

Caney Mountain

CONSERVATION AREA



Area Highlights

Caney Mountain Conservation Area is in Ozark County, five mile north of Gainesville. This 7,919-acre area is characterized by unusual geology, including the roughest parts of a steep range of hills. These hills are the remains of an old elevated plateau that has been dissected by several feeder streams. From area roads, visitors can view numerous prominent peaks, including Bear Cave Mountain, High Rock Mountain, Morrison Knob, Long Bald, and Tater Cave Mountain. The area also includes unique plant communities. Glades, woodlands, forest openings, and old growth forest cover the rugged terrain along the small creek bottoms. Several of the state's rare and endangered species are beign protected on the area. Caney Mountain was a stronghold of the eastern wild turkey in Missouri, even when the state population dropped to less than 40 birds. The area was acquired as a turkey refuge in 1940, and A. Starker Leopold, son of Aldo Leopold, the pioneer of modern wildlife conservation, prepared the first wildlife management plan. Prior to its purchase, the land had been repeatedly burned and had been subjected to open range grazing. The Conservation Department released 30 deer captured from what is now Drury-Mincy Conservation Area here in the fall of 1940. This area then provided both deer and turkeys to restore populations in the rest of the state.

Hunting and Trapping

Hunting is permitted under statewide regulations for all species on the North and South portions of the area.

Special Regulations may apply within the fenced (central) portion of the area as follows:

- Spring turkey hunting is permitted only to holders of a Spring Turkey Hunting Permit who have been selected to participate in one of the four managed hunts. There are managed hunts for youth, archery, and modern shotguns. Participants are selected by random computer drawing

from applications received in early spring.

- Deer hunting is permitted only to holders of a managed deer hunting permit who have been selected to participate in one of the two managed hunts. There is a managed muzzleloader hunt, and a managed archery hunt held each year for successful applicants. Participants are selected by random computer drawing from applications received before August 15 of each year.
- Fall turkey hunting is permitted under statewide regulations and seasons except during the time of managed deer hunts.
- Portable tree stands may be used between September 1 and January 31. Stands must be identified with the name and address, or conservation number of the user. Screw in steps or other materials that would damage the tree are prohibited.
- Furbearer trapping is permitted by special-use permit only.

Recreational Opportunities

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

- No littering.
- No fireworks.
- Bicycling is allowed on roads open to vehicular traffic.
- Hiking is permitted in spots designated on the area map.
- Campers are limited to 15 consecutive days in a 30 day period. Groups of 10 or more campers are required to obtain a special use permit.
- Motor vehicles are allowed on public roadways and in parking areas.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms, and wild greens may be taken for personal use. Cutting of other vegetation is prohibited. Digging of roots is prohibited on all Department areas.
- No free-running pets. Dogs must be leashed or confined when not used for training or hunting purposes.

AREA MAP



AREA INFO



Things to Do

- Bird Watching
- Camping
- Hunting
- Shooting Range
- Trails
- Viewing Platform

Nearby Areas To Visit

Sycamore Access
Warren Bridge Access
Patrick Bridge Access

Local Contact:

551 Joe Jones Blvd.
West Plains, MO 65775
417-256-7161
www.mdc.mo.gov

(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 Code. A free printed copy of the 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.) Missouri Department of Conservation is an equal opportunity provider.

CANEY MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA



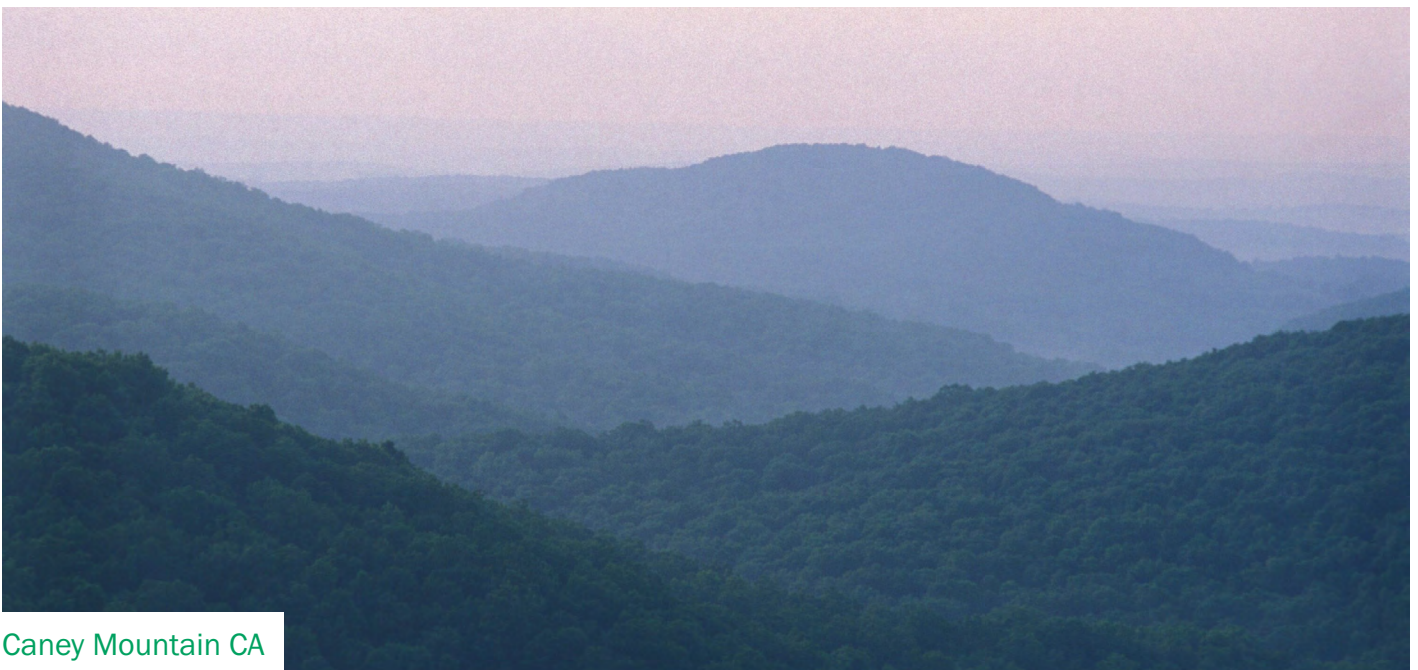
- For safety purposes, target shooting is permitted only at the shooting range.
- Guiding for pay is prohibited on all Department areas.

Fishing and Boating

Taking of crayfish is prohibited on the area.

Driving Directions

- Zone 1 (Inside the fenced portion-Old Refuge): From Gainesville, take Highway 181 north 5 miles, then Caney Mountain Refuge Drive west 0.50 mile to the area headquarters.
- Zone 2 (Outside the fenced portion): From Gainesville, go north on 5 Hwy 1 mile to CR 107, follow 2 miles to entrance.
- Zone 3 (Outside the fenced portion): From Gainesville, go north on 5 Hwy 10 miles to Hwy Y. East on Y for 2 miles until pavement ends, continue east 1.5 miles on CR 116 to the conservation area.



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