

Recreational Opportunities

Bird watching - Outdoor Photography -
Wildlife Viewing - Hiking

Conservation Areas are closed from 10 P.M. to 4 A.M. Gates at the scenic overlook and trailhead will be opened at 8 A.M daily and will be closed at 5:30 P.M. from Oct. 15 to Mar. 15 and at 7:30 P.M. from Mar. 16 to Oct. 14.

- Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area is a wildlife refuge. No hunting is allowed.
- No littering.
- No fireworks allowed.
- No open fires.
- Dogs must be leashed or confined.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal use. On areas designated by the Conservation Commission as Missouri Natural Areas, taking edible wild greens is prohibited. Cutting or removing other vegetation is prohibited.
- Unlicensed motor vehicles are prohibited. Motor vehicles are allowed on public roadways and in parking areas.
- Horseback riding is not allowed.
- Camping is not allowed.
- Bicycling is allowed only on the parking area. Bicycling is not allowed on hiking trails.
- Target shooting is not allowed.
- Area closed to trapping.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing and frogging are allowed under statewide regulations.

Hunting and Trapping

No hunting or trapping opportunities on the area.

Driving Directions

The parking lot for the scenic overlook and trailhead is located on the east side of highway 376 about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile Northwest from the intersection of highway 376 and 76 Country Boulevard. To access the Homesteaders Trail from the parking lot on the north side of the area, turn right out of the scenic overlook parking lot, follow 376 for 1.7 miles, turn right onto Old 76 road, follow Old 76 road and stay right at the intersection to turn onto Noland road, stay on Noland road until it becomes Sycamore Church road, follow Sycamore Church road until it crosses Roark creek. A gravel parking lot will be on your right after you cross Roark Creek. The trail begins on the opposite side of the creek from the parking lot, across the bridge.

For local information, contact:

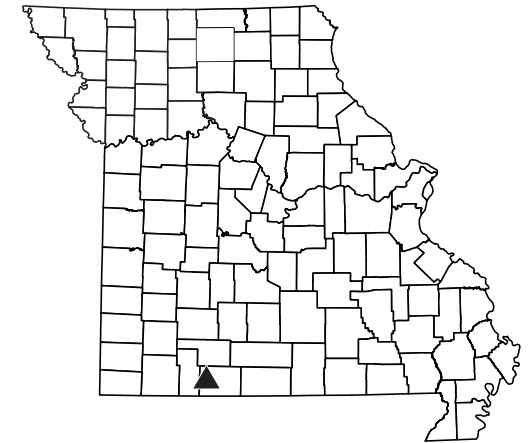
Missouri Department of Conservation
Branson Forestry Office
226 Claremont Dr.
Branson, MO 65616
(417) 334-3324

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

10/2021

(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/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, national origin, sex, age 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 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

Ruth and Paul Henning CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Trail Information

The 1.1 mile long Glade Trail leads from the Hwy 376 parking lot across Boulder Bald and into Dewey Cove, taking one hour to complete. An overlook deck lies on the Glade Trail within the natural area. An optional 0.4 mile loop off of this trail is called the Streamside Trail.

A 0.4 mile long asphalt trail leads from the Hwy 376 parking lot to a 40-foot viewing tower atop Dewey Bald, which provides an excellent view of the scenic White River Hills.

The 3.4 mile Henning Homesteaders trail is a loop trail that takes visitors past the remains of several homestead sites on the north side of the area. The trail is accessible from Sycamore Log Church Road and takes about three hours to complete.

The 0.3 mile Shane's Shortcut connects the Homesteader's Trail to the Streamside Trail.

Homesteaders Trail Informational Stops

1. Sycamore-The bleached white, upper branches of a Sycamore tree (*Platanus occidentalis*) is an easy way to identify it, even from a distance. A row of white trees in a hollow usually indicates the presence of water. Many homesteaders and travelers relied on these trees to guide them to much needed, and often scarce, water.

