






















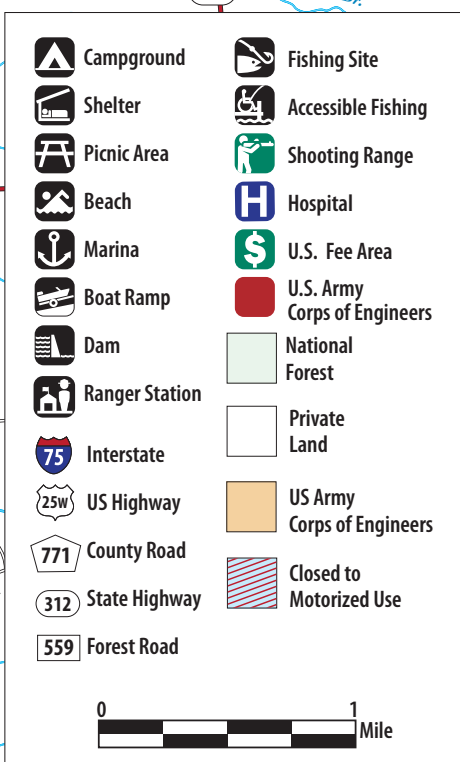
RECREATION.gov

													
Craigs Creek Group Area	•	•	3	•	•	•	•						•
Grove Campground	•	•	56		•	•	•	•	•	•			•
Grove Boat-In Campground	•		22		•	•						•	•
Holly Bay Campground	•	•	94		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
White Oak Boat-In Campground	•		39		•	•						•	•

A fee is required to park at most boat ramp locations. A permit must be displayed in your vehicle at these locations. Permits may be bought at local stores or Forest Service offices.

								
Craigs Creek Boat Ramp	•	•				•		•
Flatwoods Boat Ramp	•	•					•	•
Grove Boat Ramp	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Hightop Boat Ramp		•						•
Holly Bay Boat Ramp	•	•			•	•		•
Laurel Bridge Boat Ramp	•						•	•
Marsh Branch Boat Ramp	•	•				•		•

National Recreation Reservation System: Call 1-877-444-6777 or go to www.recreation.gov. Reservations can be made for summer recreation season only. Reservation fees apply. Some picnic shelters may be reserved by calling the district.*

RECREATION.gov

DRY
Dry your boat, trailer and all
equipment completely.



Fishing on Laurel River Lake. USDA Forest Service photo.

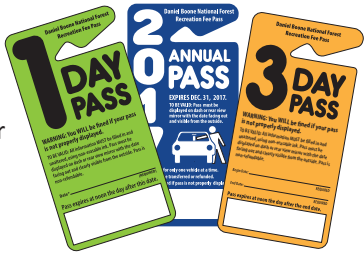
Laurel River Lake

Located within the Daniel Boone National Forest, Laurel River Lake features 5,600 acres of deep, clear water and nearly 200 miles of tree-lined shore. As one of the most scenic lakes in Kentucky, visitors come here to enjoy boating, swimming, fishing and camping in the great outdoors. Laurel River Lake receives heavy use on the weekends during the summer. Week days and the months of September through March offer visitors more solitude.

The U.S.D.A. Forest Service administers the main body of lake and most of its shoreline. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversees the operation of Laurel River Dam, Laurel River Dam Picnic Area, and the Beach/Spillway area. Currently, their Resource Manager's Office is being shared with the Forest Service.

Recreation Permits

A fee is required to use Craigs Creek, Flatwoods, Grove, Holly Bay, Laurel Bridge, and Marsh Branch boat ramps. Hightop Boat Ramp remains free-use. A permit must be displayed in your vehicle at these locations. Permits may be bought at local stores or Forest Service district offices. Call the London Ranger District for more information.



Marinas

Two full-service marinas operate on Laurel River Lake. They are located near Grove and Holly Bay campgrounds. The marinas are privately operated under a special-use permit.



Swimming

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains a swimming beach at the spillway of Laurel River Dam. Lifeguards are not provided. Swimming is not allowed at boat ramps or marinas.



Boating

Most of the lake is open to motorized and nonmotorized boats. Laurel River Lake has seven public boat ramps for lake access. Holly Bay Campground offers an additional boat ramp for registered campers only.

The Goose Management Area on Cane Branch is closed to motorized boats but open to canoes, kayaks and rowboats. The area provides a unique opportunity to explore the lake at a slower pace.



Pontoon on Laurel River Lake. Photo by Regina Roby.



Wildlife

The quiet coves and surrounding forest offer opportunities for wildlife viewing. The lake is home to Canada geese, bald eagles and other wildlife species. The Canada Goose Management Area in Cane Branch is closed to motorized boats.



Bald eagle. USDA Forest Service photo by John Omer.



Fishing

The lake provides excellent fishing for bass, walleye, crappie, bluegill and catfish. Fishing licenses may be bought at county clerk's offices, marinas and many local stores. State fishing regulations are enforced.



Picnicking

The Forest Service offers picnicking opportunities at Laurel Bridge and Bald Rock picnic areas. Laurel Bridge offers a picnic shelter that can be reserved through the London Ranger District Office. Bald Rock Picnic Area, on KY 192, has vault toilets, a volleyball court and horseshoe pits. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains shelters and a picnic area near Laurel River Dam.



Scuba Diving

The clear waters of Laurel River Lake provide opportunities for scuba diving. Be alert for flags that indicate divers below the water surface. Boats must stay 100 feet away.



Hiking

Hikers will enjoy miles of trails near the lake. The Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail skirts the western edge of the lake.

