

# Guide to Marben PFA

The 6,400-acre tract of land known as Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center includes Marben Public Fishing Area and Clybel Wildlife Management Area. The granite outcroppings, old fields, hardwood forests, and pines give the area an abundance of scenic beauty. Facilities planned for the educational complex will make it the premier facility of its type in the Southeast. Marben PFA consists of approximately 265 acres of water in 20 ponds. The lakes are intensively managed for fishing and are accessible to both boat and bank anglers.

## Hours

Open year-round, 7 days/week, 24 hours/day

## Facilities

- Concrete boat ramps
- Restrooms
- Picnic tables
- Nature trails
- Primitive camping
- Visitor Center
- Fishing piers
- Boat docks
- Angler trails
- Fish cleaning station
- Gun & archery ranges
- Some facilities ADA accessible

## Regulations

Public fishing areas have special regulations that are posted on site as well as published in the Georgia Sport Fishing Regulations. Anglers 16 years of age and older, except honorary license holders, must possess a current fishing license. For more information, visit [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com) or call (800) 366-2661.

## Directions

**From I-20:** Travel south on Highway 11 for approximately 10 miles; left on Marben Farm Road (Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center sign). Follow signs.

**From Monticello:** Travel north on Highway 11 for 15 miles on Marben Farm Road. Follow signs.

For more fishing information, visit the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division website at [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com) or call (478) 825-6151.

## Trip Check List

- This PFA has poor cell service. Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Check the current boating regulations about life jackets.
- Boats with enclosed areas that may trap gas or vapors are required to be equipped with a USCG approved fire extinguisher.
- Carry your current license and boat registration with you.
- Check your boat's trailer and navigation lights, and fuel before leaving home.
- Carry a first aid kit, insect repellent, sunscreen, extra clothing, food and drinking water.
- Be aware of and abide by all fishing regulations.

### Be an Ethical Angler!

Ethical anglers fish responsibly, consider the rights of others, portray a positive image, and help to protect and conserve our natural resources. Be an ethical angler, the future depends on it.

- Know and obey the fishing regulations.
- Keep only the fish they can use and release all others.
- Pass on the tradition by taking a child fishing.
- Leave a place cleaner than it was found.
- Do not transfer fish or plants between bodies of water.
- Report violations and pollution.
- Do not litter!
- Dispose of fishing line properly.
- Do not trespass.
- Are courteous of others.
- Lend a helping hand.

**T.I.P. (Turn in Poachers):** To report game/fish law violations, fish kills or hazardous spills, call (800) 241-4113.



## Major Fish Species & Fishing Tips

Largemouth bass • Bluegill • Channel catfish • Crappie • Redear sunfish (shellcracker)

Lake Margery, Bennett and Fox offer anglers a chance to target two of the most popular fish at Marben PFA, the largemouth bass and crappie. Each lake offers anglers ample shoreline for fishing flooded timber and deep water to test their skills. When targeting bass, use top-water baits in early morning along the shoreline and thicker brush. Often times, bass will suspend in thicker cover waiting to ambush prey. In late afternoon, try using deep diving crank baits in the flooded timber. Flooded timber provides shade for bass and will concentrate these fish as water temperatures rise. Crappie tend to utilize deeper water and shade from flooded timber in the lake. A good technique is fishing yellow or pink jigs in these habitats to target these suspended fish.

Bluegill and shellcrackers (bream) are abundant in most lakes at Marben PFA. If targeting these fish, April through June are the best times. Because they are hard fighting, will hit a variety of baits and are easily caught, they are an extremely popular fish targeted at Marben PFA. Bream occupy a variety of cover from sandy, hard bottoms to flooded timber. Targeting these areas is easy from the bank or boat. Once water temperatures rise, bream move into shallow water to spawn. Try fishing crickets or earthworms just at or on the bottom in these areas. Bream aggressively guard the nests and are easily caught during these times. When the bluegill aren't bedding, try casting small artificial lures, spinners and top-water poppers around the shallow edges.

Channel catfish are another sought-after fish. Deep water habitats, using earthworms or liver, is the most productive technique when targeting these fish. Nineteen different lakes comprise Marben PFA, making this area extremely unique. Water temperatures will differ from lake to lake in early spring and late fall. This makes for unique opportunities for beginning or advanced anglers.


