

# **DRAFT**

# **Little Compton Lake**

# **Conservation Area**

## **Ten-Year Area Management Plan**

### **FY 2017-2026**



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## OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Little Compton Lake Conservation Area, #8329
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1983
- **Acreage:** 344 acres
- **County:** Carroll
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Primary Purpose:**
  - A. **Strategic Direction**

Little Compton Lake Conservation Area (CA) was purchased to provide public fishing in Grand River and in a 40-acre lake. This area is managed to protect and enhance the natural resources while providing public recreation to the extent compatible with these resources.
  - B. **Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Little Compton Lake CA is a lake that provides high quality fishing for multiple species, quality upland hunting opportunities, and other public uses, while maintaining excellent water quality.
  - C. **Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. **Special Considerations**
  - A. **Priority Areas:** Lower Grand River Prairie/Savanna Conservation Opportunity Area, Lower Grand River Wetland Conservation Opportunity Area
  - B. **Natural Areas:** None
- II. **Important Natural Features and Resources**
  - A. **Species of Conservation Concern:** Species of conservation concern are not known from this site, but are found in the surrounding area. Area managers should consult annually with the natural history biologist.
  - B. **Caves:** None
  - C. **Springs:** None
- III. **Existing Infrastructure**
  - One concrete boat ramp
  - Four designated campsites (no amenities provided)
  - Five fishing jetties

- Three parking lots
- One privy
- Little Compton Lake, 40 acres
- Two fishless ponds, 0.84 acres total

**IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**

**A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None

**B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

**C. Easements:** Power line easement

**D. Cultural Resource Findings:** No known cultural resources

**E. Endangered Species:** None observed.

**F. Boundary Issues:** None

**MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

**V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations**

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Manage the grassland ecosystem.
- 2) Control invasive species.
- 3) Manage old fields.
- 4) Manage bottomland forest.

**Management Objective 1:** Manage Little Compton Lake CA grasslands to provide a diverse plant community of warm and cool-season grasses, legumes, forbs, bare ground and work with willing neighbors to expand management beyond Little Compton Lake CA boundaries. The ideal condition would be for these fields to be maintained in 30-50% grasses; 30-40% annuals, forbs, or legumes; and 20-30% bare ground.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain grassland habitats using a combination of management techniques, including, but not limited to, prescribed burning, mechanical and chemical treatment of woody vegetation, disking, mowing, and over-seeding. (Wildlife)

**Management Objective 2:** Control invasive species.

**Strategy 1:** Annually treat sericea lespedeza, Johnson grass, Canada thistle, and any other invasive species. (Wildlife)

**Management Objective 3:** Manage and maintain old fields to provide nesting and brood rearing habitat, such as bare ground, annual forbs, warm- and cool-season grasses, shrubs and food plots.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain old field habitats in various successional stages, providing 30-50% warm- and cool-season grasses, 20-30% annual forbs, 10-20% shrubs, and 20-30% bare ground. Use a combination of management techniques including, but not limited to, prescribed burning, mechanical tree removal, disking, mowing, and over seeding. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 2:** Establish food plots with a variety of crops (e.g., small/large grain, and green browse to provide food for wildlife and disturbance. (Wildlife)

**Management Objective 4:** Manage bottomland hardwood forest to protect the Grand River banks and to provide habitat for deer, turkey, and other forest wildlife.

**Strategy 1:** Conduct a forest inventory in Fiscal Year (FY) 2028. The last forest inventory was conducted in 2006 and recommended forest thinning, harvesting, and riparian protection objectives have been accomplished. No active forest management is scheduled for the duration of this plan. (Forestry)

## **VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Provide quality populations of largemouth bass and flathead catfish.
- 2) Prevent the infestation and spread of nuisance aquatic species.
- 3) Manage Little Compton Lake habitat to maintain quality recreational fishing.

