

# **DRAFT**

# **Central Region Towersites**

Branch Towersite  
Camdenton Conservation Service Center  
Freeburg Towersite  
Proctor Towersite  
Rocky Mount Towersite

## **Ten-Year Area Management Plan**

### **FY 2017-2026**



**To submit a comment on this document,  
click on the following link:**

<http://mdc.mo.gov/node/10013?ap=13632>

## OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Branch Towersite (TS)	4641	1946	40	Camden	Forestry	Forestry
Camdenton Conservation Service Center (CSC)	4631	1946	45	Camden	Forestry	Forestry
Freeburg TS	4909	1949	12	Maries	Forestry	Forestry
Proctor TS	4612	1946	115	Morgan	Forestry	Forestry
Rocky Mount TS	4805	1948	40	Miller	Forestry	Forestry

### Statements of Purpose:

#### A. Strategic Direction

These areas are managed to provide the agency a means for detecting wildfire, and provide the public limited access for hunting or wildlife viewing opportunities.

#### B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition for the Central Region Towersites are areas maintained for their historical significance, fire detection benefits and access that provides the public with opportunities for recreation. Maintain structural integrity of the towers and other facilities to ensure safety of Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) personnel and the public. Manage surrounding forests to ensure healthy, sustainable, forest resources and to protect groundwater and surface water quality.

#### C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

### I. Special Considerations

Area Name	Priority Areas	Natural Areas
Branch TS	Little Niangua River Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area, Fisheries Priority Watershed, Priority Forest Landscape	None
Camdenton CSC	None	None
Freeburg TS	Maries River Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area, Fisheries Priority Watershed	None
Proctor TS	None	None

Rocky Mount TS	None	None
----------------	------	------

**II. Important Natural Features and Resources**

Area Name	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Branch TS	None	None	None
Camdenton CSC	None	None	None
Freeburg TS	None	None	None
Proctor TS	None	None	None
Rocky Mount TS	None	None	None

**III. Existing Infrastructure**

Area Name	Fire Towers	Radio Towers	Garage	Parking Lot #	Privy	Other
Branch TS	1	1	1	1	1	1 (1-acre) non-stocked pond
Camdenton CSC	1	1	3	2 <sup>1</sup>	2	1 two-lane archery range, 5 picnic tables, staffed office <sup>1</sup> , walking trail (easy 0.1 miles <sup>1</sup> , moderate 1.0 mile)
Freeburg TS	1	None	None	1	None	None
Proctor TS	1	None	1	1	1	None
Rocky Mount TS	None	None	1	1	None	None

<sup>1</sup> Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible

**IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**

Area	Deed Restrictions	Federal Interest	Easements	Cultural Resources	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Branch TS	None	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes <sup>2,3</sup>	None known	None observed	None
Camdenton CSC	None	Yes <sup>1</sup>	None	None known	None observed	None
Freeburg TS	None	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes <sup>4</sup>	None known	None observed	None
Proctor TS	None	Yes <sup>1</sup>	None	None known	None observed	None
Rocky Mount TS	None	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Yes <sup>5</sup>	None known	None observed	None

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Utility easement (waterline)

<sup>3</sup> Land Use Agreement with Southwest Volunteer Fire Department. Southwest Volunteer Fire Department entered into a perpetual agreement with the Department of Conservation for use of a 1 acre parcel to construct a 2 bay garage for trucks and other firefighting equipment.

<sup>4</sup> Utility easement (electric)

<sup>5</sup> Private land road easement

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Management of the terrestrial communities associated with each towersite will center on providing access to the public to enjoy forest and wildlife resources.

#### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Limited tract size prevents substantial habitat management on the towersites.
- 2) Maintain upland forest resources.
- 3) Manage the resources to provide diverse wildlife habitat.
- 4) Control invasive species.

**Management Objective 1:** Manage forest resources to improve their health, productivity and sustainability.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain a 15-year forest inventory schedule for all towersites with 40 acres or more of forest. Rocky Mount Towersite was recently inventoried in 2015 and is scheduled again in 2030. Proctor Towersite is scheduled for 2019. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Implement Best Management Practices following potential forest management activities according to the *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice Recommended Practices for Missouri Forests* (2014) and the *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests* (Missouri Department of Conservation 2014). (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Improve the diversity of wildlife habitat on areas greater than 40 acres.

**Strategy 1:** Reduce the frequency and/or acreage of mowing on open fields. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Utilize the best known practices to enhance natural communities identified through forest inventory. Provide diverse habitats using agricultural, mechanical and chemical treatments; prescribed fire; and promoting native food types, including hard tree, soft tree, and shrub mast. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 3:** Reduce invasive species and control their spread.

**Strategy 1:** Identify problematic invasive species and the current extent on each towersite. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Utilize an integrated pest management approach to control problematic species including but not limited to biological, mechanical, chemical and other treatments, as needed. (Forestry)

## VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintain watering sources for wildlife
- 2) Protect ephemeral streams during land management activities.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain fishable and fishless ponds to benefit wildlife.

**Strategy 1:** Monitor pond dams for damage or erosion. Remove undesirable brush or make repairs as needed. (Forestry & Design and Development)

**Strategy 2:** Maintain current conditions in the fishless ponds and do not stock them with fish. (Fisheries)

**Management Objective 2:** Protect ephemeral streams from excess sediment or erosion while conducting land management activities.

**Strategy 1:** Implement best management practices as described in the *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice Recommended Practices for Missouri Forests* (2014) during and after management projects to prevent erosion and minimize environmental impacts. (Forestry)

## VII. Public Use Management Considerations

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Provide public access for the use and enjoyment of area resources.
- 2) Inform the public of recreational opportunities available at these areas.
- 3) Maintain areas in a desirable condition.
- 4) Address vandalism issues associated with area infrastructure.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain access to lands open for public use, associated with towersites.

**Strategy 1:** Annually maintain parking lot infrastructure. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Seasonally maintain service trails. (Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Annually inspect and maintain area boundary signs. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Maintain public access to the Camdenton CSC fire tower, Proctor fire tower, and Freeburg fire tower for scenic viewing.

**Strategy 1:** Annually allow daytime-only access for scenic viewing. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 3:** Continue to inform the public of opportunities at these areas.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain area regulation signage in accordance with Missouri Department of Conservation policy. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Ensure that signs regulating open and closed times are posted and maintained. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Maintain and update the Atlas database as needed. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 4:** Maintain towers and building infrastructure.

**Strategy 1:** Annually address maintenance needs for the towers and associated buildings. (Forestry, Design and Development)

**Strategy 2:** Annually address vandalism issues through appropriate enforcement tactics. (Protection)

**Management Objective 5:** Maintain the Camdenton CSC archery shooting range.

**Strategy 1:** Annually maintain the shooting range boundary signs to ensure safe recreational use for all area users. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Annually inspect and maintain as needed all infrastructure associated with the shooting range, including benches, bow hangers, targets, and distance markers. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 6:** Maintain the interpretive Forest/Savanna trail.

**Strategy 1:** At least once annually remove the leaf litter from the trail to establish the designated path. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** At least twice annually remove hazard trees near the hiking trail. (Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Provide interpretive maps located in Camdenton CSC. (Site Administration)

**Strategy 4:** Maintain as needed, the trail markers associated with the interpretive trail map. (Forestry)

## VIII. Administrative Considerations

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Maintain historical information pertaining to each fire tower.
- 2) Provide annual maintenance to both Branch and Camdenton CSC area radio towers.



## APPENDICES

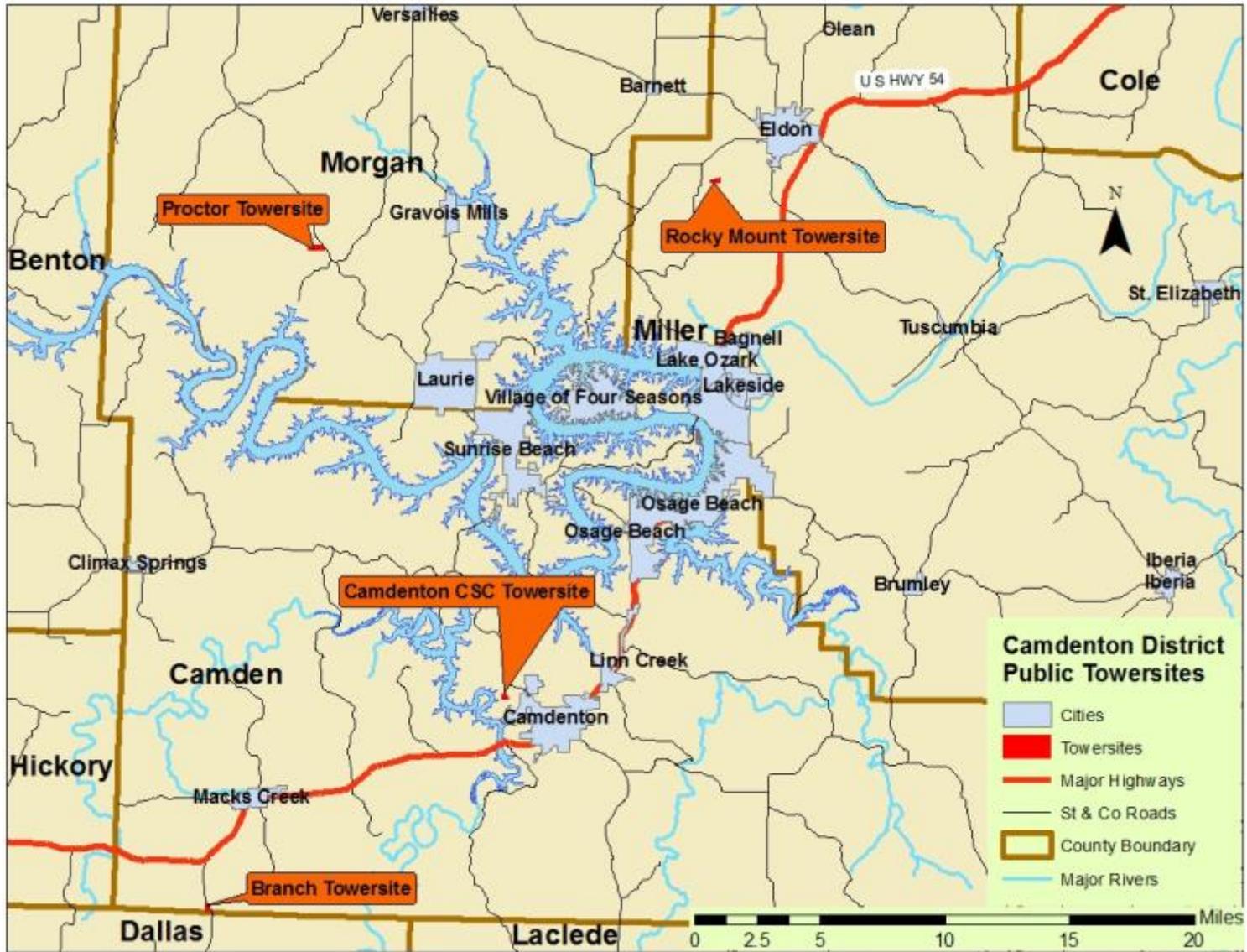
### Appendices:

- Appendix 1. Camdenton District Towersite Locations
- Appendix 2. Linn District Towersite Locations
- Appendix 3. Branch Towersite Area Background
- Appendix 4. Map of Branch Towersite
- Appendix 5. Map of Branch Towersite Utility Easement and Land Use Agreement
- Appendix 6. Map of Branch Towersite Covertypes
- Appendix 7. Camdenton Conservation Service Center Area Background
- Appendix 8. Map of Camdenton Conservation Service Center
- Appendix 9. Map of Camdenton Conservation Service Center Covertypes
- Appendix 10. Freeburg Towersite Area Background
- Appendix 11. Map of Freeburg Towersite
- Appendix 12. Map of Freeburg Towersite Utility Easement
- Appendix 13. Map of Freeburg Towersite Covertypes
- Appendix 14. Proctor Towersite Area Background
- Appendix 15. Map of Proctor Towersite
- Appendix 16. Map of Proctor Towersite Covertypes
- Appendix 17. Rocky Mount Towersite Area Background
- Appendix 18. Map of Rocky Mount Towersite
- Appendix 19. Map of Rocky Mount Towersite Road Easement.
- Appendix 20. Map of Rocky Mount Towersite Covertypes

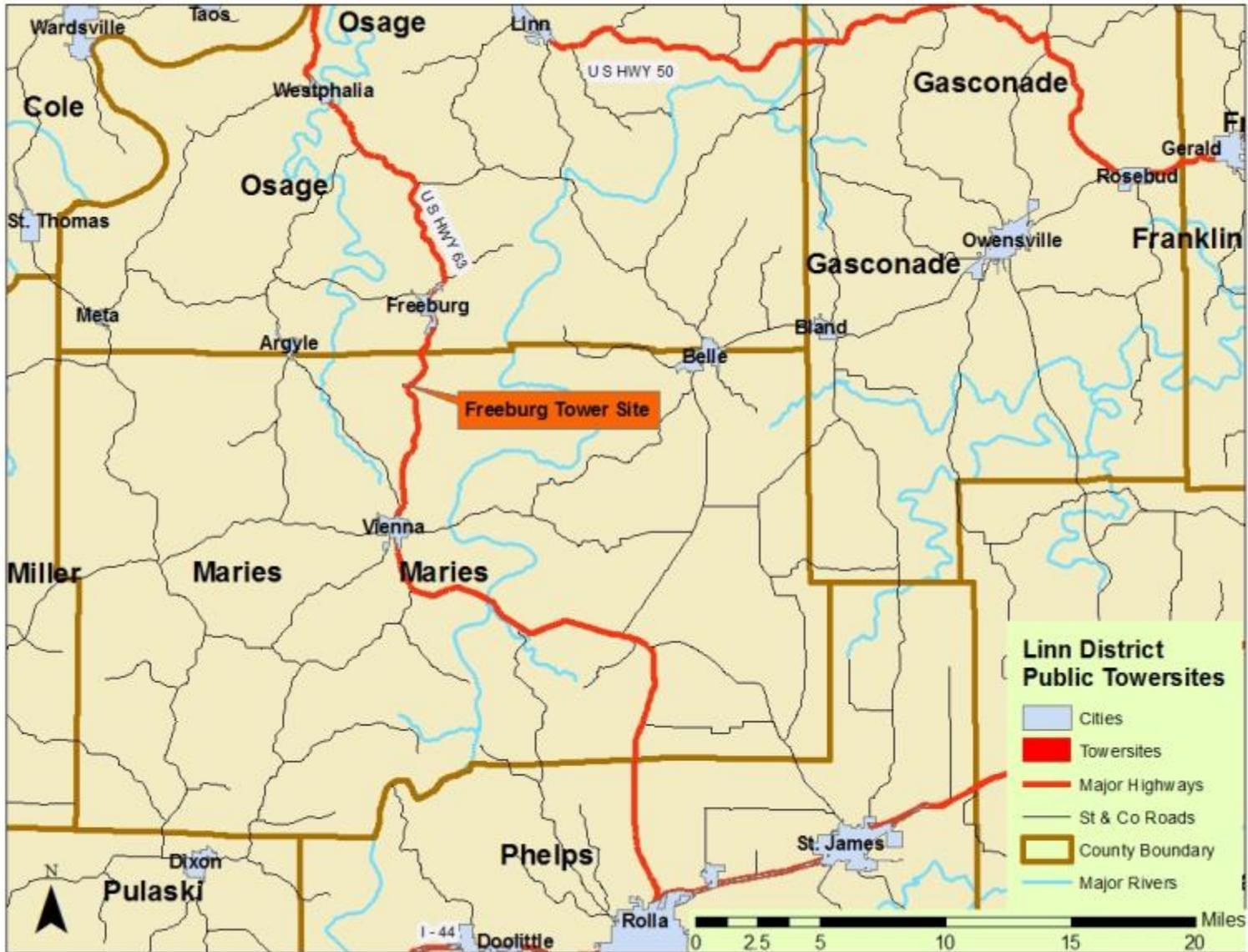
### References:

- Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests*. Jefferson City, Missouri: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.
- Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). *Missouri watershed protection practices recommended for Missouri forests: 2014 management guidelines for maintaining forested watersheds to protect streams*. Jefferson City, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Appendix 1. Camdenton District Towersite Locations



Appendix 2. Linn District Towersite Locations



### Appendix 3. Branch Towersite Area Background

Branch Towersite is located approximately 5 miles south of Macks Creek near Branch, Missouri. The area is approximately 40 acres. It is mostly forested with a mixture of hardwood and pine plantations. Open areas consist of old field shrubby grasslands and small food plots. One pond is located directly southwest of the tower.

Branch Towersite was purchased in 1946. It was planned as a conservation farming/forestry demonstration site due to its close proximity to the highway. Several species of pines were planted, pasture improvements were implemented and a pond was constructed. The original wooden tower was replaced in 1956 with a steel Aermotor Tower. This tower is considered inactive.

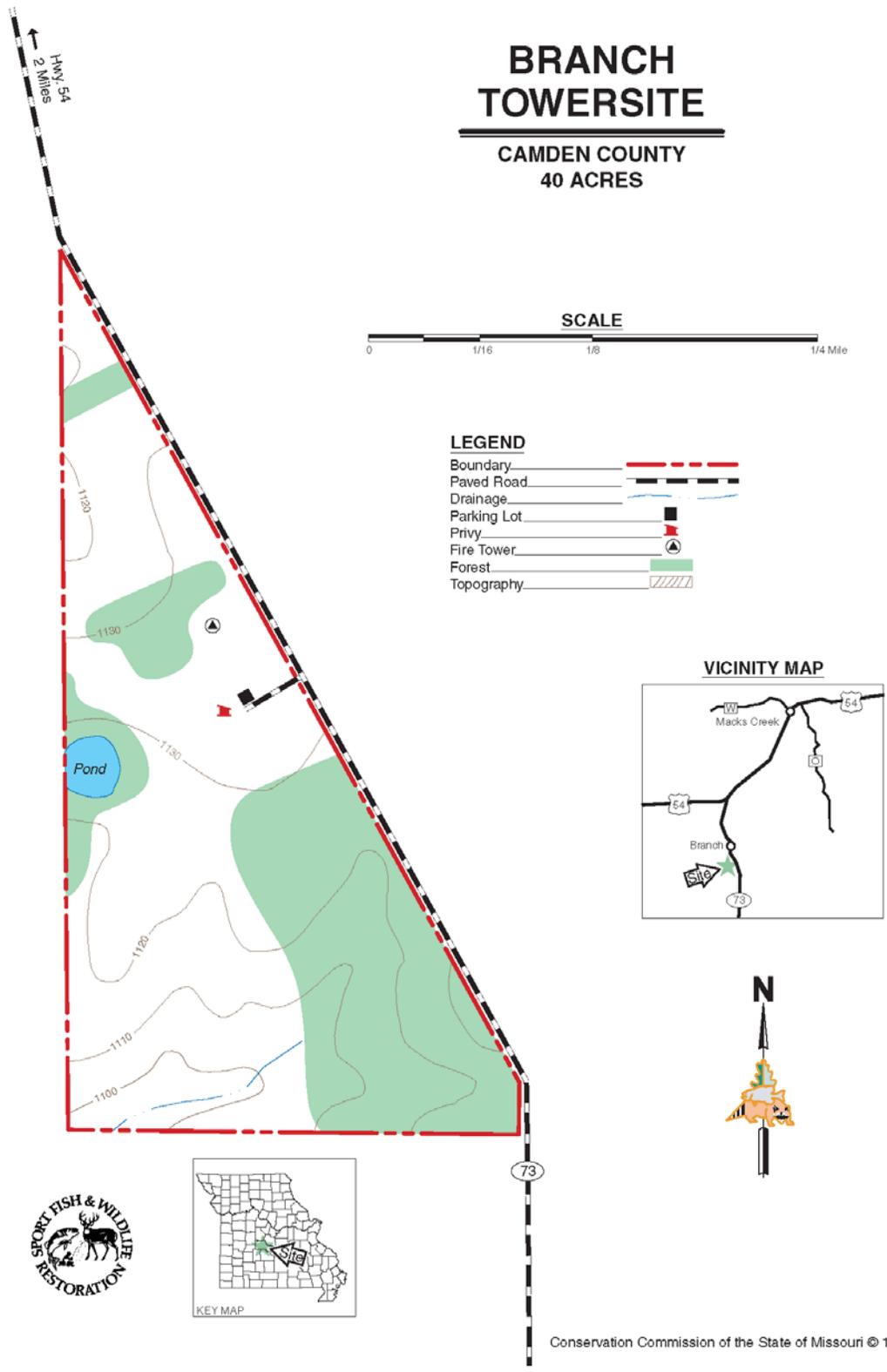
Legal Description: Township 37 North, Range 19 W, Section 34.

Area Location: From Macks Creek, Branch Towersite is located 3 miles west on Highway 54, then an additional 2 miles south on Highway 73.