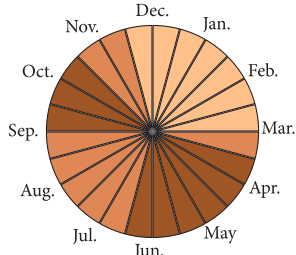

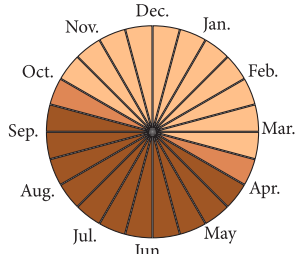

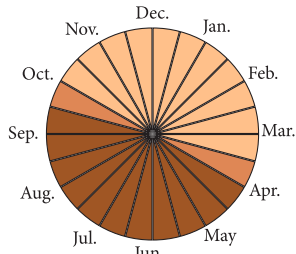

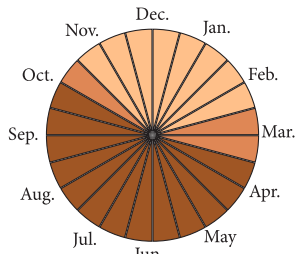
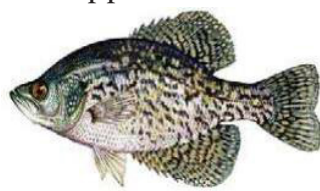
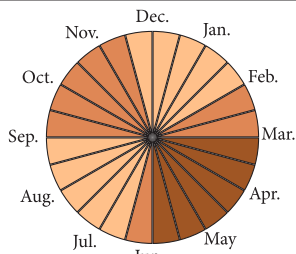


## Marben PFA Fish by Lake

Lake	Acres	Largemouth Bass	Redear Sunfish	Bluegill	Channel Catfish	Black Crappie
Margery	42	■	■	■	■	■
Bennett	69	■	■	■	■	■
Hillside	2.4	■	■	■	■	
Dairy	7	■	■	■		■
Greenhouse	5	■	■	■	■	
Little Raleigh	2	■	■	■		
Upper Raleigh	3.8	■	■	■	■	
Lower Raleigh	15	■	■	■		■
Crossroads	2	■	■	■		
Stump	3.1	■	■	■		
Fox	95	■	■	■	■	■
Shepherd	12	■	■	■	■	■
Whitetail	4	■	■	■		
Allen	4	■	■	■		
Otter	3	■	■	■	■	
Teal*	1				■	

\* Denotes a “kids only” pond. Check informational kiosks at either entrance to see which of these ponds are currently open to kids fishing. Adults are encouraged to assist, but not should fish themselves. PFA creel limits apply.

