

## Fishing and Boating

*Fishing and frogging are allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions.*

- Refer to Fishing Regulations summary for daily and possession limit regulation differences for streams and impoundments (ponds, lakes, and scour holes are all considered impoundments).
- In lakes and ponds, daily limits are catfish in the aggregate (channel catfish, blue catfish, flathead catfish), four (4); black bass, six (6); crappie, thirty (30); and all other fish, statewide limits, but not to exceed twenty (20) in the aggregate. On lakes and ponds, black bass more than twelve inches (12") but less than fifteen inches (15") total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.
- Electric motors only are allowed.
- Boats may not be left unattended overnight.
- For more information on fishing creeks and streams, refer to A Summary of Missouri Fishing Regulations.

## Hunting and Trapping

*Hunting is allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions.*

- Deer and turkey regulations are subject to annual changes. Please refer to Spring Turkey or Fall Deer and Turkey Booklets for current regulations.
- Decoys and blinds are permitted but must be disassembled and removed daily. Blinds may be constructed on-site only from willows (Salicaceae) and nonwoody vegetation.
- Only portable stands are allowed from September 1 through January 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 February 1st. Use of nails, screw-in steps, and any material or method that would damage the tree is prohibited.

- Trapping allowed only with special use permit.
- Visit our website for more information.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.

### Nearby Conservation Area

Prairie Home Conservation Area  
Plowboy Bend Conservation Area  
Roger and Viola Smith Conservation Area

### For local information, contact:

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

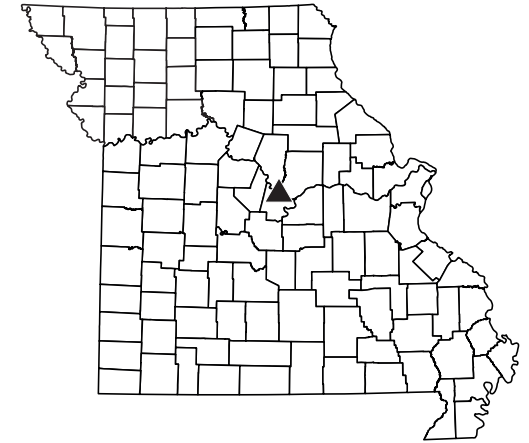
### Visit us at:

[www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov)

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

# Marion Bottoms

## 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](http://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

Marion Bottoms is unusual in that it has no flood protection. When the Missouri River floods; water flows onto the 2,997 acre area. The flooded area serves as a relief valve which reduces local flood heights and durations, benefiting society and adjacent agricultural lands and riverside communities.

The connection of the Missouri River to its floodplain also benefits fish and wildlife habitat, including bottomland forests, sloughs, seasonal wetlands and open areas. Floodwaters replenish wetlands, create high-flow channels and scour holes, and deposit sand, silt and debris. These floodplain habitats nourish a diversity of fish and wildlife, including migratory waterfowl and songbirds.

Marion Bottoms offers a great experience for area users who prefer limited vehicle access. Walk-in area users can walk as far as their energy and ambitions allow on 13 miles of mowed paths and levees that are closed to vehicle travel. In addition, nearby Marion Access and Hartsburg Access provide boat-in access to the area's more remote corners that adjoin 5.5 miles of Missouri River and three miles of Moniteau Creek.

The purchase of Marion Bottoms in 1996 included an existing federal Emergency Wetland Reserve Program (EWRP) easement. The permanent easement is designated to promote, protect and enhance wetland functions. Any developments that interfere with wetland functions are prohibited.

## Vehicle Access

A 2.5 mile field road has been opened on a seasonal basis to provide public vehicle access to Marion Bottoms. Because field-road maintenance is limited, the field road should be considered unimproved and portions of the road may at times be

impassable due to wet areas, high-water crossings, silt, sand, debris, ruts or tree limbs. Conditions may not allow passage for vehicles with low clearance or poor traction. The entire road or portions of the road may be temporarily or permanently closed if road conditions are impassable due to rainfall, river flood events, poor road surface or abuses to area rules and resources such as off-road vehicle travel or illegal activities.

Field roads are permitted for access on EWRP tracts. Improvements such as road ditches, raised road beds, culverts or rock road surface are not permitted on field roads because they have the potential to alter or interfere with drainage, hydrology and wetland functions for which the EWRP easement was intended.

## Field Road Regulations

- Open May 15-September 15
- Open daylight hours only
- 15 mph speed limit
- Vehicles permitted only on designated field road (see map)
- No ATV's or motorcycles
- No off-road vehicle travel
- No vehicle-pulled trailers

## Field Road Conditions – Proceed at Own Risk

- Limited maintenance
- Unimproved one-lane road surface
- May be impassable for low-clearance or poor-traction vehicles (4-wheel drive recommended)
- Road may contain wet areas, high-flow channel crossings, mudholes, ruts, sand areas and debris

## Recreational Opportunities

*Bird Watching – Camping – 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 where 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. No amenities are provided. Seasonal closures and restrictions may apply. Groups of more than 10 campers require a special use permit. Campers are limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period.
- Camping is allowed by Missouri River boat travelers within 100 yards of the river between April 1 and September 30. Same rules apply.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, edible wild greens and mushrooms may be taken for personal use.
- Digging roots is prohibited.
- 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.
- Those wanting to ride horses on designated service roads must obtain a special use permit. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov) to learn more.
- Free running pets are not allowed. 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.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Use of fireworks is prohibited.
- Guiding for pay is prohibited.