



Clay WMA – Indian Creek Tract

THE PATCHWORK OF properties in northeastern Kentucky that is Clay Wildlife Management Area expanded last year with the addition of a 467-acre tract in Bath County featuring a mile of Licking River frontage.

The Indian Creek Tract – located off KY 1602/Oakley Pebble Road – offers hunters and anglers intriguing opportunities even before stream and habitat restoration work gets underway this year.

“It has a whole lot of potential,” said Jacob Stewart, public lands biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife bought the property using money from the Kentucky Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program. Money from this program will be used to rework the channel of Indian Creek and its tributaries.

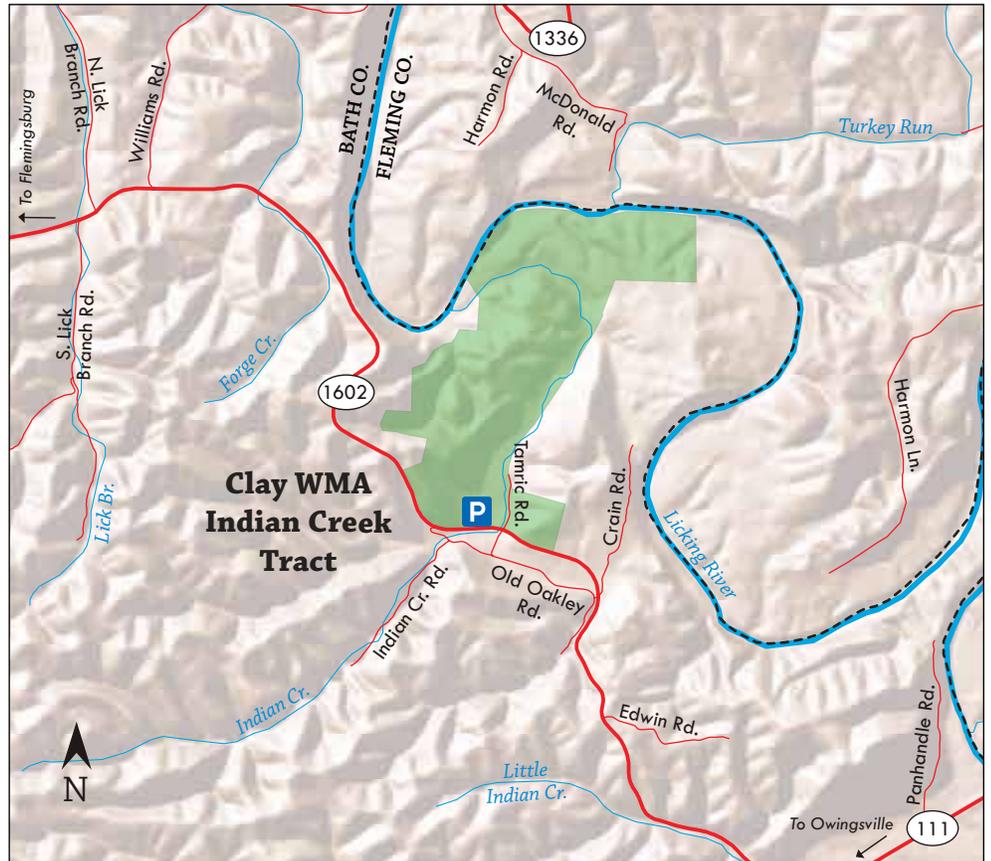
“Reworking the stream channel and reforesting the riparian zones helps stabilize streams and reduces erosion and siltation,” said Mike Hardin, assistant director of fisheries for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

Fields that once held row crops are now choked with ragweed – a good food source for bobwhite quail – while the hillsides and ridges that aren’t heavily timbered are blanketed with fescue.

Plans call for managing the area to benefit wildlife. This includes letting fields grow over, eliminating invasive plants and managing the woods for better mast production.

“Our cedar trees for the 2016 version of the Cave Run Lake habitat project are coming from there,” said Tom Timmermann, Northeast Fisheries District biologist for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. “Jacob has set aside a couple of areas they want to improve by doing a cedar removal.”

The area is open to hunting under the regulations currently in place for Clay WMA, and wildlife is abundant on the property.



Good numbers of deer and turkey have been reported but hunters also have flushed up to a dozen woodcock in a day. Stewart said it’s been receiving consistent use by rabbit hunters this season.

From the parking area to the farthest point on the northeast corner of the property is about a mile and a half, and the entire northern edge of the property borders the Licking River, which offers anglers the possibility of catching muskellunge, black bass, catfish, sunfish and rock bass.

Indian Creek Tract is roughly 40 river miles downstream of the dam at Cave Run Lake. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is looking into the possibility of adding a boat ramp to improve river access on the property. As it is now, the bank can be steep and slick, which

would make it difficult to put in or take out a canoe or kayak. The closest put-in is about eight miles upstream at Wyoming Ford. ■

HOW TO GET THERE

From Owingsville, take KY 111 north then turn left on KY 1602/Oakley Pebble Road. A graveled parking area is approximately 2.5 miles on the right.

