

DRAFT

Crooked Creek

Conservation Area

Ten-Year Area Management Plan
FY 2017-2026



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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Crooked Creek Conservation Area, # 7224
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1972
- **Acreage:** 337 acres
- **County:** Crawford
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

Manage for wildlife and woodland resources with emphasis on woodland species and compatible recreational opportunities.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Crooked Creek Conservation Area (CA) is a healthy forest and woodland system for people to use and enjoy.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** Meramec River Hills Priority Forest Landscape, Meramec River Watershed Important Bird Area, Middle Meramec Fisheries Priority Watershed
 - B. Natural Areas:** None

- II. Important Natural Features and Resources**
 - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed.
 - B. Caves:** None
 - C. Springs:** None

- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - 0.5-mile hiking trail

- IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**
 - A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None
 - B. Federal Interest:** 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.
 - C. Easements:** None
 - D. Cultural Resources Findings:** No known cultural resources.

E. Endangered Species: None observed.

F. Boundary Issues: None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Manage the area to maintain healthy forests and woodlands.

Management Objective 1: Maintain healthy forests and woodlands.

Strategy 1: Monitor forests and woodlands for invasive species and implement control measures as needed. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Utilize non-commercial thinning, prescribed fire, timber harvests, and other land management techniques to improve tree density, species composition, herbaceous vegetation, and wildlife habitat in woodlands and forest. A forest inventory will be conducted prior to the implementation of any forest management activities. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Follow best management practices to prevent soil erosion after timber harvesting activities. Follow the best management practices listed in the *Missouri Watershed Protection Practices – 2014 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014). (Forestry)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

No aquatic resources exist on this area. Land management activities occurring on this area will use appropriate best management practices to minimize soil loss and erosion. These best management practices will ensure aquatic resources in adjacent streams remain healthy.

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide hunting, hiking, and compatible recreational opportunities.

Management Objective 1: Provide hunting, hiking and compatible recreational opportunities.

Strategy 1: Maintain standard Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) signs pertaining to hunting and public use regulations. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Conduct patrols to enforce area regulations. (Protection)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Paint the boundary lines in FY2017 and FY2024. (Forestry)

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

| | FY17 | FY18 | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 | FY26 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Administrative Considerations | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Objective 1</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategy 2 | X | | | | | | | X | | |

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Crooked Creek Conservation Area (CA) is located in southwest Crawford County, approximately 8 miles southwest of Steelville. Crooked Creek CA was donated to the Department in 1972 through the estate of the Reifsnider family. The Department purchased an adjacent property in 1989 bringing the area to its current size of 337 acres.

Crooked Creek is nearly 100 percent forested, consisting mainly of oak-hickory and shortleaf pine forest types. The area is open to the public from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily and provides opportunities for hunting deer and turkey, bird watching, and hiking.

Current Land and Water Types

| Land/Water Type | Acres | % of Area |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Upland Forest/Woodland | 281 | 83 |
| Shortleaf Pine Plantation | 56 | 17 |
| Total | 337 | 100 |

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). *Missouri watershed protection practice recommended practices for Missouri forests: 2014 management guidelines for maintaining forested watersheds to protect streams*. Jefferson City, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Current Land Cover Map

Figure 1: Area Map

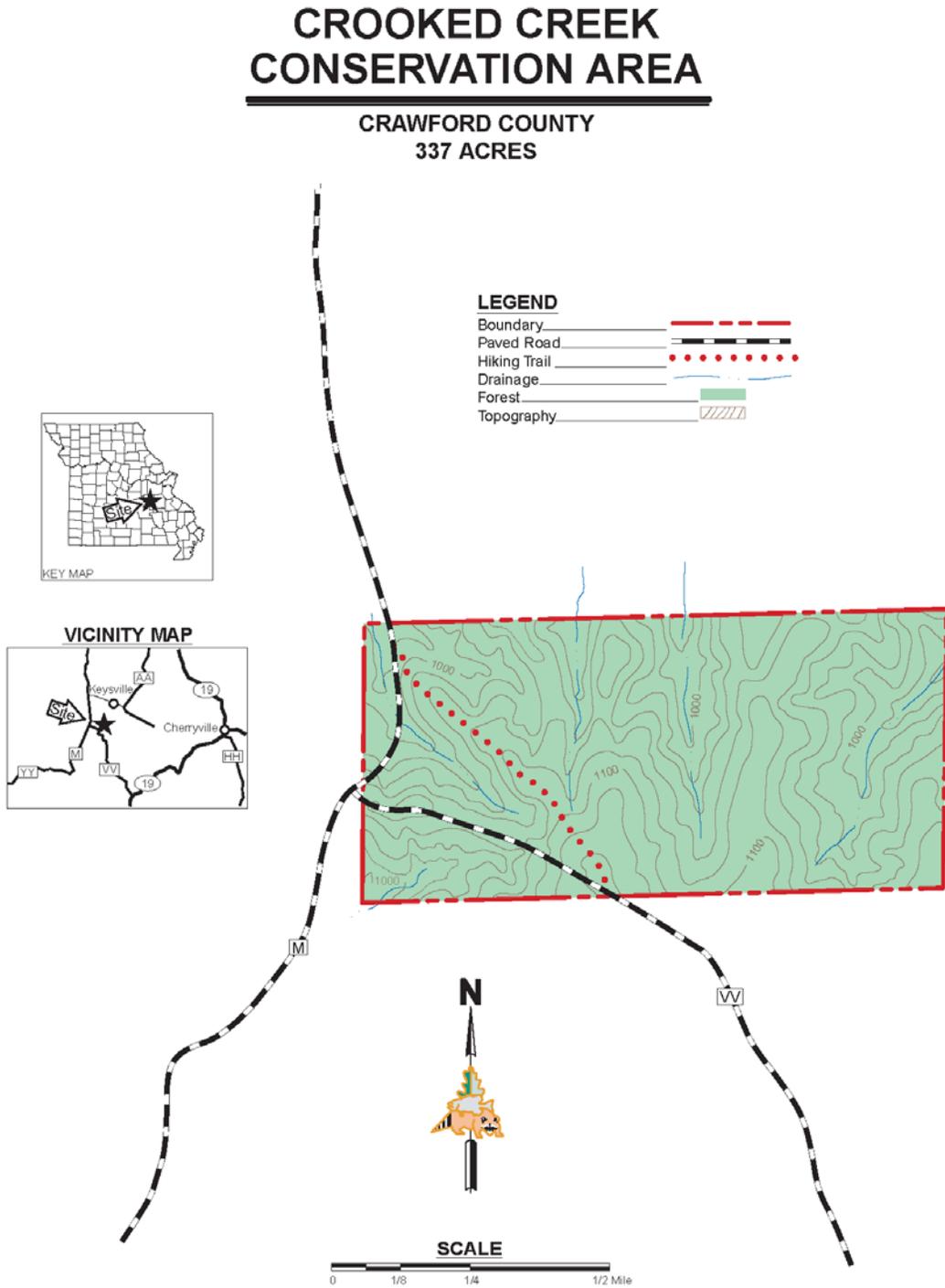


Figure 2: Current Land Cover Map



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