**Management Objective 1:** Manage for quality largemouth bass and flathead catfish in Little Compton Lake.

**Strategy 1:** Conduct bi-annual fish surveys to monitor for a quality largemouth bass population (proportional stock density (12) values of 40-70) and follow the development of the flathead population. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 2:** Conduct supplemental stocking of channel catfish to maintain quality angling opportunities. (Fisheries)

**Management Objective 2:** Prevent the infestation and spread of nuisance aquatic species.

**Strategy 1:** Provide educational materials on the spread of invasive species on area bulletin boards. (Fisheries)

**Management Objective 3:** Install brush piles in Little Compton Lake.

**Strategy 1:** Install brush piles to enhance sport fish recruitment and add fish holding structure, as needed in Little Compton Lake as natural fish structure deteriorates. (Fisheries)

## **VII. Public Use Management Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Provide quality fishing opportunities.
- 2) Provide upland game hunting opportunities.
- 3) Provide primitive camping opportunities.

**Management Objective 1:** Provide quality fishing opportunities for the public.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain quality fish populations on Little Compton Lake through annual monitoring, supplemental stocking, and assessment of creel and length limits. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 2:** Maintain access to angling opportunities on Little Compton Lake through maintenance of concrete boat ramp, privy, and parking lots. (Wildlife, Design and Development)

**Management Objective 2:** Provide quality upland game hunting opportunities for the public.

**Strategy 1:** Conduct management activities that will provide habitat for a variety of species. (Wildlife)

**Management Objective 3:** Provide primitive camping opportunities for the public.

**Strategy 1:** Mow/maintain grass around parking lots designated for primitive camping. (Wildlife)

## **VIII. Administrative Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintain existing infrastructure.
- 2) Protect Little Compton Lake watershed through land acquisition

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain existing infrastructure.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain area facilities and grounds according to the current Area and Facility Maintenance Policy located in the Resource Policy Manual. (Wildlife, Design and Development)

**Lands Proposed for Acquisition:**

When available, tracts lying within the lake’s watershed may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

**MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE**

All strategies for this management plan are considered ongoing.

## APPENDICES

### Area Background:

Little Compton Lake Conservation Area is in northeastern Carroll County. This area includes 1.5 miles of frontage on the north bank of the Grand River and a 40-acre lake that is managed to provide public fishing. The lake contains a variety of fish species, including largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, carp, and buffalo. The Missouri Department of Conservation purchased this area in 1983 to provide the public with quality outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting, and nature enjoyment.

The upland areas are managed to protect the lake's watershed and to provide upland game hunting. Approximately 120 acres of bottomland forest along the Grand River are managed to protect the river bank and to provide habitat for deer, turkey, and other forest wildlife.

### Current Land and Water Types:

Land /Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest and Woodland	196	57
Lakes/Ponds	48	14
Old Field	33	10
Grassland (non-prairie)	33	10
Open Land	15.5	4
Infrastructure	14.5	4
Wetland	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>100</b>

### Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Infrastructure and Public Use Facilities Map

