa visits

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

Julie A. McDonald, naturalist at the John James Audubon State Park wrote to **Marc Johnson** with the following: "On Saturday, June 11, John James Audubon State Park hosted its 3rd Annual Fishing Derby. Because of the generous assistance of the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Kentucky Conservation Officers Association, we were able to award nine fishing pole kits to children in three age groups.

"Conservation Officer **Dustin Mullins** was very helpful both before and during the Fishing Derby. His presence not only gave us authority, but gave the kids a uniformed person to look up to. He did a great job interacting with the kids.

"As you know, programs like the Fishing Derby and our Audubon Park weekly fishing nights promote the many positive aspects of wildlife conservation. As these kids develop a love for fishing and being outdoors, they are learning a lifestyle that creates health and happiness.

"Thank you for making this Fishing Derby and our weekly fishing programs a success."

Conservation Officer **Tracy Bell** writes: I would like to recognize **Tim Abney**, a technician of the Fisheries Division in the Northwest Division, for going above and beyond the call of his normal duties. Tim has been a tremendous help to myself as well as other officers in the second district. Tim is always willing to assist with various tasks and does so voluntarily. Any time myself or other officers need assistance with equipment, particularly minor boat repairs and trailer repairs, Tim has always eagerly offered his experience and expertise to help us get the job done and, in doing so, has saved the department valuable time and money that would have been spent at a repair shop.

Most recently, I had a situation to arise where a young fawn had become trapped in a pond at the county park. The pond had a heavy plastic liner all the way around and extending approximately ten feet up the bank in every direction. The young deer could not climb out due to the slick plastic. After spending over an hour trying to tire the deer out so I could get to it, I realized I needed help and no

other officers were in the area. I called Tim at home around 8 p.m. on a Friday evening and asked if he would be willing to assist. He came to help and brought his son Steven along. He did this on his own time and without hesitation. Within five minutes of the call, he was on the scene. We decided our best option was to launch a boat and chase the animal down. Within minutes of launching the boat, we caught the deer and returned the animal to safety to the delight of a small crowd that had gathered to watch.

There are many other examples of Tim's willingness to help with various youth events and community projects in McLean County and surrounding areas and I would like to see him recognized for his exemplary attitude and desire to help whenever needed. He is a huge asset to the department and the community and constantly gives without thought of reward. It is this type of unselfishness that too often goes unrecognized and it is for that reason that I am writing to let you all know what type of employee you have and to show my appreciation for everything he has done.

Kentucky Afield and "Bama" take another Emmy Award

The Ohio Valley Chapter of Emmys recognized Kentucky Afield Executive Producer, **Scott "Bama" Moore**, with another Emmy Award, July 30.

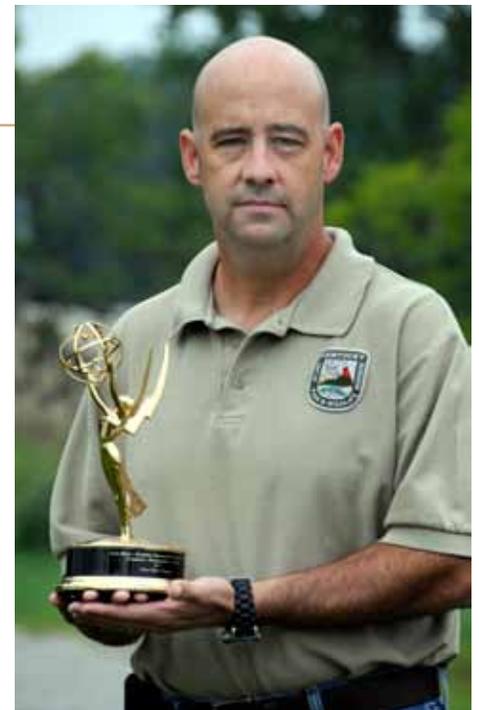
Scott was recognized for his work as Program Photographer. This is the 3rd Emmy Award Scott has received since coming to work for the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Kentucky Afield was nominated for five regional Emmy awards for the work of the staff in 2010.

It is an honor just to be nominated. The nominations are selected from the very best work done by broadcast stations and production studios. A total of 635 entries were submitted to the Ohio Valley Chapter of Emmys.

Kentucky Afield has been nominated for Emmys more than a dozen times since 2005. It was awarded six.

Congratulations to Scott and the entire staff of Kentucky Afield.





Alley named Regional Boating Officer of the Year

The Boating Officer of the Year Award symbolizes the highest level of achievement among boating law enforcement officers in the United States.

Most notably, Officer Alley was key in responding to several life-threatening calls including rescuing two people from the water after responding to an overturned vessel call as well as rescuing five people from the shoreline and water after that vessel had sunk, and on a separate occasion, rescuing two adults and two children from a sinking vessel after responding to a stranded vessel call.

Officer Alley also participated in or organized various boating safety events in his community, personally responded to 14 boater-assist requests (including missing boater calls), participated in the strengthening of partnerships in his area and cited 106 violations under the boating safety grant.

The selection process for this award began in March with each state's boating law administrator (BLA) soliciting nominations for the state-level boating law enforcement officer of the year.

Next, each BLA selected one officer from his/her state as the state's boating officer of the year to vie for the regional title. Each regional association of boating law administrators chose one regional award recipient, making that officer eligible for consideration for the national award.

Regional award recipients receive an expense-paid trip to NASBLA's annual conference held in the fall. This year's conference will be Sept. 10-14 in Milwaukee, Wis. Regional awards will be presented at the awards luncheon held during the conference. In addition, the national boating officer of the year will be announced at the banquet, scheduled for Monday, Sept. 12.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) recently announced Conservation Officer **Jerrod Alley** with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources as the Southern Region Boating Officer of the Year, as selected by the Southern States Boating Law Administrators Association.

New Hires

Elizabeth Danks has recently been hired to coordinate our statewide CWD efforts. She will be working with **Dr. Aaron Hecht** out of the Frankfort office (her extension is 4584).

Elizabeth earned a BS degree in Biology from Metro State College in Denver in 2005 and a MS in Environmental and Forest Biology from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) in Syracuse, NY.

Her thesis project involved live-trapping small mammals and tracking meso-carnivores using track-tubes on private land in the Adirondack Mountains, NY. Her field experience also includes handling songbirds, white-tailed and mule deer fawns, salamanders, and prairie dogs

in various scenarios, as well as working hunter check stations and various vegetation surveys.

Elizabeth recently moved from western Kentucky to Lexington with her 1½-year-old daughter Lucy and husband Zak. Prior to this position, she was working at the Land Between The Lakes writing and coordinating NEPA and ESA documents. Please welcome her aboard when you get a chance.

Merle Hacker has been hired as the shared services Wildlife Biologist at Redbird WMA. The position is co-funded with the USFS and stationed at the Redbird Ranger District office.

Merle is a native of Leslie County, Kentucky and a graduate of Leslie County

High School. He attended Hazard Community College and the Eastern Kentucky University where he received his BS in Wildlife Management in May of 2010. Beginning last fall, he worked as a nine-month season technician in the SE Region where he demonstrated aptitude, intelligence, a strong work ethic, and a passion for the profession.

Merle is a family first kind of guy. He has been happily married to his lovely wife Brandy for almost a year. She is employed by First State Financial in Middlesboro. He has a younger brother, Dylan, who is a senior in high school. Dylan plans to attend ECU next fall, major in criminal justice and

See "Hires," page 4

Myer Creek Archers to launch Explore Bowhunting program

McLean County's Myer Creek Archers will launch Explore Bowhunting's first pilot program Saturday, August 13, at Myer Creek Park.

The free program invites youth fifth grade through high school and their parents to participate in a new program that teaches its students to interact with nature.

They will develop the basic skills that bowhunters use in getting close to animals.

The McLean County program is the first of 11 Explore Bowhunting pilot programs ready to roll. Four will be launched by October 1. Already 48 trained instructors from 18 counties and a variety of groups – schools, churches, 4-H and sportsmen's clubs, and parks and recreation groups – are ready to launch.

Explore Bowhunting is an outdoor conservation education program focusing on interactions with people and wildlife. Not only does Explore Bowhunting teach students how to interact with nature using ageless hunting skills, but it also teaches an appreciation of what is around them and enhances their encounters with the outdoors.

This will be a unique opportunity for those involved to not only teach hunting and outdoor skills for new enthusiasts, but also develop and expand an understanding of the outdoors and inspire a whole new generation to an awareness of possibilities,



like hunting, fishing, bird watching, photography and hiking, that are right outside their door.

The lessons will include such things as learning the basics of shooting a bow, building a blind, choosing a shooting lane, proper use of trail cams and lures, shot placement, tracking, field dressing and much more.