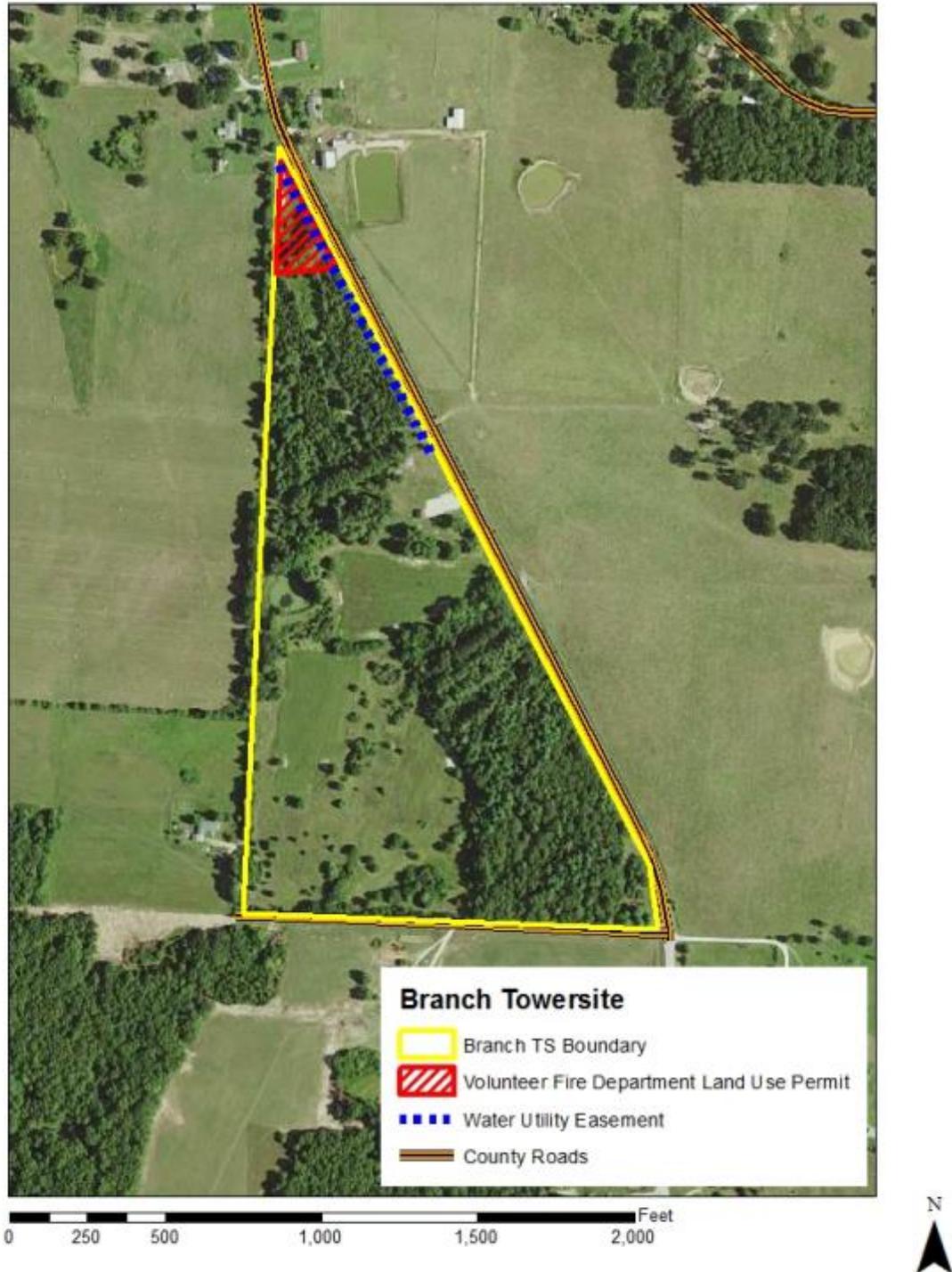
#### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest and woodland	29	73
Old field	10	25
Pond	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

### Appendix 4. Map of Branch Towersite



**Appendix 5. Map of Branch Towersite Utility Easement and Land Use Agreement**



**Appendix 6. Map of Branch Towersite Covertypes**



## Appendix 7. Camdenton Conservation Service Center Area Background

The Camdenton Towersite is located at the Camdenton Conservation Service Center approximately 3 miles northwest of Camdenton. This area is 45 acres and is mostly forested. It is a designated wildlife viewing area only and is not open for hunting. Area users have access to the 100-foot fire tower for scenic viewing, but are restricted to a platform at 80 feet. A 1.25-mile interpretive hiking trail is also open during daylight hours for public scenic viewing (e.g., of native oak hickory forest and woodland habitats). The area includes a service center facility open to the public and contains office space for field employees.

Camdenton Towersite was purchased in 1941 for the purpose of erecting a fire tower. The first tower was 60 feet tall and was constructed in the early 1940s. It was replaced by the current tower in 1983.

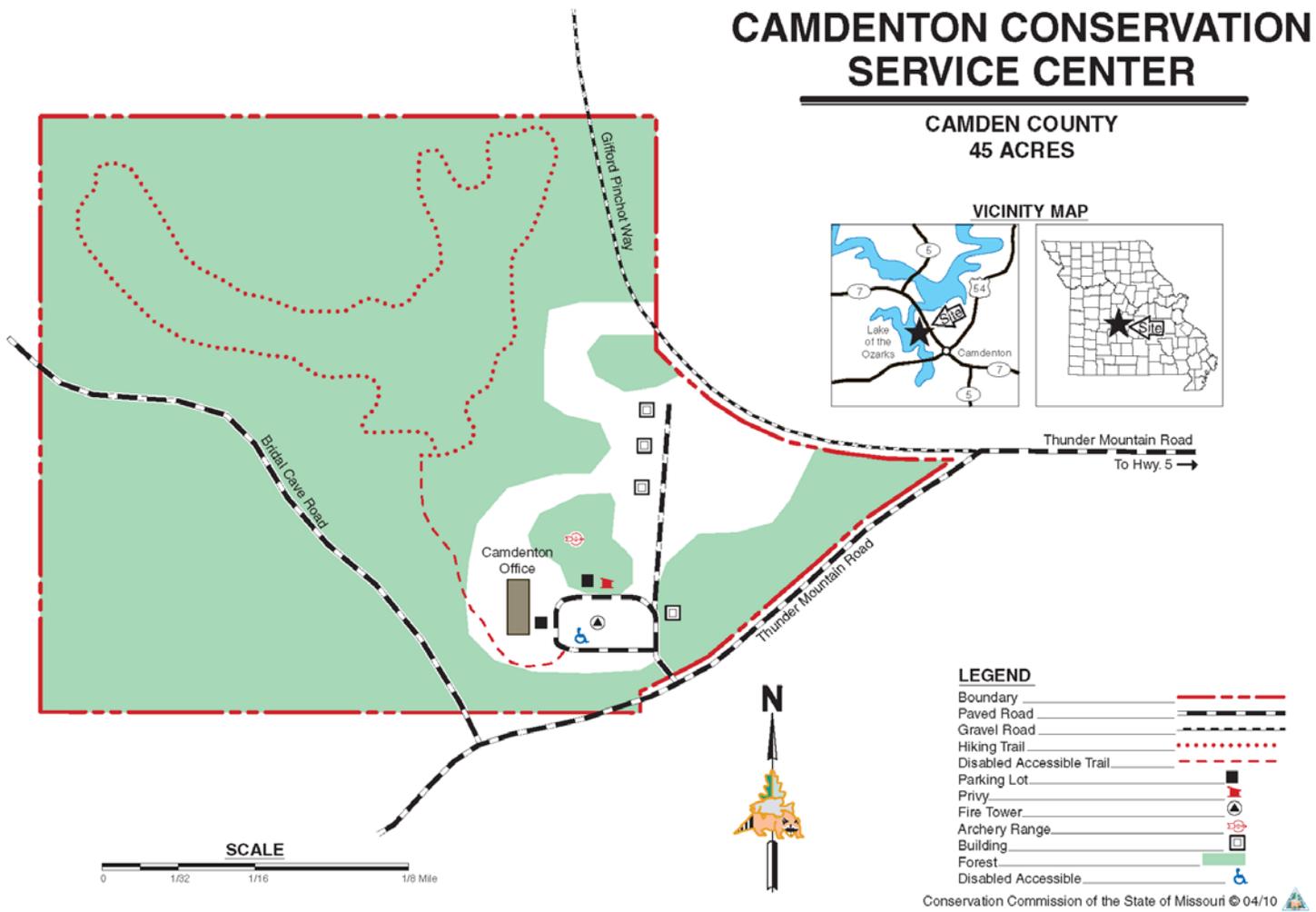
Legal Description: Township 38 North, Range 17 W, Section 22.

Area Location: From the junction of Highways 54 and 5, take Highway 54 west to Business Highway 5. Then take Business Highway 5 north to Old Route 5. Turn left and take an immediate left onto Thunder Mountain Road. Continue west 0.6 miles to the office.

### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest and woodland	36	80
CSC facilities	6	14
Grassland (non-prairie)	3	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>

Appendix 8. Map of Camdenton Conservation Service Center



**Appendix 9. Map of Camdenton Conservation Service Center Covertypes**



## Appendix 10. Freeburg Towersite Area Background

Freeburg Towersite is located in Maries County 5.5 miles north of Vienna. Directly north of the tower is an oak/hickory forest and woodland complex. The tower resides in the parking lot just off County Road 209. Excluding hunting, this area is open for public recreation under special regulations.

The 12-acre towersite was purchased in 1948 and was developed for the purpose of wildfire detection. In the late 1960s, the original wooden tower was replaced with the current steel tower.

Legal Description: Township 41 North, Range 9 W, Section 29.

Area Location: From Vienna, take Highway 63 north about 5.5 miles to County Road 209. Turn west and proceed 0.25 miles. The towersite is on the north side of the road.

### Current Land and Water Types:

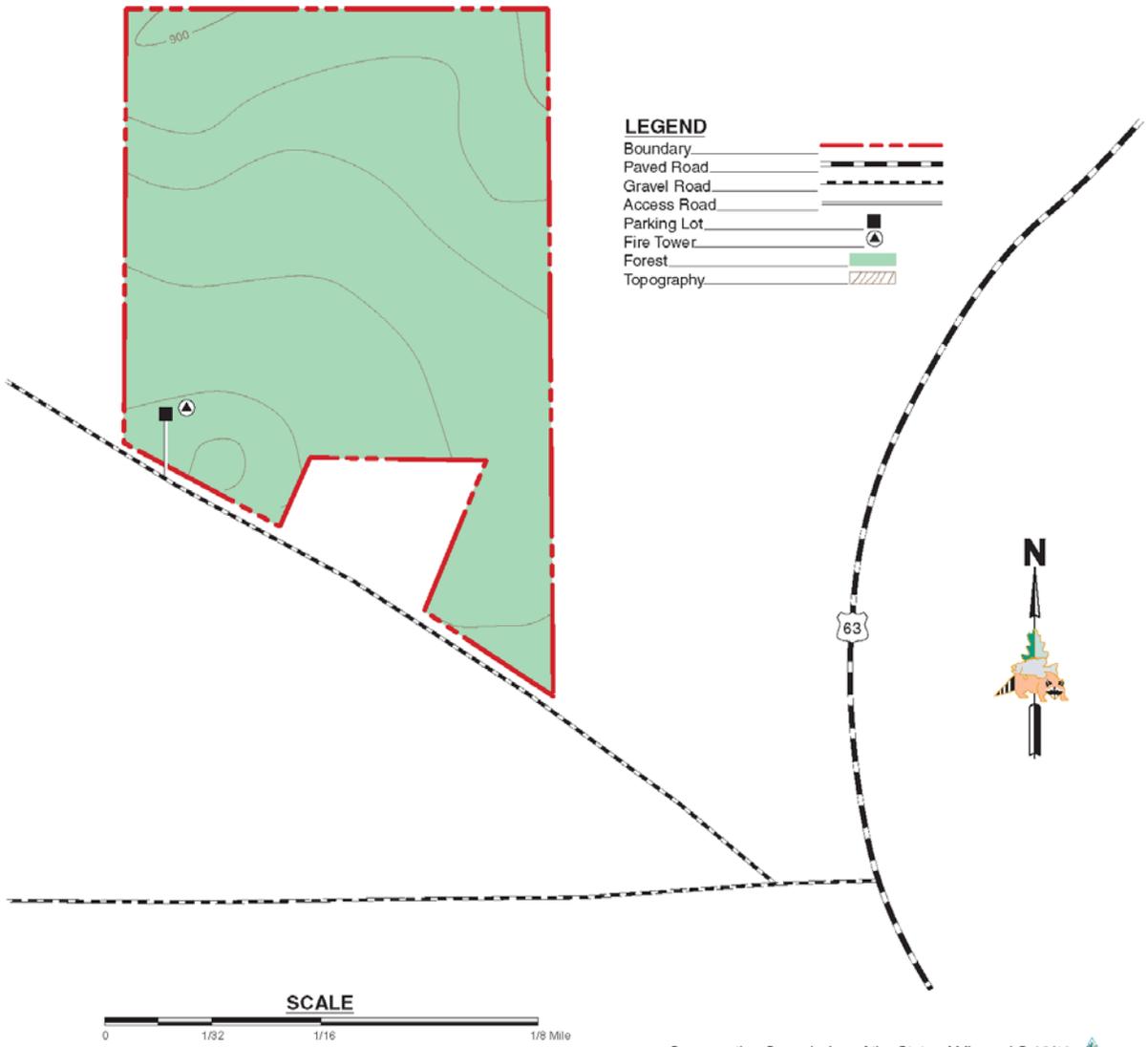
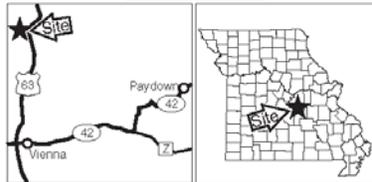
Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest and woodland	11	92
Parking lot and lawn	1	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>

Appendix 11. Map of Freeburg Towersite

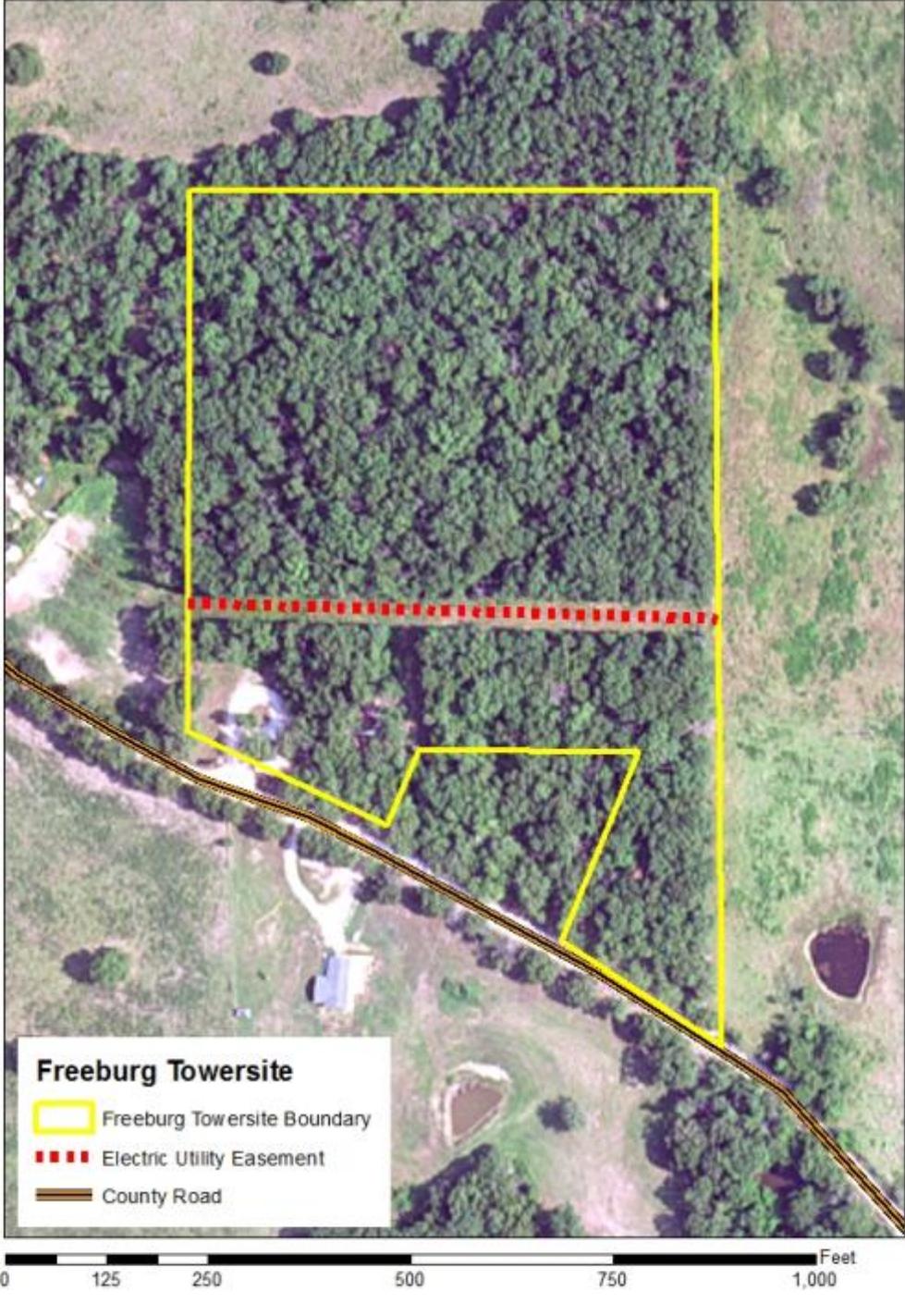
# FREEBURG TOWERSITE

MARIES COUNTY  
12 ACRES

## VICINITY MAP



Appendix 12. Map of Freeburg Towersite Utility Easement



Appendix 13. Map of Freeburg Towersite Towersite Covertypes



## Appendix 14. Proctor Towersite Area Background

Proctor Towersite is located in Morgan County on Highway 135 South of Versailles. This area is approximately 115 acres. It is entirely forested with oak/hickory and pine plantation cover types. Area users have access to the fire tower for scenic viewing. This area is open for public recreation and hunting under special regulations.

The tower property was acquired in 1944 through a land donation. It was developed into a public area in 1946. The first tower constructed was 60 feet tall and was made out of wood in 1947. In 1974 the State Forester approved the relocation of the Swedeborg tower from Pulaski County to the Lake Ozark District to replace the wooden structure at Proctor.

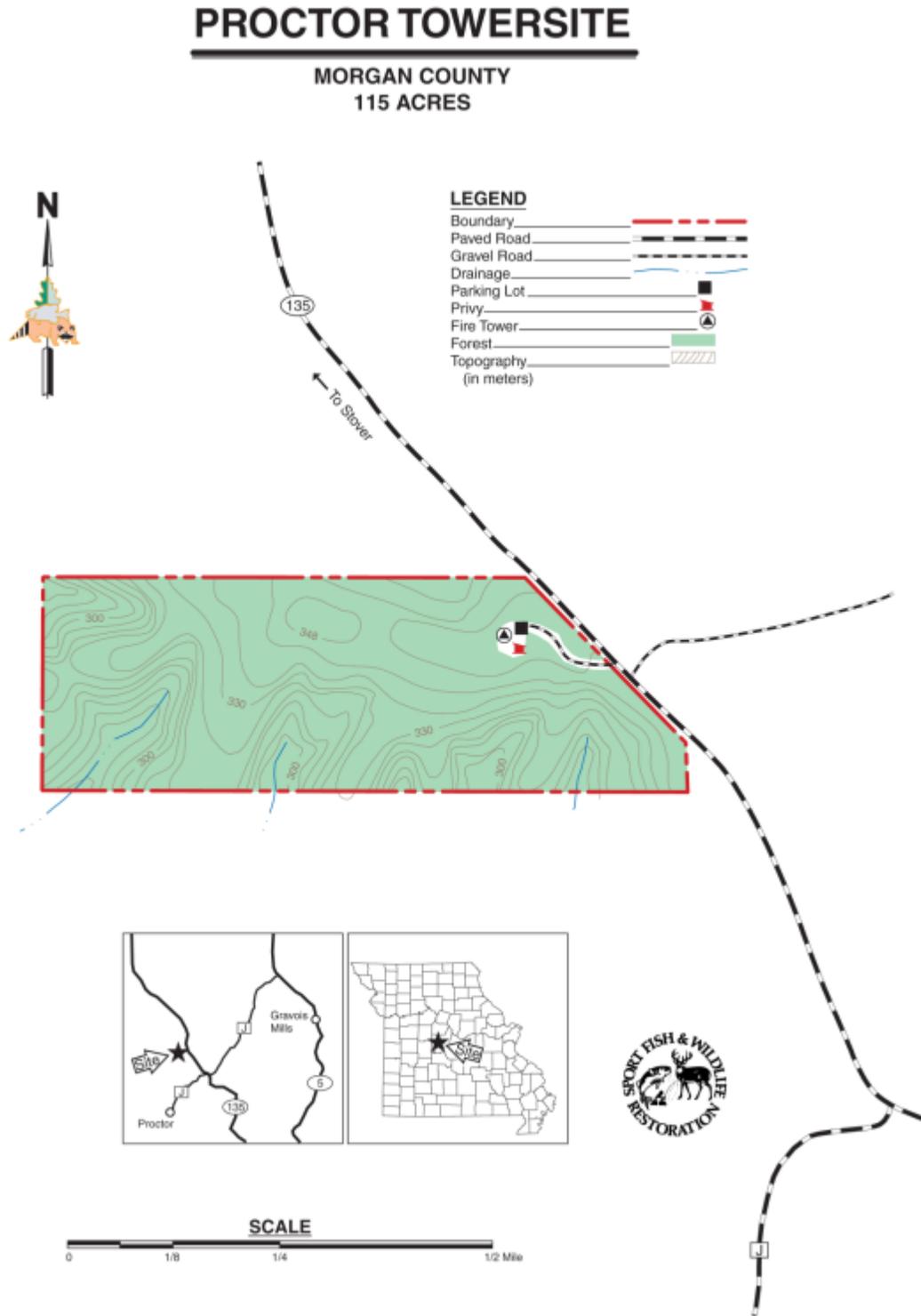
Legal Description: Township 41 North, Range 18 W, Section 28.

