

July-September 2014 Area Plan Public Comment Summary



Sand Prairie Conservation Area

Missouri Department of Conservation
October 2014



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Missouri Department of Conservation is seeking public input as we develop and revise conservation area management plans.
- For the period of July – September 2014, 14 area plans (covering 20 Conservation Areas, and seven Accesses) were posted for month-long public comment periods (mdc.mo.gov/areaplans).
- Comment periods were advertised locally with notices posted on Conservation Area bulletin boards, contacts made with neighboring landowners, and in some cases, news releases or other outreach methods were used.
- During this time period (July – September 2014), we received 50 comments on nine area plans.
- Themes and issues identified for these plans included support for natural community restoration; suggestions to improve fishing, improve trails to fishing areas, add equestrian trails, ban horseback riding and bicycle use, add modern campgrounds, mow more frequently; and more.
- Area planning teams are responding to themes and issues as they finalize area management plans. Final area plans with responses to public comment themes and issues are posted online (mdc.mo.gov/areaplans).

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

For the period of July – September 2014, 14 area plans (covering 20 Conservation Areas and seven Accesses) were posted for month-long public comment periods. Comment periods were advertised locally with notices posted on Conservation Area bulletin boards, contacts made with neighboring landowners, and in some cases news releases or other outreach methods were used. During this time we received 50 comments from nine area plans (see Table 1).

Table 1. Number of comments received by plan, July - September 2014

Comment Month	Area Plan	MDC Region	Comments Received
July 2014	Dr. Bernard Bruns Access	Central	0
July 2014	Buchanan County CA¹	Northwest	1
July 2014	Elam Bend CA	Northwest	3
July 2014	Loess Hill Prairies²	Northwest	1
August 2014	Ranacker CA	Northeast	5
August 2014	Lake Paho CA	Northwest	11
August 2014	Shoal Creek Accesses ³	Southwest	0
August 2014	Emmenegger Nature Park and Possum Woods CA	St. Louis	22
September 2014	Black Island CA	Southeast	1
September 2014	Cape Girardeau Urban Wild Acres⁴	Southeast	1
September 2014	Lake Girardeau CA	Southeast	0
September 2014	Sand Prairie CA	Southeast	0
September 2014	Drywood CA	Southwest	0
September 2014	Sunset Park Access	Southwest	5
July-September TOTAL			50

¹Plan includes Agency CA, Arthur Dupree CA, Bee Creek CA, Wilfrid V. and Anna C. Kneib Memorial CA, Sunbridge Hills CA and Caroline Sheridan Logan Memorial CA.

²Plan includes Brickyard Hill CA, Jamerson C. McCormack CA and Star School Hill Prairie CA.

³Plan includes Smack-Out Access, Cherry Corner Access, Allen Bridge Access, Lime Kiln Access and Wildcat Access.

⁴Plan includes Cape LaCroix Bluffs CA, Cape Woods CA and Juden Creek CA.

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS

Who responded?

We received 50 comments from 43 respondents (Table 2). Several respondents submitted multiple comments; so the total number of comments is greater than the total number of respondents.

Table 2. Respondents by respondent category, if self-identified

Organization Type	Count
Individual citizens	38
Nonprofit organizations ¹	3
Volunteer groups ²	1
Local port authority ³	1
TOTAL	43

¹Webster Groves Nature Study Society, Speak-Up for Wildlife Foundation and Show-Me Missouri Backcountry Horsemen

²Boy Scout Cub Pack

³Southeast Missouri Regional Port Authority (SEMO Port)

How they responded:

Table 3. Total number of each response received

Response Type	Count	Percent
Web comment form	49	98
Phone call	1	2
TOTAL	50	100%

Where respondents are from:

Table 4. Total number of respondents by location

State	Count	Percent
Missouri	40	93%
Out-of-state (Texas; Utah; Alberta, Canada)	3	7%
TOTAL	43	100%

