

Hunting & 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.
- Only portable tree stands are allowed from September 1 through January 31. Unattended stands must be plainly labeled or on a 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, or 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.
- Decoys and blinds are permitted but must be disassembled and removed daily. Blinds may be constructed on-site only from willows (*Salicaceae*) and non-woody vegetation.
- Non-toxic shot is required for all hunting with shotguns.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.



Nearby Conservation Areas
Marion Bottoms Conservation Area
Plowboy Bend Conservation Area
Roger & Viola Smith Conservation Area

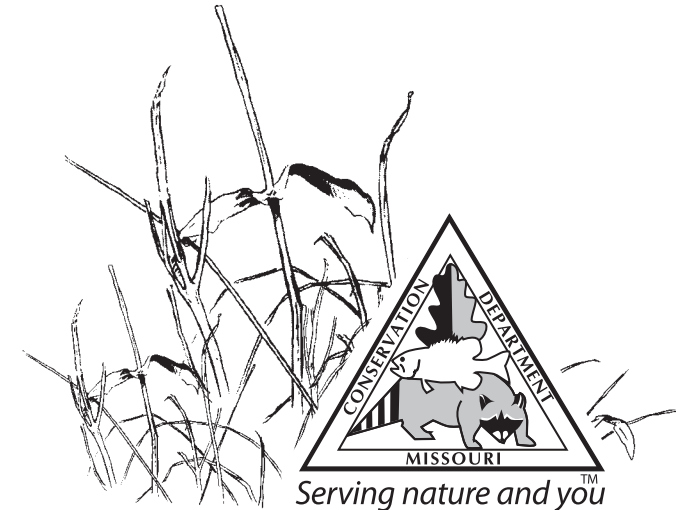
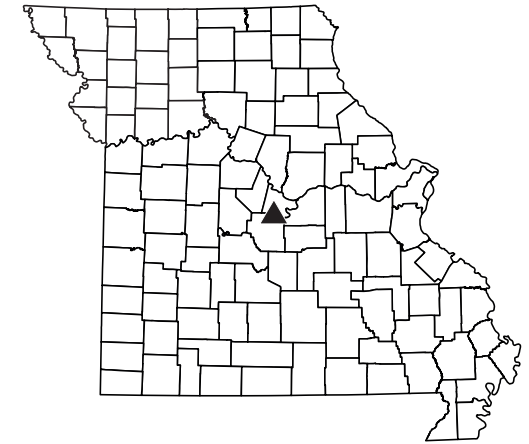
For local information, contact:
Missouri Department of Conservation
3500 East Gans Road
Columbia, MO 65201
(573)815-7900

Visit us at:
www.mdc.mo.gov

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

Church Farm

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 Jefferson City, proceed north on Highway 179 approximately 6 miles. Turn right (north) on Church Farm Drive. Follow the road past the buildings, down the hill and across the railroad tracks to the area parking lot.

Church Farm Conservation Area includes 1,277 acres of bottomland along the Missouri River. It was leased by the Department of Conservation beginning in 2016. Prior to that it was managed by the Department of Corrections and functioned as a working farm staffed by inmates to help provide food for the prisoners.

Levee failures during the floods of 1993 and '95 created a number of scour holes on the area. These and natural sloughs that hold water seasonally provide habitat for waterfowl and other wading birds and shorebirds. Bald eagles also nest in some of the larger cottonwoods and sycamores that grow along the Missouri River. Some of the adjacent uplands are drained by Workman's Creek, that flows through the area and empties into the Missouri River.

Efforts to create a permanent navigation channel in the Missouri River via wing dikes, dredging and bank stabilization narrowed and deepened the River into a single, stable channel. Since the River could no longer meander across the floodplain, it cut deeper instead. This lowered the water table. Sediment deposited in the floodplain during flood events was no longer carried downstream after the River returned to its channel. This accreted land built up in elevation and provided new, arable land suitable for farming so long as the River didn't flood. It is this accreted land that makes up our present-day river bottom conservation areas such as Church Farm C.A.

The area has a long history of extensive cropping.

MDC management will focus on restoring native habitats in parts of the crop fields, providing additional food resources via cropping, and providing seasonal, opportunistic wetlands for migrating wildlife.

Recreational Opportunities

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

Rules & 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

- Groups 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 designated service roads year-round. Service roads can be located at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>
- Camping is allowed by Missouri River boat travelers within 100 yards of the river between April 1 and September 30.
- 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 is prohibited.
- Use of fireworks is prohibited.
- Guiding for pay is prohibited.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing and frogging and boating are permitted under statewide regulations with the following exceptions:

- For more information on fishing creeks and streams refer to A Summary of Missouri Fishing Regulations.
- On lakes and ponds daily limits are 6 black bass and 4 catfish in the aggregate (channel, blue and flathead catfish), and 30 crappie. All other fish fall under statewide limits, but the total number taken may not exceed 20. Electric motors only are allowed
- Boats may not be left unattended overnight
- On lakes and ponds, black bass twelve inches (12") to fifteen inches (15") in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.

