

## Fishing and Boating

*The area offers no opportunities for fishing or boating. The following special regulations also apply.*

- Taking of bullfrogs and green frogs allowed per statewide regulations.
- For more information on fishing creeks and streams, refer to A Summary of Missouri Fishing Regulations.

## Hunting and Trapping

*Area is open to hunting 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.
- 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.



## Nearby Department Areas

Clifty Creek Conservation Area  
Clifty Creek Natural Area  
Bell Chute Access  
Canaan Conservation Area  
Rinquelin Trail Lake Conservation Area

## For local information, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation  
USDA Service Center  
1315 East Main  
Linn, MO 65051  
(573) 897-3797

OR

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)

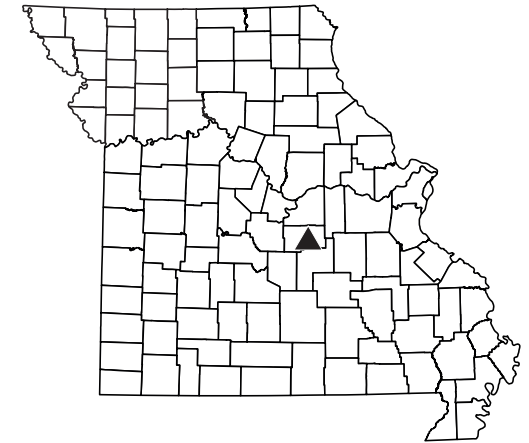
*Additional area information is posted on our website and on bulletin boards located in parking lots and area offices.*

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.

# Spring Creek Gap

## CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## About this Area

Located 4 miles north of Vichy on Old Highway 63.

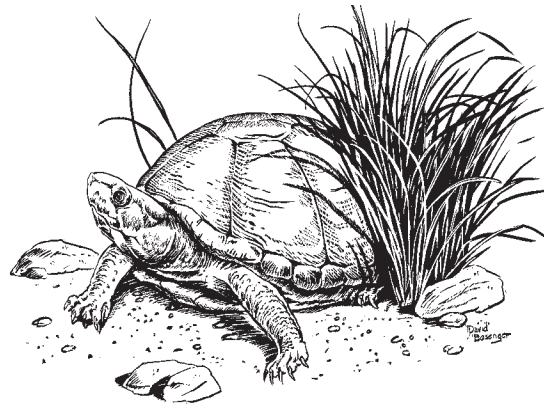
Spring Creek Gap Conservation Area is in Maries County, approximately 10 miles southeast of Vienna and 14 miles north of Rolla on old Highway 63. This 1,816-acre area was acquired in three parts, starting with the 1948 purchase of a 280-acre parcel known as the Vichy Towersite. The Conservation Department purchased an additional 1,495 acres in 1978 from Dr. A.W. Strickle and added a 40-acre tract in 1980.

Spring Creek Gap, with its combination of forests, woodlands, steep topography, dolomite glades and old fields, is an extremely scenic area, especially during the fall color change. The forest has a nice display of spring wildflowers in the ravines. Cedar Creek, an intermittent stream, bisects the area. In 1982, 40 acres on Spring Creek Gap Conservation Area was designated Natural Area and in 2007 the Natural Area was expanded to 692 acres and named Spring Creek Gap Glades Natural Area. Yellow coneflowers, silky asters and blazing stars are some of the colorful plants growing in the natural area. The majority of the forest is made up of oak and hickory in dry dolomite woodlands. White and black oak predominate on rich north and east slopes of the area, and post oak, chinquapin oak, blackjack oak, and eastern red cedar mark woodlands and glades. A planting of shortleaf pine may be seen along old Highway 63.

The area features numerous glades, ranging in size from less than one acre to over 10 acres. The natural openings, which occur on low quality soil, harbor remnant prairie plants and provide forage for wildlife.

Long term management efforts include opening up overgrown glades and woodlands which will increase the acreage of and diversity of prairie plants. During your visit to the area, you may view various natural resource management practices

designed to improve wildlife habitat, maintain watershed quality, restore natural communities, and enhance tree growth and species composition. Watch the areas that have been disturbed as they revegetate through the years. You will find some sites becoming more open with greater ground flora and some better timber quality developing. Wildlife habitat management practices include the creation of watering ponds; shallow water developments which will provide habitat for reptiles and amphibians and woodland thinning followed by prescribed burning to open up the woodland canopy.



## Recreational Opportunities

*Bird Watching – Camping – 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 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. These may or may not have defined campsites. Seasonal closures and restrictions may

apply. Walk-in/backpack camping is allowed. No amenities are provided. Stays are limited to a period of fourteen (14) consecutive days in any thirty (30)-day period. Groups of more than 10 campers require a special use permit.

- Bicycles allowed on designated service roads year-round. Service roads can be located at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>
- Bicycles are not allowed on service roads where they pass through designated natural areas. Foot traffic is welcome.
- Vehicles are restricted to public roadways and parking lots unless otherwise allowed by area regulations.
- 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.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, edible wild greens and mushrooms may be taken for personal use; however, taking wild greens is not permitted in the designated Natural Area.
- Target shooting not allowed.