Figure 3: Area Easements Map

Figure 4: Habitat Cover Types Map

Figure 5: Streams and Fishing Ponds Map

Figure 6: Topographic Map

Figure 7: Soils Map

Figure 1: Area Map

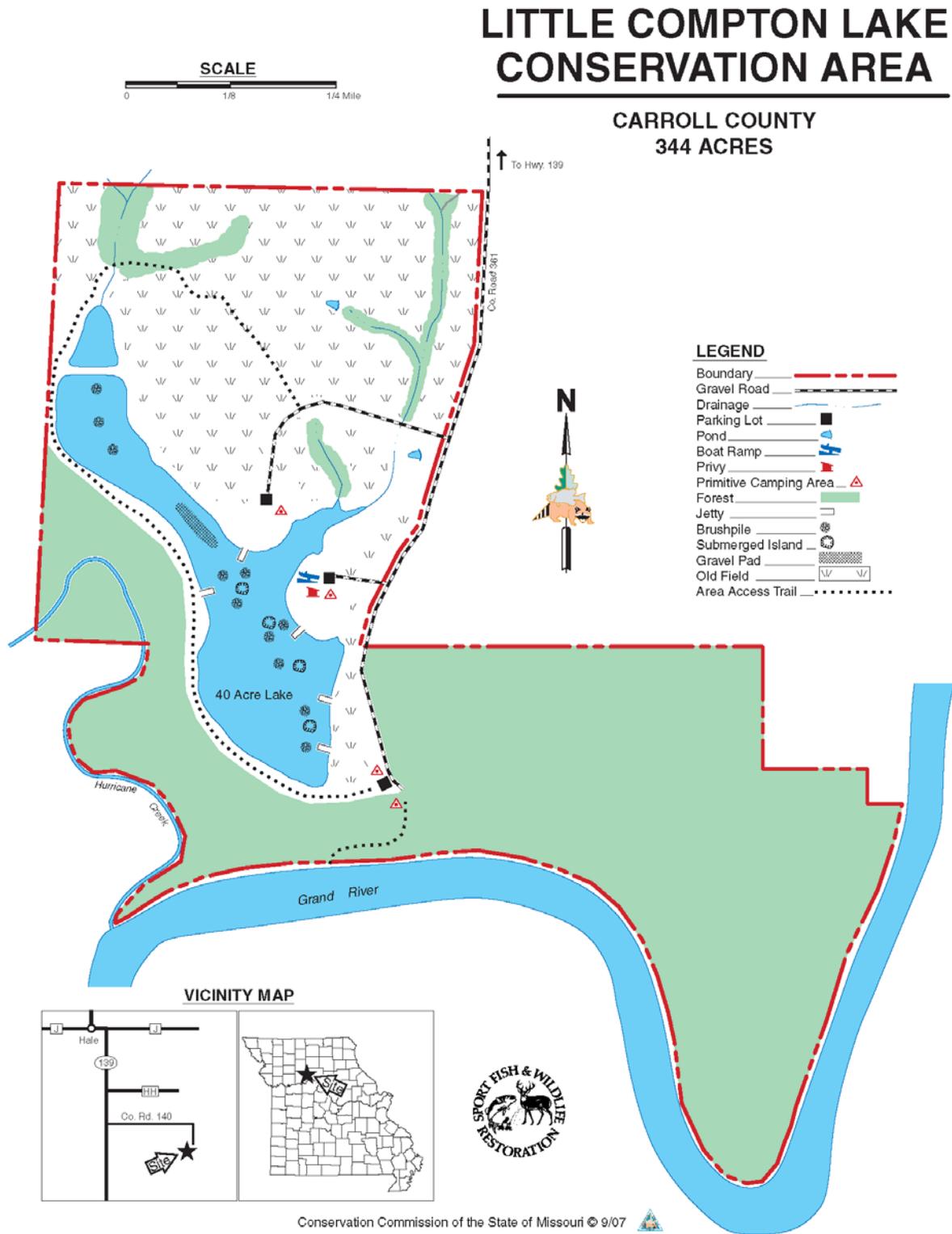


Figure 2: Infrastructure and Public Use Facilities Map



**Legend**

-  Concrete Boat Ramp
-  Parking Lot
-  Primitive Camping
-  Privy
-  MDC Gravel Road
-  LCLCA Boundary