Area Location: From Versailles, take Highway 5 south, then Route J west (right), and Highway 135 north (right) 0.75 miles.

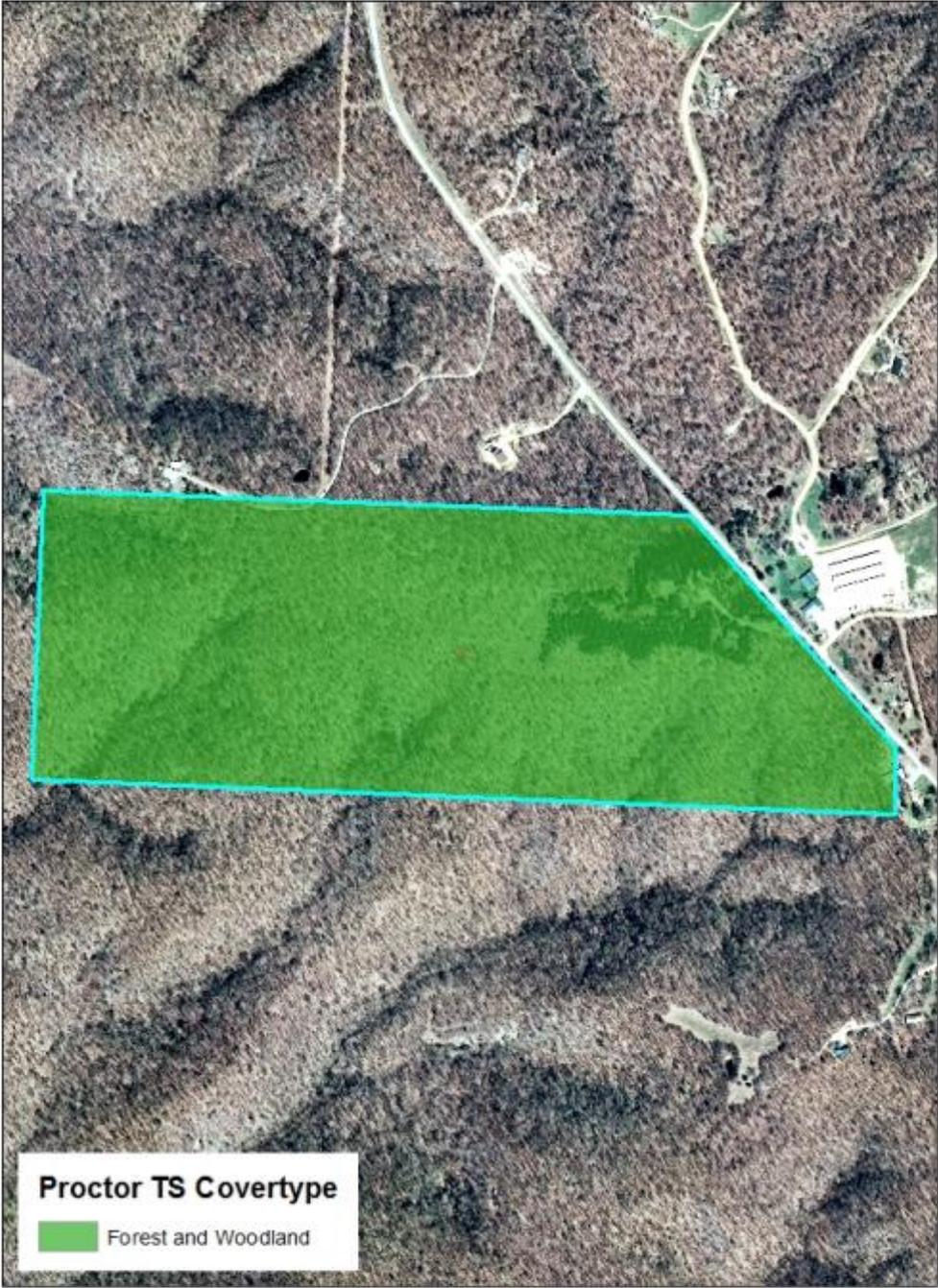
### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest and woodland	115	100

### Appendix 15. Map of Proctor Towersite



Appendix 16. Map of Proctor Towersite Covertypes



0 395 790 1,580 2,370 3,160 Feet



## Appendix 17. Rocky Mount Towersite Area Background

Rocky Mount Towersite is located in Miller County southwest of Eldon. The area is 40 acres. It is entirely forested, except for a small .5 acre glade opening. The cover type is predominantly oak/hickory forest and a woodland complex with a small pine plantation surrounding the tower. This area is open for public recreation and hunting under special regulations.

The 40-acre towersite was purchased in 1948 and was developed for the purpose of wildfire detection. In 2000 the tower was relocated to the Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City.

Legal Description: Township 41 North, Range 15 W, Section 7.

Area Location: From Eldon, take Route Y west, then Route Z south, then take the gravel road marked with signs for Dooley Cemetery (Glenwood Road/Z-2) east, then at the T-intersection (Gensert Road/Z-6) continue north 0.5 miles to the area.

### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest and woodland	39	98
Glade	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

### Appendix 18. Map of Rocky Mount Towersite

# ROCKY MOUNT TOWERSITE

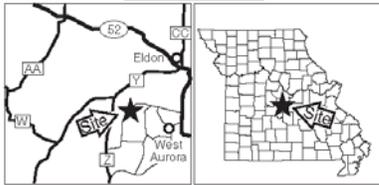
MILLER COUNTY  
40 ACRES

#### LEGEND

- Boundary 
- Gravel Road 
- Parking Lot 
- Forest 
- Topography (Contour Interval - 6 Meters) 



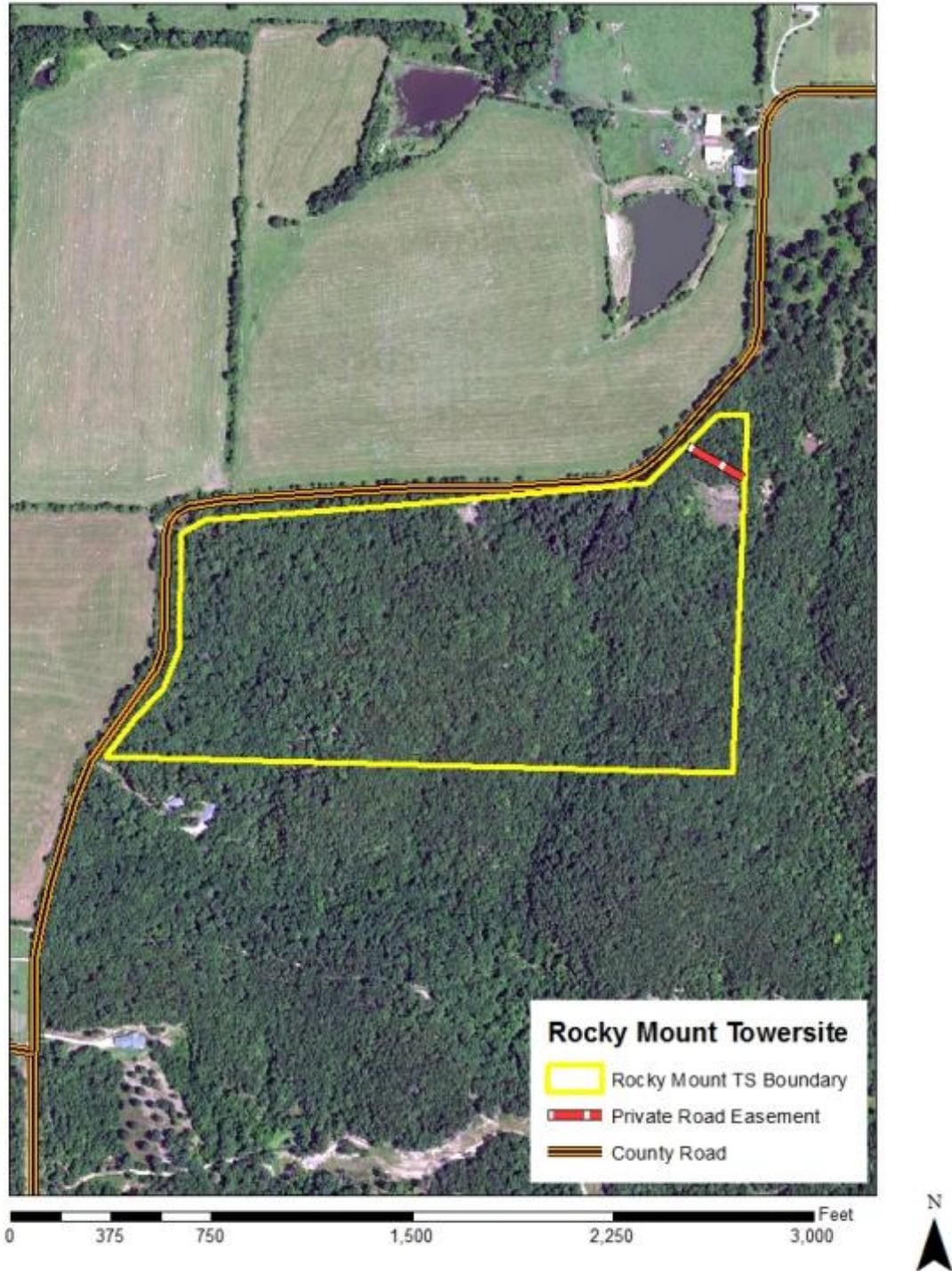
#### VICINITY MAP



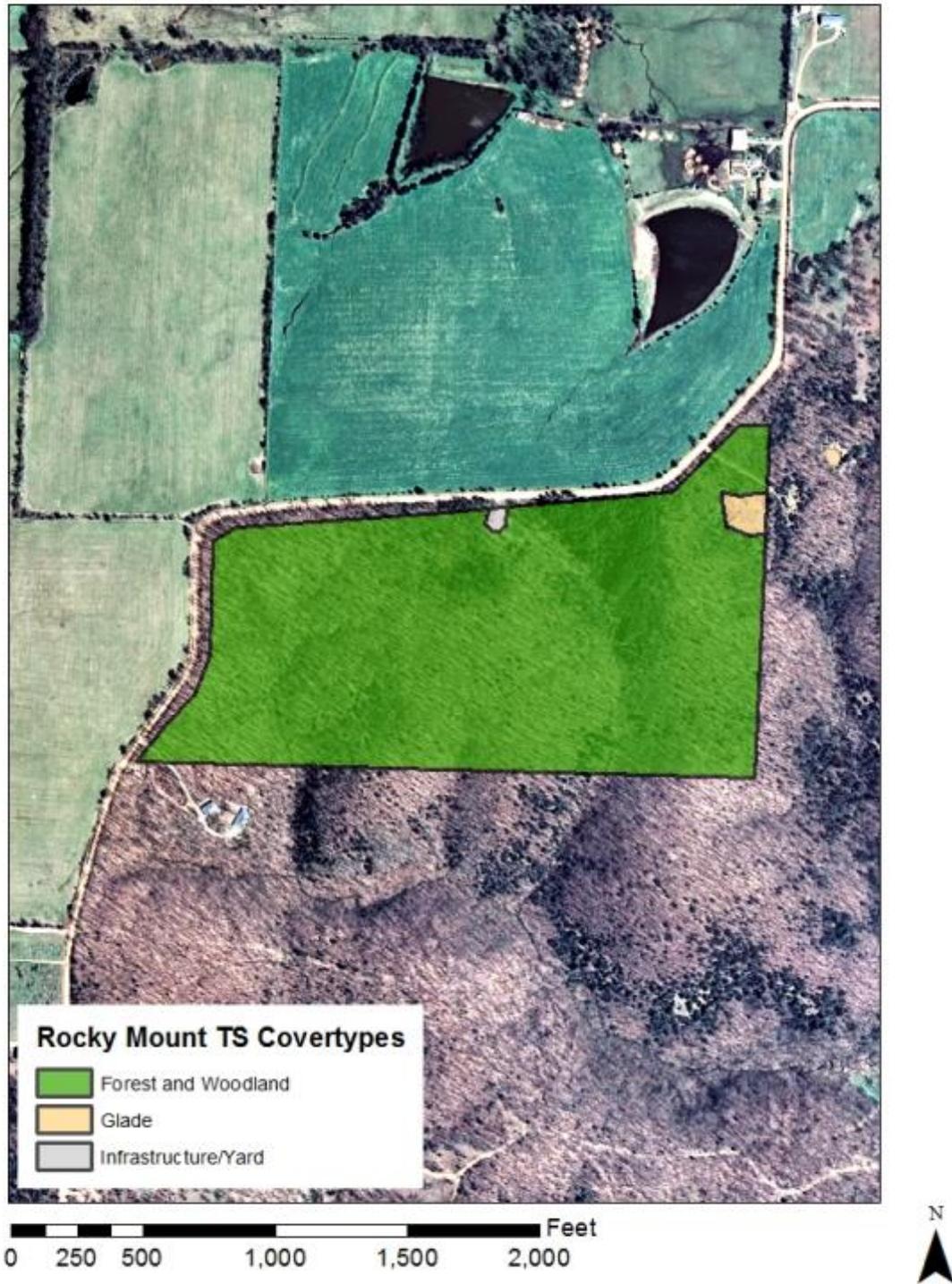
#### SCALE



**Appendix 19. Map of Rocky Mount Towersite Road Easement**



**Appendix 20. Map of Rocky Mount Towersite Covertypes**



**To submit a comment on this document,  
click on the following link:**

<http://mdc.mo.gov/node/10013?ap=13632>