Safety

Wear your lifejacket.

Wearing a life jacket at all times could have saved 80 percent of all drowning victims according to the U.S. Coast Guard.



Do not swim at boat ramps or marinas.

Stray electrical currents can pose serious threats in the water where boats are connected to power.

Watch for submerged hazards.

Water levels at Laurel River Lake vary. Rocks, trees, stumps and landforms may lie just below the surface when the lake level changes. Not all underwater hazards are marked. Be alert and reduce your speed.

Alcohol is prohibited.

Kentucky law prohibits consumption and open containers of alcohol in public places, including national forest land and Kentucky waterways.

Be aware of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Swim away from areas where engines vent exhaust fumes. Never sit or hang on the back deck of boats while engines are running.

Avoid black bear encounters

- Protect yourself and black bears by reducing odors that attract bears. **Food and trash storage is mandatory.**
- Make noise to avoid surprising a bear.
- Never approach or feed a bear or other wild animal.
- Do not hike in the dark.
- Carry EPA-registered bear pepper spray.
- If a bear is observed nearby, pack up your food and trash and leave immediately.
- If a bear approaches, move away slowly; do not run. Get into a vehicle or a secure building.

Black bear. Licensed photo by Kevan Bodkin/Adobe Stock photos.



CAMPING

Campgrounds

The Forest Service oversees two developed drive-in campgrounds on Laurel River Lake. Holly Bay and Grove campgrounds provide electricity, drinking water, flush toilets, and showers. Reservation, first-come, first-served, and walk-in tent sites are offered.

Boat-in Campgrounds

Boat-in campgrounds at Grove and White Oak are first-come, first-served and are accessible only by boat or on foot. These campgrounds provide drinking water, vault toilets and trash bins.

Group Campgrounds

Craigs Creek Group Area is by reservation only and is designed for groups of 12 or more people. The area has three group sites, a picnic shelter, drinking water, flush toilets, shower facilities and trash bins. A trail leads from the campground to the lake.

Lakeside Camping

Primitive camping is allowed; however, you must be at least 300 feet from roads, trails, streams, and shorelines.



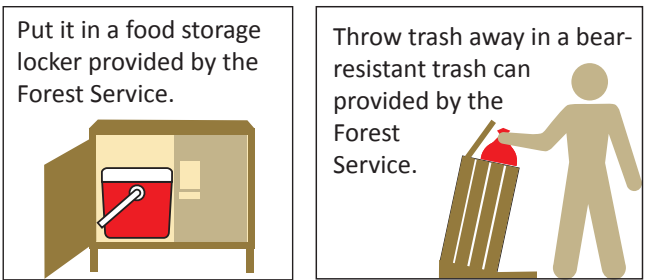
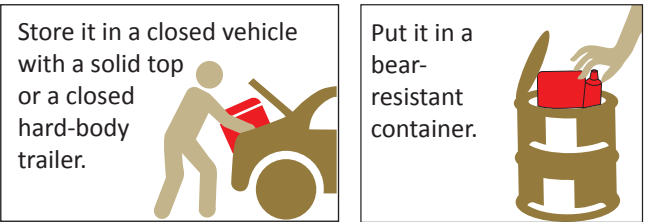
Laurel River Lake at sunset. Photo by Robin Acciardo.

FOOD STORAGE



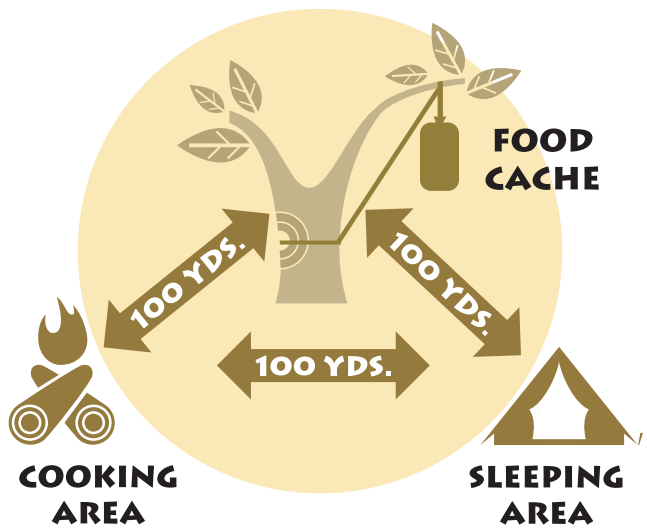
Food storage is required on the Daniel Boone National Forest.

How to store your food and trash...



In the backcountry...

Store your food in a bear-resistant container or hang from a tree. Cook and eat at least 100 yards from your tent.



INFORMATION

London District Office USDA Forest Service 395 Laurel Lake Road London, KY 40744 606-864-4163 or 859-428-7706	Grove Marina P.O. Box 1483 Corbin KY 40701 606-523-2323
Daniel Boone National Forest 1700 Bypass Road Winchester KY 40391 859-745-3100 www.fs.usda.gov/dbnfb	Holly Bay Marina P.O. Box 674 London KY 40744 606-864-6542
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 4133 Laurel Lake Road London, KY 40744 606-679-6337	London-Laurel County Tourist Commission 140 Faith Assembly Church Road London KY 40741 606-878-6900

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Fishing on Laurel River Lake. Photo by Regina Roby.



Daniel Boone National Forest | Revised August 2022 | R8-RG 258

Laurel River Lake



Back bay on Laurel River Lake. Photo by Regina Roby.



Fishing on Laurel River Lake. Photo by Warren Brunner.



Laurel River Lake in winter. Photo by John Omer