Figure 3: Area Easements Map

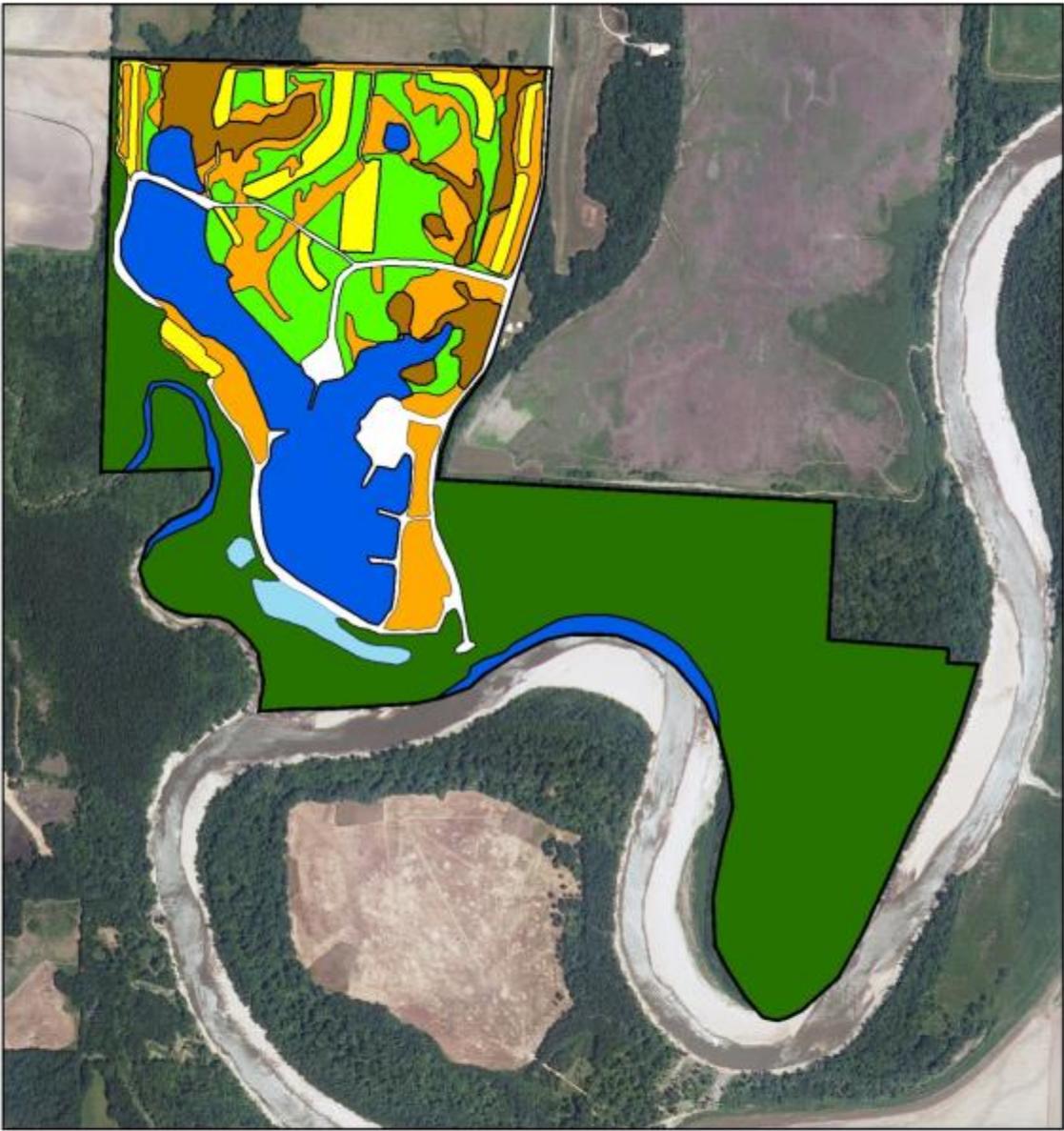


**Legend**

- Power Pole/Line
- LCLCA Boundary



Figure 4: Habitat Cover Types Map

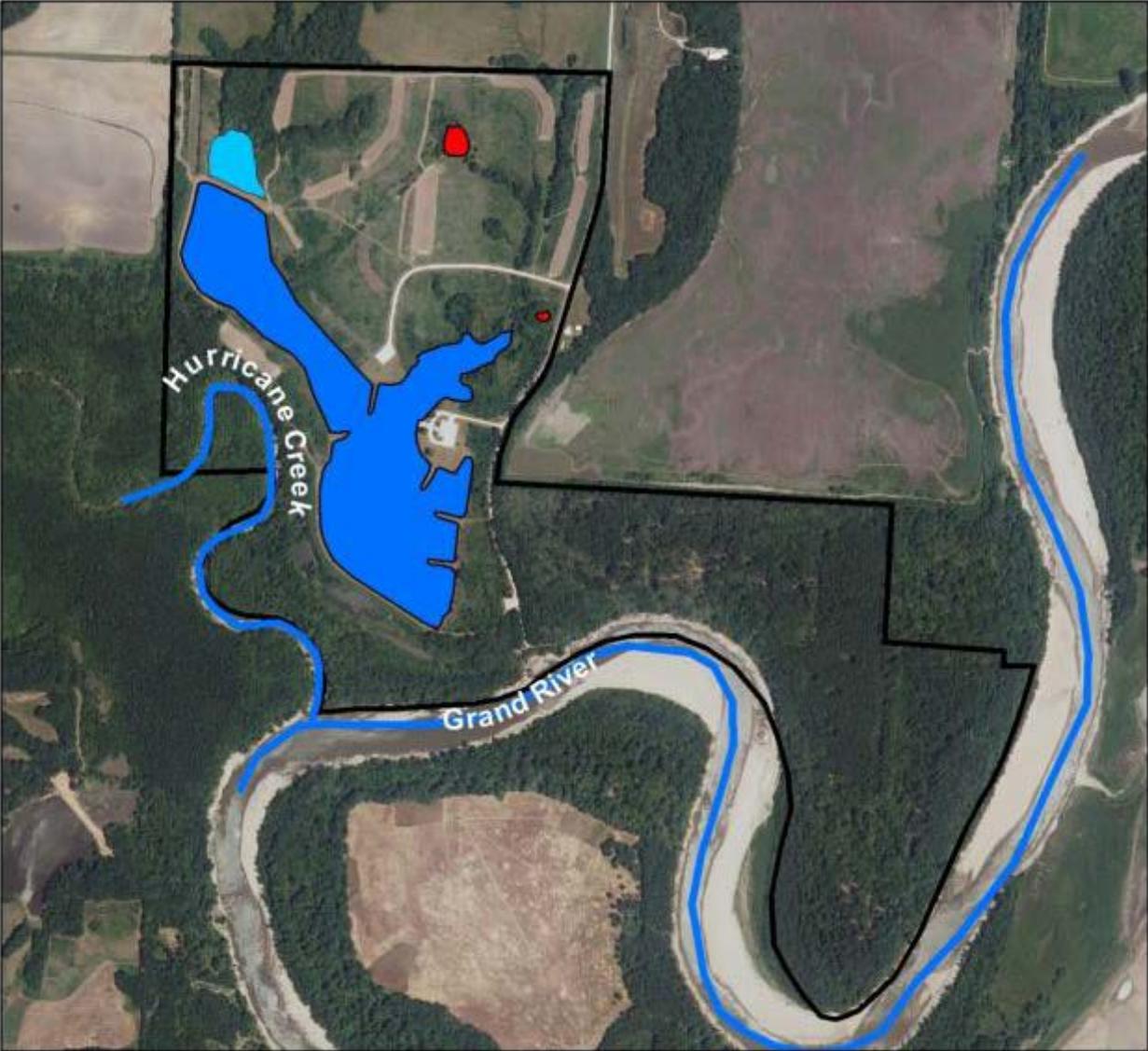


**Legend**

<b>Habitat Cover Types</b>	 Grassland	 Open Water
 Food Plot/Openlands	 Infrastructure	 Wetland
 Forest	 Old Field	 Woodland
	 LCLCA Boundary	



Figure 5: Streams and Fishing Ponds Map



**Legend**

-  Little Compton Lake
-  Stocked Pond
-  Non-Stocked Ponds/Wildlife Watering Holes
-  Streams
-  LCLCA Boundary



