

Kahrs-Boger Park

Ten-Year Area Plan FY 2017-2026





Wildlife Division Chief

15 FEB 2017
Date

Kahrs-Boger Park Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Management Chief


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1/30/17
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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Kahrs-Boger Park, # 8111
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1981
- **Acreage:** 108 acres
- **County:** Pettis
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

Kahrs-Boger Park was donated to the Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) by Audrey and James Boger with the purpose it was to be enjoyed by the public. The area is to be managed to conserve and enhance wildlife, grassland, forest, and aquatic resources with an emphasis on forest species and compatible recreational and educational opportunities.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Kahrs-Boger Park is a complex of warm-season grasslands, forest, a fishing pond, and a wooded corridor along Lake Creek.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. **Special Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** Kahrs-Boger Park lies within Lake Creek Priority Watershed. In the *Ten Year Strategic Plan for the Recovery of the Topeka Shiner in Missouri: July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2020* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2010), Lake Creek (Pettis and Benton Counties) is listed as a tertiary reintroduction site for the Topeka shiner. Although Topeka shiners have never been sampled in the watershed, the stream is in relatively good condition with relatively good habitat. Kahrs-Boger Park also lies within the Cole Camp Prairies Grassland/Prairie/Savanna Conservation Opportunity Area
 - B. Natural Areas:** None
- II. **Important Natural Features and Resources**
 - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed.
 - B. Caves:** None
 - C. Springs:** None

D. Other: This area lies within the Upper Lamine Savanna/Woodland Dissected Plain Landtype Association. This landtype association consists of slightly dissected hills with local relief of 100 to 150 feet cut into Jefferson City-Cotter dolomite. Historically, it was oak savanna and open woodlands. The bottoms are now cropland and pastures dominate the slopes and ridges. Several remnant prairies and rare fish species occur in this landtype association (Nigh & Schroeder, 2002).

III. Existing Infrastructure

- One parking lot
- One 2.3-acre fishing pond

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) Forested stands on the area have a desirable species composition and are in overall good health. Species present on the area include, but are not limited to, swamp white oak, northern red oak, shingle oak, bur oak, hickory species, American sycamore, black walnut, green ash, and elm species.
- 2) The forested riparian corridor is of sufficient width along Lake Creek to provide the necessary protection of the riparian corridor. No enhancement or restoration work is needed on the area.
- 3) Under the Agricultural Crop Program, the permittee farmer follows a soybean/wheat rotation. This regime has minimized the Johnson grass problem. Cropping also supplements natural food and provides cover for

wildlife to both sustain, and in some cases attract, wildlife. This creates better hunting and viewing opportunities for area users.

- 4) Warm-season grasses and forbs have been planted on 2.4 acres of the open areas, providing better species diversity and structure, nesting opportunities, and early successional vegetation for a wide variety of species. The rest of the open lands consist of old-field habitat. The management on these open lands in recent years included prescribed burns, mechanical disturbance, and herbicide application, directed at improving the quality of the grasslands and old fields by keeping invading woody vegetation and fescue in check.
- 5) At the time of acquisition, crop fields were heavily invaded with Johnson grass. Control methods include herbicide applications and crop rotation.

Management Objective 1: Maintain and enhance existing forest communities.

Strategy 1: Implement appropriate forest management as warranted.

Management work may include, but is not limited to mechanical thinning, herbicide application, prescribed fire, and harvesting mature or undesirable trees. The goal of any management practice will be healthy forests. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Maintain and enhance forested riparian corridors.

Strategy 1: Implement best management practices for watershed protection with all forest management activities. (Forestry)

Management Objective 3: Maintain and enhance plant diversity in grassland and old field sites.

Strategy 1: Eradicate any known infestations of fescue and Johnson grass.

Monitor area for new infestations and for other invasive species. Reduce fescue by treating with herbicides. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Maintain field borders by edge feathering, herbicide application, and burning. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 4: Provide food and cover for wildlife, and maintain early successional vegetation.

Strategy 1: Convert approximately 27 acres of cropland to suitable native vegetation, e.g. trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Manage warm-season grassland plantings and old fields by burning, disking, spraying, mowing, permittee haying, and/or dozing to maintain early successional habitat. (Wildlife)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

The area lies within the Lake Creek watershed. Fourth-order Lake Creek and a small unnamed tributary run through the area. There is a 2.3-acre fishing pond on the area.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Manage landscapes on a watershed basis. Land management within a watershed affects conditions locally and downstream of the site.
- 2) Protect stream riparian areas, leaving filter strips along streams to protect water quality and in-stream habitat.

Management Objective 1: Maintain and protect healthy watersheds by implementing best management practices.

Strategy 1: Follow *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009) and the Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) Resource Policy Manual, to ensure that all management activities adhere to best management practices. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Maintain adequate stream corridors on area streams in order to maintain or improve water quality.

Strategy 1: Maintain 100-foot wooded corridors adjacent to streams. (Wildlife)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Kahrs-Boger Park is open to deer, turkey, and small game hunting.
- 2) Due to its proximity to Sedalia, the area is a convenient destination for schools and youth groups looking for an outdoor classroom site. It could also serve as an educational workshop site for teachers.
- 3) Provide quality angling opportunities. This area has the potential to provide fishing clinics for young/inexperienced anglers.

Management Objective 1: Provide public hunting and viewing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Conduct annual management activities that will provide habitat for a diversity of wildlife species. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Improve educational and interpretive opportunities.

Strategy 1: Communicate recreational opportunities to the public (e.g., using brochures, Atlas database). (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Work with Department education consultants in the Kansas City Region to enhance the usability of the area for the Discover Nature Schools program. Communicate to teachers, students, scout groups, and youth groups to facilitate Kahrs-Boger Park as a possible destination for ecology classes, school programs, and workshops. (Outreach and Education, Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Provide public fishing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Manage fishing pond for self-sustaining populations. Supplementally stock channel catfish as needed. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Use mechanical methods and herbicides to control unwanted aquatic vegetation and invasive species. (Fisheries)

Strategy 3: The pond offers easy bank fishing access. Encourage use of the pond as a site for angler recruitment and outreach and education classes/clinics. (Fisheries)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain good relationships with neighboring landowners.
- 2) Maintain area infrastructure at current level.
- 3) Consider acquisition of land, when available.

Management Objective 1: Facilitate a good working relationship with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Work with neighbors to minimize any boundary, trespass, or illegal activities from occurring on Kahrs-Boger Park or private property. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Promote habitat management on neighboring landowners' properties. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

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

Strategy 2: Maintain access trail to fishing lake. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Follow dam maintenance according to Department maintenance guidelines. (Wildlife)

Lands Proposed for Acquisition:

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain

unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

All strategies for this management plan are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Area Background:

This 108-acre area was donated by Audrey and James Boger to be enjoyed by the public. The Department acquired ownership in 1981 and began management soon after. The area contains a mixture of openland, grassland, and forest habitats. There is one small lake with a good fish population of largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Forest	55		51
Openland	27		25
Old field	21.3		20
Warm-season grass/forb plantings	2.4		2
Impounded water	2.3		2
Total	108		100
Fourth-order stream frontage		2,270	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Kahrs-Boger Park Management Plan was available for a public comment period September 1–30, 2016. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from one respondent (Appendix A). The Kahrs-Boger Park 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.

Department responses to themes and issues identified through the Kahrs-Boger Park Management Plan public comment period.

Wonders if it is possible to remove large trees that fall between neighboring property and Kahrs-Boger Park?

Staff will conduct an on-site visit to assess the condition and develop a plan to permanently correct this situation while protecting the riparian corridor of Lake Creek.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2009). *Watershed and stream management guidelines for lands and waters managed by Missouri Department of Conservation*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2010). *A ten year strategic plan for the recovery of the Topeka shiner in Missouri: July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2020*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

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

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map

Additional Appendices:

Appendix A. Kahrs-Boger Park Management Plan Public Comments

Figure 1: Area Map

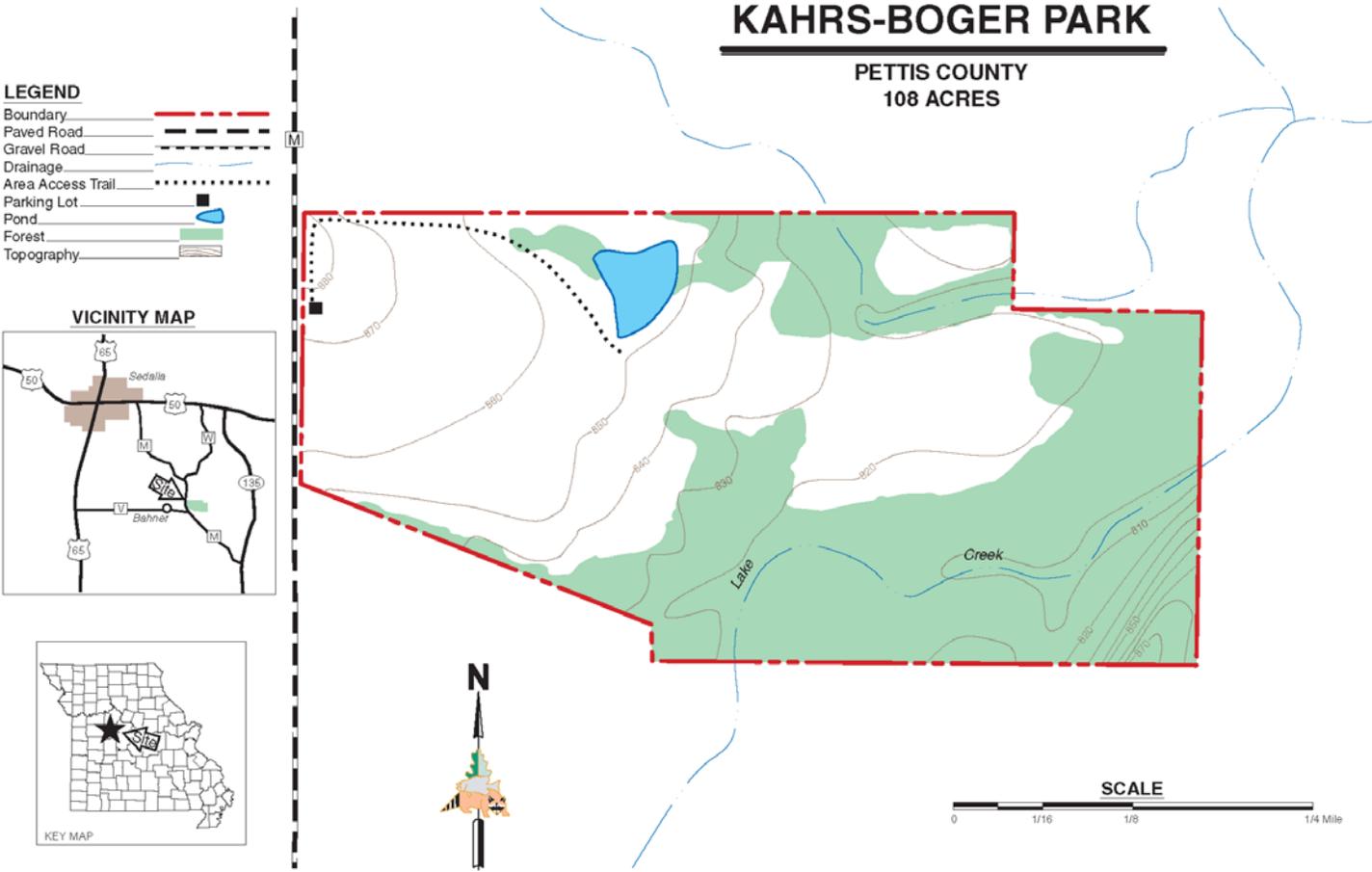


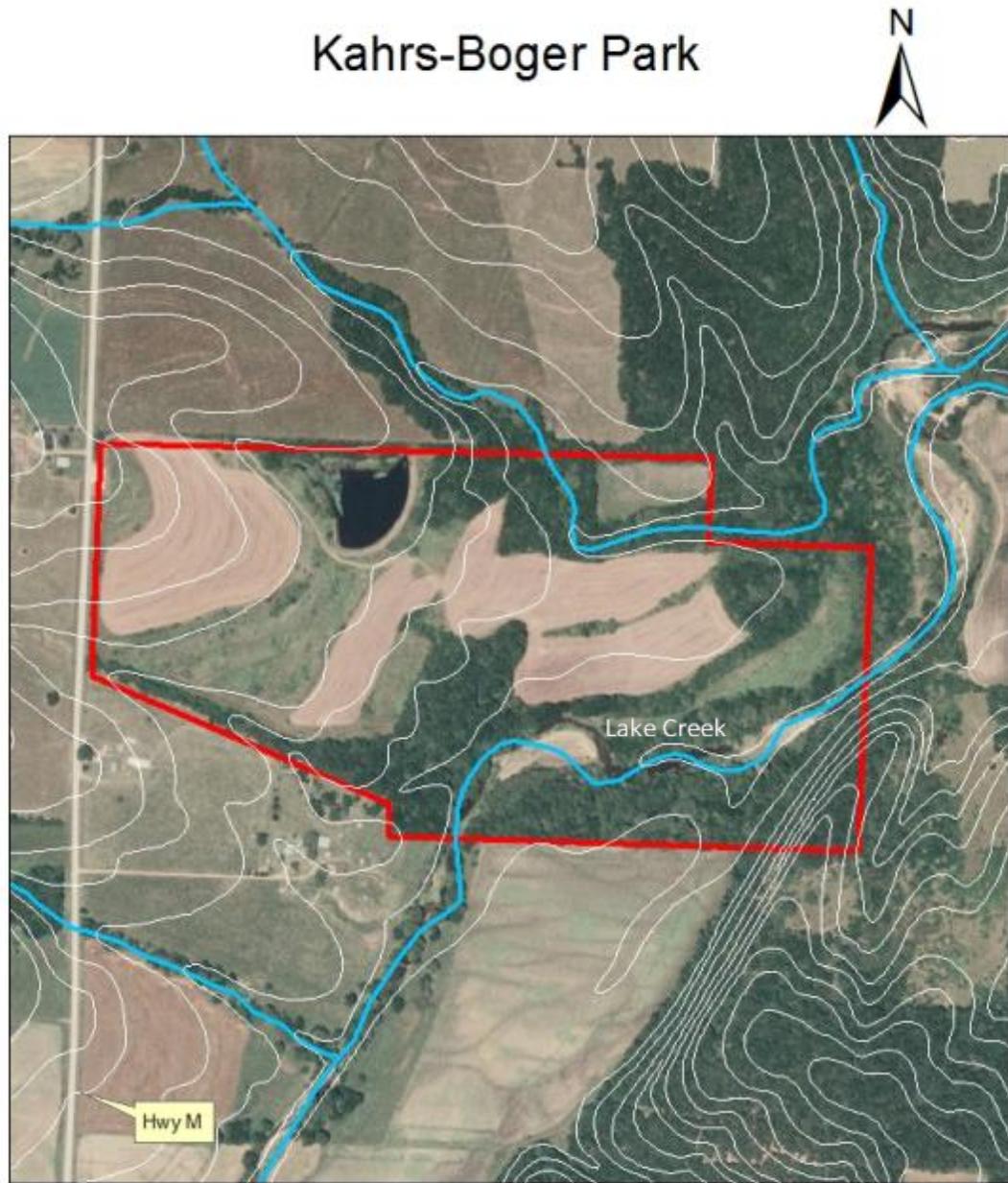
Figure 2: Aerial Map



Legend

-  Streams
-  Area Boundary

Figure 3: Topographic Map



Legend

-  Streams
-  Area Boundary

Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map



Appendix A. Kahrs-Boger Park Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (September 1-30, 2016):

I am not sure if this is the type of comment you are looking for but I have one comment if it is appropriate. I have a question and I am not sure if this is the correct place to ask it. Is it possible to remove the big trees that are continually falling on the fence between our property and Kahrs-Boger Park? This is the area on the south border of Kahrs-Boger Park just east of Lake Creek. I would like to pasture this field in the spring and fall. The falling of trees and limbs on the fence cause a lot of extra labor year around.