The Archery Trade Association (ATA) created Explore Bowhunting in a response to a decline in participation in hunting. Revenue generated from the sale of hunting licenses and from the sale of shooting and hunting equipment provide over 75% of the funding for state wildlife agencies.

The free program is open to youngsters 5th grade thru high school. It will

be held at Myer Creek Park on three consecutive Saturdays: August 13 (9am - 5pm at the 4H building), August 20 (2pm - 7pm at the archery range) and August 27 (9am - 5 pm at the 4H building). Parents are welcome and encouraged to participate in the course along with their youngsters. Parents who participate will be able to purchase their lunch and eat with their youngsters.

Additional instructor training is scheduled for late October.

Anyone wanting to participate is encouraged to pre-register by going to the website https://www.research.net/s/EB_student_registration and providing some basic information, or they may register the first Saturday.

“Hires,” continued

pursue a career with the state police.

Merle has a strong interest in most things outdoors and is an avid hunter, angler and mountain biker.

We want to welcome **Sara Tripp** to KDFWR's Fisheries Division where she will replace retiring **Doug Henley** as the Big Rivers Branch Researcher. Sara graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from Southern Illinois University (SIU)

where she earned a major in Administration of Justice and a minor in Zoology. She later received a Master's of Science Degree in Zoology and most recently worked at SIU as a Researcher II.

Sara grew up in Chester; a small southern-Illinois town located on the Mississippi River, and fondness for the big river led her to her current career. She began working on the Mississippi River as an undergraduate student worker in 2003 and continued conducting river research

throughout her student and professional tenure at SIU.

Sara brings an intricate knowledge of big river fish and research methods to KDFWR, and her experience will be an asset toward establishing projects important for addressing management issues currently facing this department in Kentucky's big and small rivers.

The Fisheries Division feels like we have landed a “lunker” by bringing in Sara, and we all look forward to working with her.

Retiring Fish & Wildlife employees



Garry Lyons



Left: Sharkley Stonewall

Garry Lyons retired July 29, 2011. Garry started with state government on January 3, 1987 and then transferred to the Forks of Elkhorn on August 21, 1989.

Garry worked as a Tech III until he was promoted to Asst. Supervisor in the fall of 2005. Through the course of his career Garry has helped stock some of Kentucky's state record fish.

Garry has said that it has been a real pleasure coming to work every day and that he will miss being a part of the fish and wildlife family. He hopes that his

contribution to the Department will make the sportsmen of this state proud.

Garry's knowledge and skills will be missed in the years to come. He plans to stay active on the golf course and do a little traveling. We wish Garry the best of luck with his retirement.

Doug Henley will be retiring on August 31, 2011. Doug started with the department in May 1987 and served as the Ohio River Research Biologist for over 24 years.

Doug has a BS degree in fisheries management from Eastern Kentucky University and a MS degree in fisheries management from South Dakota State University.

In his career, he published numerous publications on his work on the Ohio River and represented the department on numerous committees associated with the management of large river systems. Doug has said many times that he had the best job in the state.

Doug plans to remain active by working on his farm and fishing and boating on the Kentucky River. Doug's experience and knowledge of big river systems will be missed. We wish Doug the best of luck in his years of retirement.

as a Park Ranger for over 6 years at both the General Burnside Island State Park in Burnside, Ky. and at the Dale Hollow Lake State Park in Burkesville, Ky. Officer Stonewall has given credit to these positions as giving him the foundation that he needed as an officer and that it had been a challenge, educational and rewarding.

In October 1997 Officer Stonewall transferred to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and worked as a Conservation Officer assigned to Wayne County in the 9th District until his retirement in July 2011. Officer Stonewall worked tirelessly for almost 14 years as a protector of the state's wildlife resources and at protecting the boating public on Kentucky's waterways. He also was very instrumental in educating the boating public through his boating education classes.

Through his dedication Officer Stonewall was highly respected by sportsmen and sportswomen, boaters and by the general public. Officer Stonewall stated that being a Conservation Officer has been the most diverse and awesome experience of his law enforcement career. "Meeting



Doug Henley

See "Retiring," page 6

Engineering Division completes new Breckinridge boat ramp

The Engineering Division is proud to announce the completion of the new Town Creek Boat Ramp. The new ramp is located to the northeast of the City of Cloverport in Breckinridge County. The ramp is adjacent to the Hwy 144 bridge crossing of Town Creek, a tributary to the Ohio River.

The new access site provides a single concrete boat ramp and gravel parking to accommodate up to as many as 10 vehicles/trailers.