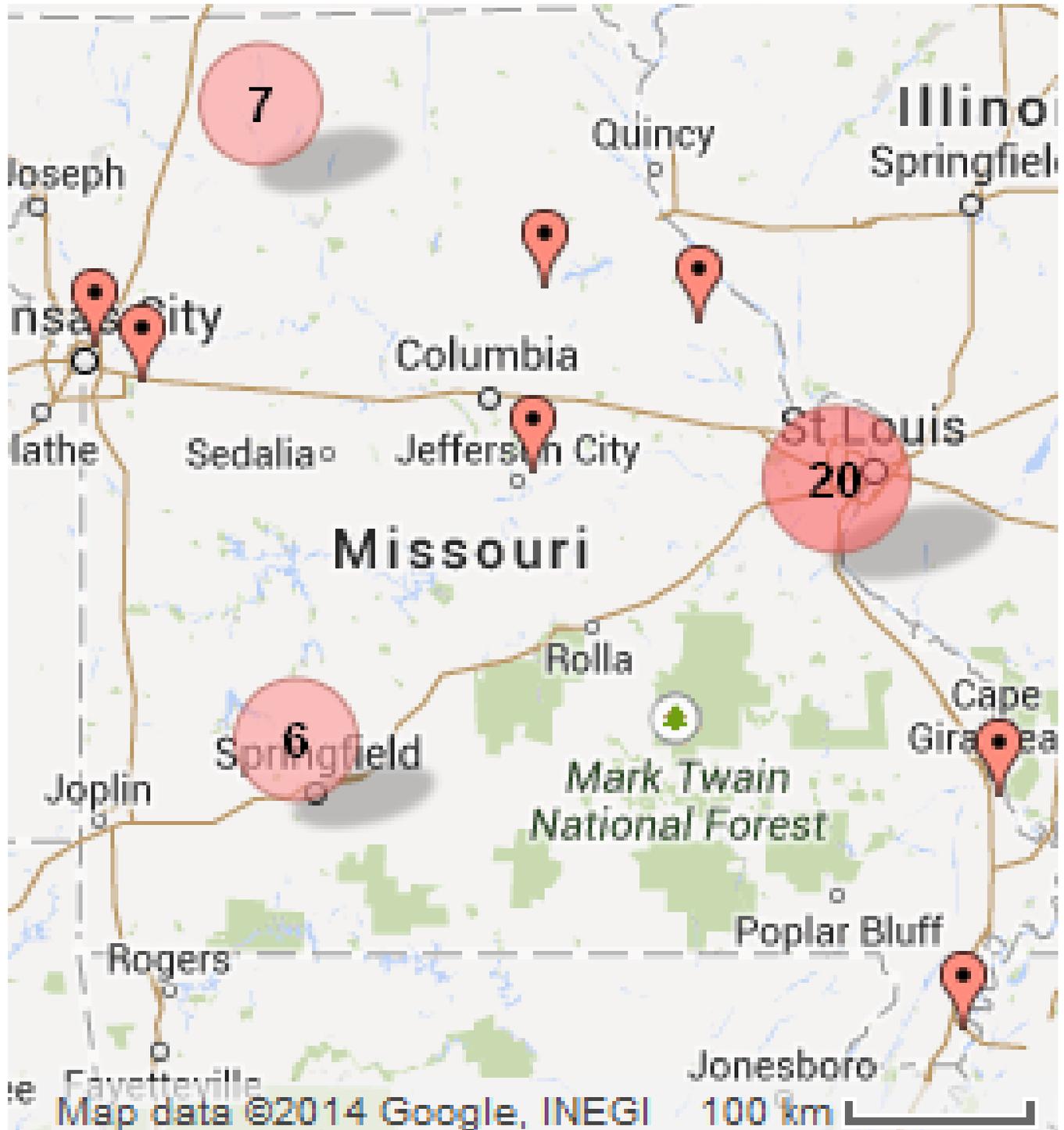
Figure 1. Map of respondents by zipcode.

The pinpoints below represent the geographic center of zip code boundaries from which a public comment was received (they do not represent actual street addresses). Shaded circles with numbers in them represent multiple responses from a single ZIP code or region.



Figure 2. Map of Missouri Respondents by ZIP code

The pinpoints below represent the geographic center of ZIP code boundaries from which a public comment was received (they do not represent actual street addresses). Shaded circles with numbers in them represent multiple responses from a single ZIP code or region.



