



LEE MCCLELLAN PHOTO

Local resident Corey Mitchell enjoys the new Barren River public access area near Bowling Green.

chartreuse Sassy Shads, white curly-tailed grubs, in-line spinners and chartreuse Tiny T's. They also float chicken livers under a bobber on a hook for hybrids."

Local resident Corey Mitchell, owner of the nearby Greencastle Bait and Tackle, fishes this section of the river for crappie and bluegill. "The fishing for both are decent," he said. "I like live crickets for bluegill and minnows for

crappie. I also catch some decent spotted bass on minnows."

Flathead and channel catfish abound in this stretch of the river. "I've seen flatheads over 30 pounds come out of here," Decker said. "There are more channel catfish than flatheads, however."

The site also has picnic tables for public use. Prather said visitors must carry out their trash and show respect for the property. ■

Barren River

KENTUCKY'S NEW VOLUNTARY Public Access Program is opening up dozens of public fishing spots on private land along rivers and streams across the state.

One of the most promising new sites is located along the Barren River just north of Bowling Green. Situated just downstream of the Greencastle Lock and Dam, this site includes 385 feet of bank fishing access, a concrete boat ramp at a historic ferry landing and parking for 10-15 trucks with trailers.

"It is a good site, one that really fits the program," said Kerry Prather, coordinator of the Voluntary Public Access program for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "It has a great location fairly close to Bowling Green. The area is also very scenic."

This section of Barren River holds large

muskellunge, catfish, black bass and hybrid striped bass. "This is one of my favorite spots for muskies," said area resident Casey Decker. "My biggest muskellunge is 52 inches. I caught it in the mouth of a creek near here on a green and white crankbait."

Creek mouths are good spots to fish for muskellunge, especially during the spring spawning season when fish migrate into the river's small feeder creeks. Fallen trees, especially those on outside bends of the river, also hold muskellunge.

Local anglers paddle their canoes upstream from the ramp to fish for hybrid striped bass, crappie, bluegill and black bass in the tailwater below the defunct lock and dam.

"I've seen 5- to 6-pound hybrids come from below the dam," Decker said. "They hit

HOW TO GET THERE

From Bowling Green, take KY 185 north. Turn left onto KY 263 then left onto Greencastle Road. Continue to the site.

