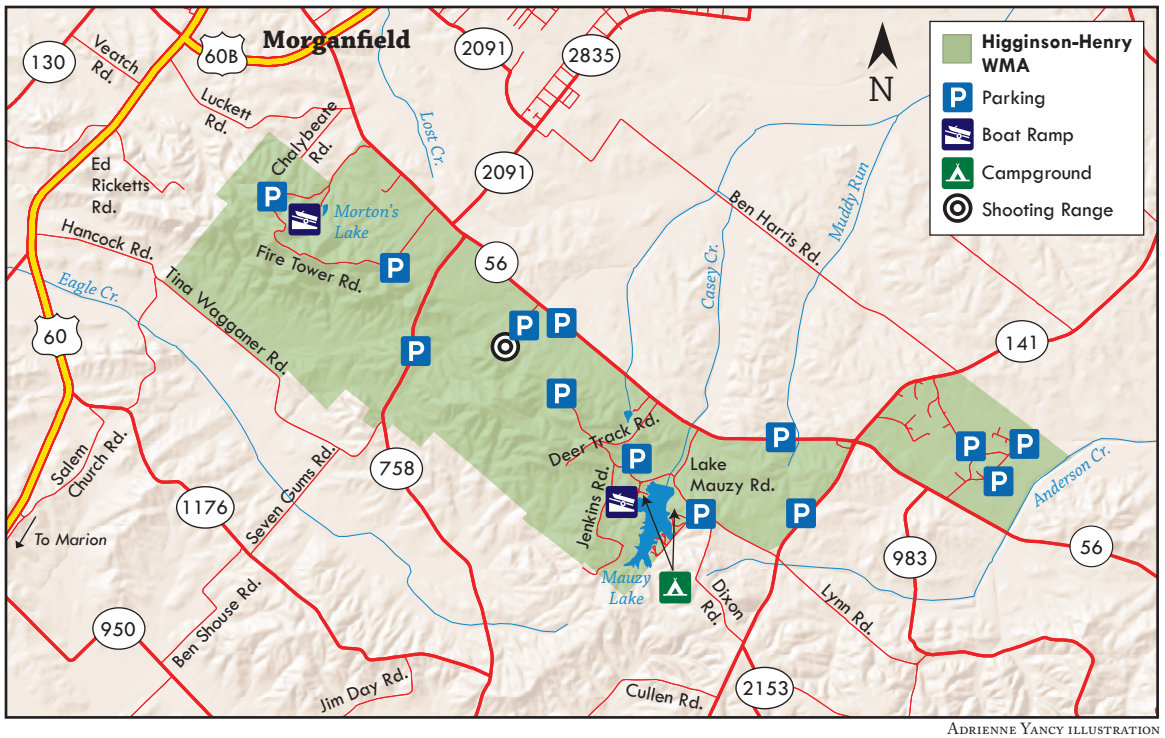
Former Army camp offers hunting and fishing today • By Lee McClellan



Adrienne Yancy illustration

Higginson-Henry WMA

HIGGINSON-HENRY WILDLIFE Management Area (WMA) sprawls across 5,450 acres of Union County. This area has a unique history: German soldiers captured during World War II lived there when the area was part of Camp Breckinridge. The camp, which was also used for training U.S. Army soldiers, once covered nearly 36,000 acres across Henderson, Webster and Union counties.

Today, the area is known for its hunting and fishing.

"Higginson-Henry is a wooded island surrounded by corn and soybeans," said David Yancy, deer biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "The deer are in good shape there with good fat reserves."

The area is popular with deer archery hunters, who often come from other parts of the state to camp and bow hunt.

"The late winter survey for deer on the area was very strong," said Area Foreman Curt Divine. "We've had some nice bucks taken on the area. The current state of deer is really good. We had a big mast crop this year, especially red oaks, so I expect the deer to be a little more scattered this fall."

Except for the youth firearms season, Higginson-Henry's deer season is open to archery hunting only. No crossbow hunting is allowed and hunters may take only one deer; the deer can be of either sex.

The WMA is also a prime rabbit hunting destination. "We have several hunters who run dogs and they have a big time every fall," Divine said. "We have a healthy population of rabbits on the area."

Squirrels inhabit the many nut bearing trees on the area. "We have many hunters come out with limits of squirrels," Divine said. "Squirrels seem to like the pecan trees more than the hickories."

Hunters are not the only ones who enjoy the place. The area's 81-acre Mauzy Lake offers productive fishing for largemouth bass and catfish. The lake is currently being raised to normal levels after being lowered during the summer to repair a culvert.

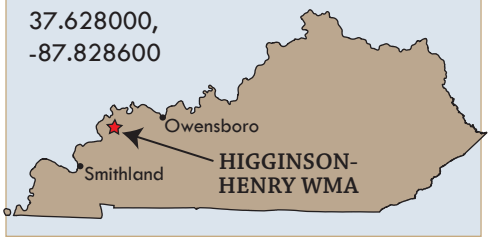
"The largemouth bass population should be huge next year as they were in close association with baitfish all summer from the drawdown," Divine explained.

The lake holds many channel catfish up to 22 inches long. "You can also catch a lot of crappie, but you have to work to put a limit of keepers together," Divine said.

Higginson–Henry has an outdoor learning center featuring interpretive hiking trails through various wildlife habitat types. There are also 23 miles of hiking trails. The WMA also has a shooting range for rifles only.

Due to its proximity to the Ohio River, the area also provides good viewing opportunities for shorebirds and waterfowl during migrations. The area is open for waterfowl hunting. ■

HOW TO GET THERE

From Morganfield, take KY 56 southeast for two miles.

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