THEMES AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED

The following are themes and issues that were identified from public comments received on draft area management plans available for public review July-September 2014. Missouri Department of Conservation responses to these themes and issues can be found in each final area plan, posted online at mdc.mo.gov/areaplans, once each plan receives final approval.

Terrestrial Resource Management

- Suggests providing information on endangered species that occur on the area.
- Appreciates fishless ponds for invertebrates and amphibians.
- Requests information on where funds go from timber harvest.
- Requests information on whether firewood cutting is allowed.
- Supports restoration of glades and other natural communities. Supports restoring area to pre-settlement conditions. Supports the use of prescribed fire to restore habitats.
- Supports working with volunteers to eradicate invasive plants (honeysuckle, euonymus, Mimosa, etc.). Suggests organizing all different groups who volunteer on area into a single volunteer group devoted to Emmenegger.
- Suggests scientific monitoring and inventory of all biota on area and encouraging citizens to share lists of biota observed.
- Suggests increasing use of area as demonstration area for restoration of semi-urban natural areas.
- Suggests constructing ephemeral ponds for reptiles and amphibians.
- Suggests addressing the management of vegetation under the power line easement.

Aquatic Resource Management

- Suggests stocking lake with walleye, bass and channel catfish.
- Requests more information on plans to remove “junk fish” (e.g., carp, shad).
- Suggests alternative methods for improving fish habitat.
- Supports pervious surfaces for roads, parking lots, and trails and signage related to pervious surfaces and rain gardens.
- Suggests cleaning up along Meramec River (abandoned boat ramp and visible oil or natural gas pipelines).
- Suggests allowing night fishing once or twice a year.

Public Use Management

Trails

- Suggests the addition of equestrian trails and a primitive equestrian campsite.
- Suggests creation of multi-use trail (hike/bike/horse) with several loops. Close multi-use trail during hunting season, if necessary.

- Suggests multi-use trail (hike/bike/horse) with side-trails to reach underutilized smaller fishing ponds.
- Opposes trail development through Meramec riverfront. Opposes regional multi-use (hike/bike) trails through this area. Suggests removing strategy to monitor regional trail efforts (Public Use Management Objective 5, Strategy 3).
- Suggests trail access for fishing in Meramec River further from parking lot.
- Suggests trail improvements and additional connecting trails.
- Supports the use and maintenance of wood chips on trails.
- Enjoy walking and biking the trail

Amenities

- Suggests managing this area similar to a state park with modern campsites, swim area, playground, and fish dressing station.
- Suggests allowing private boats with motors on Lake Paho and providing boats for rent.
- Suggests more stable dock by headquarters.
- Suggests adding a boat ramp to the Meramec River.
- Suggests creating a disabled-accessible fishing area.
- Opposes development of playground/natural outdoor play area. Supports adding a swing set near pavilion.
- Supports ongoing maintenance for picnic shelter, water tap, and restroom.
- Suggests putting in a boat ramp at the north end of Samples Bayou
- Add picnic tables/benches and restrooms.

Hunting

- Supports current deer hunting regulations on area.
- Requests information on waterfowl hunting regulations at Lake Paho.
- Suggests adding a shooting/archery range.
- Suggests allowing archery deer and turkey hunting.
- Suggests allowing mushroom collecting on area.

Other

- Suggests more openings to access Peno Creek.
- Appreciates the employees at Lake Paho CA. They are hardworking and friendly.
- Suggests working with Kirkwood Parks Department to address off-leash dogs. Suggests banning pets from the area.
- Supports continuing ban on bicycle use. Suggests “No Bicycles” sign and bike rack at entrance.
- Supports ban on horseback riding.
- Supports improved access to gravel bar. Opposes developing gravel bar access.

- Suggests increasing patrols of area to minimize area use violations. Suggests installing photo surveillance system if routine surveillance fails to protect area.
- Requests Special Use Permit for citizens with disabilities to use off-road mule to access area.
- Requests continuing to allow water baptisms.

