

Area Highlights

Pelican Island Natural Area is a Missouri River island located in north St. Louis County. The island reaches from river mile 10.5 to river mile 16.5. Pelican Island Access is located in north St. Louis County on the bank of the Missouri River at river mile 10.5 adjacent to Sioux Passage Park. The 2,260-acre Pelican Island Natural Area is made up primarily of the island but also includes a small strip of land at the base of the river bluffs. The area received its Natural Area status because it is the best example of a natural island in this stretch of the Missouri River. The island is mostly forested but also includes some wetland and old field habitats. The 42-acre Pelican Island Access is located on the mainland adjacent to Sioux Passage Park and is mostly forested.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching – Fishing – Hiking
Outdoor Photography – Wildlife Viewing

Area Hours: Pelican Island Natural Area is open daily from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. except that authorized hunting and fishing activities are permitted at any time. Pelican Island Access is open during normal hours of operation for Sioux Passage Park except that boaters who wish to remain on the river past normal park hours may exit the area through an electronic gate. Normal park hours are 7 a.m. to one-half hour past sunset.

- No fireworks.
- No horseback riding.
- No open fires.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Dogs must be leashed when not used for training or hunting.
- Nuts, berries, fruits and mushrooms may be taken for personal use. Taking of wild greens from Pelican Island Natural Area is prohibited. Cutting or removing other vegetation is prohibited.
- Motor vehicles are prohibited on Pelican Island Natural Area and restricted to roads and parking areas on Pelican Island Access.
- Camping is prohibited on Pelican Island Access.

- Bicycles are prohibited on Pelican Island Natural Area.
- Firearms must be unloaded and cased while in Sioux Passage Park and at Pelican Island Access.

Fishing and Boating

- Fishing is permitted in the Missouri River according to statewide regulations.
- Bullfrogs and green frogs may not be taken with firearms.
- Boats may not be left unattended overnight.

Hunting and Trapping

- Deer hunting by managed hunt permit only. Hunters must apply for a permit through the managed hunt drawing system. Application information is available at most Conservation Department offices.
- Other hunting is prohibited on Pelican Island Natural Area.
- Hunting is prohibited on Pelican Island Access.
- Furbearers trapping is permitted by special-use permit.

Nearby Department Areas

Columbia Bottom Conservation area
Hickory Woods Conservation Area
Bellefontaine Conservation Area
St. Stanislaus Conservation Area

For local information, contact:

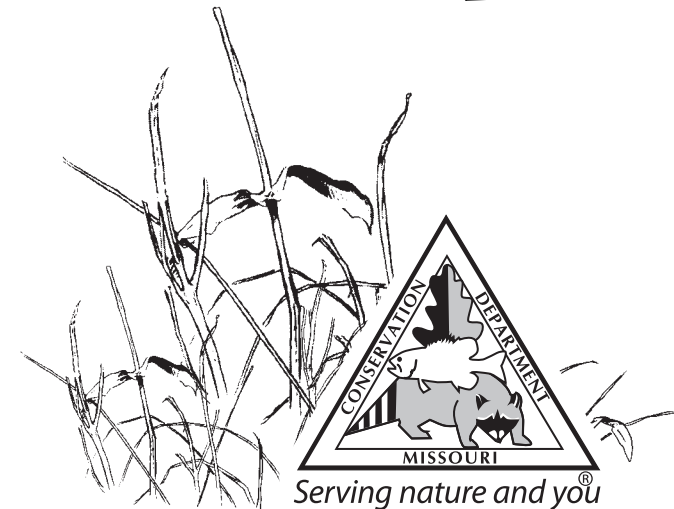
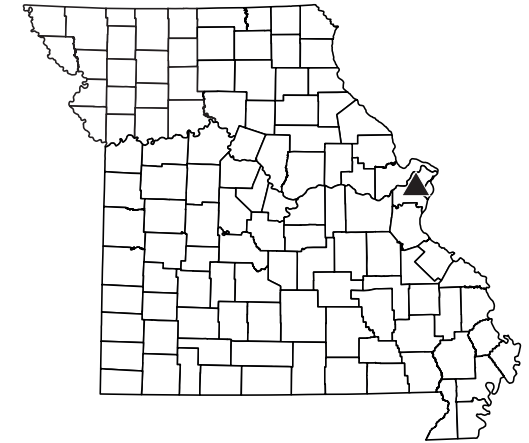
Missouri Department of Conservation
St. Louis Regional Office
2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 441-4554

Additional area information is posted on bulletin boards located in parking area.

4/2026

(Regulations are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are in Chapter 11 of the Wildlife Code. A free printed copy of the Wildlife Code, which lists most area regulations, is available from the Conservation Department. Chapter 11 in its entirety is available at www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr.asp.) 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, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 573-751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to Chief, Public Civil Rights, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Pelican Island Access & NATURAL AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION