

William E. Crawford Conservation Area

25-Year Area Management Plan FY 2020-2044



Justine Gartner

Forestry Division Chief

7/10/2019

Date

William E. Crawford Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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7/9/2019

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7/9/2019

Signature

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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** William E. Crawford Conservation Area, # 201602
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 2016
- **Acreage:** 88 acres
- **County:** Clark
- **Region:** Northeast
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

The primary management emphasis for William E. Crawford Conservation Area (CA) is to provide diverse habitat for fish and wildlife through sound management practices, while offering the public compatible outdoor recreational opportunities.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of William E. Crawford CA is an area with a healthy upland forest ecosystem with stable, wooded stream corridors that allows the public compatible outdoor recreational opportunities.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** None
 - B. Natural Areas:** None

- II. Important Natural Features and Resources**
 - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the natural history biologist.
 - B. High Quality Natural Communities:** Yes, records kept with MDC natural history biologist.
 - C. Caves:** None
 - D. Springs:** None

- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - One parking lot

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** Property shall not be sold or otherwise devised by the Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri for any purpose until after Dec. 17, 2033.
- 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:**
- Underground telephone line easement is recorded in the deed from 1939.
 - There is an overhead powerline easement with Lewis County Electric Cooperative.
- D. Cultural Resources Findings:** Yes, records kept with Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) environmental compliance coordinators. Managers should follow best management practices for cultural resources found in MDC's Resource Policy Manual.
- E. Endangered Species:** None observed.
- F. Boundary Issues:** None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) This area has a lot of potential to maintain and enhance populations of Missouri species of conservation concern. The upland forest on this area has had some disturbance from past farming and livestock grazing practices from several decades ago. Invasive species (autumn olive and garlic mustard) have become established on the area. Still, the area contains remnants of a diverse plant community that could be enhanced with the right management practices. Common tree species are northern red oak, white oak, chinkapin oak, eastern red cedar, black oak, honey locust, elm, and black locust.
- 2) The openland portions of William E. Crawford CA are overgrown with cool-season grasses and are becoming further taken over by autumn olive. Allowing the open land areas to naturally revert back to woodland is desired, however the current population of autumn olive will need to be controlled before allowing this to happen as autumn olive would dominate these sites and become a greater problem on this area.

Management Objective 1: Manage invasive species on the area.

Strategy 1: Monitor area for invasive species populations. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 2: As invasive species are found on the area, coordinate efforts to eradicate the species using techniques including, but not limited to, prescribed burning, chemical, and mechanical treatments. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Promote native plant species.

Strategy 1: Use prescribed fire, herbicide treatments, and other techniques to promote native plant species. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Maintain or enhance populations of species of conservation concern on William E. Crawford CA.

Strategy 1: Monitor the populations of all listed species every 10 years or more often, as needed, to maintain current records in MDC's Heritage Database. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 4: Manage and enhance upland forests.

Strategy 1: As time allows inventory and review current forest areas for the possibility of enhancing them via thinning or other forest management techniques. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Utilize best management practices during all forest management activities, as described in MDC's manuals *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice: Recommended Practices for Missouri Forests* (MDC, 2014b) and the *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines: Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests* (MDC, 2014a) specifically to benefit Missouri species of conservation concern. (Forestry, Wildlife)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) The William E. Crawford CA contains 0.55 miles of stream frontage along the Des Moines River. Along eastern portions of the stream frontage there is a small bottomland strip of land that makes foot access to this area possible. To the west, foot access along the stream frontage is possible, but much more difficult to walk because of multiflora rose and rock bluffs. Establishing river access for the public to launch watercraft is desired but is not practical since the terrain presents challenges that would inhibit this type of development.

Management Objective 1: Maintain a forested corridor along all streams on the area.

Strategy 1: Maintain a forested corridor through natural regeneration or planting. A minimum width of 200 feet from top of bank will be maintained along the Des Moines River. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: All management activities on William E. Crawford CA will follow the *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands Managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation* (MDC, 2009). (Forestry)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) William E. Crawford CA provides public use opportunities, including fishing, hunting, trapping, and bird watching.
- 2) Provide public access to the area. A parking lot and entrance road were built in summer of 2017 for public access.
- 3) There is a service road dissecting the area from the parking lot to the northwest corner of the property.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area boundaries.

Strategy 1: Post boundary signs and check area boundaries every five years. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Provide the public with access to hunting and nature viewing opportunities on the area.

Strategy 1: Maintain parking lot and gravel roadside to MDC's Level 1 maintenance standards. (Forestry)

Management Objective 3: Inform public about area regulations.

