

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bird Watching — Camping — Fishing
Hunting — Outdoor Photography — Wildlife Viewing

Conservation Areas are closed from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. except for authorized camping, fishing, and hunting activities.

- No littering.
- No fireworks.
- No open fires except at campsite.
- Dogs must be leashed when not used for training or hunting.
- 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 allowed on designated service roads year-round. 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 are limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period. Groups of 10 campers or more must obtain a special use permit.
- Target shooting is not allowed.
- Swimming is not allowed.
- Because water conditions fluctuate greatly with changing river levels, area users are advised to contact the Otter Slough Conservation Area office prior to their trip to the area. Unexpected deep water and hazardous conditions exist when the area is flooded, so use caution while wading and boating.

Fishing and Boating

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

- Salvage seining of non-game fish for personal use is permitted only by special use permit.
- Boats may be used but may not be left unattended overnight.

Hunting and Trapping

Hunting is allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions:

- All hunters must self check-in prior to hunting. Self check-in stations are located at each of the parking lots. Self check-in rules are posted at each of the self check-in stations.
- There is no admittance in the portions identified as “Waterfowl Refuge” during the dates listed on the area map.
- Refuge boundaries remain in effect at all river levels.

- 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 on entire area after 1 p.m. except during the Light Goose Conservation Order.
- Hunters must check out at the check-in station immediately after the close of their hunting trip and prior to processing their harvest.
- Only non-toxic shot, as defined and approved by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, may be possessed or used while hunting, except rimfire or centerfire rifles firing single projectiles may be used when hunting small game and 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 be used between Sept. 1 and Jan. 31. 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. 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 are prohibited.

For information, contact:

Otter Slough Conservation Area
7001 County Road 675
Dexter, MO 63841
(573) 624-5821

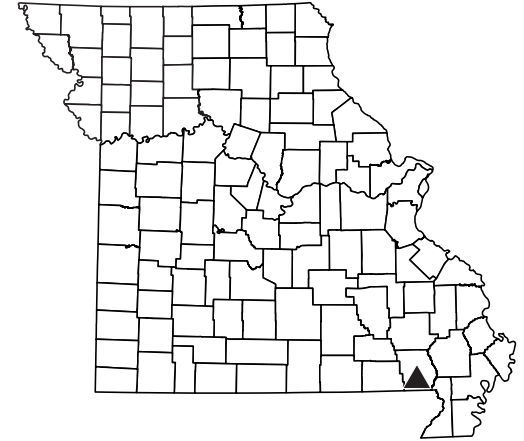
Additional area information is posted on bulletin boards located in parking areas and area offices.

6/2025

(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.

Coon Island

CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION