Manito Lake Conservation Area

Ten-Year Area Plan

FY 2015-2024

Wildlife Division Chief

10/29/15

Date

Manito Lake Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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CENTRAL REGION

RCT Chair _____ 10/16/15
Signature *Date*

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Management Chief _____ 10/20/15
Signature *Date*

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Manito Lake Conservation Area, #8101
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1981
- **Acreage:** 871 acres
- **County:** Moniteau, Morgan
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose**
  - **A. Strategic Direction**
    Manito Lake Conservation Area (CA) was acquired for the development of an 80-acre lake. The area is managed for its lake and aquatic habitats, early successional and prairie remnant wildlife habitats, restoration of woodland and glade communities, and maintenance of limited cropping. Management emphasis is placed on (1) actively managing open land early successional and grassland habitats and promoting native remnant prairie conditions that benefit wildlife; (2) demonstrating conservation farming and haying practices to compliment wildlife management and maintain high water quality within the watershed; (3) managing the lake as a quality fishery and with drawdown capabilities to enhance fisheries and aquatic resources; (4) creating shallow-water shoreline habitats for resident and migratory birds; and (5) providing opportunities for wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, hiking and educational experiences for the public to enjoy.
  - **B. Desired Future Condition**
    Manage Manito Lake CA to support a quality fishery and aquatic habitat in the 80-acre lake; maintain early successional and prairie remnant wildlife habitats, woodland and glade communities and limited cropping.
  - **C. Federal Aid Statement**
    This area was acquired with Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration funds to restore and manage wildlife, conserve and restore suitable wildlife habitat and provide public access for hunting or other wildlife-oriented recreation.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. <u>Special Considerations</u>

- **A. Priority Areas:** None
- **B. Natural Areas:** None

II. <u>Important Natural Features and Resources</u>

- **A. Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed.
- **B. Caves:** None

C. **Springs:** None
D. **Communities of Conservation Concern:** Historic records note dry-mesic loess/glacial till prairie on Manito Lake CA. The conversion of land to agricultural fields and the invasion of exotic species diminished the quality and existence of these prairies.

III. Existing Infrastructure

- 1 fishing lake (Manito Lake, 77 acres)
- 1 lake dam (water control - drop inlet/two slide gates)
- 2 non-stocked ponds (1 acre)
- 2 pond dams
- 8 wildlife watering holes
- 1 privy, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible
- 2 fishing jetties (1 ADA accessible)
- 6 gravel parking lots
- 1 paved parking area (ADA accessible)
- 1 concrete boat ramp (access to Manito Lake)
- 1 storage building (40’ x 40’)
- 0.25 mile lake entrance road

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

A. **Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** The 1982 Pilkenton Quitclaim Deed (1559) states “No more than one single-family dwelling may be constructed or located on said land.”
B. **Federal Interest:** Uses of land acquired with federal funds may not interfere with the purpose for which it was acquired. Federal funds may also 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.
C. **Easements:** Phillips Pipeline easement for a buried pipeline crossing the area east and west near the center of the area (~3300 ft.). CO-MO Rural Electric Cooperative electric easements cross the area at three locations (~4000 ft.).
D. **Cultural Resource Findings:** No known cultural resources.
E. **Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** None observed.
F. **Endangered Species:** None observed.
G. **Boundary Issues:** None
H. **Emergency Action Plan – Manito Lake Dam (NID MO31853):** The action plan drafted in cooperation with Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) (Owner), State Dam Safety Officials, and Moniteau County

Emergency Officials, in September 2012 serves to reduce risk to human life and minimize property damage during an unusual or emergency event at Manito Lake Dam.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Improve old field and early successional habitats by controlling exotic invasive plants and undesirable woody invasive species.
2) Maintain grasslands for quail, grassland birds and small game.
3) Restore native prairie remnants.
4) Manage cropland for wildlife food, nesting and brood rearing habitat.
5) Reduce excess tree stocking rates in woodland habitats.
6) Monitor small game hunting pressure.

Management Objective 1: Provide annual disturbance to maintain early to mid-successional old field habitats. Reduce fescue, invasive and woody species.

Strategy 1: Monitor old fields for undesirable invasive species and take appropriate management action as needed.

Strategy 2: Remove undesirable woody species.

