

Recreational Opportunities

Bicycling – Fishing – Hiking – Hunting –

Outdoor Photography – Wildlife Viewing

Conservation Areas are closed from 10:00 pm to 4:00 am except for authorized camping, fishing and hunting activities. Parking or storing watercraft or commercial vehicles on department areas during closed hours is prohibited.

- Group of more than 10 people and some special activities may require a special use permit. Please visit our website for more information.
- Bicycles allowed on multi-use trails and designated service roads year-round. Multi-use trails and service roads can be located at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>
- Camping is allowed on or adjacent to all area parking lots. No unattended open campfires allowed. Groups of more than 10 campers require a special use permit. Stays limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period.
- Walk-in/backpack camping is allowed EXCEPT during all firearms deer and turkey seasons. Same rules apply.
- Vehicles are restricted to public roadways and parking lots unless otherwise allowed by area regulations.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal use.
- Dogs must be leashed or confined when not being trained or used for hunting. A hunting permit is required to train dogs in pursuit of wildlife.
- No target shooting allowed.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing is permitted under statewide regulations. The following special regulations also apply.

- All black bass between 12 and 15 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught. Daily and possession limits are:

	Daily	Possession
Largemouth bass	6	12
Channel catfish	4	20
Crappie	30	60
All other fish combined	20	40

- On all area ponds, fish may be taken only by pole and line and no more than three poles and lines may be used by any one person.
- Only electric motors are permitted on impounded waters.

Hunting and Trapping

Area is open to hunting under statewide regulations. The following special regulations also apply.

- Deer and turkey regulations are subject to annual changes. Please refer to the Spring Turkey or Fall Deer and Turkey booklets for current regulations.
- Only portable tree stands may be placed or used and only between Sept. 1 and Jan. 31. Each stand must be identified with the name and address of the user or conservation number and must be removed from the area by Feb. 1. Use of nails or other materials that would damage the tree is prohibited.
- Decoys and portable blinds are permitted but must be removed from the area daily. Blinds may be constructed on-site, but only from willows and non-woody vegetation.
- Trapping of furbearers allowed only with a special use permit. Visit our website for more information.
- Trail and game cameras prohibited.

For local information, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
3500 S. Baltimore
Kirksville, MO 63501
(660) 785-2420
www.mdc.mo.gov

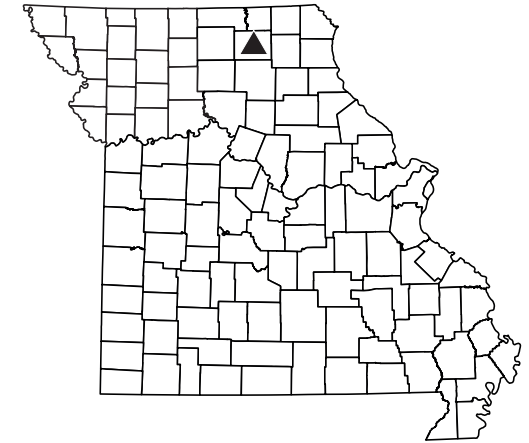
Additional area information is posted on our website and on bulletin boards located in parking areas and area offices.

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/5csr/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.

Big Creek

CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION