



Crab Orchard NWR Nature Trails

1 Harmony Trail
Trail Head Pigeon Creek Road, .25 miles west of State Route 148.
Description This trail is marked by an A-frame structure near its entrance and will take you through a variety of habitats from pine plantations to wetlands to hardwood forests. On the trail there is a photo blind overlooking a wetland area. Excellent opportunities for photography of wildlife including birds, reptiles, and amphibians exist.
Length An easy .8 mile loop.

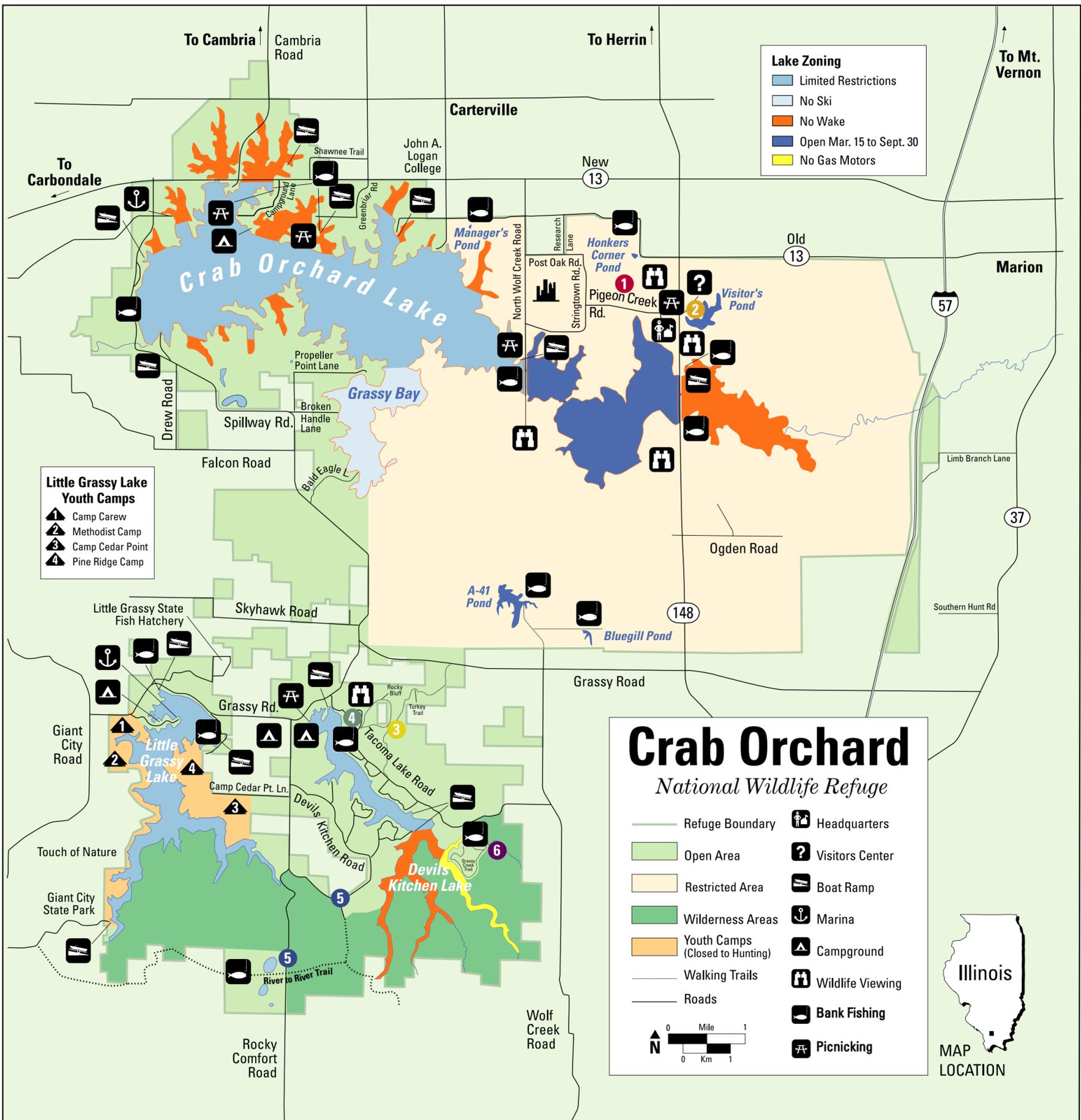
2 Woodland Trail
Trail Head Visitor center on State Route 148, east side of parking lot.
Description This is an easy partially paved trail that is used periodically for educational programs. This trail includes two fishing piers on the Visitor's Pond that is open seasonally for fishing from March 15 to September 30. When not being utilized for fishing, these piers provide an excellent opportunity for waterfowl viewing. This walk also offers a pleasant atmosphere for morning bird walks.
Length An easy .7 mile loop.

3 Wild Turkey Trail
Trail Head The north entrance is located on Grassy Road, .6 miles west of South Wolf Creek Road. The south entrance is on Tacoma Lake Road, 1.5 miles south of Grassy Road.
Description This young forest trail will take you through a variety of habitats from pine plantations to hardwood forests and is generally mowed during the summer months. The trail is located along several ridgetops which makes it excellent for wildlife viewing.
Length A moderate 1.7 mile walk one way.

4 Rocky Bluff Trail
Trail Head Tacoma Lake Road, .5 miles south of Grassy Road.
Description The trail winds through a wide variety of habitats and some of the most spectacular scenery on the refuge. There are intermittent waterfalls, sandstone cliffs, and some steep, rocky sections of trail may make hiking difficult at times, but very worthwhile. This beautiful trail is very popular with hikers and is host to our annual Spring Wildflower Walk held on Saturdays in April. This trail is graced with over 60 varieties of wildflowers such as bluebells, Dutchman's breeches and celandine poppy.
Length A moderately difficult 2.2 mile loop.

5 River to River Trail
Trail Head On Rocky Comfort Road 3.4 miles south of Grassy Road and also at Pleasant Hill Spur Trail on Devils Kitchen Road.
Description The beautiful River to River trail spans over 160 miles of Southern Illinois with a five mile section through the refuge. This is the only trail located on the refuge that is open seasonally to horseback riding. Sections of the River to River Trail located on the refuge run through the scenic wilderness area.
Length A moderately difficult walk. Three miles of the trail runs through the refuge.

6 Grassy Creek Trail
Trail Head .5 miles south of Tacoma Lake Road at the Grassy Creek bridge.
Description This trail was once an old road with a wide paved surface that is perfect for the novice hiker wanting to do some wildlife viewing. It is in a hardwood forest and provides scenic views of the beautiful Devils Kitchen Lake. The eastern part of the trail is bordered by Crab Orchard National Wilderness Area.
Length A moderately difficult 1.4 mile loop.



We hope you enjoy the nature trails of Crab Orchard NWR. There are six trails that offer visitors numerous opportunities to experience the year round beauty of the refuge. Every season offers something special in the outdoors and you need no special equipment - just a good pair of shoes and the desire to be outside. If you walk quietly and use your senses to observe, you will increase your chances of seeing some of the more secretive wildlife. The following trails are open to foot travel only. Remember to tread lightly and respect other trail users.