Strategy 3: Farm or provide disturbance to control woody and invasive plants; reverse succession; and create bare ground. Prepare fields to establish forbs and wildlife friendly grasses.

Strategy 4: Conduct a cedar sale where stand density and size class are desirable and access is feasible.

Management Objective 2: Manage 140 acres of grassland and prairie remnant habitats for quail and grassland wildlife.

Strategy 1: Manage grassland habitats for wildlife.

Strategy 2: Renovate or reclaim warm-season grass plantings to control fescue invasion and to reduce woody invasion. Maintain existing productive stands of warm-season grasses.

Strategy 3: Improve grassland diversity with shrubby cover and native forbs.

Management Objective 3: Manage cropland for wildlife benefit.

Strategy 1: Manage cropland acres to provide early successional habitat. Manage idle acres and legumes for wildlife food and cover.

Strategy 2: Expand dove and small game management and provide hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for area users by maintaining wheat, sunflowers, millet, green browse and standing crops.
Strategy 3: Incorporate cover crop plantings to improve soil health.

Management Objective 4: Actively manage the 173 acres of woodlands on the area and monitor overall health.

Strategy 1: Apply stand prescriptions recommended from the most recent inventory by harvesting, woodland thinning and prescribed burning, where needed.
Strategy 2: Remain up to date on the inventory schedule to reassess woodland conditions.
Strategy 3: Continually monitor the overall woodland health.

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Maintain area ponds to be used by multiple wildlife species.
2) Manage fish populations at Manito Lake.

Management Objective 1: Maintain healthy ponds that support aquatic and terrestrial wildlife needs.

Strategy 1: Monitor the health of the small ponds on an annual basis, and address any prospective problems as needed.

Management Objective 2: Manage fish populations and provide public fishing opportunities in Manito Lake.

Strategy 1: Perform electrofishing surveys every three years to assess the fish population in Manito Lake.
Strategy 2: Maintain fish habitat structures to enhance the fishery and fishing.
Strategy 3: Maintain existing aquatic vegetation and work to increase aquatic vegetation in Manito Lake through plantings and water level control.
Strategy 4: Provide annual maintenance stocking of 8 to12 inch channel catfish in Manito Lake to maintain the channel catfish population.

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Create multiple public use opportunities.
2) Monitor and implement a high standard of area maintenance.

Management Objective 1: Provide area users with compatible and inviting multiple use opportunities for recreation, education and information.

Strategy 1: Maintain accurate area information and regulations through the atlas database, area brochures, posted information and staff contacts with area users.

Strategy 2: Promote compatible safe uses such as hunting, fishing, bird watching, hiking and nature photography.

Management Objective 2: Provide area and facility maintenance in a manner that promotes public use.

Strategy 1: Conduct timely area and facility maintenance. Coordinate assistance during high public use. Address erosion concerns and hazards. Consult and involve Design and Development staff as needed.

Strategy 2: Provide disability accessibility, as needed.

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

1) Continue good relations with neighboring landowners.
2) Enforce area and statewide regulations.

Management Objective 1: Maintain contact with neighbors regarding management and public use on the area.

Strategy 1: Monitor area boundaries to ensure proper signing and avoid boundary confusion.

Strategy 2: Inform neighbors prior to prescribed burns and any other activities that may cause immediate concern.

Management Objective 2: Administer area and statewide regulations to promote safe public use opportunities.

Strategy 1: Ensure special use permittees and contractors follow conditions within the contractual agreement.

Strategy 2: Work with Conservation Agents to enforce and investigate violations of the Wildlife Code and area regulations.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY15	**FY16**	**FY17**	**FY18**	**FY19**	**FY20**	**FY21**	**FY21**	**FY23**	**FY24**
Terrestrial Resources Management										
Objective 1- Old Field Management										
Strategy 4		X								
Objective 4 - Woodland Management										
Inventory	X									
Apply Prescription			X	X						

APPENDICES

Area Background:
Manito Lake CA was historically a prairie. Seven tracts comprised the original land purchase of 851 acres; one 20-acre tract was added in 2008. Agricultural practices of grazing, haying and row cropping were the primary land uses at the time of acquisition. Construction of Manito Lake was completed in 1984. The lake was filled in the winter of 1984-1985. A bur oak tree was planted in 1874 by 9-year-old Andrew Wolfe and is marked by a carved wood sign on the east side of the area.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Old Field	347	42
Woodland	173	20
Grassland	140	16
Cropland	124	14
Impounded Water	79	7
Glade	8	1
Total	**871**	**100**

Public Input Summary:
The draft Manito Lake Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period May 1–31, 2015. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from three respondents (Appendix A). The Manito Lake Conservation Area 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. Rather than respond to each individual comment, comments are grouped into general themes and are addressed collectively.

<u>Department responses to themes and issues identified through Manito Lake Conservation Area public comment period</u>

Suggests better control of cedar trees on area.
Prescribed burning, chainsawing and mechanical tree shear cutting of cedar has been actively occurring, and will continue. A cedar sale contract was awarded on 21 acres this year and the harvest is nearly complete.

Suggests monitoring area for feral hogs and eliminating them immediately.
Area staff and area users monitor and report wildlife activity and sign. No feral hog sign has been observed or reported at Manito Lake CA.

Area seems to be underutilized. Suggests adding picnic area, shooting range, camping area, water faucet at boat ramp.
Area use varies seasonally during the year. Moderate to heavy fishing and hunting activity traditionally occurs. Shoreline, jetty and boat fishing is common and canoe and kayak recreation and fishing seems to have increased recently. Picknicking is permitted and lake-side areas are mowed to accommodate this. Handicap accessible parking, restrooms, and fishing jetties are availalble. No other infrastructure or facilities are planned.

Suggests picking up trash regularly along area roads.
Trash pickup occurs in conjunction with routine area maintenance of entrance roads and parking areas. Renewal of an Adopt-A-Lake program is planned, which would include litter removal. Area users and visitors are responsible to remove their own litter, and litter removal by area users is appreciated.

Supports caring for the Andrew Wolf Bur Oak Tree.
A carved sign notes the historical interests of the 100+ year old Bur Oak tree planted by Andrew Wolf. Hopefully weather and age will remain kind to this living monument. Routine maintenance includes minor limb trimming and mowing.

Suggests naming the parking lot the Andrew and Katrina Wolf Parking Lot to recognize the late 19th century owners of this area.
The Bur Oak tree planted by Andrew Wolf recognizes the family. Information added to the area brochure would be another option in acknowledging the Wolf family history to the Manito Lake Conservation Area.

Appreciates management of this area.
Thank you!

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (1982). *1982 Manito lake area plan.* Jefferson City, Missouri: Department of Conservation.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (1983). *Project Job # 81-01-04 general plan -77 ac Manito Lake.* Missouri Department of Conservation.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (n.d.). Natural Heritage database. Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Nigh, T. A., & Schroeder, W. A. (2002). *Atlas of Missouri ecoregions.* Jefferson City, Missouri: Department of Conservation.

Maps:
Figure 1: Area Map
Figure 2: Habitat Map
Figure 3: Area Infrastructure Map

Additional Appendices:
Appendix A: Manito Lake Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Figure 1: Area Map

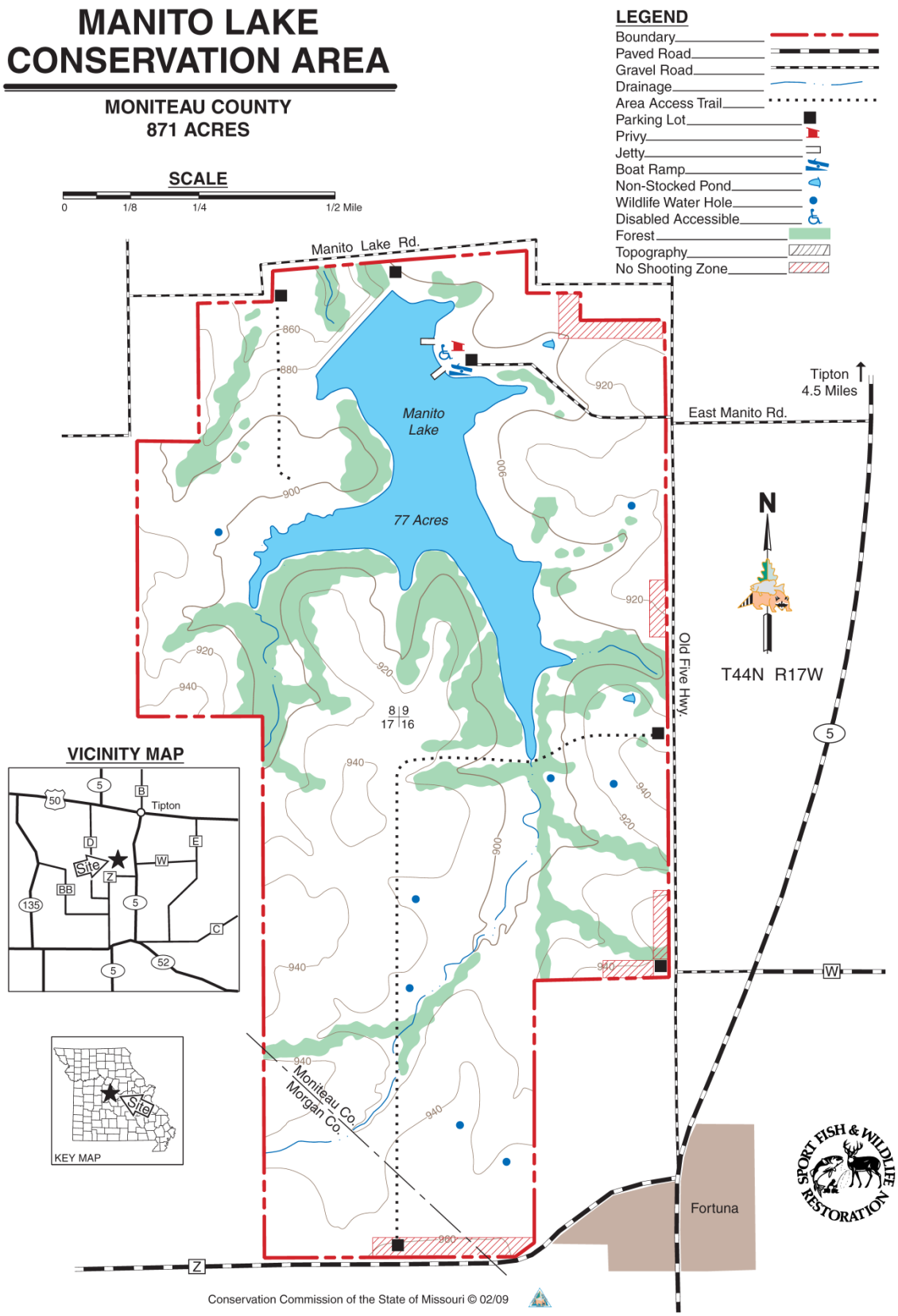


Figure 2: Habitat Map

