



Welcome

Missouri is a state rich in history, folklore, and natural resources. The Conservation Department encourages you to visit, use, and enjoy this area and other Department areas.

Conservation Areas offer a peaceful escape where nature's simple beauty shines. Whether you're hiking through quiet woods, watching birds glide over shimmering ponds, or just breathing in fresh, clean air, these places help you slow down and reconnect.

If you're looking for a place to find calm, enjoy the outdoors, and appreciate the natural world, Missouri's Conservation Areas are waiting to welcome you.

Nearby Department Areas:

Paris Springs Access
Mt. Vernon Prairie
Robert E. Talbot Conservation Area
Bois D'Arc Conservation Area

Driving Directions

From Mt. Vernon, take Highway 174 east
8 miles to the area.

For local information, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
Southwest Regional Office
2630 N. Mayfair
Springfield, MO 65803
417-895-6880

*Additional area information is posted on
bulletin boards located in parking areas
and area offices.*

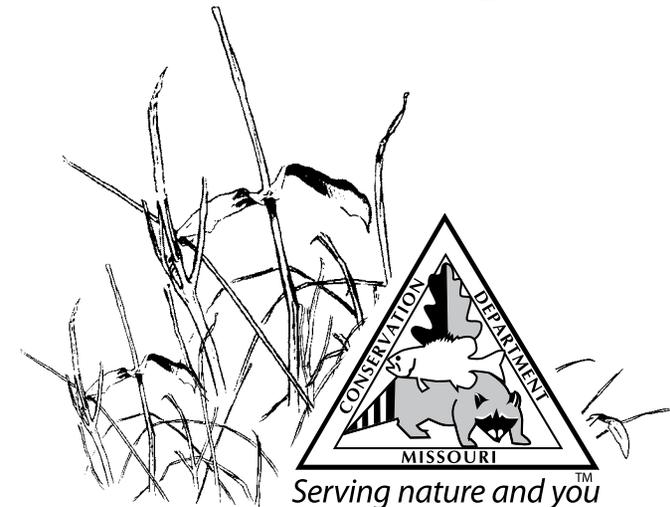
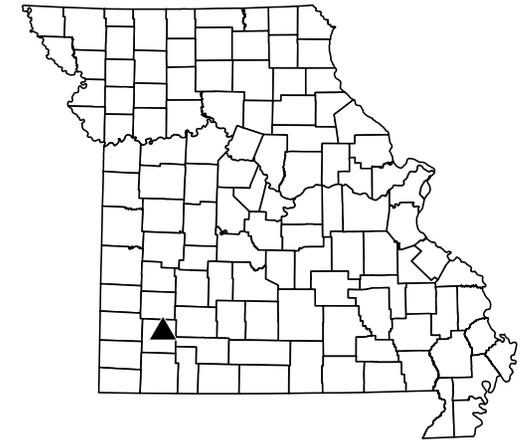
*Missouri Department of Conservation is an equal
opportunity provider.*

08/2025

(Regulations are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are in Chapter 11 of the Wildlife Code. A free printed copy of the Wildlife Code, which lists most area regulations, is available from the Conservation Department. Chapter 11 in its entirety is available at www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp.) Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, (573) 751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

Chesapeake

FISH HATCHERY



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Chesapeake Fish Hatchery

About this Area

Chesapeake Fish Hatchery resides in the community of Chesapeake in Lawrence County. It is located eight miles east of Mt. Vernon, or 10 miles west of Republic, on Highway 174.

The land was originally purchased in 1926, and a small hatchery was in production by 1927. Floods destroyed the hatchery twice by 1929. In the 1930s, new hatchery construction was started by the Civilian Conservation Corps and completed by the Works Progress Administration. These facilities were used for nearly 50 years until 1984, when Chesapeake Fish Hatchery underwent a complete renovation. By 1988, a completely new and modern hatchery had emerged.

The entire area consists of 117 acres, with the hatchery facility itself covering about 40 acres. The remainder of the area is dedicated to providing wildlife habitat. Chesapeake Creek flows through the area, supplying an inviting environment for wildlife.

The current hatchery comprises 13 one-acre ponds, 10 one-half acre ponds, and a four-acre ambient water supply pond. In addition, there are 12 7,875-gallon raceways, and a 4,900 square-foot fish production room, complete with egg incubation jars, swim-up tanks, and rearing tanks.

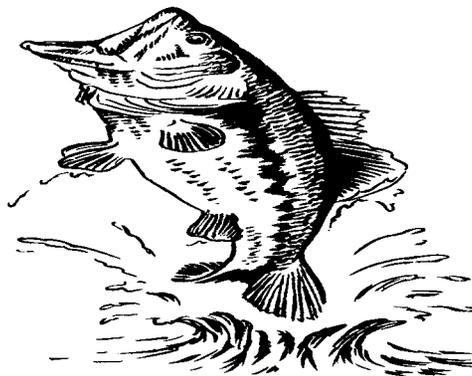
Other facilities include offices, a

laboratory, computer monitoring room, a 20,000-gallon water storage tower and a mechanical room. The mechanical room lodges a heat pump used for heating hatchery supply water, ultraviolet and sand filters used to purify the water.

The primary water supply for the facility is Chesapeake Spring, which at average flow provides 500-1,000 gallons of water per minute (GPM). The spring flow can be supplemented with two wells capable of providing an additional 450 GPM each.

Annually, an average of more than 4 million fish are produced at Chesapeake. Fish species produced include bluegill, channel catfish, triploid grass carp, hybrid sunfish, largemouth bass, walleye and sometimes rainbow trout and alligator gar. These fish are stocked into public lakes and some are supplied to other states.

Public visitation and tours are welcome. Limited picnic facilities are available.



Things to Do

- Nature study and wildlife viewing
- Outdoor photography
- Picnicking
- Walking

Rules and Regulations

Area hours: Open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- No littering.
- No fireworks.
- No open fires.
- Destroying, cutting, or removing vegetation, including wildflowers, is prohibited. Taking of wild greens from natural areas is not allowed.
- Motor vehicles are restricted to the paved road and parking area.
- No camping permitted.
- Bicycles are allowed only on roads open to vehicles, except where further restricted by posting.
- Swimming, scuba diving, water skiing, sailboarding, skateboarding, and caving are not allowed.

Fishing and Boating

- Fishing is prohibited.
- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited on all impounded waters and their discharge channels.
- Boats are prohibited.

Hunting and Trapping

- Area is closed to hunting and trapping.