

Hunting and Trapping

Area is open to hunting under statewide regulations, and during the youth deer and turkey seasons. The following special regulations also apply.

- Deer and turkey regulations are subject to annual changes. Please refer to Spring Turkey or Fall Deer and Turkey booklets for current regulations.
- Area Daily Hunting Tags are available at each parking lot. All hunters should possess these tags while hunting on the area and should leave them upon completion of their hunting.
- Only portable stands are allowed from Sept. 1 through Jan. 31. Unattended stands must be plainly labeled on durable material with the full name and address, or Conservation Number, of the owner and be removed from the area by Feb. 1st. Use of nails, screw-in steps, and any material or method that would damage the tree is prohibited.
- Trapping allowed only with a special use permit. Visit our website for more information.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.
- Decoys and blinds are permitted but must be disassembled and removed daily. Blinds may not be constructed on-site from woody vegetation except for willows (*Salicaceae* spp.).

Nearby Conservation Areas

Franklin Island Conservation Area
Diana Bend Conservation Area
Moniteau Creek Conservation Area

For local information, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
3500 E Gans Rd
Columbia, MO 65201
(573) 815-7900

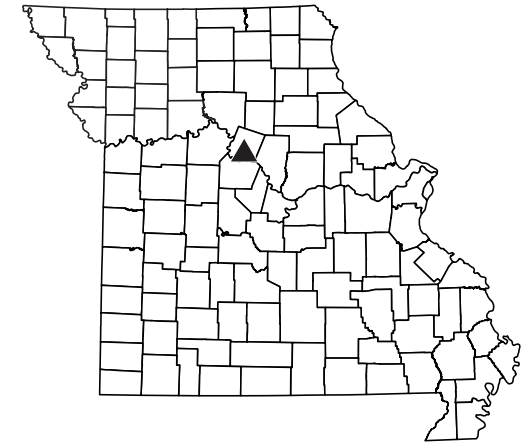
Visit us at:

www.mdc.mo.gov

*Additional area information is posted on our website
and on bulletin boards located in parking areas.*

Davisdale

CONSERVATION AREA



12/2021

(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.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



About this Area

From Columbia) Take I-70 west to Highway 40, continue west on 40 for 12 miles and watch for area sign.

Davisdale Conservation Area is in Howard County, 15 miles west of Columbia and seven miles east of Boonville on Highway 40. This 2,701-acre area features over 800 acres of riverhills timber and woodlands, which includes pecan and walnut, large tracts of warm and cool-season grasses, interspersed with old fields, legumes and shrubs. A variety of crops are planted in rotation on about 300 acres of the area. Grain is left unharvested as winter food for wildlife. The area contains at least three Indian mounds. Davisdale features a series of scenic limestone bluffs carved by the Missouri River, which now flows 1.5 miles away. Before its purchase by the Conservation Department in 1981, Davisdale was one of the larger single-family holdings in Howard County. It was actually a collection of several small farms, with more than a dozen homes. Bricks for some of the structures were cast from clay mined on the area. The early English settlers maintained livestock and planted wheat, oats and corn, as well as tobacco, in the

deep loess soils. At one time, Howard County led the state in tobacco production. Soil conservation practices, including contour terraces, catch basins and limited tillage, instituted by the early settlers are still practiced today. Legumes and native grasses are planted to control erosion and replace less desirable grasses, such as tall fescue.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching – Fishing – Hiking – Hunting – Outdoor Photography – Wildlife Viewing

Rules and Regulations

Open for public use from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, dog training, launching and landing boats allowed 24 hours a day on areas these activities are permitted.

- Groups of more than 10 people and some special activities may require a special use permit. Please visit our website for more information.
- Camping is allowed anytime in designated camping areas shown on map. These may or may not have defined campsites. Seasonal closures and restrictions may apply. Trailers are restricted to gravel parking areas. Groups of more than 10 campers require a special use permit. Campers are limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period.
- Bicycles allowed on designated service roads year-round. Service roads can be located at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>
- Bicycles and horses allowed on public roadways year-round.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, edible wild greens and mushrooms may be taken for personal use.
- Digging roots is prohibited.
- Pets and hunting dogs are permitted but must be on a leash or confined at all time. Hunting dogs may be used off the leash and unconfined for hunting and training purposes. A hunting permit is required to train dogs in pursuit of wildlife.

- Vehicles are restricted to public roadways and parking lots unless otherwise allowed by area regulations.
- Target shooting not allowed.
- Use of fireworks is prohibited.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing and frogging are permitted under statewide regulations. The following special regulations also apply.

- For more information on fishing creeks and streams, refer to A Summary of Missouri Fishing Regulations publication.
- Boats are allowed. Only electric motors are permitted on lakes and ponds of less than seventy (70) acres and boats may not be left unattended overnight.

