Buchanan County Conservation Areas

Agency Conservation Area
Arthur Dupree Conservation Area
Bee Creek Conservation Area
Wilfrid V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial Conservation Area
Sunbridge Hills Conservation Area
Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial Conservation Area

Ten Year Area Management Plan

FY 2014-2023

Wildlife Division Chief

7/8/15
Date

Agency, Arthur Dupree, Bee Creek, Wilfrid V. and Anna Kneib, Sunbridge Hills and Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial Conservation Areas

PLANNING TEAM

Eric Dennis, Fisheries Management Biologist

Lonnie Messbarger, Resource Forester

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NORTHWEST REGION

RCT Chair — Signature: Roger E. Wolkum — Date: 4/22/2015

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Unit Chief — Signature: Michael D. Schroer — Date: 7/6/15

OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Agency CA	9238	1991	94	Buchanan	Wildlife	Wildlife
Arthur Dupree CA	9402	1992	236	Buchanan	Wildlife	Wildlife
Bee Creek CA	2001108	2010	109	Buchanan	Wildlife	Wildlife
Wilfrid V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial CA	8604	1985	40	Buchanan	Wildlife	Wildlife
Sunbridge Hills CA	8702	1972	190*	Buchanan	Wildlife	Wildlife
Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial CA	8403	1983	40	Buchanan	Wildlife	Wildlife

* 47 acres are leased from Missouri American Water.

Statements of Purpose:

A. Strategic Direction

These areas will provide examples of sound stewardship and management of a diverse ecosystem containing cropland management, recreational opportunity development, public use, and natural resource management.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of these areas is a mixture of quality woodland and forest natural communities, diverse grasslands, and open fields benefiting wildlife, each on appropriate sites.

Agency Conservation Area

Maintain a healthy and sustainable woodland and forest, while providing recreational opportunities, public use and natural resource management. Preserve a diverse mixture of

quality native vegetation and healthy woodland and forest components to benefit the native fish and wildlife of Missouri

Arthur Dupree Conservation Area
Maintain a healthy and sustainable riparian corridor along the Missouri River, while providing recreational opportunities, public use and natural resource management. Preserve a diverse mix of woodland and forest components to benefit the native fish and wildlife of Missouri.

Bee Creek Conservation Area
This area will provide an example of sound stewardship and management of a highly altered grassland ecosystem containing cropland management, recreational opportunity development, public use, and natural resource management. Create a diverse mix of quality native vegetation and maintain healthy woodland and forest components to benefit the native fish and wildlife of Missouri.

Wilfrid V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial Conservation Area
Maintain a healthy and sustainable bottomland forest while providing recreational opportunities, public use and natural resource management. Preserve a diverse mix of quality native vegetation and healthy woodland and forest components to benefit the native fish and wildlife of Missouri

Sunbridge Hills Conservation Area
Maintain a healthy and sustainable woodland and forest, while providing recreational opportunities, public use and natural resource management. Preserve a diverse mix of quality native vegetation and healthy woodland and forest components to benefit the native fish and wildlife of Missouri.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

Area	Priority Area	Natural Area
Agency CA	None	None
Arthur Dupree CA	None	None
Bee Creek CA	None	None
Wilfrid V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial CA	None	None
Sunbridge Hills	None	None
Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial CA	None	None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs	Ponds	Streams	River
Agency CA	None	None	None	1.0 acre fishless	0.50 miles Rock Creek	0.13 Platte River
Arthur Dupree CA	None	None	None	None	None	1.75 miles Missouri River
Bee Creek CA	Yes [1]	None	None	1 fishless	None	None
Wilfrid V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial CA	None	None	None	None	None	None
Sunbridge Hills CA	Yes [1]	None	None	None	None	None
Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial CA	None	None	None	None	None	None

[1] Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.

III. Existing Infrastructure

Area	Parking Area #	Observation Deck	Trail
Agency CA	1	0	0
Arthur Dupree CA	1	0	0
Bee Creek CA	1	0	0
Wilfrid V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial CA	1	0	0
Sunbridge Hills CA	1	1	2.2 mile trail
Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial CA	0	0	0

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area	Deed Restrict-ions	Federal Interest	Easements	Cultural Resources	Hazards	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Agency CA	None	Yes[1]	None	None known	None observed	None observed	None
Arthur Dupree CA	None	Yes[1]	None	None known	None observed	None observed	None
Bee Creek CA	None	Yes[1]	Yes[2]	None known	None observed	None observed	None
Wilfrid V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial CA	None	Yes[1]	None	None known	None observed	None observed	None
Sunbridge Hills CA	Lease 47 acres from Missouri American Water	Yes[1]	Yes[3]	Yes[4]	None observed	None observed	None
Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial	None	Yes[1]	Yes[3]	Yes[4]	None observed	None observed	None

[1]Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

[2]Gas line

[3]Power and Water line

[4]Yes, records kept with the Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) Environmental Compliance Specialist. Managers should follow Best Management Practices for Cultural Resources found in the Department Resource Policy Manual.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities

1) Provide quality upland game and grassland species populations on area.
2) Provide quality deer and turkey populations on area.
3) Provide diverse mixture of quality native and annual vegetation, where appropriate.
4) Provide healthy and sustainable woodland and forest habitat on area.

Management Objective 1: Manage for quality upland game and nongame populations on areas.

Strategy 1: Increase and maintain quality woodland and open land habitat.
Strategy 2: Create and maintain soft edge habitat adjacent to open lands.

Management Objective 2: Manage for quality deer and turkey populations on areas**.**

Strategy 1: Provide diverse habitat for optimum small game, deer and turkey, as appropriate.

Management Objective 3: Manage for a diverse mixture of annual and perennial food sources.

Strategy 1: Implement annual disturbances to establish and maintain native vegetation and provide quality forage, as appropriate.
Strategy 2: Treat exotic and noxious vegetation annually.

Management Objective 4: Restore native vegetation on all areas, where appropriate.

Strategy 1: Conduct native tree and native vegetation plantings as needed to accomplish goal.

VI. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities

Provide quality infrastructure and maintain regulations to access terrestrial resources.

Management Objective 1: Maintain infrastructure and regulations to access terrestrial resources.

Strategy 1: Monitor and evaluate infrastructure and regulations annually.

Strategy 2: Maintain area accesses for multiple user groups through signage and special use permits.
Strategy 3: Mow/maintain the grassy areas around parking lots designated for primitive camping to a shorter height than what is required for parking areas not used for camping.

VII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities

Area boundaries require periodic maintenance to ensure they are clearly marked.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area boundaries.

Strategy 1: Inspect area boundaries annually.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Public Input Summary:
The draft Buchanan County Conservation Areas Management Plan was available for a public comment period July 1–31, 2014. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from one respondent (Appendix A). The Buchanan County Conservation Areas Planning Team carefully reviewed and considered these ideas as they finalized this document. A brief summary of public input themes, including how they were incorporated or why they were not, can be found below.

<u>Department responses to themes and issues identified through Buchanan County Conservation Areas public comment period</u>

Suggests the addition of equestrian trails and horse camp at Sunbridge Hills Conservation Area.
The Buchanan County Conservation Area Planning Team does not agree with the addition of equestrian trails and horse camp at Sunbridge Hills Conservation Area (CA). The small size of the area, steep topography and highly erodible loess soils are the major reasons for not considering an equestrian trail on Sunbridge Hills CA. There are equestrian trails (2 loops, 14 miles total) and camping opportunities on Honey Creek Conservation Area approximately 13 miles north of Sunbridge Hills CA.

Appendices:
Appendix 1: Agency CA Background
Appendix 2: Agency CA Map
Appendix 3: Agency CA Land Cover Map
Appendix 4: Arthur Dupree Memorial CA Background
Appendix 5: Arthur Dupree Memorial CA Map
Appendix 6: Arthur Dupree Memorial CA Land Cover Map
Appendix 7: Bee Creek CA Background
Appendix 8: Bee Creek CA Map
Appendix 9: Bee Creek CA Land Cover Map
Appendix 10: Bee Creek Gas Line Easement Map
Appendix 11: Wilfred V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial CA Background
Appendix 12: Wilfred V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial CA Map
Appendix13: Wilfred V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial CA Land Cover Map
Appendix 14: Sunbridge Hills CA and Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial Wildlife CA Background
Appendix15: Sunbridge Hills CA and Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial CA Map
Appendix 16: Sunbridge Hills CA and Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial Land Cover Map

Appendix 17: Sunbridge Hills CA Utility Easements Map
Appendix 18: Sunbridge Hills CA Leased Property
Appendix 19: Draft Buchanan County Conservation Areas Management Plan Public Comments

Appendix 1: Agency CA Background

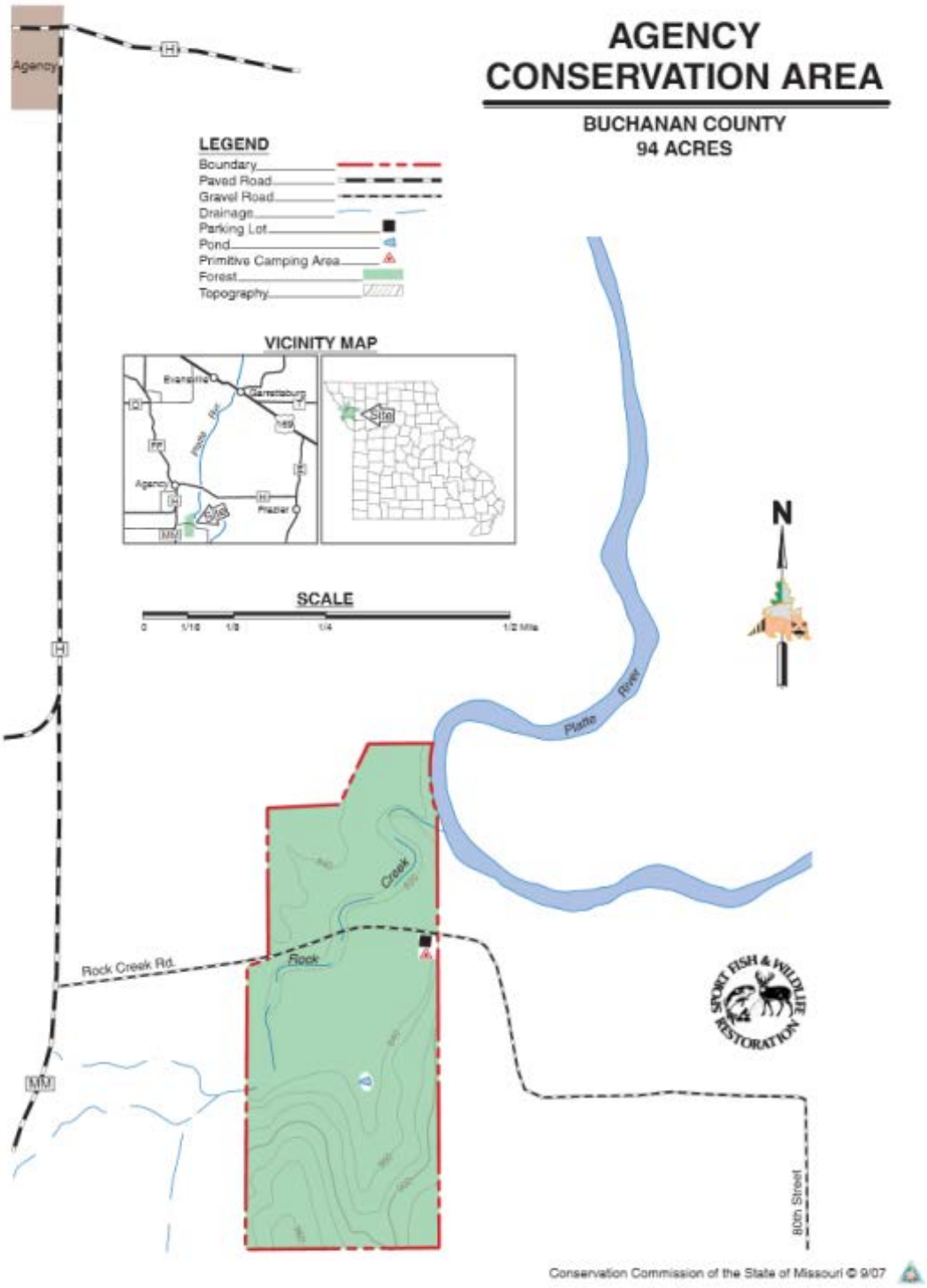
The Agency Conservation Area is located in central Buchanan County near the town of Agency. From Agency, take Highway FF/H/MM 1.5 miles south, then east 0.25 mile on Rock Creek Rd.

Agency Conservation Area was donated to the Missouri Department of Conservation in 1991. This 94 acre conservation area consists of various types of bottomland and upland hardwoods, including walnut, red oak, ash, hickory, cottonwood and sycamore in mixed-sized age classes. The area provides river access to the Platte River at the northeast corner of the property. The remainder of the area is used for a variety of outdoor activities including deer, turkey and squirrel hunting.

Current Land and Water Types

Land / Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	93		99
Lakes/ Ponds	1		1
Total	**94**		**100**
Stream Frontage		0.15	

Appendix 2: Agency CA Map



Appendix 3: Agency CA Land Cover Map

Legend

Forest/Woodland
MDC Land

Appendix 4: Arthur Dupree Memorial CA Background

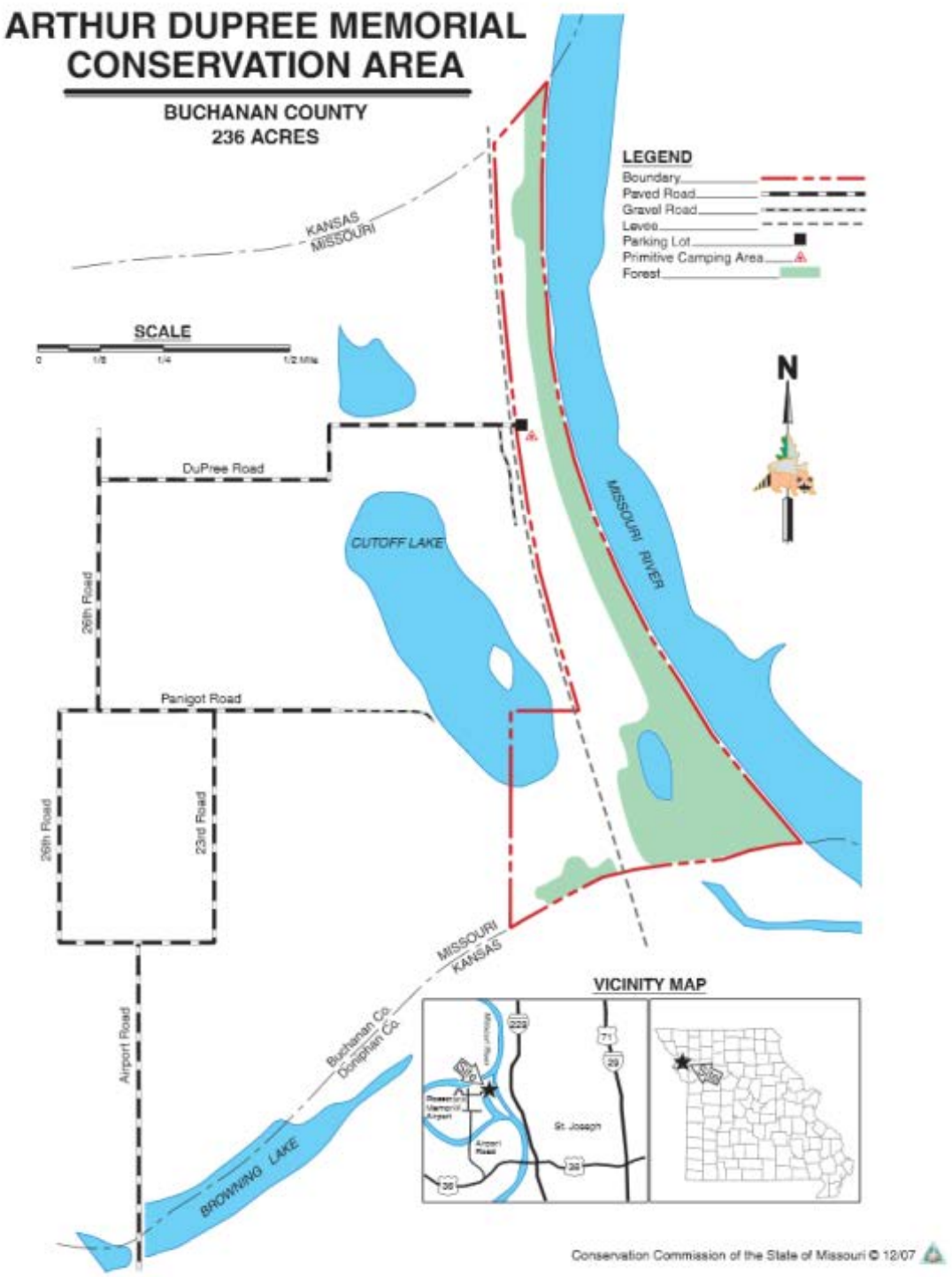
The Missouri Department of Conservation received an initial donation of 145 acres in 1992. In late 1994, a second donation expanded the area to its current size of 236 acres. The area offers 1.75 miles of Missouri River frontage and a parking lot.

The area was cropland until it was transferred to the Missouri Department of Conservation. It has been allowed to re-vegetate naturally and was planted to supplement the development of a riparian corridor (the area adjacent to the waterway). The area is available for a variety of activities including hiking, fishing, hunting and bird watching.

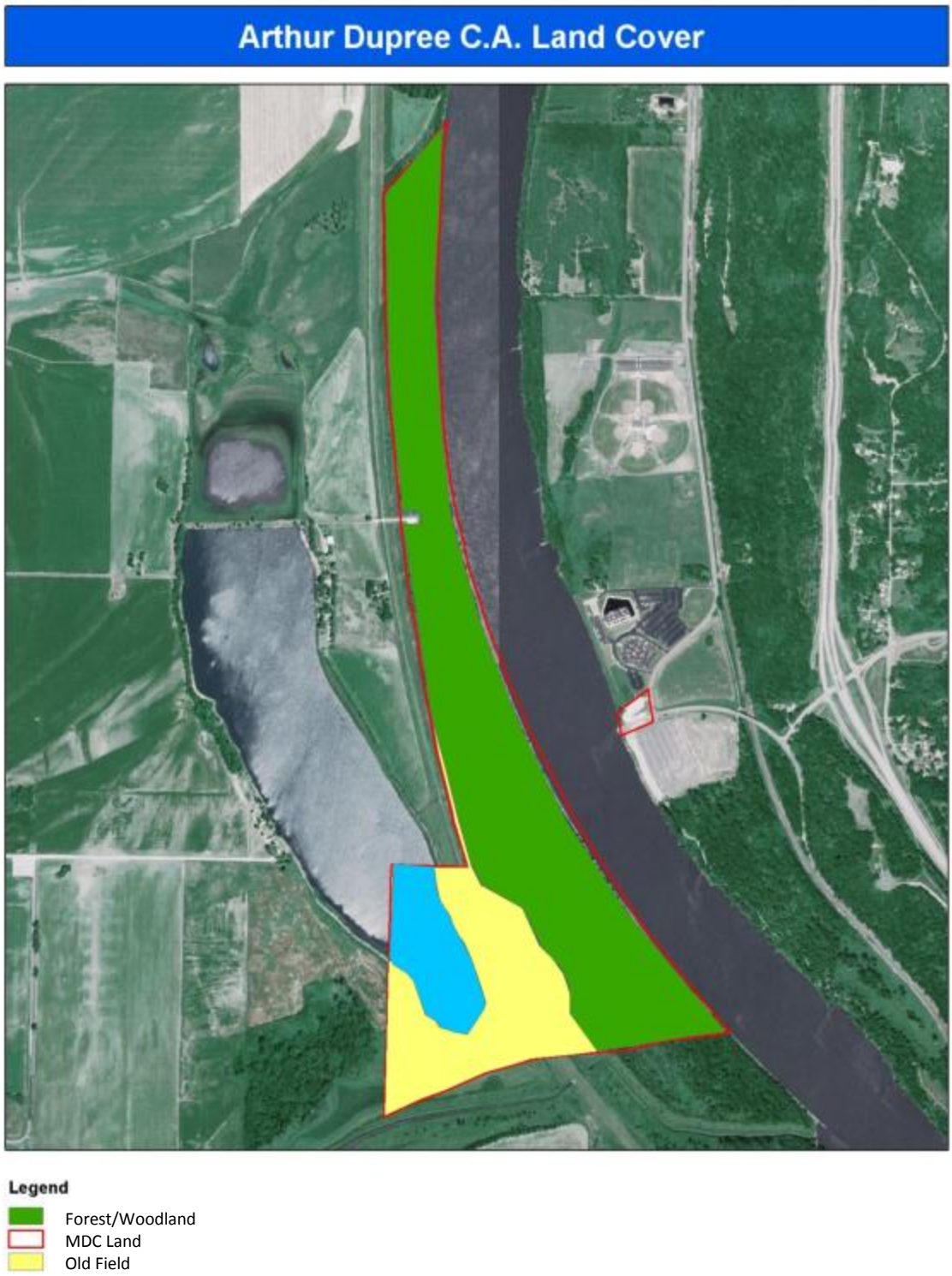
Current Land and Water Types

Land / Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest & Woodland	170		72
Old Field	55		23
Wetland	10		4
Other	1		1
Total	**236**		**100**
River Frontage		1.75	

Appendix 5: Arthur Dupree Memorial CA Map



Appendix 6: Arthur Dupree Memorial CA Land Cover Map



Appendix 7: Bee Creek CA Background

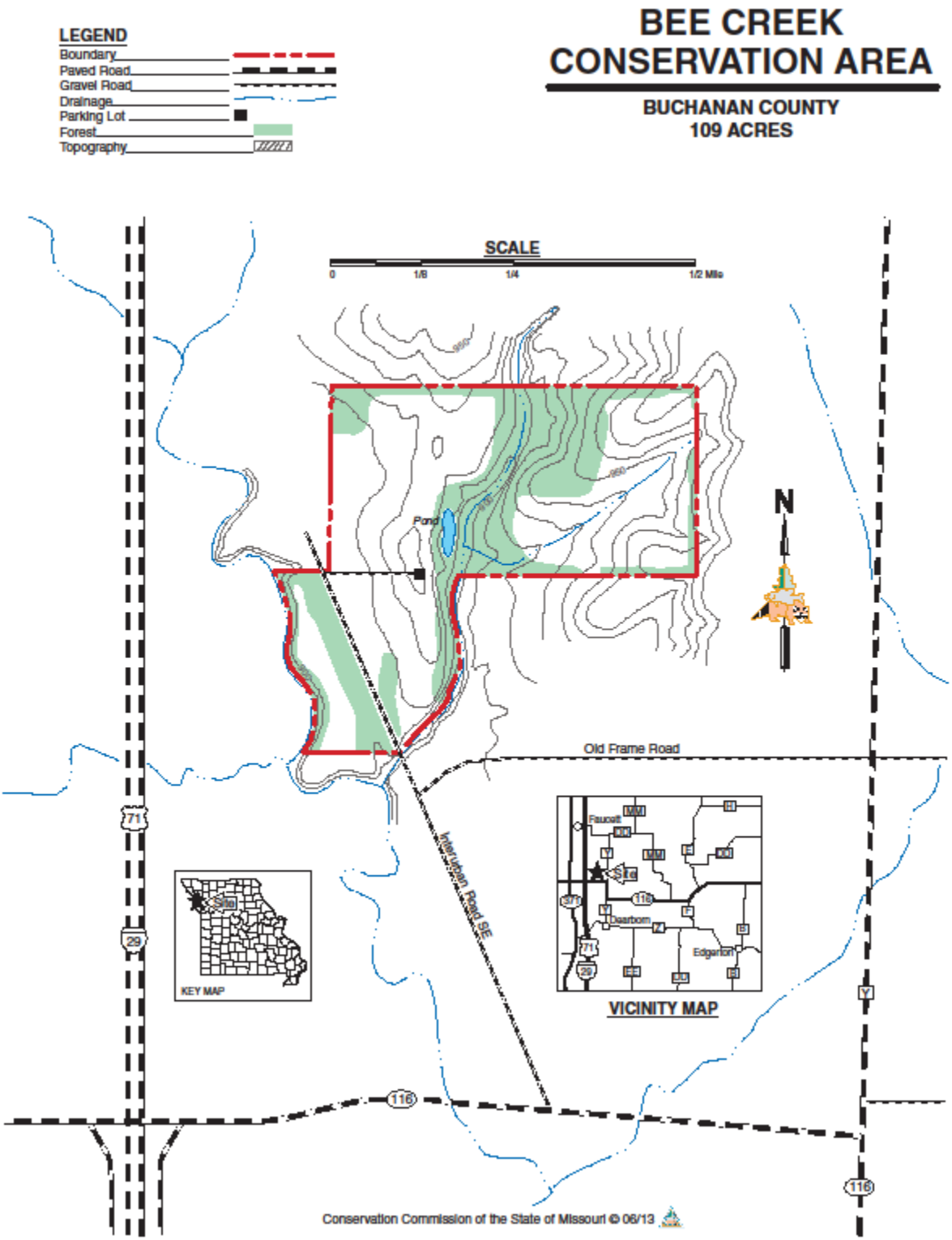
The Bee Creek Conservation Area is located in southern Buchanan County near the town of Faucett. From Faucett, take Highway DD east 1.5 miles to Highway Y and continue south for 2 miles to Countyt Rd. 321; take County Rd. 321 west 1 mile to County Rd. 323 and continue north for 0.5 miles.

Bee Creek Conservation Area was donated to the Missouri Department of Conservation in 2010 and opened in 2013. This 109 acre conservation area consists of various types of habitat including hardwood forest, agriculture fields, old field and grassland. The area includes 0.96 miles of Bee Creek that meanders through it. The area is used for a variety of outdoor activities, including deer, turkey and small game hunting. Historic vegetation includes native prairie and a healthy riparian corridor along Bee Creek.