This new boat ramp facility will help to satisfy the increased demand for boating and recreational sport fishing access to this section of the Ohio River. Prior to this facility, the nearest public access facility was located approximately 8 miles downstream



The recently completed Town Creek boat ramp in Breckinridge County. The ramp is located in Town Creek, a tributary to the Ohio River. *Walt Redmon photo*

in the City of Cloverport.

Going upstream, the nearest facility is 14 miles and is located at the Big Poison Creek Access on the Indiana side of the Ohio River.

This new facility is yet another example of the hard work and effort by staff in the Engineering Division to help improve and maintain boating access facilities throughout the Commonwealth.

“Retiring,” continued

and assisting the public in the community that I grew up in has been both a blessing and a challenge,” he said.

“God has given me the honor and privilege of being a steward and protector of our state’s wildlife and waterways. I leave this position with mixed emotions, not ready to go, but realizing it is time. I am grateful to the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources for the opportunity they have given me.”

Captain Greg Noel joined the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Law Enforcement Division in October of 1986. Noel was promoted to Sergeant in 2005 and Lieutenant in 2007.

He rose to the rank of Captain in 2009 and commanded the 2nd Law Enforcement District. Captain Noel later

commanded the newly restructured and formed 1st Region for the last month of his career, which consist of the 1st and 2nd Law Enforcement Districts. On July 31, 2011 he retired two and a half months short of 25 years of service with the Department.

Sgt. James Bingham retired from the Law Enforcement Division July 31, 2011. James was hired as a conservation officer in June of 1989 and served primarily in the 6th Law Enforcement District. During his tenure with the KDFWR he served as a firearms instructor and armor for the Law Enforcement Division.

In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. James was a valuable asset to the Law Enforcement Division and the mission and goals that we hope to achieve. The Law Enforcement Division congratulates James on his retirement.



Greg Noel

Transmitters still tracking young bald eagles travels

In May 2010, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) partnered with The Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) to attach two satellite transmitters to nestling bald eagles at Ballard Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Ballard County, KY.

The nestling eagles (one male and one female) originated from two different nests on the WMA. They wear a 70g solar-powered GPS satellite transmitter, attached externally, like a backpack.

Solar panels recharge the transmitter's battery and biologists hope that three-five years of tracking data will be recorded for each of these birds.

KDFWR has created a website for the public to view up-to-date maps of the eagle's movements and information about the project: fw.ky.gov/baldeagletracking.asp

One year after leaving the nest, these young eagles continue to wear their transmitters and provide interesting information on the movements of young bald eagles.

Kelly, the young female eagle, travelled to Carlyle Lake near Carlyle, Illinois in late March. She spent much of April and May in the Carlyle area, occasionally visiting lakes and rivers in surrounding counties.

Then, between May 10 and May 16, Kelly ventured north in Illinois to Snakeden Hollow State Fish and Wildlife Area (near Galesburg, IL) and back south to Carlyle. On May 26, Kelly's transmitter started sending irregular locations.

GPS locations for Kelly were not received again until June 15. It is likely that some feathers had covered up the solar panels on the transmitter, preventing the battery from charging. Luckily, the solar panels soon were exposed again.

The next location received for Kelly was on June 15, surprisingly from

central Wisconsin near Wausau! She continued to roam the many lakes of central and northern Wisconsin through June and early July. On July 10-13, she crossed into the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, but then returned to Wisconsin.

Turner, the young male eagle, has also moved north. He spent most of May and June in western KY and southern Illinois, exploring the Tennessee, Cumberland and

Ohio Rivers.

On June 29, he began journeying north, stopping at various small lakes and rivers along the way until he reached the Mississippi River near Burlington, Iowa on the fourth of July. Since then, he has been moving north along the Mississippi River and the nearby Iowa River.

To view detailed maps of the young eagles' movements, click [here](#).



Locations for Turner (red) and Kelly (yellow) for May-early August, 2011.



CONSERVATION OFFICERS WORKING WITH YOUTH

Lt. Greg Davis (left) gets hands on in helping a young competitor in the youth casting contest during the annual Fair of the Fifth District League of Kentucky Sportsmen earlier this month at the Lloyd Wildlife Management Area. Sgt. Mick Craig (bottom left) helps coach as another youth takes aim on the target.



Meanwhile, in the Second District, kids were breaking clays with help from Sgt. Marcus Bowling (above). Below, Officer Brian Taylor manned the trap thrower as Officer Tracy Bell coached the shooter.



