

## Hunting and Trapping

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

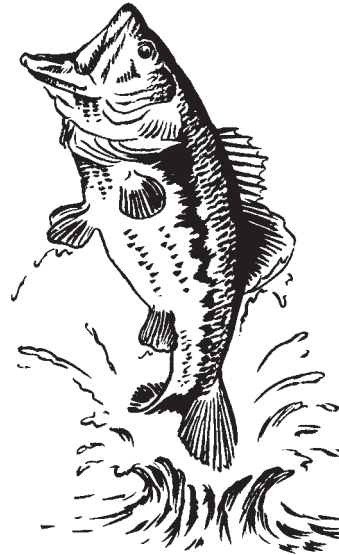
- All hunters must register at the area headquarters before hunting.
- Waterfowl hunters must have a valid daily hunting tag and may hunt only from an assigned blind or designated area.
- There is no admittance in the portions identified as "Waterfowl Refuge" during the dates listed on the area map.
- Non-waterfowl hunters are prohibited from the "Waterfowl Hunt Only Zones" during the waterfowl hunting season, unless they are properly licensed members of and remain with a party authorized to use the area.
- Waterfowl hunting is prohibited after 1 p.m. on designated portions of the area.
- Hunters must check out at area headquarters immediately after the close of their hunting trip and prior to processing their harvest.
- A drawing for blinds and units is held each morning during duck season.
- The area is closed to waterfowl hunting on Dec. 25.
- Only non-toxic shot, as defined and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, may be possessed or used while hunting, except rimfire or centerfire rifles firing single projectiles may be used when hunting small game or furbearers.
- Deer and Turkey regulations are subject to annual changes. Please refer to Spring Turkey and Fall Deer and Turkey summaries for current regulations.
- Only archery methods may be used for deer hunting.
- Portable tree stands may only be used between Sept. 1 and Jan. 31. Unattended stands must be identified with the name and address, or Conservation Number, of the user and must be removed from the area by Feb. 1. Use of screw-in steps or other materials that would damage the tree are 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.
- Furbearer trapping is permitted by special use permit.
- Trail and game cameras prohibited.

**For information, contact:**

**Duck Creek Conservation Area**  
**365 State Highway 51**  
**Puxico, MO 63960**  
**(573) 222-3337**

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

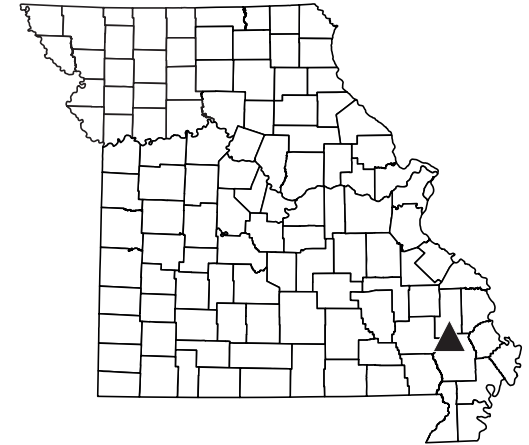


7/2024

(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.

# Duck Creek

## CONSERVATION AREA



**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**

## About this Area

Duck Creek Conservation Area is a remnant of the bottomland hardwood forest that once covered southeastern Missouri. Part of the area lies in the foothills of the Ozarks with the majority in the ancient floodplain of the Mississippi River. The 6,318-acre area contains a wide variety of habitat types and supports an abundance of plant and animal species, many of which are unique to Missouri.

The Conservation Department purchased land for Duck Creek Conservation Area in 1950 in order to establish a waterfowl hunting area in conjunction with Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. The area presently is managed to provide a diversity of food and shelter for both resident and migratory wetland wildlife. Management of the area centers upon manipulation of water levels on about 2,400 wetland acres. Open marsh areas (moist-soil units) within the wetland area are seasonally flooded and drained to provide a variety of natural foods - seeds, tubers, and insects - for waterfowl and other wildlife. The heart of the wetland system is Pool 1, a 1,800-acre man-made reservoir. It supplies water to mimic the flooding that once occurred naturally. Deep wells provide additional water for flooding.

The area's forest and scattered foodplots also provide wildlife foods. Approximately 1,500 acres of native bottomland hardwoods supply acorns and invertebrates that are eaten by dabbling ducks, turkeys, deer, and squirrels. The herbaceous wetland units are managed primarily to encourage the growth of diverse native plant communities, primarily moist-soil plants, which consist of annual species like millets, smartweeds, and sedges. Invertebrates such as crayfish, mollusks, insects, and their larvae are also abundantly produced in these wetlands, which provide an important dietary component for migrating water birds.

## RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bicycling — Bird Watching — Fishing — Hiking  
Canoeing — Hunting — Wildlife Viewing  
Camping

*Conservation Areas are closed from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. except for authorized camping, fishing, and hunting activities. Special regulations apply to the use of this area. Portions of the area close seasonally. All hunters must check in. See regulations posted at area headquarters.*

- No littering.
- No fireworks.
- Dogs must be leashed when not used for training or hunting.
- Training of hunting dogs is permitted only by holders of a valid area dog training permit during dates and hours established for this activity.
- Special use permits are required for field and retriever trials and dog training.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms, and wild greens may be taken for personal use. Cutting or removing other vegetation is prohibited.
- Vehicles are restricted to public roadways and parking lots unless otherwise allowed by area regulations.
- Bicycles and horses allowed on public roadways. Bicycles allowed on designated service roads. Seasonal restrictions apply. See Hunting and Trapping section. Service roads can be located at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>.



- Primitive camping is permitted only in designated areas on the area map and stays are limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period. Personal property must be removed at the end of the 14-day period. Total camping days on all department lands are limited to 30 days within one calendar year. Groups of 10 or more campers must obtain a special use permit.
- Target archery shooting is permitted at the archery range only.
- Swimming is not allowed.

## FISHING AND BOATING

*Fishing and frogging are allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions on impoundments:*

- Fishing is permitted in Cypress Pond year-round. The rest of the area is closed to fishing starting Oct. 15 through the last day of the prescribed duck season.
- Fish may be taken only with pole and line. Not more than three poles may be used by one person at any time.
- Carp, buffalo, suckers, and gar may be taken by atlatl, gig, bow, or crossbow when the area is open to fishing; non-game limit is 20.
- Daily limit is 6 black bass, 6 pickerel, 30 crappie, 4 catfish (includes channel, blue and flathead), and 15 warmouth. Total number of all other fish taken by rod and reel may not exceed 50 in the aggregate.
- All black bass more than 12 inches and less than 15 inches must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.
- Salvage seining of non-game fish for personal use is permitted only by special use permit.
- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited in Pool 1.
- Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken from sunset June 30 through October 14.
- Boats may be used but may not be left unattended overnight.
- Motors over 10 horsepower must be operated at a slow, no-wake speed.