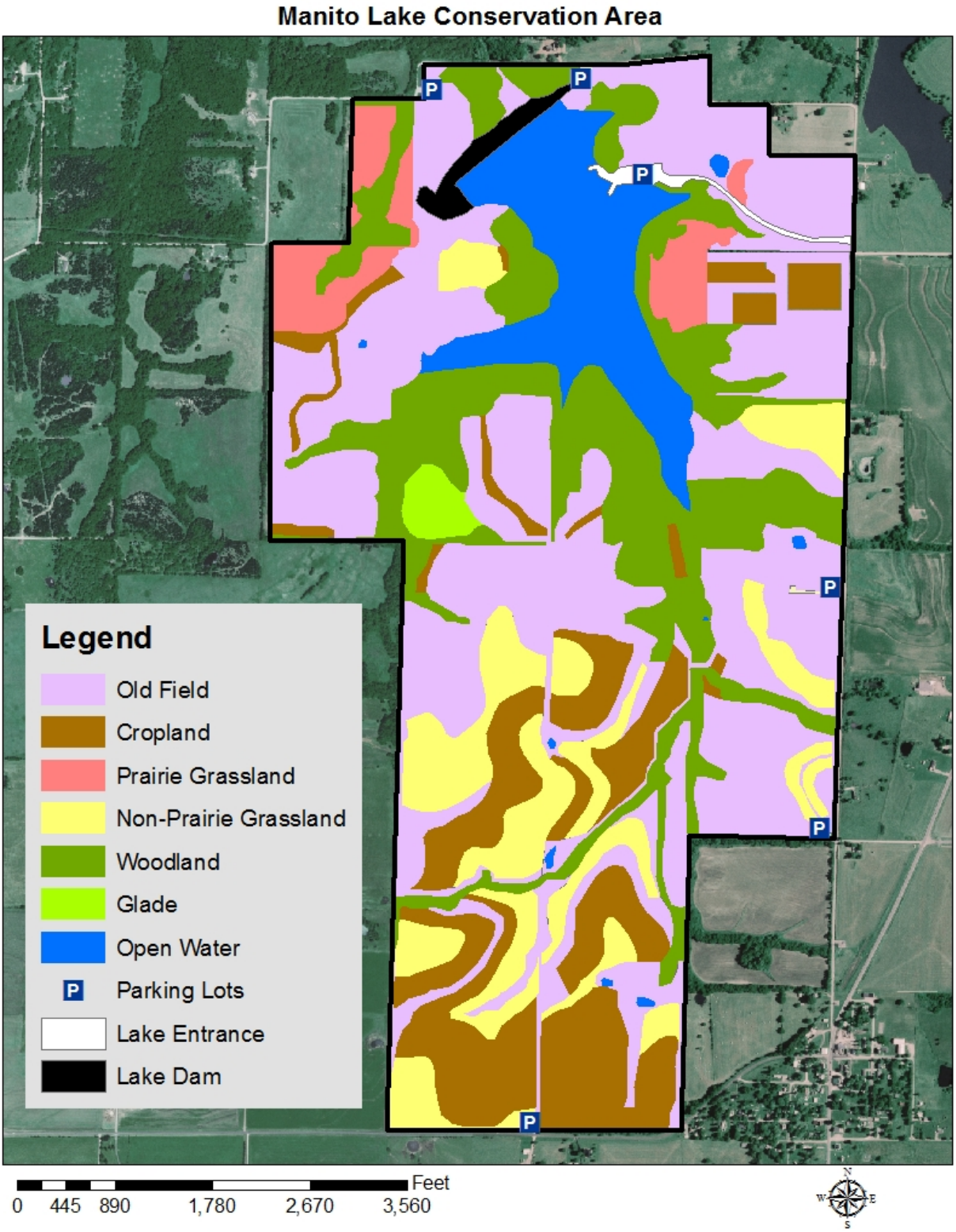
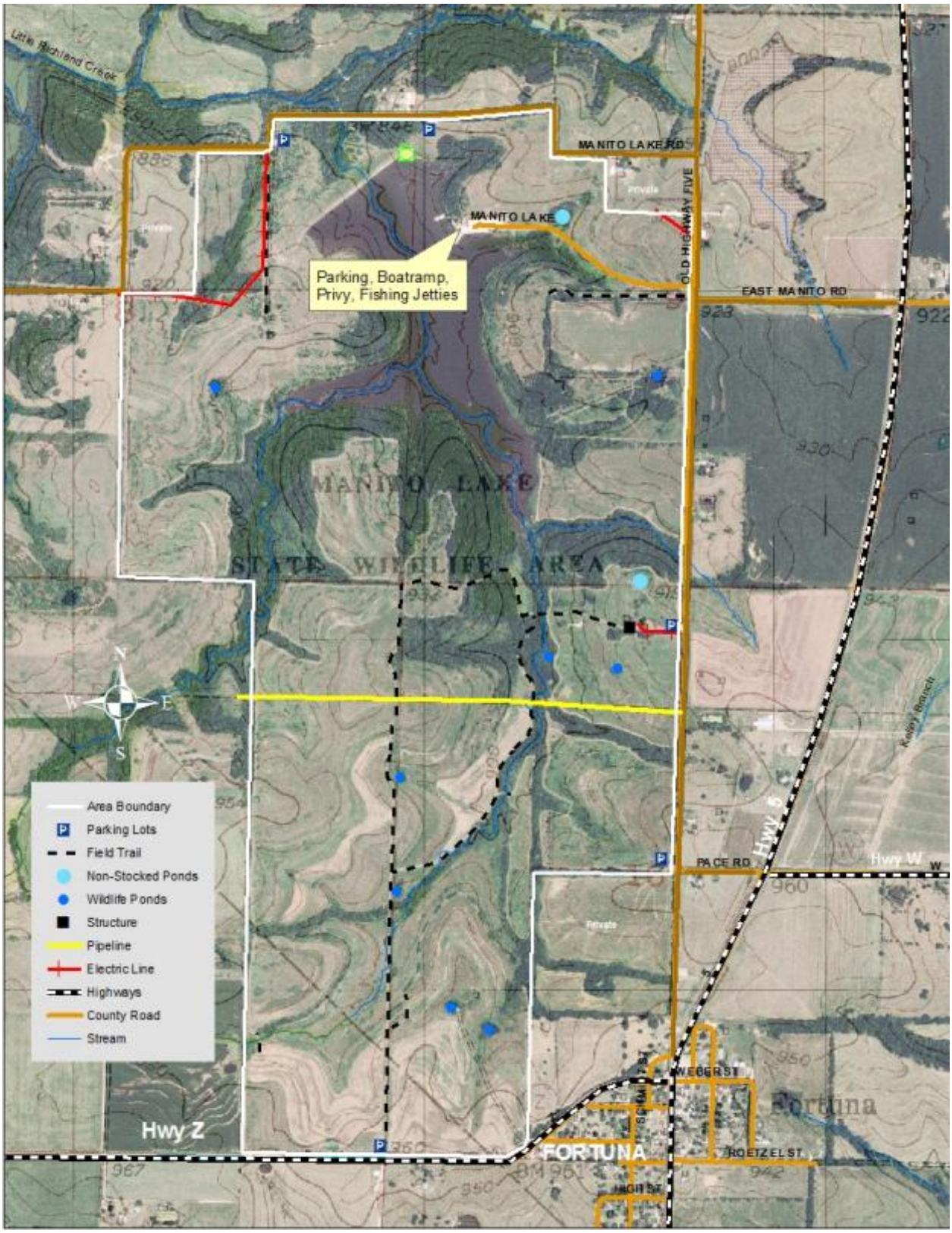


