

Harmony Mission Lake and Peabody Conservation Areas

About This Area

Harmony Mission Lake and Peabody conservation areas total about 1,370 acres. They provide public hunting for upland wildlife and fishing in a 96-acre lake and six water-filled strip mining pits that total about 23 acres.

The 300-acre Peabody Conservation Area was once mined for coal. It was donated to the Conservation Department about 1960. The Conservation Department bought the 1,000-acre Harmony Mission Lake area from four landowners in 1984.

Much of the land in the Harmony Mission area is a rolling, prairie landscape. Small crop fields are mixed with old fields and native grasses. The Conservation Department has planted about 150 acres of native prairie grass in the watershed of Harmony Mission lake.

Peabody lands are largely strip mine spoil mounds that have grown up in timber. Work on the area began when Conservation Department personnel, Future Farmers of America and Vocational Agriculture school groups from Rich Hill, Butler and Adrian planted cover strips, spread lime and seeded food plots.

They also started windbreaks to stop soil erosion. Tractors and other equipment for the project were supplied by three local implement dealers.

Harmony Mission Lake Conservation Area is named for the first Indian mission in Missouri. This church-funded mission was started in 1821 about 12 miles east of the present wildlife area next to the "Great Village" of the Osage Indians on Marais Des Cygnes River. The mission was used to teach the Osage about white society.

A 2,000-word English-Osage dictionary was also developed to teach them our language. Though the Osage Indians left Missouri around 1825, remnants of the old Harmony Mission can

be found along the Marais Des Cygnes River east of Rich Hill.

The area which now forms the Harmony Mission Lake Conservation Area was virgin prairie until the mid-1960s. The land, originally homesteaded by the Cresup family, was considered a wildlife refuge because the owners did not allow hunting. After the land was sold in the early 1960s it was cleared and farmed until 1984.

Things to Do

- **Hunting.** Hunting for upland game like doves, quail and rabbits is popular on the area, as is fishing and frogging in the 96-acre lake and strip pits. You can also visit and enjoy bird watching, hiking, nature study and photography.

Because of the limited amount of timber on these areas, hunting for deer, turkey or squirrels is only marginal. Deer hunting is permitted by long-bow during the statewide season and by muzzle-loader during the December segment of the muzzleloading firearms deer season. Ducks and geese sometimes use the lake in large numbers, and hunting for them is permitted on the lake, strip pits and ponds. Bobcats and other furbearers are present, especially on the Peabody area.

- **Fishing.** The lake has been stocked with bass, bluegill and channel catfish. Bluegill fishing is good, and many small bass and some large bass are caught. Fishing for channel catfish is popular. Both the lake and strip pits have special fishing regulations. Disabled fishing facilities and restrooms are provided at Harmony Mission.

- Camping.
- Hiking.
- Nature study and wildlife viewing.
- Outdoor photography.
- Frogging.

Rules and Regulations

Area hours: Open daily from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. Camping, hunting, fishing, dog training and launching and landing boats are permitted at any time when authorized.

- No littering. Waste containers may be used only for disposal of trash generated on area.
- No fireworks.

- No open fires except in designated areas.
- No free-running pets. Dogs must be leashed or confined when not being trained or used for hunting. Special use permits are required for field and retriever trials.
- Destroying, cutting or removing vegetation is prohibited. Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal consumption only. Taking of wild greens from natural areas is not allowed.
- Motor vehicles are restricted to roadways and parking areas.
- Horseback riding is permitted only on roads open to vehicles and by special-use permit.
- On Peabody camping is permitted only in designated areas and is limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period. Groups of 10 campers or more must obtain a special-use permit.
- No camping permitted on Harmony Mission Lake Conservation Area.
- Bicycles are allowed only on roads open to vehicles.
- Target shooting is permitted only by special use permit.
- Swimming, scuba diving, water skiing, sailboarding, skateboarding, collecting plants and animals, caving and rappelling are not allowed.

Fishing and Boating:

Fishing is permitted under statewide regulations. The following special regulations also apply.

- In lakes, ponds and impoundments, fish may be taken only by pole and line and no more than three poles and lines may be used by any one person.

Daily limits are six black bass and four catfish in the aggregate (channel, blue and flathead catfish) and 30 crappie. All other fish, statewide limits, but the total number taken may not exceed 20.

On Harmony Mission Lake Conservation Area, all black bass between 12 and 15 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.

On Peabody Conservation Area, all black bass less than 12 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.

- Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken during

the statewide season only by hand, handnet, gig, longbow or hook and line and only on waters open to fishing.

- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited on all impounded waters and their discharge channels.
- Salvage seining of non-game fish for personal use is permitted only with written permission of the Conservation Department.
- Boats may be used for fishing and wildlife-related activities only and may not be stored or left unattended overnight.
- On Peabody, electric motors and outboards not in excess of 10 horsepower are permitted.
- On Harmony Mission, electric motors and outboard motors are permitted on impoundments of 70 acres or more. Outboards in excess 10 horsepower must be operated at slow, no-wake speed.

Hunting and Trapping:

Area is open to hunting under statewide regulations. The following special regulations also apply.

- Deer may be hunted only during the statewide archery season and the December portion of the firearms season. Statewide methods and limits apply.
- Only portable tree stands may be placed or used and only between Sept. 15 and Jan. 31. Each stand must be identified with the name and address of the user and must be removed from the area by Feb. 1. Use of nails or other materials that would damage the tree is prohibited.
- Decoys and portable blinds are permitted but must be removed from the area daily. Blinds may be constructed on-site, but only from willows and non-woody vegetation.
- Trapping of furbearers is permitted only as specifically authorized by special use permit.

(Regulations are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are from Provision 3CSR 10-4.115 of the Wildlife Code. Free copies of the Wildlife Code and Special Area Regulations are available from the Conservation Department.)

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race,

Harmony Mission Lake
and Peabody
Conservation Area



Welcome

Missouri is a state rich in history, folklore and natural resources. The Conservation Department encourages you to visit, use and enjoy this area and other Department areas.

Land surrounding Harmony Mission Lake and Peabody Conservation Areas belongs to private landowners. The boundaries adjoining private property are clearly marked. Please respect landowners' rights with these simple courtesies: obtain permission before going on private property, pick up all litter, be careful with fire, do not damage property, practice safe hunting.

Nearby Department Areas:

August A. Busch, Jr. Memorial Wetland at Four Rivers
Conservation Area
Flight Lake Conservation Area
Old Town Access
Ripgut Prairie Natural Area

For local information, contact:

Area Manager, Four Rivers Conservation Area
Route 3, Box 223
Rich Hill, MO 64779
417/395-2341
or
417/876-5226

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Missouri Department of
CONSERVATION