Strategy 1: Maintain signs according to MDC policy. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Maintain accurate and timely information on MDC's public website. Review information annually. (Forestry)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Due to the steep bluffs along the Des Moines River on the area, there is no possibility of constructing a concrete boat ramp for public access to the river.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	Fiscal Year																									
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	
Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations																										
<i>Objective 1</i>																										
Strategy 1		X			X			X			X			X			X			X			X			
Public Use Management Considerations																										
<i>Objective 1</i>																										
Strategy 1					X					X					X					X						X

APPENDICES

Area Background:

William E. Crawford CA was deeded to the Conservation Commission in 2016 according to William E. Crawford’s will following his passing.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area	Miles
Forest and Woodland	70	80	
Openland	11	12	
Grassland (non-prairie)	6	7	
Parking Lots, Roads, and Adjacent Mowed Areas	1	1	
Total	88	100	
Stream Frontage			0.55

Public Input Summary:

The draft William E. Crawford Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period April 1-30, 2019. MDC received no comments during this time period.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2009). *Watershed and stream management guidelines for lands and waters managed by Missouri Department of Conservation*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014a). *Missouri forest management guidelines: Voluntary recommendations for well-managed forests*. Jefferson City, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014b). *Missouri watershed protection practice recommended practices for Missouri forests: 2014 management guidelines for maintaining forested watersheds to protect streams*. Jefferson City, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Easement Map with Topography

