Washington County

CONSERVATION AREA

Illinois
Department of
Natural Resources

Washington County Conservation Area

Wildlife abounds in the Washington County Conservation Area, located four miles south of Nashville in southern Illinois. Visitors will marvel at the sight of rabbit, quail, squirrel, dove, deer and woodcock among the stands of pines, brushy draws and fallow fields. The beautiful Washington County Lake makes this site a special place for relaxing or fishing. Whether boating on its 248 acres, or fishing or hiking its 13-mile shoreline, the lake offers a perfect opportunity for family fun. This natural area has more than 900 acres for hunting, making it a paradise for shotgun or bow- and-arrow sportsmen. The area features a put-and-take pheasant and quail program operated during upland game season. Whether camping, hunting, fishing, boating, hiking or picnicking, you will find Washington County Conservation Area has what you are looking for.

History

In 1959, the State of Illinois purchased 160 acres of natural area near Nashville which provided excellent cover and food for upland game. Additional acreage has been added in succeeding years currently totaling 1,440 acres. In 1960 the Department of Conservation constructed the lake in the areas between two small creeks. This long, thin lake is surrounded by fields and woods. With the addition of picnic and camping areas, this site has become a popular visiting spot for outdoorsmen and nature lovers.

Picnicking

For a special afternoon getaway, the seven picnic areas scattered around the lake provide a perfect setting. They are located in heavily wooded, grassy areas and have tables, outdoor stoves, drinking water and playground equipment. Whether you choose Ponderosa, Lazy L or one of the other picnic sites, you will be assured of scenic surroundings. Bring your own picnic basket, or purchase sandwiches and soft drinks at the concession stand.

Camping

Enjoying the out-of-doors is easy with tent and trailer spaces readily accessible. Electricity and disposal are available for trailers. A shower building is also located in the camping area.

Boating and Fishing

Fishermen will delight at the possibilities for catching their limits of largemouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, channel catfish and carp. For boaters, two launching ramps are available as well as boat docks. There is a limit of 10 horsepower for motor boats. Both boats and motors are available for rental for fishing or just a ride on the lake.

Hiking

For an invigorating walk, a seven-mile-long, marked trail is available. This trail circles the lake and hikers can enjoy viewing the majestic trees, beautiful wildflowers or the numerous birds and animals residing in the area.

Hunting

Acre after acre of wildlife habitat will challenge all levels of hunters. Shotgun and archery hunting are allowed, with an abundance of deer, squirrel and upland game available. Very popular with hunters, pheasant are brought in for a "put-and-take" program. All hunters must register at the check station. Contact the site ranger for game species, hunting times and regulations.

For more information, contact Washington County Conservation Area, 18500 Conservation Dr., Nashville, IL 62263, (618)327-3137.

If the outdoors in Illinois is where you want to be—

Subscribe to *Outdoor*Illinois magazine. A publication of the Department of Natural Resources, it's the perfect source of information for outdoor enthusiasts who fish, hunt, birdwatch, camp, boat, hike, ski, bike, or simply enjoy being outdoors. From stories about state park sites to season dates and features on a variety of outdoor activities, *Outdoor*Illinois has it all!

