

AT A GLANCE

HABITAT

The Lock and Dam area is mostly open water, but there is also a large grassy field with some shrubs. The Overlook has a thick brushy area and mature trees.

BIRDS TO FIND

Common waterfowl include Canada, Greater White-fronted, and Snow Geese as well Mallards and other ducks that pass through. Eastern Bluebird is often present, and Killdeer can sometimes be found in large numbers in the grassy area. Birds of prey that use the area are Bald Eagle, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, and Peregrine Falcon. Any of the swallows might be seen in and around the locks during migration, and Cliff Swallow nests are visible at the dam. Ring-billed Gull can be present in large numbers during the winter, and Herring and Bonaparte's Gulls can be seen.

At the Overlook common breeding birds such as Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Eastern Bluebird can be found. During songbird migration vireos, warblers, and tanagers move through.

WHEN TO GO

Winter is most productive, but birding the trail any time is worthwhile.

AMENITIES

Picnic area, playground, walking trail, restrooms, and drinking water.

ACCESS

Both upper and lower parking lots can be used during daylight hours. No fees.

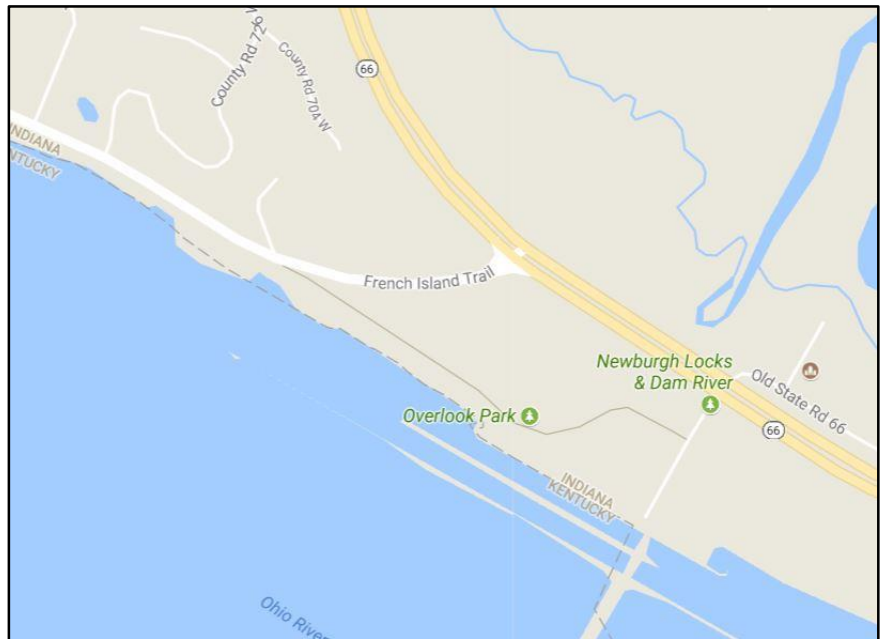
FOR MORE INFORMATION

A map and information for French Island Trail can be found at:

<http://www.mapmyrun.com/us/newburgh-in/french-island-trail-downtown-newburgh-ar-route-52304358>

Newburgh Lock and Dam

Warrick County



Driving Directions: You can take either Highway 66 or Old State Road 662 through Newburgh. The property is east of the junction of Highway 66 and Old State Road 662 (also known as French Island Trail).

Birders usually visit the Lock and Dam during “gull season”, but also to seek a rarity. Most gulls seen are Ring-billed, but a few Herring are often present as well as occasional Bonaparte's. Rare gulls such as Black-legged Kittiwake, Laughing Gull, and Glaucous Gull have also appeared. Other birds such as Double-crested Cormorant and flocks of ducks move up and down the river, and huge flocks of geese are sometimes present. In winter a Bald Eagle often flies by, and a Peregrine Falcon occurs occasionally. The falcon may hide in the superstructure of the dam or perch in the open on the light poles.

By the end of April Cliff Swallows build nests under the eave of the dam, and one can observe them getting mud from puddles and using it to construct the nest and later in the season bringing food to the young in the nest.

The Overlook can be reached by walking the paved hiking/biking trail that begins at the Lock and Dam parking lot entrance. The trail continues through the Newburgh riverfront. There are mature trees which can host a variety of songbird migrants. One can also view the birds flying over the river from here. Another way to get to the Overlook is to drive to the upper parking lot. The entrance is on Old State Road 662 near the junction with Highway 66.