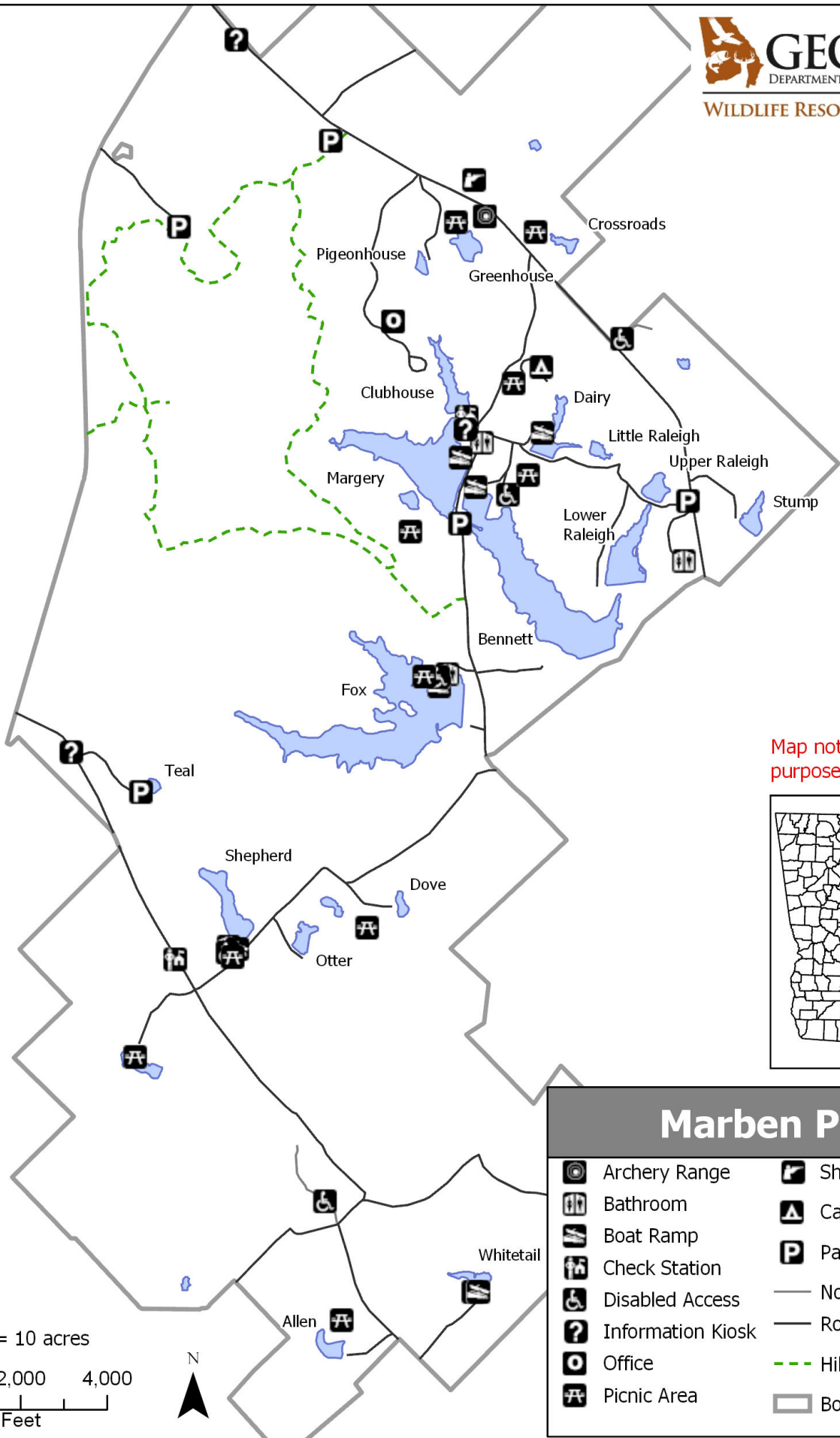
# Marben Fish Guide

Fish Species	Biology	Best Fishing Times
 <p>Largemouth Bass</p>	<p>Bass spawn from February to May. Occupy a variety of habitats in reservoirs and rivers. Feed both day and night motivated by hunger or striking. Females are typically larger and more aggressive than males.  <b>Bait: Crankbaits, plastic worms &amp; jigs</b></p>	
 <p>Redear Sunfish</p>	<p>“Shellcracker” feed primarily on aquatic insects including midge larvae to snails. Unlike bluegill, shellcracker typically do not stunt. Fast growth, larger size and good flavor make these a desirable fish.  <b>Bait: Crickets, Red Wigglers &amp; small top water lures</b></p>	
 <p>Bluegill</p>	<p>Most likely the first fish caught by children. They aggressively guard nest during spawns. Bluegill are hard fighters, hit a variety of baits, and are abundant in most rivers and lakes. Known as a tasty panfish.  <b>Bait: Crickets, Red Wigglers &amp; small top water lures</b></p>	
 <p>Channel Catfish</p>	<p>Channel catfish are a highly adaptable and desirable fish that are easily caught. They can reach Sizes up to 20 lbs and use their barbells for taste. Larger individuals are often confused with Blue catfish.  <b>Bait: Chicken livers, worms, “stink bait” &amp; crickets</b></p>	
 <p>Black Crappie</p>	<p>Has a preference of clear water, and associated with vegetation during spawns. Young prefer insects, switching to fish as it matures. Black crappie commonly reach 2 lbs in size, and the current world record is 5 lbs. An extremely popular game fish in Georgia.  <b>Bait: Minnows, jigs &amp; red wigglers</b></p>	

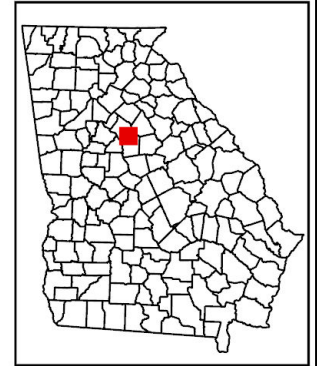
## Best Fishing Times Key


















Fish images: Duane Raver/USFWS

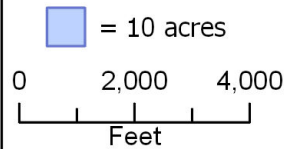



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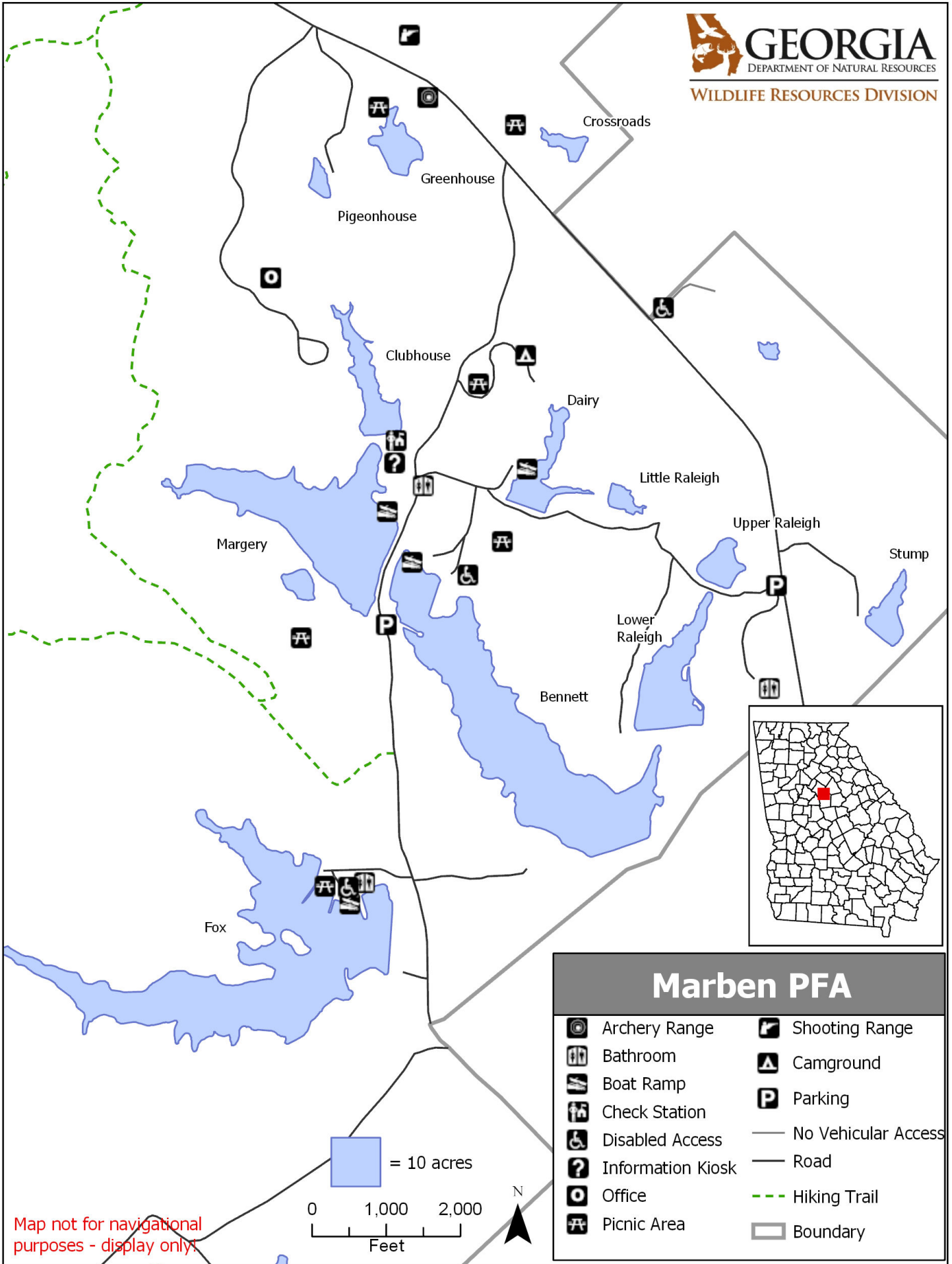


### Marben PFA

- |   |                   |   |                     |
|---|-------------------|---|---------------------|
|  | Archery Range     |  | Shooting Range      |
|  | Bathroom          |  | Camground           |
|  | Boat Ramp         |  | Parking             |
|  | Check Station     |  | No Vehicular Access |
|  | Disabled Access   |  | Road                |
|  | Information Kiosk |  | Hiking Trail        |
|  | Office            |  | Boundary            |
|  | Picnic Area       |   |                     |


















 = 10 acres



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### Marben PFA

	Archery Range		Shooting Range
	Bathroom		Camground
	Boat Ramp		Parking
	Check Station		No Vehicular Access
	Disabled Access		Road
	Information Kiosk		Hiking Trail
	Office		Boundary
	Picnic Area		