Administrative Considerations

- Suggests relocation of entrance road, due to heavy traffic and dust.
- Appreciates Emmenegger Nature Park.
- Suggests improving entrance appearance.
- Suggests entrance sign that says “Emmenegger Nature Park” instead of “Emmenegger Park.”
- Opposes further development or construction.
- Suggests more frequent mowing.
- Suggests working with nearby soccer facility to lower their music.
- Suggests keeping area open at least thirty minutes after sunset.
- Supports acquiring adjoining property from willing sellers or encouraging conservation easements.
- Requests information on the role that the City of Kirkwood plays in the management and maintenance of Emmenegger.
- Suggests replacing fences around glades.
- Suggests more frequent updating of bulletin board information.
- Suggests better signage explaining rules of area. Suggests better signage marking boundaries of area. Suggests rotating interpretive and regulatory signs (more likely to be read if they change often).
- Looking forward to continuing to coordinate economic and transportation development with the Department
- Include covenants that were agreed upon in the land sale/donation.
- Correct plan to state that the land was both donated and sold to the Department.

NEXT STEPS

Area planning teams are responding to themes and issues identified for their particular area plan. Area plans with responses to comment categories are approved by RCT, UCT, and Division Chief and then will be posted on the public website as a final area plan (mdc.mo.gov/areaplans).

Appendix A. Buchanan County Conservation Area Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (July 1-31, 2014).

As you develop the next 10 year management plan for the Buchanan County Conservation areas, please do not discriminate against equestrian trail riders. Looking over the draft management plans, there is room for an equestrian trail as at least a "day use only" if not a small primitive horse camp in the Sangridge Hills CA area. Creating an equestrian trail has the potential to bring more revenue to the local business owners through fuel, groceries, and tourism. I will volunteer my time to spearhead a fundraiser and bring together volunteers to aide in building up the trails and maintaining these trails for future equestrian use. Thank you for your consideration.

Appendix B. Elam Bend Conservation Area Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (July 1-31, 2014).

As you develop the next 10 year management plan for Elam Bend, please do not discriminate against equestrian trail riders. With 1,483 acres, there is room for an equestrian trail and possibly even a primitive horse camp. This area holds a lot of historical relevance to it with the Pony Express, etc. Trail riders would love to ride there horses in the area of their ancestors and this has the potential to bring more revenue to the local business owners through fuel, groceries, and tourism. I will volunteer my time to spearhead a fundraiser and bring together volunteers to aide in building up the trails and maintaining these trails for future equestrian use. Thank you for your consideration.

(phone call) – A citizen called to express her interest in an equestrian trail at Elam Bend Conservation Area. She noticed there are few equestrian trails in Northwest Missouri/St. Joseph area and thinks the historical perspective of being near the Pony Express would be a great tourism draw. A primitive equiestrian campground would be a nice feature as well. She is willing to volunteer to help find funding or volunteers for trail work. Protecting the environment is very important.

Approving this for trail riding and primitive camping would open up additional riding in this area of the state as well and being a part of the history of the Pony Express. I belong to a group and we have managed trails and kept the camp areas clean and organized for all to use.

Appendix C. Loess Hill Prairies Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (July 1-31, 2014).

The update mentions protecting endangered species. What animal and plant species are in danger? The update gives no specifics. Thank you for your time and handwork in keeping our lands and waterways pristine.

Appendix D. Ranacker Conservation Area Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (August 1-31, 2014)

Although your plan mentions a few fishless ponds, there are actually dozens of such ponds scattered all over the place. These really do not need any special management but should be left alone for the most part. I suppose they are valuable as "wildlife watering holes", but the real value they have for the area is for invertebrate and amphibian breeding sites.

Thanks!

I am a private land owner on CR50 across from Ranacker. I like the plan as best as I can understand it. I hope it will increase deer population and small game. I use my property for recreation and hunting. I did not know there were some small ponds. That is good. where does the money go from the timber that was harvested this year? Are the tree tops that were left available for private use? Can I go in and cut up the tops for firewood?

Is MDC looking at the property at the end of CR 50 for purchase?

I own land at the north entrance. I also am a disabled veteran of the Vietnam war. I am limited on how far I can walk and have a service connected sever hearing loss. I am unable to enjoy the complete area due to limited access. I would like to be able to ride my off road mule to other areas as I do not own a horse. I know that 3 wheelers are a major problem and people would abuse the area by driving thru areas designed for wildlife. I would like to see special permit use for disabled persons and veterans that would allow me to experience the area off the gravel road. My mule has 4 wheels, a steering wheel, seat belts, lights, and will not travel faster than 25 miles per hour.