Current Land and Water Types

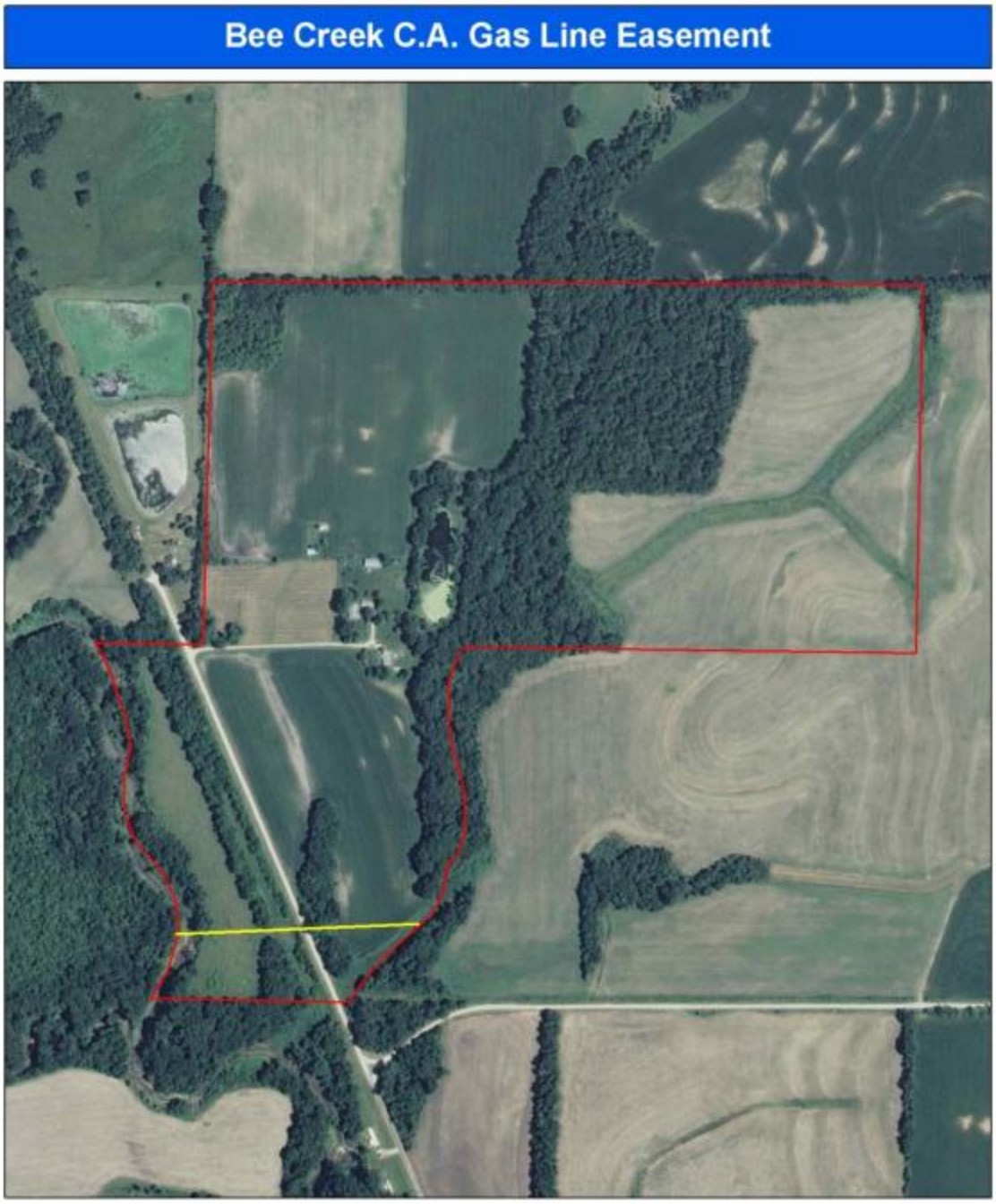
Land / Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Grassland (non-native prairie)	53		48
Cropland	30		28
Forest	25		23
Other (roads, parking area, campground)	1		1
Lakes/ Ponds	0.25		0.02
Total	**109.00**		**100**
Stream Frontage		0.96	

Appendix 8: Bee Creek CA Map



Appendix 9: Bee Creek CA Land Cover Map

Appendix 10: Bee Creek CA Gas Line Easement Map



MDC Land
Bee Creek Gas Line Easement

Appendix 11: Wilfrid V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial CA Background

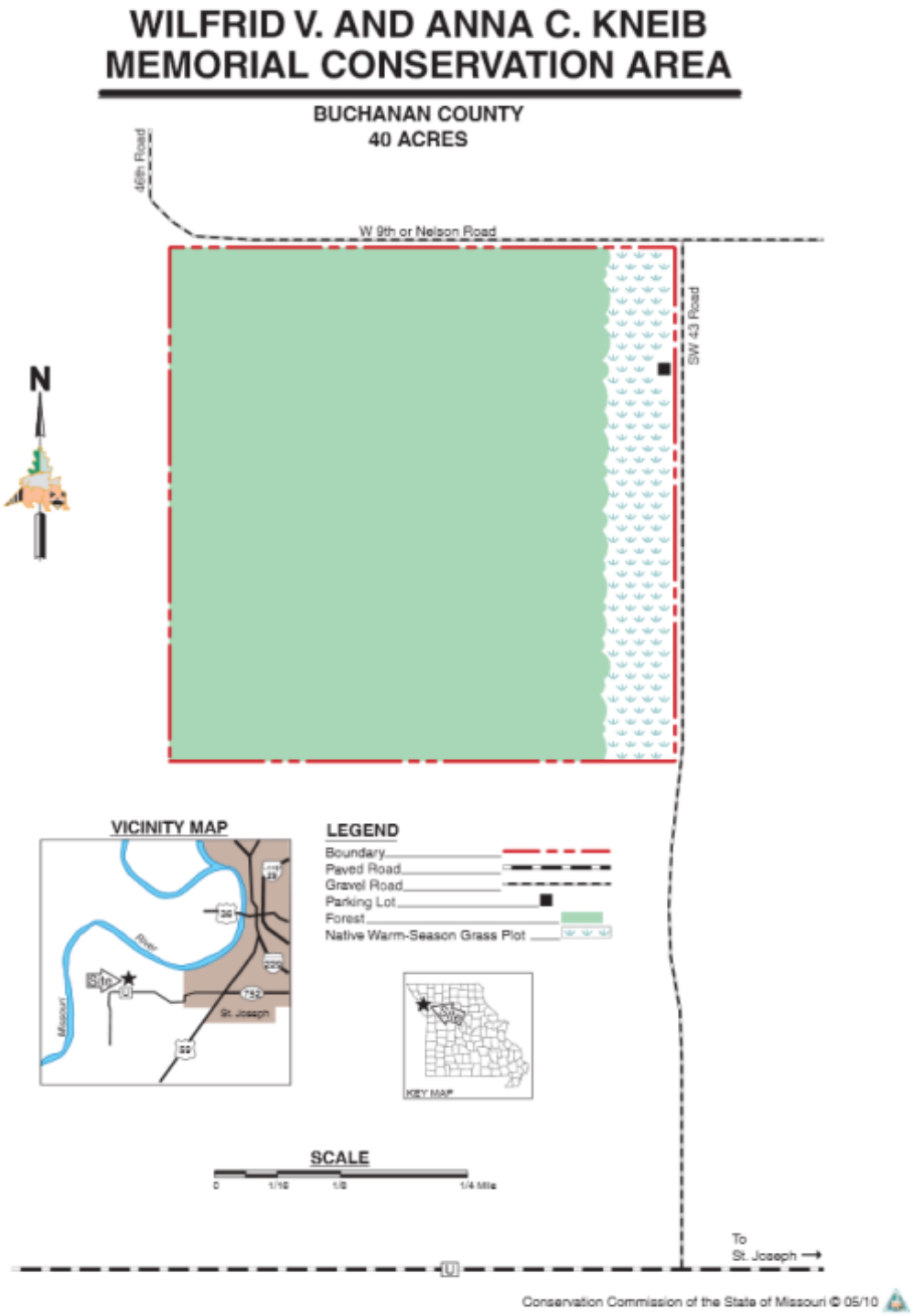
Wilfrid V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial Conservation Area is in Buchanan County near Lake Contrary, just southwest of St. Joseph, three miles west of Highway 59 on Route U and 0.5 mile north on County Road SW 43rd to area.

