

AT A GLANCE

HABITAT

Revegetated strip mined lands consisting of grasslands, woodlands, strip pits, and wetlands. Area managed by IDNR for multi-purpose use.

BIRDS TO FIND

Breeding grassland species include several sparrows (field, grasshopper, Henslow's), dickcissel, American goldfinch, Indigo bunting, and common yellowthroat. Breeding woodland species include Bell's vireo, blue grosbeak, black-billed and yellow-billed cuckoo, song sparrow, yellow warbler, eastern towhee, and willow flycatcher. Winter birds include short-eared owl, northern harrier, bald eagle, osprey, and several species of waterfowl (Mallard, Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Teal). Also expect to see grebes and herons (Great Blue, Green, and Great Egret), lots of swallows around the water. Sandhill cranes will also stop during migration, but never in great numbers.

WHEN TO GO

Year round, but summer and winter are probably best.

AMENITIES

No rest room facilities available.

ACCESS

Open to the public. No entrance fees, but if you hunt or fish be sure to have appropriate licenses.

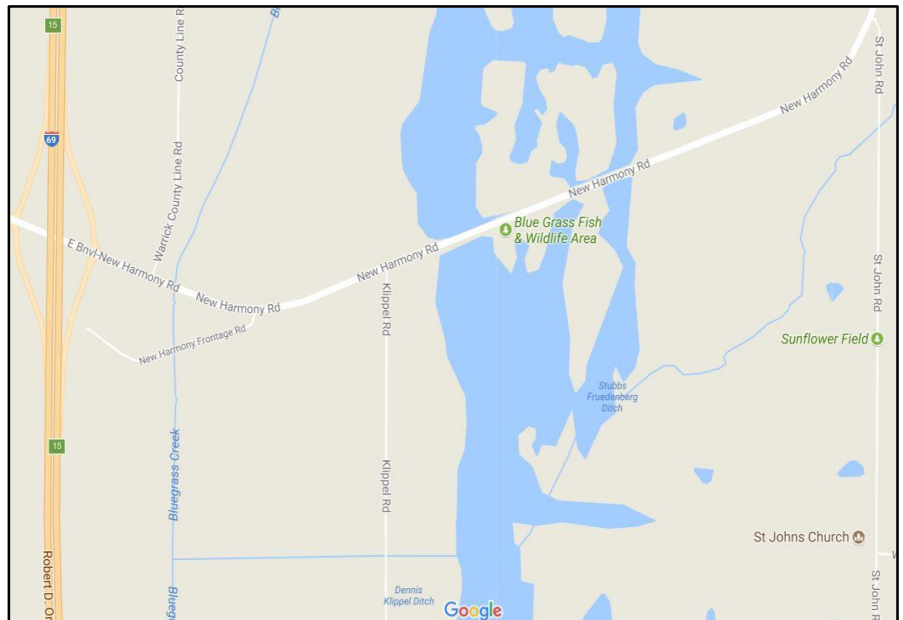
Park in designated lots only. Foot traffic only while on property. No camping or swimming in lakes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Indiana DNR website at www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3099.htm or contact property manager at Sugar Ridge FWA, phone: 812-789-2724

Bluegrass Fish & Wildlife Area

Warrick County



Driving Directions: Bluegrass Fish & Wildlife Area is located 5 miles north of Evansville and can be accessed at the intersection of Boonville New Harmony Road and Interstate 69 (which is Interstate 164 on older maps).

The Bluegrass FWA was once strip mined and then reclaimed by Amax Coal Company, and prior to the land being deeded to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources was known locally as the Ayrshire Mine Property. This property, now managed by the IDNR as a multipurpose public area, comprises about 2500 acres of lakes (strip pits), open grassland, managed agricultural fields (e.g. sunflower), and early to mid-successional woodlands.

The grassland habitat provides opportunities to find such ground nesters such as field, grasshopper, and Henslow's sparrows, while woodlands will have such species as Blue Grosbeak, Yellow warbler, and Bell's Vireo. In winter months you can find short-eared owls and northern harriers roaming the grassland areas, although both species are not as common anymore. Check out the numerous strip pits for waterfowl. Recently bald eagles have established a nest adjacent to the property and can be seen in the area.

In 2015 the Jr. Birders of the Evansville Audubon Society erected five American kestrel nest boxes, so as you drive through the area make sure you stop to see if there is activity at the boxes.