I also would like to see more openings in order to access Peno creek. The way it is now I can only access the stream from the north entrance at the low water bridge. I would like to see small areas cleared so the creek can be more usable.

I hope the relocation of the entrance road is a serious consideration. When people enter the north entrance they enter the gravel at a high rate of speed. This creates a mowing danger and a lot of dust. I purchased a sign asking people to please drive slowly but they do not pay any attention. I know it is impossible to enforce the speed but the dust could be controlled by having the county spray dust control chemical .

The PMP plan you have submitted is a start and I hope it is not just required gov. paper work. Than you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Thank you to the Department for the opportunity to comment on the Ranacker Conservation Area Management Plan. The area is composed of 1,831 acres in Pike County. Equestrian use on field access roads is now permitted by special use permit. We (Show Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen) wish to commend MDC for making the area available to equestrian use on a limited basis. The field access roads available for public multi-use are primarily in-and-out. There is a great opportunity to enhance the outdoor recreation experience for all users—hikers, mountain bikers, bird watchers, and equestrians—through the creation of several loops by establishing and marking a few trails.

We suggest the establishment of multi-use (bike, hike, and equestrian) trails to form loops, and we (SMMBCH) offer our services (availability of volunteers permitting) to help decide on the best location and then clear and mark the trails.

We also encourage MDC to consider permitting equestrian use during all daylight hours without needing a special use permit. If public safety makes it necessary the Department could close the trails to multi-use during hunting season.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Ranacker CA Management Plan.

Leave the deer regulations as they are at the present time. Our deer population in the area is way down! Thank you

Appendix E. Lake Paho Conservation Area Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (August 1-31, 2014)

Lake Paho sadly continues to be an extremely under- utilized facility. While it is a beautiful place, our tax dollars are serving a select few. Like many rural areas, Mercer County struggles to attract it's share of tourist trade and retail business. It would seem that Lake Paho would be something we could expand on with modern campsites and allowing private boats with motors. I think this facility is like having brand new clothes in the closet and always saving them for a special occasion. Wildlife and fishing are abundant in northern Missouri, one only needs to drive down the road to see this. We need expanded facilities that draw more people out there. Now they are driving past Paho to Nine Eagles State Park to swim, boat and camp. I know that this changes the whole concept from Conservation Area to "park" and that would be staffed by entirely a different branch of the DNR. Some do not welcome this change as it would be more work for them. Instead of a quiet little spot that only needs mowed and drove through during busy holiday week-ends, everyday management would need to happen. I would like to see my tax dollars at work and being used to attract people to Mercer County instead of watching them drive out of the county and the state. It's time to make the most of what Mercer County has instead of making it a "best kept secret"

As an adjoining land owner, we have seen a need for several improvements including:

1. A swim at your own risk swimming area
2. A children's playground
3. A decent fish dressing station similar to the ones at Mark Twain Lake
4. Electrical and water hookups for campers
5. A return of the boats for rent

I realize that Lake Paho is considered primarily as a fishing lake, but to promote fishing, other

amenities need to be added to draw in families to visit the area. By focusing on improving other family and children's activities, the use of the fishing lake will go up. Please consider improving the facility to make it more family friendly.

i would like to see the deer hunting regulations stay the same it provides for a better hunting experience for those who choose to hunt with these methods

I am happy to see plans for the lake area. I was hoping for plans to start stocking with walleye again. But was very glad to hear of the plans for improving the crappie in the lake. I fish the lake a couple times a year and enjoy the area. Looking forward to the improvements.

I have had the opportunity to fish Lake Paho more than anyone I know. I average at least 3 trips per week on the lake. I am a little confused as to what the fix will be for removing the junk fish(carp, shad). I was told that the lake must be drained in order to do this. Is this still in the works, or is there another plan?

Having spent so many hours on the lake, I would make the following observations.

1. The use of Cedar trees for fish habitat might be good for the fish, but it makes it all but impossible to fish.I believe that large trees with branches could be set upright in buckets of concrete which would create habitat with the ability to actually fish it.

2.Large rock piles could be sunk to offer another fishable habitat.

3.A dedicated stocking program with both bass and channel catfish is needed

As I said, I fish the lake about three times a week. Many days I am the only one out there. I on a regular basis catch many quality fish, but it takes a lot of work and intimate knowledge of the lake in order to do this. Many people come to the lake and don't catch anything, so they don't return, and tell their friends that the fishing is terrible. This lake has the potential to be a great place to camp and fish, but it needs a lot of work. I read the report, and look forward to a better fishery in the future. And before I go, I want to say the guys that work at Lake Paho are a great asset to the lake. They are hardworking and friendly, and very helpful. Thankyou for listening to me.

What are the regs on waterfowl hunting on Lake Paho? Could a blind or two be built for a daily drawing. Can boat blinds for waterfowl hunting be used on the lake. If so how many? Thanks

The Wiper fishing is great. I have caught several over 25 inches. They really pull on your reel's drag. However, the fish is an oily tasting fish. My Hummingbird graph shows an over abundance of shad with the Wipers dispersed among them. Please, Please, Please, put Walleye (2.5 million fingerling) back into Lake Paho CA. Walleye were once put in Paho but not replenished. I believe walleye will take care of the over population of shad. The mayor of Princeton agrees. It would be great to not have to go Little River Lake, Leon, IA to fish for great tasting Walleye. Thanks.

I would like to see the walleyes reintroduced. It was exciting to fish for something different in north Missouri.

My wife and I would fish from our boat more often if you had a more stable dock down by the headquarters so that I can launch the boat, she can park the truck and trailer, and then come back and get in the boat. We are in our 70's and can not get in or out of the boat by running it into the shore line. The dock need not be any longer then the present unstable dock, just wider and more stable. You can prohibit fishing from the dock as it's easily observed from the headquarters office. My wife can not back the boat down the ramp, so I have to use the dock for loading and unloading. We would really appreciate this improvement and believe it would promote more fishing on the lake, which appears to be your goal. You may contact me, if you wish.

Thank you to the Department for the opportunity to comment on the Lake Paho Conservation Area Management Plan. The area encompasses over 2,300 acres; over half that area is very seldom used by the public, the largest user group being deer and turkey hunters. Several good fishing ponds on the area see little use because of access. We recommend the existing field access roads be opened to public multi-use—all non-motorized use including hiking, biking, bird watching, fishing and equestrian use. In addition we recommend that the existing field road network be supplemented by single-file, unpaved trails that would lead near those underutilized fishing ponds. Location and alignment of the trails should carefully consider topography to minimize erosion and mud problems. Trail location could avoid riparian corridors except to cross watercourses at select locations. Other sensitive areas could be avoided as well. Show Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen would offer to partner with the Department to locate, install and maintain trails and associated multi-use infrastructure, subject to the availability of volunteers. Thank you again for the chance to comment.

I feel that there is a lot more you could do with this area. This county has nothing, besides hunting and fishing to offer travelers. It would help if you would make a place to sight in rifles, an archery target place, maybe have some electricity at some of the camp sights, a play ground for kids, maybe even a sandy beach for the kids. Right now there is nothing for kids to do at Paho...I have been to a lot of other lakes in Mo. and this one has the least to offer.....

Appendix F. Emmenegger Nature Park and Possum Woods Conservation Areas Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (August 1-31, 2014)

I visit this area often to hike and walk the gravel bar along the river. Trail improvement and improved access to the gravel bar would both be great. Also adding more trails in connecting fashion to the current trail. Improving the infrastructure in the future with impervious surfaces is of course wise. Any signage to instruct the public on rain gardens and impervious surfaces would also be good. creating a disabled fishing area would be good but probably difficult with flooding and terrain.

Just want to let you know that Emmenegger Park is one of my favorite places to take my Cub Scouts for hikes and outdoor play. They love the river access, creek, and steep hike, which is just about long enough! We have even been there in the winter. It's proximity to Powder Valley

is perfect if they need more time outside or a place to warm up in winter. Thank you for taking great care of this little gem of land. We look forward to the improvements!

The master plan looks nearly perfect. If I were "in charge" of Emmenegger Park, the very first physical change I would want to make would be an improvement and upgrade of the appearance of the entrance. Similar attention should be paid to blocking off and improving the appearance of informal entrances in to the park along Cragwold. Reduce pavement as much as possible [granting the need for some handicap accessible touring areas]; create some safe but minimal access to the river.

The most important thing would be to increase use by MDC of the area as a tool for education regarding restoration and maintenance of semi-urban "natural" areas. Park use should focus on a very broad user population and avoid having the park wind up as a special use area for any particular group. The current ban on bicycle activity should be maintained and strengthened if possible as it is so damaging to the steep hillsides.

I'm a member of the Great Rivers chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists and can hardly wait to get started on a plan for restoring Emmenegger Park and opening its use for nature education.

Any new entrance sign should say "Emmenegger Nature Park," not just "Emmenegger Park," to preserve the park's unique identity.

NO trail development through the Meramec riverfront, essential as a wildlife corridor, serene aesthetic refuge and irreplaceable local example of natural Meramec River habitat.

Continue bike ban to protect against mountain bike abuse, need sign + bike rack at entrance.

Work with Kirkwood Parks Department to address off-leash dog problems, consider dog walking by licensed permit only.

Don't spend precious \$\$\$ on a playground, kids should be encouraged to explore nature.

Prioritize + earmark \$\$\$ for restoration of glades and other natural communities.

Dedicate \$\$\$ and work with volunteer groups to eradicate honeysuckle, euonymus and other invasive non-native vegetation.

Improve for BEST water quality, wildlife corridor, biodiversity and deer management standards.

NO further development/construction. Preserve the park's rustic and unspoiled qualities as an invaluable peaceful, aesthetic, educational and biodiverse resource of Meramec River habitat for future generations to enjoy and learn about Missouri ecology and natural communities.

I think the plan could have considerable more vision to leverage as noted the heavily trafficked Powder Valley Nature Center. Utilization could include a connecting trail separated in some way where possible from traffic running into the North at Possum trail or South to the banks of the

Meramec. The Meramec river at Emmenegger appears very pristine at times given the correct conditions and the northern shoreline very accessible. More possibly could be done to preserve this asset by cleaning up what appears to be an abandoned boat ramp and visible oil or natural gas pipelines. Replacement of the boat ramp would serve vital to access the lower Meramec from the point, given the other public ramp points are south of I 55 if I'm not mistaken.

Sincere thanks to all at MODNR,

I am a resident of the City of St. Louis. I take my wife and two children to Emmenegger at least five times a year, as one of the closest places to the City of St. Louis to find nature.

Please make sure any new entrance sign should say "Emmenegger Nature Park" not just "Emmenegger Park," in order to preserve the park's unique identity.

There should be no trail development through the Meramec riverfront, essential as a wildlife corridor, serene aesthetic refuge and irreplaceable local example of natural Meramec River habitat.

The bike ban should continue to protect against mountain bike abuse, there should be a sign and a bike rack at entrance.

MDC should work with the Kirkwood Parks Department in addressing off-leash dog problems.

Please don't spend money on a playground - kids should be encouraged to explore nature.

Please prioritize and earmark money for restoration of glades and other natural communities.

Please dedicate money and work with volunteer groups to eradicate honeysuckle and other invasive non-native vegetation.

There should be no further development/construction in order to preserve the park's rustic and unspoiled qualities.

I am a resident of the City of St. Louis. I take my wife and two children to Emmenegger at least five times a year, as one of the closest places to the City of St. Louis to find nature.

Please make sure any new entrance sign should say "Emmenegger Nature Park" not just "Emmenegger Park," in order to preserve the park's unique identity.

There should be no trail development through the Meramec riverfront, essential as a wildlife corridor, serene aesthetic refuge and irreplaceable local example of natural Meramec River habitat.

The bike ban should continue to protect against mountain bike abuse, there should be a sign and a bike rack at entrance.

MDC should work with the Kirkwood Parks Department in addressing off-leash dog problems.

Please don't spend money on a playground - kids should be encouraged to explore nature.

