

Hamilton County

STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA



Illinois
Department of
Natural Resources

The Area

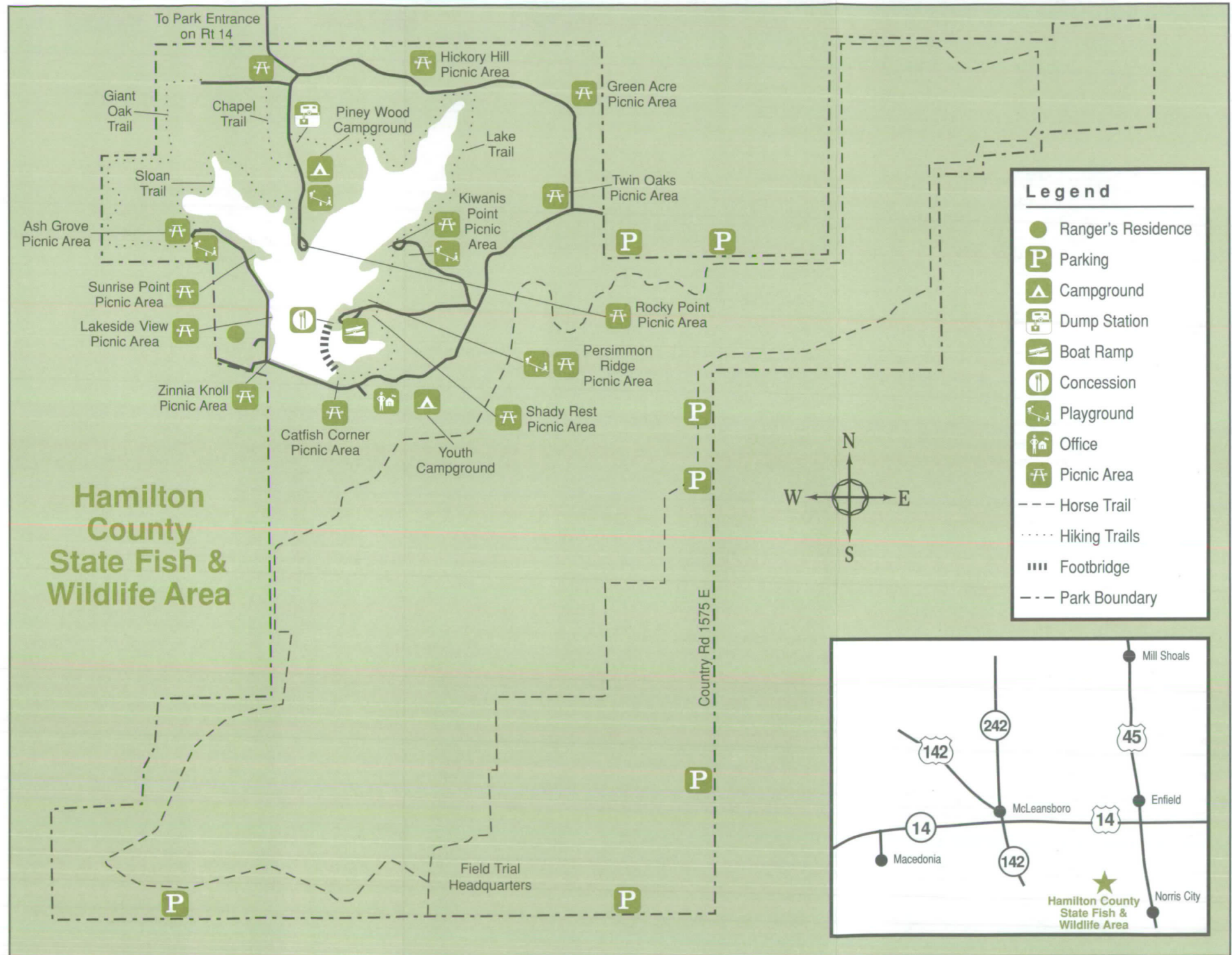
Hamilton County State Fish and Wildlife Area, also known as Dolan Lake, is a 1,683 acre site ideal for outdoor enjoyment. The lake is the facility's main attraction.