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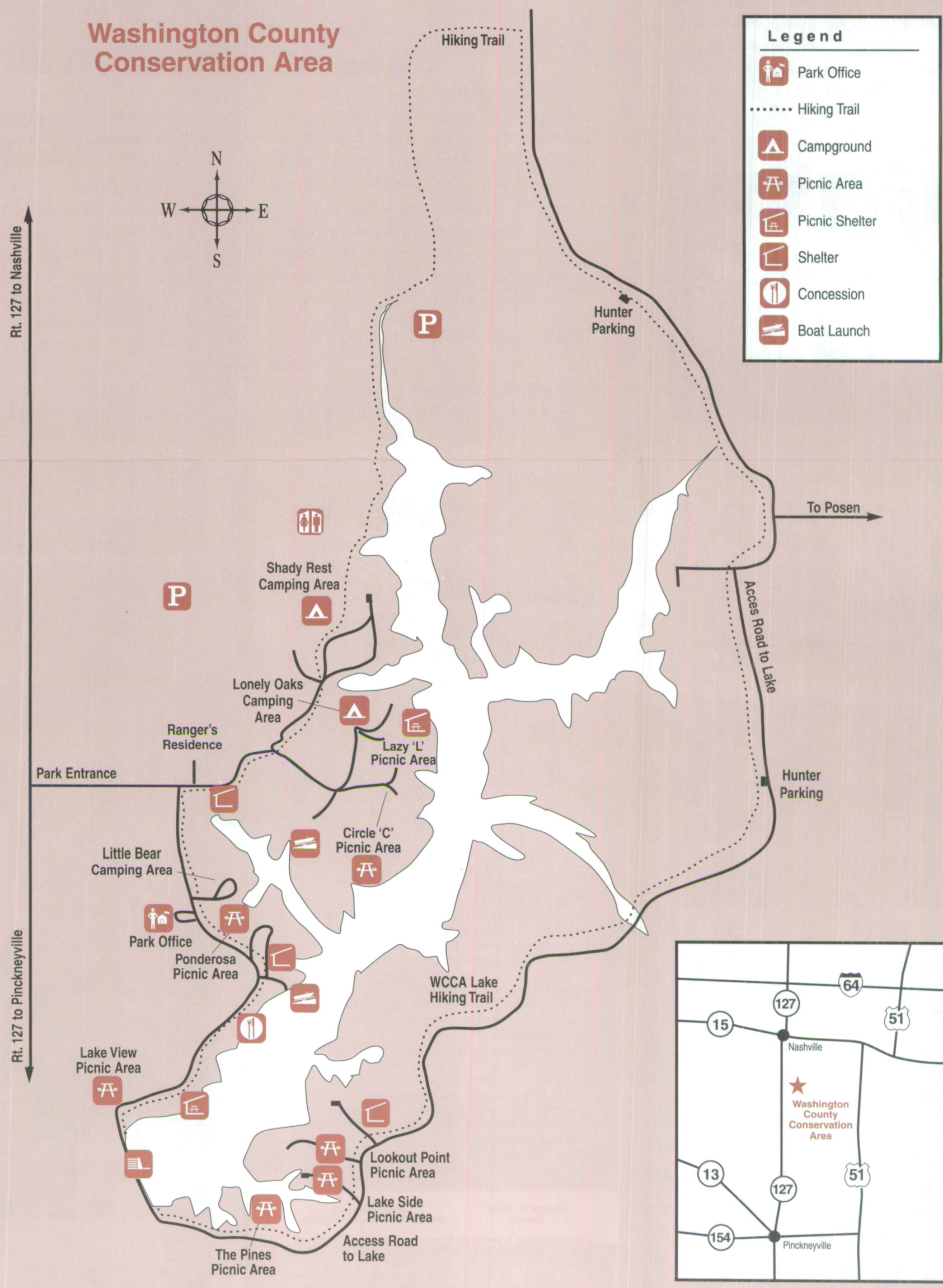

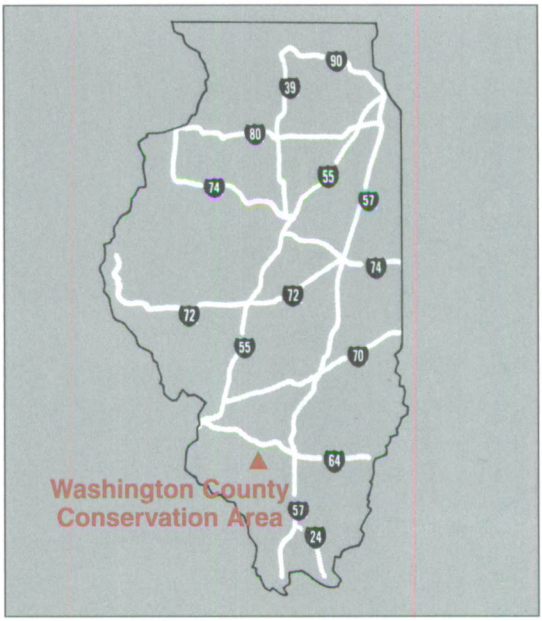

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18500 Conservation Drive
Nashville, IL 62263, 618-327-3137

- 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 Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Public Services, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1787, call (217) 782-7454 or visit its 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.
- Deaf and 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.

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor

Joel Brunsvold
Director

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Printed by authority of the State of Illinois
(3135544—25M—4-2000)