This area was donated to the Missouri Department of Conservation in 1985. Located in the Missouri River bottoms, this area was used as a borrow area for fill in the agricultural levees constructed in the early 1940s. The area now consists of bottomland forest and native warm-season grass demonstration plots, established by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Current Land and Water Cover Types

Land / Water Type	**Acres**	**Miles**	**% of Area**
Forest	30		75
Grassland	10		25
Total	**40**		**100**
Stream Frontage		0	

Appendix 12: Wilfrid V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial CA Map



Appendix 13: Wilfrid V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial CA Land Cover Map

Appendix 14: Sunbridge Hills CA and Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial Wildlife CA Background

Sunbridge Hills Conservation Area and Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial Wildlife Conservation Area are in Buchanan County. From north of St. Joseph, take I-229 north to Highland Avenue, continue east on Highland and go north two miles on Huntoon Rd.

The Missouri Department of Conservation purchased the Sunbridge Hills property in 1972. This area is about 20 percent open land and 80 percent forested. Native Americans called this region "Lanowa," which means "sacred region." The area overlooks the Missouri River and offers many scenic viewing sights, such as eagles soaring over the river during their spring migration. The Sunbridge Hills Conservation Area directly adjoins the Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial Wildlife Conservation Area on its southern border.

The Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial Wildlife Conservation Area was donated to the department in 1983. This 40-acre addition to the Sunbridge Hills Conservation Area has steep topography, and is 90 percent hardwood forest and 10 percent open lands. These areas provide numerous recreational opportunities including deer, turkey and squirrel hunting as well as hiking and wildlife viewing.

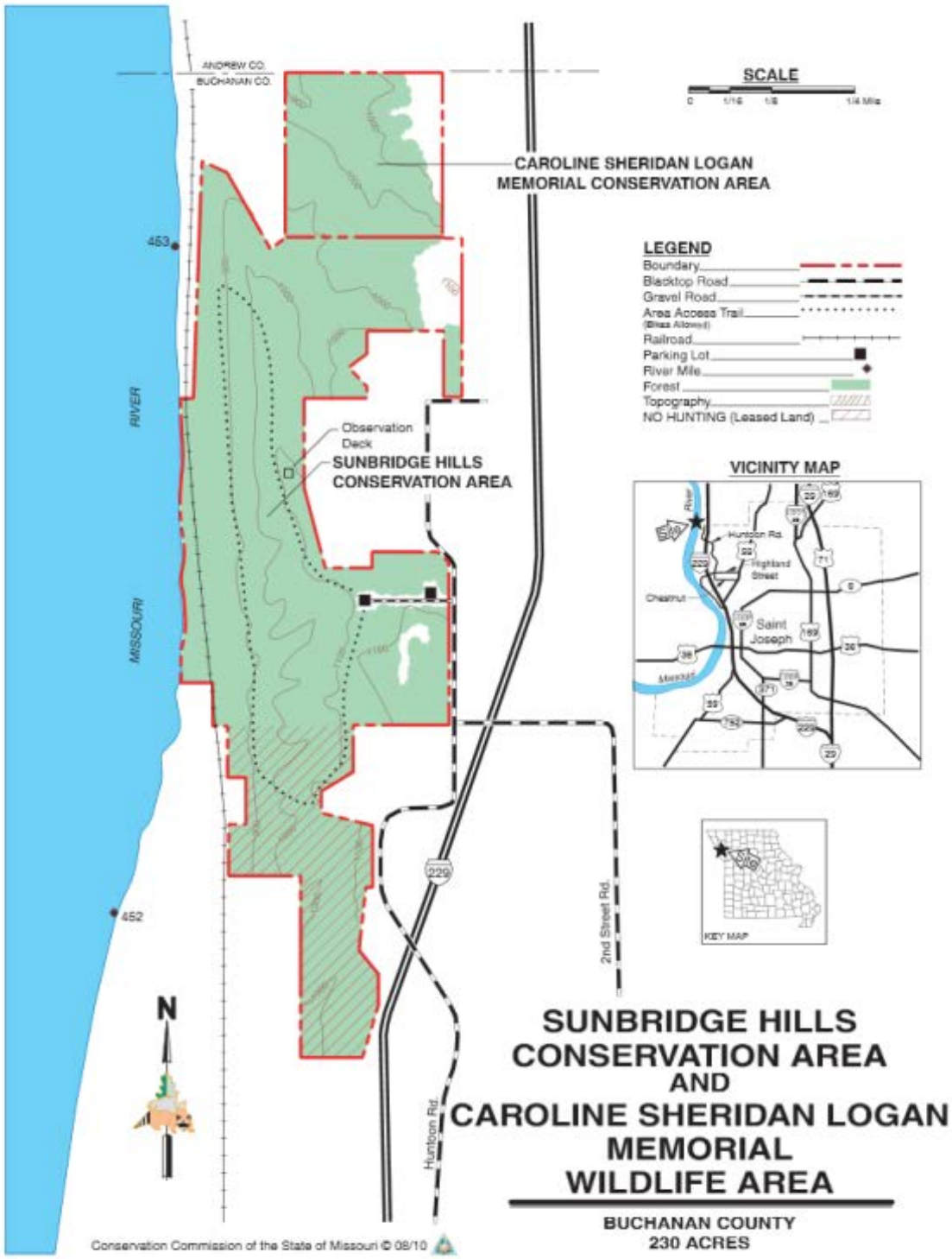
Current Land and Water Types Sunbridge Hills C.A.:

Land / Water Type	**Acres**	**Miles**	**% of Area**
Forest	160		85
Old Field	30		15
Total	**190.00**		**100%**
Stream Frontage		**0.4**	

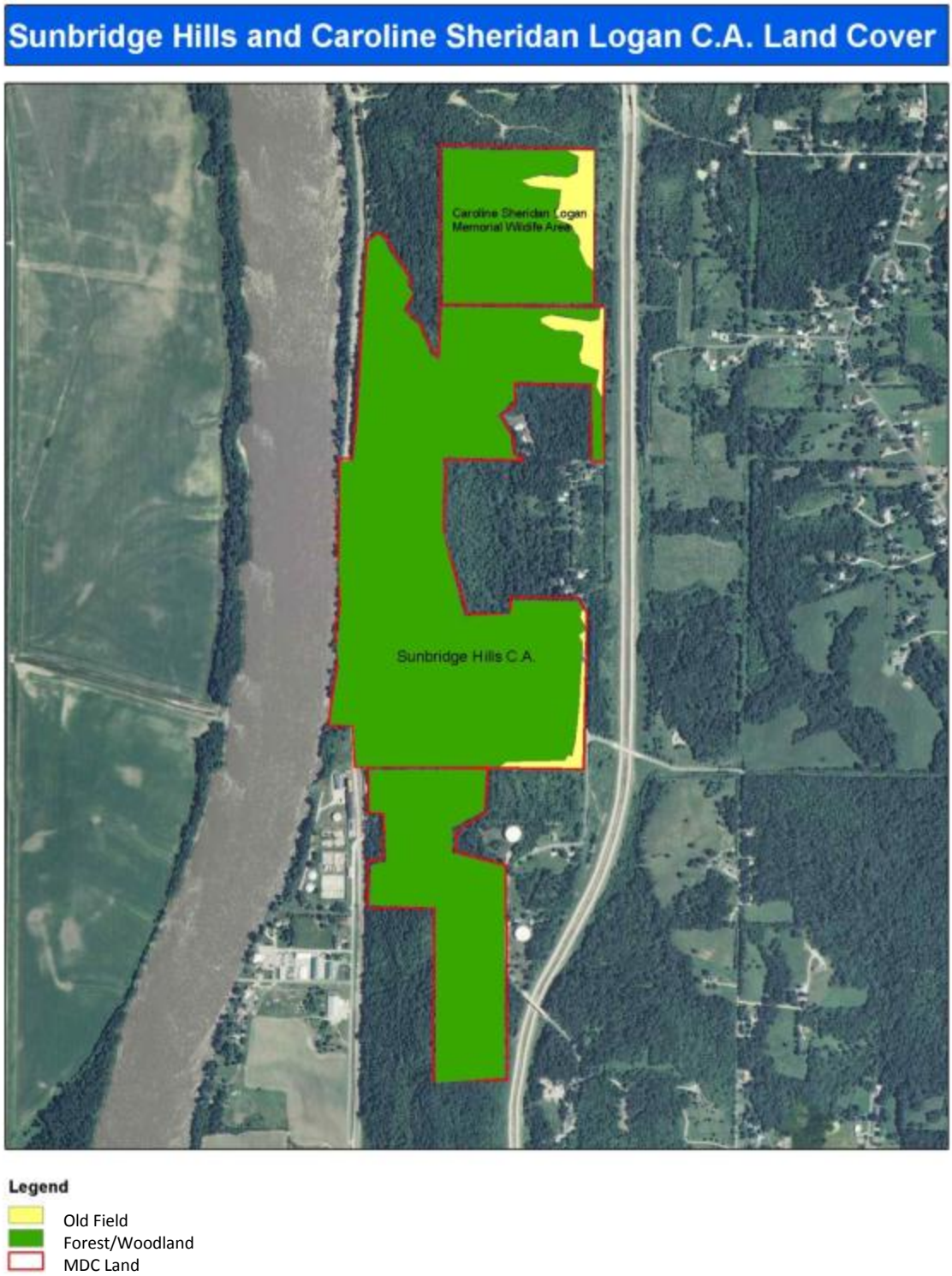
Current Land and Water Types Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial Wildlife Area:

Land / Water Type	**Acres**	**Miles**	**% of Area**
Forest	30		75
Old Field	10		10
Total	**40.00**		**100%**
Stream Frontage		0	