Located about 8 miles southeast of McLeansboro off Route 14, the property was acquired by the State of Illinois in 1960 as a 99-acre parcel. An earthen dam was constructed in 1962, and the lake was filled shortly thereafter. Subsequent purchases brought the acreage to its present-day total, which includes the 75-acre lake with 3 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 18 feet.

Facilities

Picnicking: There are large, shaded picnic areas with tables, outdoor stoves and drinking water.

Camping: Tent and trailer sites are available with electricity and sanitary dump stations. Campers need to obtain a permit from site personnel upon arrival.





Rent-a-Cabin: This site offers two Rent-a-Cabins that are available year round. They provide a bunk bed, a double bed, A/C, heaters, table and chairs. For reservations call site office.

Showers: A shower building is open year-round.

Restaurant: Dolan Lake Restaurant offers a wide variety of down home cooking. Fried catfish on Friday and Saturday is its specialty. Closed Thanksgiving Day through March 1st. For more information call restaurant at (618) 773-4208.

Fishing: The lake contains largemouth bass, bluegill, walleye, sauger/walleye hybrids, sunfish, crappie, channel catfish and bullheads. Ice fishing is allowed when conditions permit.

Boating: A launching ramp and rental boats are provided. Motors are limited to 10 HP.

Bait Shop: Provides boat rentals, some fishing gear, bait, etc. For more information, call (618) 773-4208.

Equestrian/Hiking Trails: This site offers 8 miles of day use horse trails. The trail is open to all equestrians for most of the year. From September 15th to April 15th, the bridle trail is closed during hunting seasons and designated field trials. For hikers, there are several short trails that combine with the main road to encircle the lake.

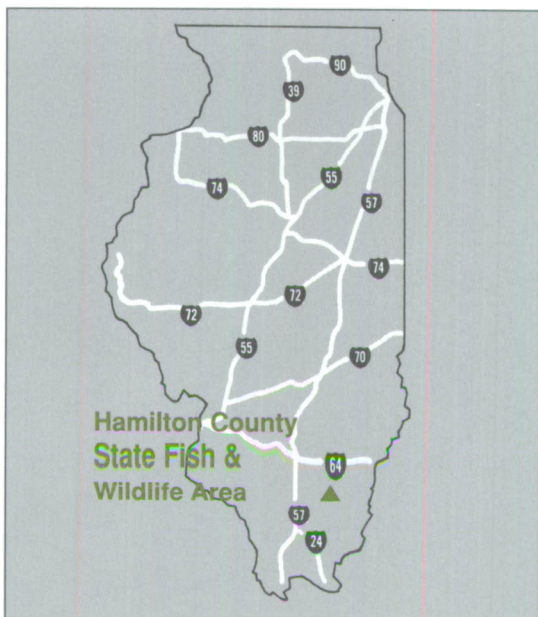
Please: Help keep this area clean and beautiful for all to enjoy. Put all litter in the nearest trash can.

Hunting and Field Trials

The site is one of gently rolling hills, with 1,300 acres being open for hunting. Most of the hunting area consists of small, open fields bordered by heavy fence rows, border plantings of warm season grasses, lespedeza and pine trees with small patches of brush and timber. Food for the upland game is supplied by patch planting in the area.

Hamilton County State Fish and Wildlife Area is noted for its extensive sporting dog field trial program in which some of the best trained beagles and bird dogs compete for regional and national honors. Many of the competitions use equestrian trails, with dog handlers and observers following the action from horseback. Hunters are required to stop at the check station for permits. Shotgun or bow and arrow hunting is allowed; deer hunting with bow and arrow only, by permit. Hamilton County State Fish and Wildlife Area is known for its prime upland game hunting.





Hamilton County State Fish & Wildlife Area

R.R. #4

McLeansboro, IL 62859, (618) 773-4340

- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Public Services, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, call (217) 782-6302 or visit our website at <http://dnr.state.il.us>.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs' Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844.

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; (217) 785-0067; TTY (217) 782-9175. This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at (217) 782-7498 for assistance.