Figure 3: Land Cover Map

Figure 1: Area Map

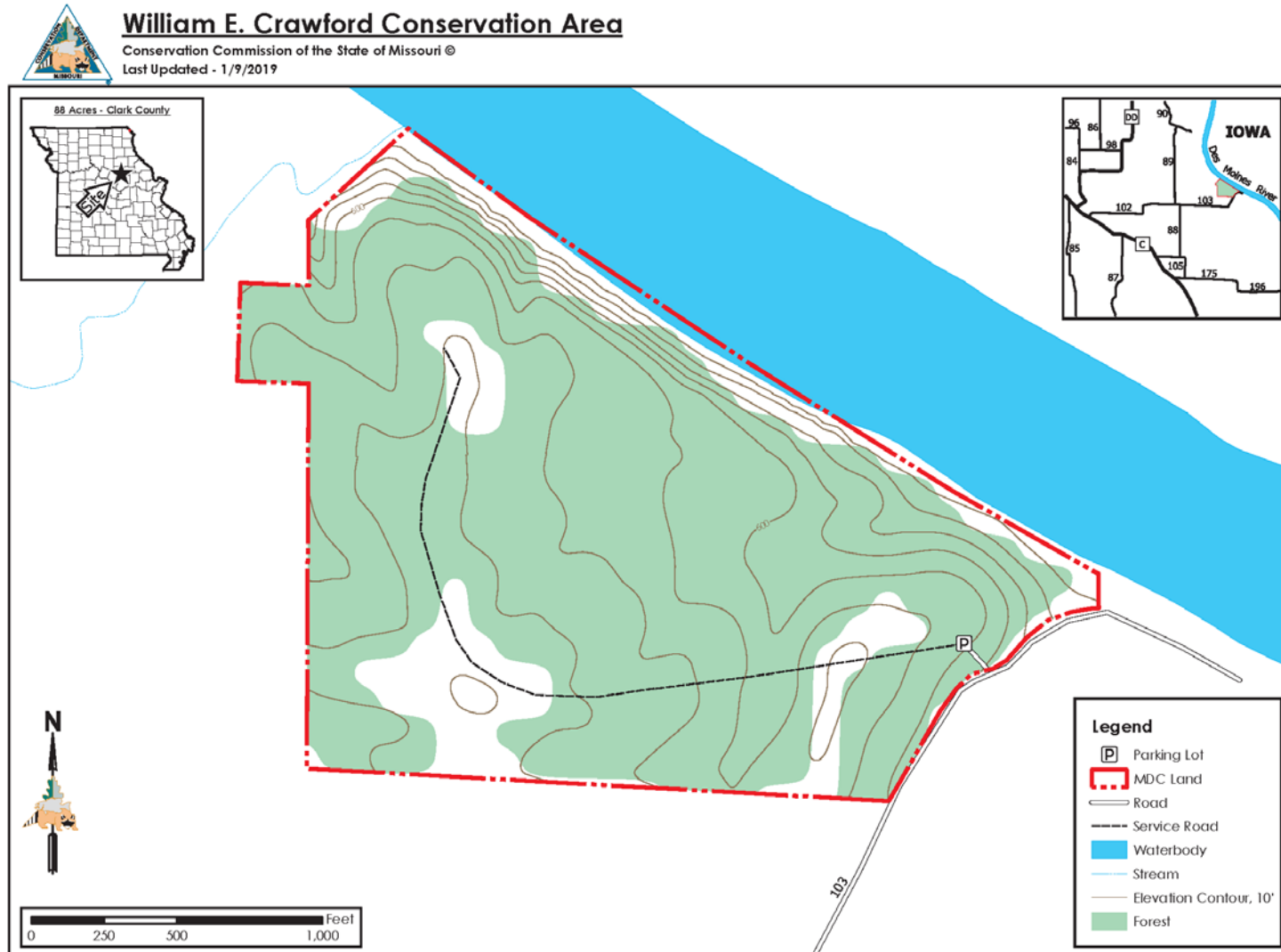


Figure 2: Aerial Easement Map with Topography

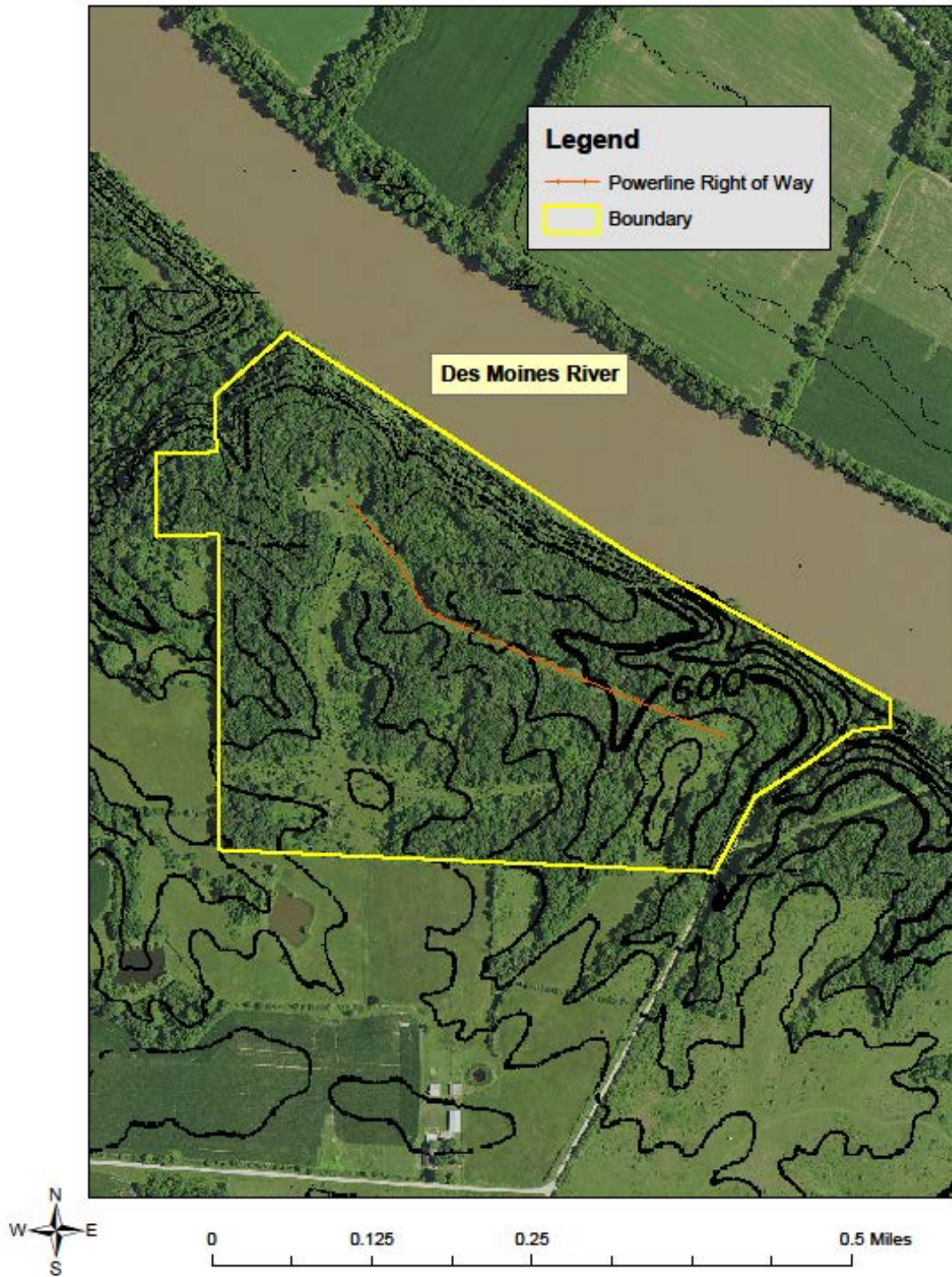


Figure 3: Land Cover Map