2. Stewart Store-The store that once stood in this spot, owned by George Stewart, was housed in a large, two story building and served as a center for trading and socializing. Neighbors not only bought goods they needed at the store, but they also could trade their surplus goods. Most of the surplus goods were shipped to Springfield for sale. During a record flood in 1906, water gushed down the creek and destroyed the store. The concrete wall was built about 1920 to keep this from happening again. Ironically, it was a fire in the late 1920s that forced the store to close its doors for the final time.

3. Cox Home-These are the remains of the original home of James Cox. James Cox, a

Union veteran of the Civil War, was listed as one of the Cox children in the 1840 census of this township. In the 1870 census James Cox, 38, and his wife Ann, 33, had eight children ages 2 to 15. Their homestead had a small corral and a hand dug well located near the house.

4. Pole Barn-This spot once contained a pole barn that was built by Mr. Highford in the 1920s after he purchased the Cox home.

5. Eastern Red Cedar-Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) is common in Southwest Missouri. The American Eagle Pencil Company, among others, harvested most of the cedar in this area from 1945-1948. During the great depression, cedars were important to the local economy. Men would cut cedar posts and haul them to the Gretna Railroad (near the charcoal plant on the Shepherd of the Hills Expressway) for only a penny a post. Eastern Red Cedar is still harvested to this day. The aromatic wood is desirable for its appearance and resistance to rot.

6. Jones House-The rock piles located just off the trail are the remains of two fireplaces, one at each end of the house. During an interview, Willard Jones related the story of his father being born in this house on September 30, 1872.

7. Isaacs Place-This spot marks the house of Reuben J. Issacs. Issacs was the temporary sheriff of Taney County from July 18-September 1, 1889. He was appointed after Sheriff Galba Branson was shot to death by Baldknobbers during a picnic on July 4, 1889.

8. Native Pine-The pine trees located at the end of this short trail offshoot are Shortleaf Pines. Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*) is the only pine native to Missouri. Once a dominant tree community over much of the Ozarks, many were harvested for lumber and railroad ties in the early 1900s. Today, Missouri has an estimated 500,000 acres of Shortleaf Pine. This number is considerably lower than the estimated 6.6 million acres that we had in Missouri at the time of early European settlement.

9. Well-This hand dug well was probably a part of the Isaacs homestead. Most wells in

the area were dug until a dependable water supply was struck, seldom more than 30 feet deep. Digging a well by hand in this country was quite a feat of engineering and strength. As the well was dug, the walls were lined with precisely placed rocks to prevent a cave in.

10. Waterfall-This beautiful formation is the result of thousands of years of erosion. Like most of Missouri, the bedrock here is made up of layers of limestone or dolomite, which is easily carved by water.

11. Glade-Glades are open grassy areas commonly found on southern slopes. The unique blend of desert and prairie conditions result in a wide variety of plants and animals not usually associated with the Midwest. Although the glade is a harsh environment, it is also very fragile because of the thin soil. Cedars are an aggressive invader of glades with many are now covered with cedar trees. This particular glade has been managed by the conservation department with prescribed fire to maintain its openness and native grasses.

12. Newt Cox Place-Newt Cox owned 160 here and built a house around 1900. You can still see some of the cut rock used in the house foundation. Penmillie, Newt's wife, was the first Postmaster of Garber, Missouri.

13. Old Field-These cedar posts and remains of fence mark the entrance to an old field. As you continue, you will be walking down the road that lay between these two posts and lead to other homesteads. These remains are a reminder of the hard work and tenacity the people who homesteaded here had to possess.

14. Shelton Place-This marks the location of the homeplace of Polly Ann Shelton. Shelton married Tim Hawkins in 1898. The family not only had a hand dug well, but also put up a retaining wall just downhill of the well to pool some of the water from a natural spring.

Information compiled by MDC with the assistance of Mr. Willard Jones and The White River Valley Historical Society.