Figure 3: Area Infrastructure Map



Appendix A: Manito Lake Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (May 1-31, 2015):

"A bur oak tree was planted in 1874 by 9-year-old Andrew Wolfe and is marked by a carved wood sign on the east side of the area." Is year of 1874 correct? There is a burr oak that is 141 years old there on site? Wow! If you are to place a hatchery there, what species of fish will be bred? Are there plans to put a shooting range there for firearms and archery?
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Manito Lake Area 10 year plan. I own land across the road on the east side of Old Five Hwy and south of Manito Lake Road. In the thirty four years MDC has owned the land I have never been approached by or contacted by anyone associated with the area. The area seems to be under utilized as little activity is seen on my causal observations on my trips to my farm. Maybe a review of the objectives of the plan need to be revisited. A few thing to improve the relations with neighbors would be to pick up trash regularly along the road around the area and along the roads to the area. In addition control of the Cedar trees is badly needed. They are spreading like wildfire and impacting farms around the Manito Lake Area. Some additions that could be considered to promote the area's use: Add a picnic area and shelter house Add a target range Add RV overnight parking Add water fauct at boat ramp to wash boats and trailers before and after usage to help control Zebra Mussels Add Boy/Girl Scout camping area Some concerns about the area: monitor for feral hogs in the area and eliminate them immediately if detected. Monitor and care for the Andrew Wolf Burr Oak Tree for it is a treasure to the Manito Lake Conservation Area. By the way Andrew Wolf and Katrina Ott Wolf owned the farm where the Burr Oak is. Andrew and his son Valentine Andrew Wolf planted the tree in 1875 when Valentine was nine years old. There was probably help from the other kids in the family.

Final suggestion: name the parking lot the Andrew and Katrina Wolf Parking lot to recognize a Civil War Veteran and the Wolf family's contribution to homesteading the area. Thank you for your consideration. C L Pedego Great Grandson of Andrew and Katrina
We don't see much change in the plans on what has been in the past. The area ihas been very well managed by Kent Korthus for many years. He does a very job of working with all area neighbors, of which we are. If all agencies were managed as well as the Conservation Commission, our State would be in much better condition. Sharon and Robert Fulton