

## **Heartland Waterways Corridor Outdoor Recreation**

Winding country roads, glistening streams, rolling farmland, scenic vistas and wildlife galore combine for a paradise of outdoor recreation. The Heartland Waterways Corridor features the best that nature has to offer. With two of America's most beautiful man-made lakes as well as one of its cleanest rivers, the corridor is a delightful playground providing a wealth of outdoor activities. Whether its houseboating, fishing, swimming, scuba diving, birdwatching or just relaxing in the great outdoors, the region has choices to please everyone.

For many pleasure boaters, Dale Hollow Lake is the place to be. Winding through mountains and valleys of the Cumberland foothills, Dale Hollow Lake covers 32,000 acres and straddles the Kentucky and Tennessee border. The lake is a popular destination for power boating, water skiing and jet skiing. It's also a fishing fantasy. The world record smallmouth bass was taken from the lake, a whopping almost 12 pounds. Dale Hollow Lake is one of the most beautiful clear highland lakes in the country with 620 miles of shoreline and 48 square miles of surface water. The Flood Control Act led to the construction of Dale Hollow Dam on the Obey River in the early 1940s. The water is so deep and so clear that Dale Hollow Lake is one of the top spots for scuba diving. Dale Hollow Lake is a major draw for migratory waterfowl and bald eagles. In winter months, the North American Bald Eagles come to the park with anywhere from 30 to 50 eagles inhabiting the lakeshore from early December to late February.

The 3,398-acre Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park offers a marina with boat slips, rental fishing boats and pontoons, horse trails, hiking trails and a swimming pool. Situated on a high bluff overlooking Dale Hollow Lake, the resort park has a lodge and boasts one of the state's prettiest dining rooms – with panoramic views of the lake through three walls of glass.

Green River Lake near Campbellsville is another popular spot. Located near Campbellsville, Green River Lake covers 8,210 acres. Completed in 1969, Green River Dam is 141 feet high and 2,350 feet long. As one of Kentucky's largest and least populated lakes, Green River Lake offers 33 miles of tempting water lying between 250 miles of shoreline. Green River Lake shoreline features gradual slopes for easy access and wide sandy beach areas. Green River Lake State Park has 1,331 acres with camping sites, miniature golf, a paved model aircraft strip and hiking trails. With an average depth of 50 feet and at its widest point, one mile across, Green River Lake is perfect for an exciting day on the water.

With beautiful, clear running water, the Cumberland River is a prime vacation spot. The river flows through the rugged terrain of Russell, Clinton, Cumberland and Monroe Counties. The banks of the river are lined with hardwood forests, high bluffs and farm land. An abundance of wildlife – ranging from wild turkey, otter, bobcat, beaver and all

kinds of birds – is found along the river. A mostly limestone river bed creates a fertile ecosystem that produces prolific hatches of caddis and mayflies, tempting treats that keep the river filled with fish. A 21-pound monster of a brown trout was taken in the summer of 2000, breaking the old Kentucky record by almost three pounds.

The stunning beauty of the deep blue water is a captivating setting for a houseboat vacation. Board a luxurious houseboat and escape to another world. The fleet of modern designed boats is equipped with central heat, air conditioning, TV/VCR, flush toilets, large gas grills, spiral stairs to the top deck and a slide from the top deck to the water. Some of the floating palaces even have hot tubs. The Heartland Waterways Corridor offers a large list of rental houseboats at places like Hendricks Creek Resort & Marina and Sulphur Creek Resort on Dale Hollow Lake; Green River Marina and Holmes Bend Resort & Marina on Green River Lake. Emerald Isle Resort & Marina on Green River Lake doesn't rent houseboats but it does have luxury lakefront condominiums.

Renting a houseboat allows vacationers to have all of the comforts of home in a spectacular setting. The versatility of a houseboat seems to attract more and more devotees. On the water, it's a boat. Parked at a dock, it's a condo. Anchored in a secluded cove, it's a private cabin. Motorboats for water skiing and tubing also can be rented and towed along behind a houseboat, as can jet skis.

Marinas in the Heartland Waterways Corridor are well equipped and offer services with a plus – good old Kentucky hospitality. Marinas can help with renting a boat, picking up camping supplies, enjoying a delicious dinner, stocking up on groceries, getting some bait or asking about the best fishing holes. Many marinas feature comfortable cabins, rustic hideaways, picnic shelters, beaches and campgrounds. Marinas also can refer excellent fishing guides who know where the big ones hide.

In the Heartland Waterways Corridor, fishing is a major event. The area's waters are teeming with a variety of game fish. Green River Lake is one of the best muskie and bass fishing destinations in the state. Green River Lake also has crappie, catfish and fresh water drum. The Cumberland River is famous for great trout and striper fishing. Dale Hollow Lake is an angler's dream with crappie, bream, muskie, walleye, trout, catfish and five species of bass – largemouth, smallmouth, white, Kentucky and rock.

