

New public shooting range opens at Veterans Memorial WMA in Scott County

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources will open a new public shooting range at Veterans Memorial Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Scott County on Wednesday, March 18. The newly constructed range will provide safe and affordable shooting opportunities for hunters and shooting enthusiasts in central Kentucky.

"Hunting and shooting sports continue to grow but shooters, especially those in urban areas, might not have many options near them where they can practice shooting and sight-in their firearms," said Rich Storm, commissioner for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "We decided years ago that we were going to find the funding to build a modern public shooting

range in the heart of central Kentucky, and that vision has now come together at Veterans Memorial WMA."

The majority of the \$4.7 million project was federally funded through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, utilizing a program specifically established for the construction and expansion of public target ranges.

The outdoor gun range features 20 shooting lanes in two structures. One structure houses 10 lanes designed for shooting up to 100 yards and another structure houses 10 lanes designed for shooting up to 50 yards, both with a concrete firing-line pad and a limestone-sand range floor.

The firing line is covered to allow for use during various weather conditions. All 20 lanes are ADA-accessible,

although placing or removing targets may require assistance.

The lanes feature target stands and backers at fixed-yard intervals from five to 100 yards depending on lane length. A safety officer and a warning light system will indicate when the firing line is active or "hot," and an advanced overhead baffle system has been designed to keep errant shots contained within the range site.

The shooting range is designed to be used with single-projectile firearms. Fully automatic firearms will not be allowed.

The shooting range will be open to the public year-round, beginning with a schedule of Tuesdays-Saturdays, 9 a.m. to sunset, and Sundays, noon to sunset. The range will be closed on Mondays and will be closed annually for a deer quota hunt.

The range complex also includes a new education

building that will be used to host hunting and fishing classes, meetings, youth programs and other events. It also includes office space for agency staff.

The range will be operated and supervised by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife staff to ensure safe and proper use of the facility. Range rules will be posted by signage at the range and users must sign a waiver of liability and acknowledge that they have read and will comply with all the rules.

A shooting range permit is now required to use firearms and archery equipment at any department managed, leased or affiliated shooting ranges. The permit is free for Kentucky residents and non-residents ages 16 and older who hold an annual Kentucky hunting or fishing license. Qualifying license holders must check a separate box in their license profile

to obtain the permit, as it is not automatically included.

For those without an annual hunting or fishing license, the shooting range permit costs \$26.43 for an annual permit for the license year, or \$5.29 for a one-day permit. Youth 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

"The project to build a shooting range at Veterans Memorial WMA has been in development for more than five years and underwent several design iterations before construction," Storm said. "The completed facility provides a durable, long-term shooting range designed to safely serve the public for many years to come."

Located in Scott County just north of Georgetown along Interstate 75 at 173 Rogers Gap Road, Veterans Memorial WMA features almost 3,000 acres with hardwood forests, shrublands, grasslands and a pond to

support numerous game species and migratory birds. The WMA is owned and managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and was recently expanded by 500 acres along the northern boundary of the property.

For maps, regulations and more information, visit the Veterans Memorial WMA webpage or visit the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at fw.ky.gov and type in Veterans Memorial WMA in the search bar on the top right of the page. Shooters can also search for ranges on the Shooting Ranges webpage or find a public or private range nearest them using the interactive Kentucky Shooting Ranges map.

For questions, the public may contact the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center at 800-858-1549 or info.center@ky.gov, weekdays 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (EDT), except holidays.

MLB preview: robot umps, Dodgers chase 3rd straight, Rays return to Trop

BY RONALD BLUM
AP BASEBALL WRITER

NEW YORK — Baseball is changing at a dizzying speed in 2026 with the arrival of robot umpires, the return home of the Tampa Bay Rays and an alphabet soup of networks televising games in perhaps the last season before a labor shutdown.

Much has transpired in the 4 1/2 months since the Los Angeles Dodgers rallied in World Series Game 7 to beat Toronto in 11 innings and become the first repeat champion since the 1998-2000 New York Yankees.

There was the usual free agent musical chairs that saw Kyle Tucker wind up with the Dodgers, Bo Bichette with the New York Mets, Alex Bregman with the Chicago Cubs and Pete Alonso with the Baltimore Orioles.