Figure 6: Topographic Map

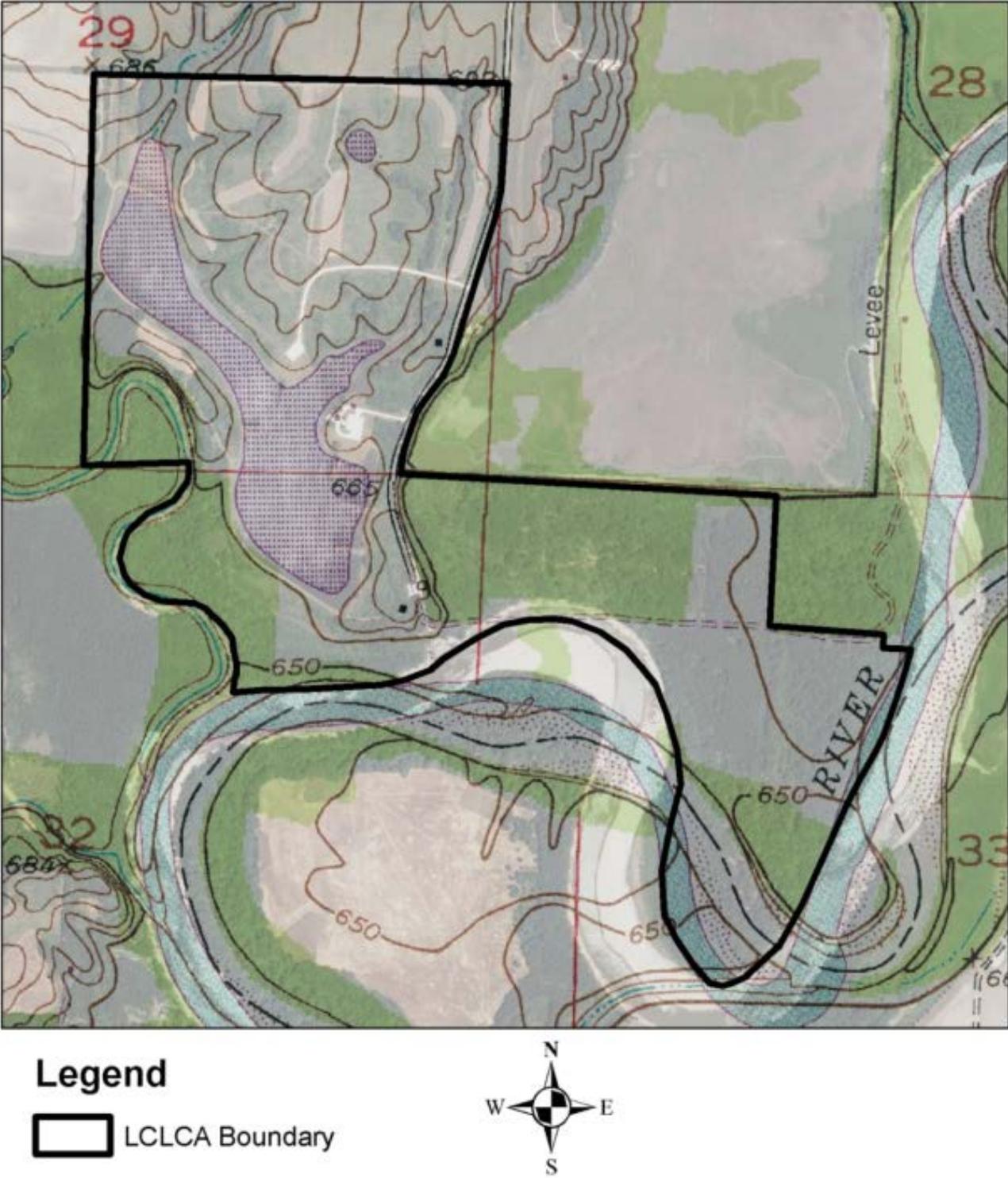


Figure 7: Soils Map



**Legend**

- Lagonda silt loam
- Grundy silt loam
- Zook silty clay loam
- Lagonda silty clay loam
- Nodaway silt loam
- Water
- LCLCA Boundary



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