The Cumberland House Bed and Breakfast offers another way to fish. Set in 40 acres of rolling hills and near the Cumberland River, as well as Dale Hollow Lake, the inn caters especially to fly fishermen. There's a room set aside for fly tying completely with benches and vises. A stocked trout pond on the inn's property is a good place to practice casting. The inn itself is elegant and serves gourmet meals in a comfortable dining room.

For a nice change of pace, try canoeing or kayaking on the corridor's waters. Arrange exciting trips on the Green River, Cumberland River or Dale Hollow Lake. Cumberland River Canoe & Kayak at Burkesville rents canoes, kayaks and whitewater rafts and offers a variety of trips ranging from three hours to several days. Drop offs and pick-ups for trips also are available.

In Campbellsville, Green River Canoes rents aluminum canoes for paddling on the Green River below the dam. Put-ins and take-outs are available. The Green River Paddle Trail has access points in Taylor and Green counties.

With miles of marked, maintained trails, the Heartland Waterways Corridor is a good destination for hiking. Adair County offers interesting hiking and riding trails in and around the Green River Lake area. Eagle Point Trail in Burkesville is a 1.8-mile hiking, biking and horse trail leading to an overlook offering great views of the lake and countryside. A few old homesteads can still be seen along some of the trails within Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park. The trails generally follow old logging roads and an abundance of wildlife can be sighted. Some of the animals include white tailed deer, wild turkey, ground hogs, rabbits, grey squirrel, box turtles and many species of birds.

The R.F. Tarter Public Wildlife Area, near Columbia in Adair County, is steep with broad forested ridges and narrow valleys. Glimpses of wildlife include squirrel, deer, turkey, raccoon, rabbits, bobcats and a variety of songbirds and reptiles. In Green County, the Wyatt Jeffries Woods, more than 50 acres on the east side of Hwy 68, just south of Hwy 218, are the best remaining example of mature hardwoods. There are easily accessible trails and tree identification stations.

For golfers, the big news in the Heartland Waterways Corridor is the new Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park Golf Course in Burkesville. The \$7.8 million, 18-hole Dale Hollow course, opened in 2003, plays along a hilly terrain with the banks of the 61 bunkers being unusually steep. At a par 72, the course is 7,273 yards and features some challenging holes. The No. 8 par 5 hole measures 539 yards with its green framed by a waterfall and small cave. The No. 15 hole is a par 3 and plays over a gorge. Hole No. 11 has a large bunker encompassing three quarters of an acre.

The Pinewood County Club in Columbia offers challenges as well. Covering over 132 acres in a rural setting, the 18-hole golf course has Bermuda fairways and bent grass. It also features a clubhouse and outdoor swimming pool. Opened in 1995, Kentucky Hills Golf Course near Summer Shade has a 9-hole course and driving range.

Driving is a pleasure on Kentucky Scenic Byways. To enjoy some of the old barns that are a distinctive feature of the local landscape, drive the stretch of SR 163 between Edmonton and Tompkinsville. A form of folk architecture, barns are rapidly vanishing but this scenic drive still preserves some examples of older barns. For those who want to move a little faster, the Cumberland Parkway MotoCross has more than a mile of dirt bike, irrigated track complete with jumps and obstacles. Races also draw motor lovers.

As its name suggests, the Heartland Waterways Corridor offers many opportunities for water activities and outdoor recreation in a beautiful part of the country. First-time visitors often have a difficult time deciding what to do because the options are so plentiful. Once they've visited this wonderland, people usually make it a point to come back time after time.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

- \* Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park, 270/433-7431.
- \* Green River Lake, 800/738-4719.
- \* Hendricks Creek Resort & Marina, Burkesville: 800/321-4000.
- \* Sulphur Creek Resort, Burkesville: 270/433-7272.
- \* Emerald Isle Resort & Marina, Campbellsville: 888/815-2000.
- \* Green River Marina, Campbellsville: 270/465-2512.
- \* Holmes Bend Resort & Marina, Columbia: 800/801-8154.
- \* Cumberland House Bed and Breakfast: 800/727-5850.
- \* Cumberland River Canoe & Kayak, Burkesville: 270/433-6226.
- \* Green River Canoes, Campbellsville: 800/413-2266.
- \* Eagle Point Trail, Burkesville: 270/433-7431.
- \* Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park Golf Course, Burkesville: 270/433-7431.
- \* Pinewood Country Club, Columbia: 270/384-3613.
- \* Cumberland Parkway MotoCross, Edmonton: 270/432-0000.