Venezuela became a first-time champion of a World Baseball Classic with record attendance and television viewers.

But looming above the usual excitement for opening day on Wednesday is the possibility of no games in a year.

Tony Clark was forced to resign as players' association head and replaced by Bruce Meyer as talk intensified about a possible management salary cap proposal the players' association vows to fight. Major League Baseball is likely to lock out players on Dec. 2, leaving 2027 in limbo.

Cy Young Award winners Paul Skenes and Tarik Skubal are on the eight-man executive subcommittee that directs collective bargaining.

"We need people that are invested and kind of have status among players and within the game to go into the negotiations and be comfortable going toe to toe with the owners," Skenes said. "It's not something that I sought out. Some guys nominated me for the position and that's not something you say no to."



Baltimore Orioles' Pete Alonso walks off the field after flying out during the first inning of a spring training baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Wednesday, Feb. 25, in Sarasota.

SEND IN THE ROBOTS

Following testing that started in the minor leagues in 2019, MLB decided last September to use the Automated Ball-Strike System in the regular season.

While human ump calls every pitch, each team has the ability to challenge two calls per game, retaining the challenge if successful, and has the possibility of at least one more in each extra inning.

"You want get the egregiously wrong calls fixed and you want make sure you get it right in a big spot," three-time Cy Young Award winner Justin Verlander said.

ABS won't be used for a two-game series between Arizona and San Diego in Mexico City on April 25-26, for the Philadelphia-Minnesota game at the Field of Dreams in Dyersville, Iowa, on Aug. 13 or the Atlanta-Milwaukee matchup in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, on Aug. 23.

Finding where a game is televised is more complicated than ever.

Regular-season national

broadcasts are split among Fox/FS1, TBS, ESPN, NBC/Peacock, AppleTV and Netflix. NBC's networks take over the Wild Card Series from ABC/ESPN.

In addition, MLB will produce and distribute the local telecasts of 14 teams following the financial problems of Main Street Sports Group, which operates the regional FanDuel Sports Network stations.

When the New York Yankees play the MLB season opener at the San Francisco Giants on Wednesday, the game will be exclusively on Netflix.

DODGERS GO FOR THREE-PEAT

After becoming the first team to win consecutive championships since the 1998-2000 Yankees, the Dodgers try to become just the fifth group to win three in a row, joining those Yankees, five by the 1949-53 Yankees, four by the 1936-39 Yankees and three by the 1972-74

Oakland Athletics.

"When you're a Dodger, people want to take us down. They want to beat us," manager Dave Roberts told players in his spring training speech. "It's a Game 7. So I think that we've got to look ahead and say that this is going to be harder than it's ever been and we got to work even harder. And so my ask as a team, as an organization is to push ourselves even more. We already got the talent. There isn't any more talent in a major league clubhouse than in this room."

Coming off his fourth unanimous MVP award, Shohei Ohtani is expected to be a two-way player over a full season. He returned to the mound last June 16 following his second major elbow surgery on Sept. 19, 2023.

BACK AT THE TROP

Tampa Bay returns to Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg after a season playing home games across



Ross D. Franklin/AP Photo

Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Shohei Ohtani, of Japan, throws against the San Francisco Giants during the first inning of a spring training baseball game, Wednesday, March 18, in Phoenix.



Jeff Roberson/AP Photo

New York Mets third baseman Bo Bichette runs out of the dugout at the start of a spring training baseball game against the Houston Astros Tuesday, Feb. 24, in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

the bay at Steinbrenner Field, the spring training home of the Yankees.

Damage to the Trop caused by Hurricane Milton in October 2024 has been repaired. The Rays were 41-40 at Steinbrenner last year, their lowest home winning percentage since 2016. They drew 786,750 for an average of 9,713, selling out 61 games.

"There is genuine, authentic excitement to get back to the Trop," manager Kevin Cash said. "We've played well in the Trop. We've had a lot of

success in the Trop. And I think we're going back to something that's probably going to be a little bit newer, a little better than maybe as we left it because they had to do so many repairs."

MILESTONE WATCH

Four players could reach 400 career home runs this year.

Manny Machado starts the season at 369, followed by Freddie Freeman at 368, Aaron Judge at 367 and Bryce Harper at 363.

REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS
LAGOON CLEAN-OUT AND DEWATERING OF THE WILLIAMSTOWN WATER TREATMENT PLANT SOLIDS WILLIAMSTOWN, KENTUCKY

The City of Williamstown is accepting Sealed Bids from qualified firms to provide a solids removal and dewatering program for the City Water Treatment Plant, located at 700 Waterworks Road in Williamstown, Kentucky. The City desires Bid Proposal for a turnkey operation to remove, dewater and transport solids from the lagoons at the water treatment plant. In order to assure the City that the respondents have properly investigated this project, all Proposer's will be encouraged to visit the water treatment plant at least once between the date the Bid Request is advertised and the date it is due, to familiarize themselves with the facility. Site inspections must be coordinated with **Tim Beach, at (859) 824-4210**.

Sealed Bids must be submitted to the City no later than **April 21, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. EST. at which time they will be opened and reviewed**. The envelope should be clearly marked stating that this is a Sealed Bid for "Lagoon Clean-Out and Dewatering of Water Treatment Plant Solids". Bids can be mailed, or hand delivered to the City of Williamstown, 400 North Main Street, Williamstown, KY 41097 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Bid will be reviewed, and the City will contact the Proposer with any questions they may have. Selection will be made based on the Bid scoring included. Should a Proposer be selected to conduct the work outlined, a date will be set to negotiate the terms of and sign a contract. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the responses if believed to be in the best interest of the City.

Tri-State Land Company
Real Estate Development
859-485-1330
www.tristatelandcompany.com

9 Ac. Crittenden, pasture, views, quiet country road, city water, electric available, \$146,900. Owner financing available.

5 Ac. Williamstown area, all pasture, single wide homes welcome, partially fenced, city water at street, \$85,900, \$3,000 down, \$844 per mo.

27 Ac. Grant Co., near Mason, ideal location for homesite, weekend get away, hunting, 7 miles off I-75, \$189,900, \$8,000 down.

14 Ac. Grant County, scattered cedar trees, small pond, blacktop dead-end road, city water, \$136,900, \$4,000 down, \$1,370 per mo.

5 Ac. Grant Co, near Mt. Zion area, restricted homesite, open pasture, rolling down into woods, Arnolds Creek frontage, city water, \$92,900, owner financing.

8 Ac. Corinth, Bracht Road, mostly pasture, double wides welcome, view, city water available, \$99,900, \$3,000 down, \$997 per mo.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE PROPERTIES
www.tristatelandcompany.com

ORDINANCE NO. 0004-2026-0296
AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE GRANT COUNTY ZONING MAP

WHEREAS application has been made to the Grant County Planning and Zoning Commission for an amendment to the official Grant County Zoning Map; and

WHEREAS all fees relating to the application have been properly paid to the Grant County Planning and Zoning Commission as same relate to this application; and

WHEREAS all posting and advertising requirements necessary to the application filed herein have been properly made or performed; and

WHEREAS public hearing has been held with all interested parties being afforded opportunity to appear in person or by counsel and voice their position as relates to this application; and

WHEREAS the Grant County Planning Commission, a quorum then being present, vote to recommend the approval of said application; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Fiscal Court of the County of Grant, Commonwealth of Kentucky, that the Grant County Zoning Map be amended to reflect that the zoning of the following parcel of land, to wit:

A 5.9-acre site located at 4520 Keefer Road, Grant County, Kentucky, and providing the recommendation be forwarded to the Grant County Fiscal Court, Williamstown, Kentucky.

Be changed from its' present zoning classification of Agricultural One (A1) to Residential One-A (R1A).

Introduced, recorded and ordered published by the Grant County Fiscal Court on the 3rd day of March, 2026.

Adopted by the Grant County Fiscal Court at its' meeting on the 17th day of March, 2026. And, on said occasion signed in open session by the County Judge Executive as evidence of his approval and affirmative vote of the Grant County Fiscal Court, attested under seal by the Grant County Fiscal Court Clerk and declared to be in full force and effect by its' passage and recordation of same.

GRANT COUNTY FISCAL COURT
BY: /S/ CHARLES E. DILLS II
CHARLES E. DILLS II
GRANT COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

ATTEST: /S/ JENNA ALSIP
JENNA ALSIP
GRANT FISCAL COURT CLERK