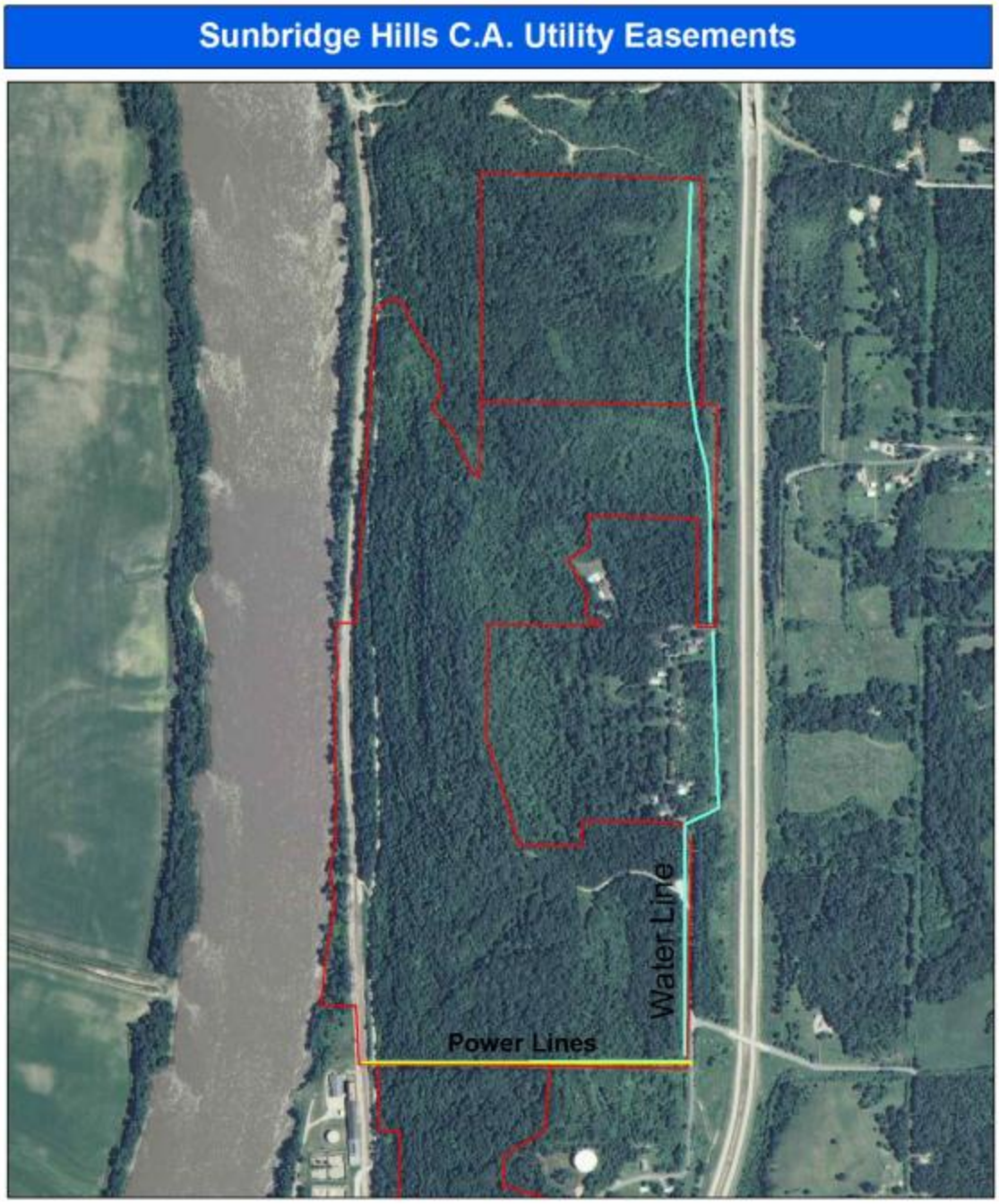
Appendix 15: Sunbridge Hills CA and Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial CA Map



Appendix 16: Sunbridge Hills CA and Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial CA Land Cover Map

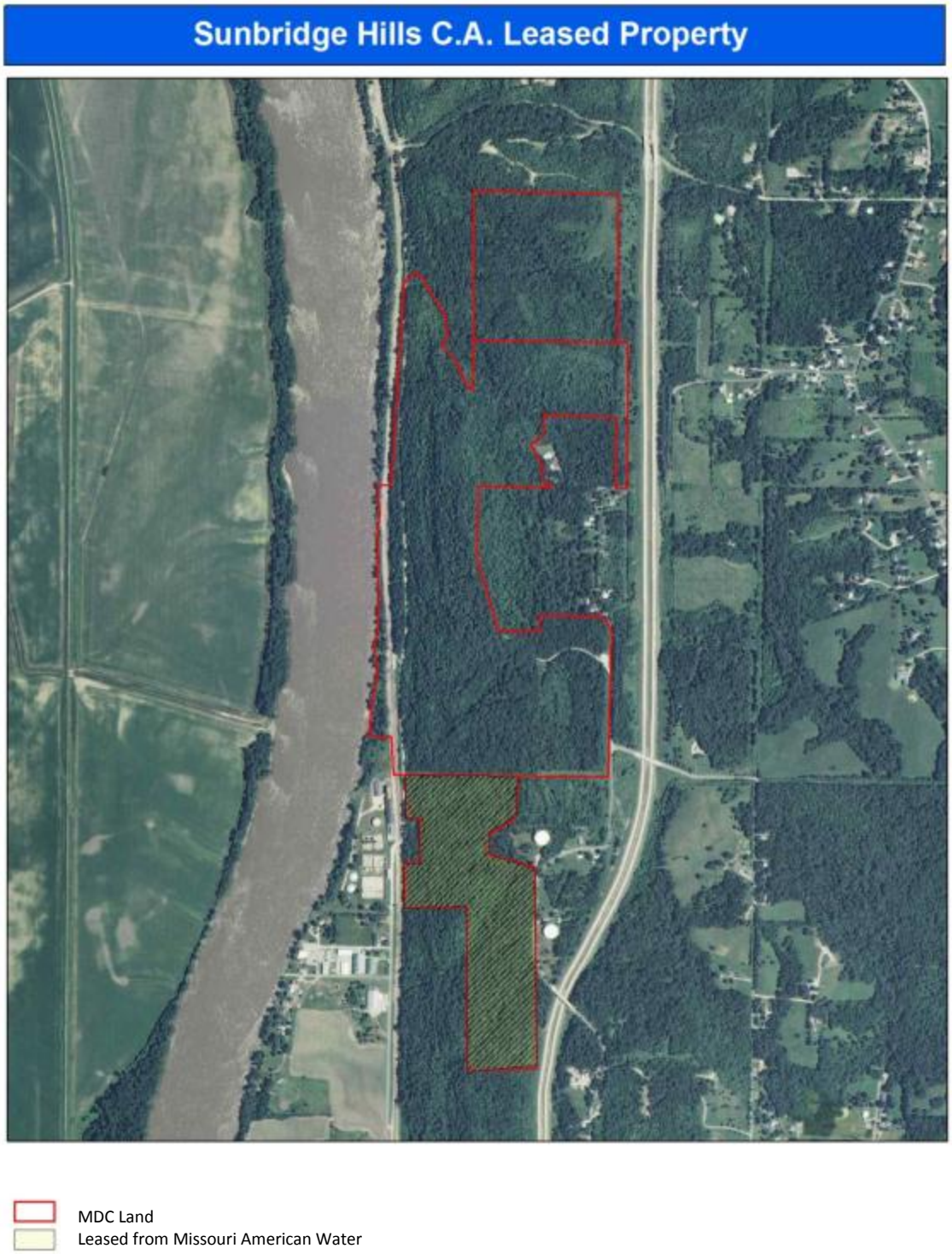


Appendix 17: Sunbridge Hills CA Utility Easements Map



Sunbridge Power Line Easement
MDC Land
Sunbridge Water Line Easement

Appendix 18: Sunbridge Hills CA Leased Property Map



Appendix 19. Buchanan County Conservation Areas Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (July 1-31, 2014)

As you develope the next 10 year management plan for the Buchanan County Conservation areas, please do not discriminate against equestrian trail riders. Looking over the draft management plans, there is room for an equestrian trail as at least a "day use only" if not a small primitive horse camp in the Sangridge Hills CA area. Creating an equestrian trail has the potential to bring more revenue to the local business owners through fuel, groceries, and tourism. I will volunteer my time to spearhead a fundraiser and bring together volunteers to aide in building up the trails and maintaining these trails for future equestrian use. Thank you for your consideration.