Katlyn Johnson, great niece of Brig. Gen. Joseph L. Culver, shoots clay targets at 4H Kentucky Guard Youth Camp at Lake Cumberland. KDFWR's George Mountjoy and Burner Alsip help with shooting tips. *Michael J. Oliver photos*



UK, Fish and Wildlife team up to show Kentucky Guard Youth a good time

By Staff Sgt. Michael J. Oliver,
Kentucky Guard Public Affairs Office

The children of Kentucky Guard Soldiers and Airmen had a little old-fashioned summer fun recently at the 4H Kentucky Guard Youth Camp at Cumberland Lake in Nancy, Ky.

The Kentucky Guard Youth Program partnered with state Fish and Wildlife Department and University of Kentucky Agriculture 4H program officials for their ninth annual youth camp.

Camp activities included swimming,



Brig. Gen. Joseph L. Culver, 38th Infantry assistant division commander maneuver and Brig. Gen. Joseph M. Richie, deputy adjutant general, talk with George Mountjoy during their visit to the Kentucky Guard Youth Camp at Lake Cumberland.

hiking, rock wall climbing and riding a zip line. Campers also had a chance to learn in the National Guard Mobile Energy Lab Center.

Brig. Gen. Joseph M. Richie, deputy adjutant general, was on hand to see the

200 campers in action.

"It's essential to do this for our Guard Family because we ask a lot from our Soldiers," said Richie. "A lot of stress is on these kids and this is one way to pay them back and say thank you."



CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST

Santa (camp counselor Richard Atchley) dropped in to help celebrate the last week of Camp Earl Wallace's 2011 summer season and provided a few fun moments for campers and staff. He spent time with campers fishing and boating and lifeguarding. Camp Director John Coffey and CEPL Gary Rogers also got into the fun spirit with some holiday season costume as well.



“Access,” continued

are in the process of being evaluated and/or agreements developed. An additional fifteen sites are still awaiting inspection to determine the feasibility of enrollment into the program.

Interested landowners continue to inquire about the fishing access program on a daily basis. High quality sites have been investigated in all areas of the state including trout, walleye, smallmouth bass, and musky streams. One bank access site stands out above all the rest and is located near Mammoth and Nolin River Lake. It contains six fishable ponds and one 32 acre lake, all surrounded by a beautiful setting of large open fields.

In total, 33 counties and 32 different streams containing 46 sites are currently represented at various stages of enrollment in the VPA fishing access program. Sites that are open to the public appear to be heavily utilized. Individuals are encouraged to regularly visit the VPA webpage to find out about new sites that are opened to the public.

For more information about the landowner fishing access program, please feel free to contact either Kerry Prather (502-564-3400 ext 4423) or Erica Toles (502-564-3400 ext 4457).



Fishing access sites are currently open to the public at the locations listed below.

Waterbody Name	Site Name	Site Type
Barren River	Barren River VPA	Boat ramp
Barren River	Barren River VPA II	Boat ramp
Beaver Dam Creek	Beaver Dam Creek VPA	Bank access
Beech Fork	Beech Fork VPA	Bank access
Chaplin River	Chaplin River VPA	Bank access
Clear Fork of Cumberland River	Clear Fork VPA	Bank access
Eagle Creek	Eagle Creek VPA I	Bank access
Eagle Creek	Eagle Creek VPA II	Canoe access
Elkhorn Creek	South Fork Elkhorn Creek VPA	Bank access
Elkhorn Creek	Elkhorn Creek VPA I	Bank access
Elkhorn Creek	Elkhorn Creek VPA II	Bank access
Green River	Brownsville VPA I	Bank access
Kinniconick Creek	Kinniconick Creek VPA	Bank access
Little Kentucky River	Little Kentucky River VPA	Bank access
Olive Hill VPA Pond	Olive Hill VPA	Bank access
Rockcastle River	Rockcastle River VPA	Bank access
Salvisa VPA Pond	Salvisa Pond VPA	Bank access
Science Hill VPA Pond	Science Hill Pond VPA	Bank access
South Fork Elkhorn Creek	Forks of Elkhorn VPA	Bank access
South Fork Kentucky River	South Fork Kentucky River VPA	Bank access
Tradewater River	Tradewater River Ramp VPA	Boat ramp



For up-to-date information on new or existing VPA sites, please visit the following web address:
fw.ky.gov/navigation.aspx?cid=880&navpath=C742C768C110