

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bird Watching — Fishing — Hunting

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

- All public use is prohibited, except fishing and waterfowl hunting by boat, when Mississippi River is at or above twenty-eight (28') feet on the Caruthersville Gauge.
- No littering, digging, fireworks, target shooting, open fires, swimming, scuba diving, water skiing, or speed boating.
- Vehicles are restricted to public roadways and parking lots unless otherwise allowed by area regulations.
- Do not park in front of or block gates.
- Bicycles allowed on designated service roads year-round. Service roads can be located at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>.
- Dogs must be leashed or confined 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. Taking of wild greens from locations designated as Natural Areas is prohibited.
- Camping is permitted only in designated areas and is limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period, with a total of 30 days within a calendar year. Groups of 10 or more need a special use permit.
- Feeding and baiting of wildlife prohibited.
- Guiding for pay is prohibited on department areas.

Fishing and Boating

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

- Fish may be taken only by pole and line and not more than 3 poles may be used by any person fishing in lakes (waters outside of the Mississippi River channel), and not more than 2 unlabeled poles may be used by any person when fishing the Mississippi River.
- LAKES: Statewide daily and possession limits shall apply for all species, except that: in lakes and ponds, daily limits are 4 catfish in the aggregate (channel catfish, blue catfish, flathead catfish), 6 black bass, 30 crappie; all other fish, statewide limits, but not to exceed 20 in the aggregate.
- LAKES: All black bass between 12 and 15 inches must be released immediately after being caught.
- MISSISSIPPI RIVER: When fishing the Mississippi River from Black Island, anglers are restricted to Mississippi River fishing regulations.
- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited.

- Salvage seining of non-game fish for personal use is permitted only with written authorization.
- Boats may be used for fishing and wildlife-related activities and may not be left unattended overnight.

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 and Fall Deer and Turkey summaries for current regulations.
- Only portable tree stands may be placed and used between September 1 and January 31. Unattended stands must be plainly labeled on a durable material with the full name and address, or conservation number, of the user and be removed from the area before February 1. Use of nails, screw-in steps, and any material or method 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.
- Only non-toxic shot, as defined and approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, may be possessed and used while hunting, with the exception of firearms shooting single projectiles.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.
- Furbearer trapping is permitted only by special use permit.

For information, contact:

**Missouri Department of Conservation
372 US Highway 61
New Madrid, MO 63869
(573)748-5134**

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

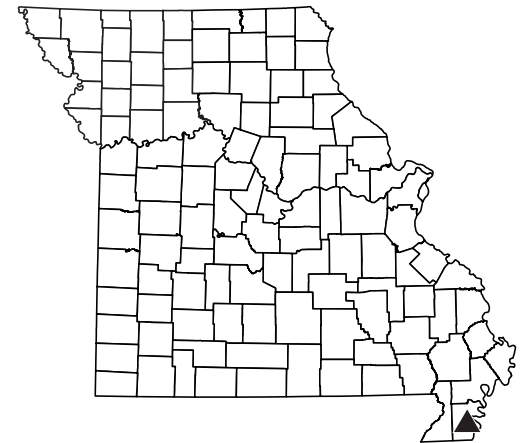
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(Regulations are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are in Chapter 11 of the Wildlife Code. A free printed copy of the Wildlife Code, which lists most area regulations, is available from the Conservation Department. Chapter 11 in its entirety is available at www.sos.mo.gov/ad/rules/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.

Black Island

**Stephen C. Bradford, Gayoso
Bend and Desoto Units**

CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION