

Spring turkey season looks promising, state officials say

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Kentucky's 2026 spring turkey hunting season arrives with a youth-only weekend, April 4-5, followed by the 23-day general season starting April 18.

Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Hunters with proper permits can harvest two birds during the season but only one a day. Legal birds are male or have a beard.

Higher-than-usual turkey brood surveys signal healthy populations of gobblers for hunters to pursue this spring.

"All evidence suggests turkey numbers have improved over the past five years," said Zak Danks, turkey-grouse program coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "We share many hunters' concerns about the turkey population, but the more we learn about our flock, the more

excited we can be about the future."

In 2025, hunters telechecked 30,661 birds, less than in 2024 and 2023 but more than in 2022 and 2021. Biologists say this year's season has the potential for another high harvest, given numbers related to reproductive success two years ago.

Danks said the optimistic brood survey is backed up by a three-year study of nests, brood habitat use and hen behavior in three counties in western Kentucky that used transmitters resembling backpacks to track movement of more than 230 turkeys.

Preliminary estimates from that study showed the survival rate for adult hens was 70 percent to 74 percent and greater than 75 percent for juvenile hens – better than biologists predicted.

A separate four-year research study that involved capturing and leg banding nearly 1,300 male birds showed Kentucky's annual harvest rate

was 29 percent for mature gobblers and 6 percent for jakes. The average year-to-year survival rate was 56 percent for gobblers and 78 percent for jakes

An annual hunting license and spring turkey permit are required or all-in-one Sportsman's License to hunt legally. Hunters 12 to 15 years old need a youth hunting license and youth turkey permit or a Youth Sportsman's License. Hunters 11 and younger are license-exempt but all hunters under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Callers and assistants who are not hunting do not need licenses or permits.

Hunter orange clothing is not required during turkey season, but it is recommended especially when carrying a harvested bird.

For all regulations, general information and videos on turkey hunting and processing, see the Spring Turkey Hunting page or the Kentucky

Spring Hunting Guide, both

online at the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website, fw.ky.gov.



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Public Notice:

Kroger Limited Partnership 1, 1014 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202. Hereby declares intention(s) to apply for a Non-Quota Retail Malt Beverage Package License and Sampling License for new Kroger # 747 publication of notice for license(s) no later than March 26, 2026. The business Retail Grocery Store to be licensed as Kroger # 747, 1479 Patriot Pkwy, Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701. The Principal Officers and Directors are as follows: President and General Council George Vincent, and Vice-President and Treasurer Carin Fike at 1014 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic, may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the KY Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero St 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.



LEGAL NOTICE

AMENDING ZONING ORDINANCE OFFICIAL MAP FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 106 EAST MEMORIAL DRIVE ORDINANCE #06-2026 SUMMARY

This Ordinance amends the official zoning classification for the property located at 106 East Memorial Drive from Neighborhood Office (C-1) to Neighborhood Commercial (C-2) to allow for uses such as a dog grooming facility.

The change was approved by the Elizabethtown City Council as it was found to be in agreement with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Please find the full Ordinance on the website: www.elizabethtownky.org or by contacting the City Clerk: jessica.graham@elizabethtownky.gov

Summary prepared by Ken M. Howard City Attorney



LEGAL NOTICE

ANNEXING PROPERTY LOCATED AT LEITCHFIELD ROAD ORDINANCE #05-2026 SUMMARY

This Ordinance annexes property at Leitchfield Road as requested by Delta Living Trust and CharSiya, LLC. The property will be zoned Regional Commercial, (C-3) upon annexation based on the Planning Commission recommendation. The owners gave written consent to the annexation. The City of Elizabethtown gave the required 45-day notice to Hardin County.

Please find the full Ordinance on the website: www.elizabethtownky.org or by contacting the City Clerk: jessica.graham@elizabethtownky.gov

Summary prepared by: Ken M. Howard City Attorney



LEGAL NOTICE

AMENDING ZONING ORDINANCE OFFICIAL MAP FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 237 WEST POPLAR STREET ORDINANCE #07-2026 SUMMARY

This Ordinance amends the official zoning classification for the property located at 237 West Poplar Street from Urban Residential, General, R-4, to Downtown Mixed Use, C-5, to allow for uses such as event space.

The change was approved by the Elizabethtown City Council as it was found to be in agreement with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Please find the full Ordinance on the website: www.elizabethtownky.gov or by contacting the City Clerk: jessica.graham@elizabethtownky.gov

Summary prepared by Ken M. Howard City Attorney



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Elizabethtown Planning Commission will hold public hearings on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, located at 212 West Dixie Ave., Elizabethtown, Kentucky. The hearings will be held to consider the following:

A Zoning Map Amendment request to change the zoning classification from R-2 Suburban Residential to R-3 Urban Residential for property located at 1612 N. Miles St. Hearing No. 2026-PC-07

A conditional use permit request to allow a non-owner occupied short term rental for property located at 1612 N. Miles St. Hearing No. 2026-PC-08

A Zoning Map Amendment request to change the zoning classification from WCD-1 Woodland Corridor District to C-2 Neighborhood Commercial & C-3 Regional Commercial for properties located along Woodland Drive Between US31W By-pass and Baptist Health Hardin.

Hearing No. 2026-PC-09

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