



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

## 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)

# Rocky Fork Lakes

## 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

The Rocky Fork Lakes Conservation Area is located in Boone County approximately six miles north of Columbia on Highway 63 and one-half mile east on Peabody road. A ramp has been installed for boating access to the large lake, and a fishing dock designed for wheelchair access is located on the big lake's north shore. The areas firearms shooting ranges receives year-round use. Because the area is located near Columbia, its 2200 acres are heavily used by many people for many types of outdoor activities. There are over 60 lakes or ponds, which have a total surface area of 116 acres. The largest lake is over 50 acres. In addition, there are over 30 smaller (less than 1 acre) pools, some of which hold water the entire year. The Area was purchased by the Department in March, 1979 for a purchase price of \$379,000. Prior to acquisition, the land was owned and mined by Peabody Coal Company, beginning in 1963 and continuing until 1972. The terrain is extremely rugged due to strip mining, which occurred prior to acquisition by the Department. The mined area has broad ridge tops and generally steep slopes. Approximately 1,150 acres were strip mined with the balance of the acreage being oak-hickory forest and remnant prairie. One field of 25 acres is mainly bluestem prairie. Approximately 70% of the strip mined area has been planted with a mixture of trees and shrubs. The remaining areas were seeded with fescue which developed into excellent ground cover, but is not favorable for wildlife. In 2008, a joint effort between Missouri DNR and MDC completed a 40 acre reclamation project to protect water quality and restore habitat. Approximately 32 acres of coal mining wastes were amended and reseeded in native grasses. The area has a history of grazing and has been row cropped where possible. No evidence exists to show that the landowners excluded their timber from grazing. There is evidence that fires of moderate intensity occurred periodically throughout the timbered stands.

## 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, dog training, launching and landing boats allowed 24 hours a day on areas where these activities are permitted.*

- The shooting range is monitored by a safety and maintenance technician and open during the following hours:

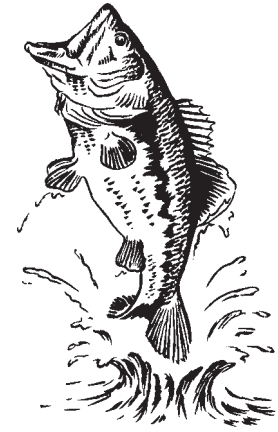
### Summer hours:

April – September  
Wednesday – Sunday  
12 p.m.– 6 p.m.

### Winter hours:

October – March  
Wednesday – Sunday  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- 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 prohibited on the area.
- Bicycles allowed on designated service roads year-round. Service roads can be located at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>
- 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.
- Waste containers may be used only for disposal of garbage, trash, refuse, or rubbish generated on department areas.
- Vehicles are restricted to public roadways and parking lots unless otherwise allowed by area regulations.
- Use of fireworks is prohibited.



## Fishing and Boating

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

- On impounded waters, daily limits are six black bass, four catfish in the aggregate (channel, blue and flathead catfish), and 30 crappie. All other fish are not to exceed 20 in the aggregate.
- All black bass between 12 and 15 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.
- On lakes and ponds fish may be taken only with pole and line and not more than (3) poles may be used by one (1) person at any time.
- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited in lakes and ponds.
- Seining or trapping live bait is permitted in streams.
- Only electric motors are permitted on lakes and ponds of less than 70 acres.
- For more information on fishing creeks and streams, refer to A Summary of Missouri Fishing Regulations.