Please prioritize and earmark money for restoration of glades and other natural communities.

Please dedicate money and work with volunteer groups to eradicate honeysuckle and other invasive non-native vegetation.

There should be no further development/construction in order to preserve the park's rustic and unspoiled qualities.

Emmenegger needs to have the honeysuckle and euonymus eliminated. It should be restored to it's most natural state with no bike paths, no off leash animals, no concrete or playground areas. Native plants only with natural glades.

Thank you

The amount of "invasive vegetation" at Emmenegger is second only to the amount at MDC's Powder Valley next door. The snail-pace slowness of MDC to remove the invasive honeysuckle and ailanthus at your Powder Valley should make it an embarrassment for you to point out how removal of "invasive vegetation" is sorely needed at Emmenegger. (But putting the fact into a wordy document is always easy and "civil servants" are seldom embarrassed! Can a taxpayer ask how the "clearing invasive species" part of the Powder Valley Management Plan is coming along??)

Under the topic "Public Use Mgmt Considerations" there is topic: "3) Provide natural outdoor play areas for visitors". Recognizably there is a fine picnic shelter...a water tap usually "locked-off" ...and one restroom...condition unknown by this commentor.

The area should have such a picnic shelter, a water tap, and a restroom. If you could just keep those three items in good working order you would be doing well!!

Perhaps add a swing set nearby. And keep the grassy field mowed.

BUT I fail to see any need for any more of "Providing natural outdoor play areas for visitors". Have you put any such areas in at Powder Valley in its 20 year history??? Is this another "new gimmick" in the Recreational Management Major's handbook? Does not Kirkwood and Sunset Hills already provide excellent play areas at its nearby parks for visitors?

Since many of you at MDC have read or browsed the book "Last Child in the Woods"

I would continue to make its obvious "themes" the guiding goal of a Management Plan at Emmenegger = Viewing/Feeling/Learning about Nature...thus trying to get more native biodiversity to return to those acres of Emmenegger.

And if some idiots want to put in an asphalt/concrete path along the Meremec River from the upstream or downstream already existing local parks on that side of the river in the obvious flood-plain to make a "neat" bike/jogging path...well, that is the idiocy that this commentor is waiting to watch happen...and then watch said expensive path keep getting undercut and washed away in the flooding.

Please give increasing the biodiversity a helping hand and the priority at Emmenegger. Enough walking paths are already there. Plus a nice picnic shelter. Just keeping the restrooms clean and operable is probably a challenge enough!!!

Thank you

This park should NOT have playground eqpt in it. It is a nature park. Young visitors should be experiencing nature not made man playground eqpt which they have in other parks. It would detract for the objective of connecting kids with nature. This park was nearly destroyed by bikes in the past and under no circumstances should the prohibition on bikes be lifted nor should a trail,along the river be constructed for bikes. The park is overrun with off and on leash dogs. Dog owners and the dogs are creating uncomfortable confrontations with those wishing truly to convene the nature in the nature park. I have personally been challenged by off leash dogs and their indignant self righteous owners the last three times I visited. It is a recipe for dog on dog, dog on human or human on human conflict and it must be addressed. MDC lists dogs as the number one threat to wildlife so why are they even allowed in the park at all? Kirkwood does not have the staff or the means to enforce the leash law in the park. Dogs and bikes are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining and retaining this park for nature. Powder valley has rationale reasons and values that prohibit bikes and dogs. The same values and ban on bikes and dogs should apply to Emmenger. MDC should be consistent in how it manages land for conservation especially when it is aware of the problems dogs are creating and bikes have created in this park. A public objective from the current Kirkwood parks master plan was to leave parkland like Emmy in a natural state for future generations. So do it. Outside special interest groups such as cyclist groups, the ozark trail and regional bike trail organizations like GRG should not have unfair influence and preference over the residents of Kirkwood's expressed desire as to how their parkland should be managed. Adjacent residents do not want to give up their property for social infrastructure multi use trails, regional trails,etc through this park. Kirkwood cannot ensure safety and existing park rules as It is. Don't promote school field trips until off leash dog problem is under control. You don't want a child on a school field trip to be bitten or mauled by dogs roaming at large or challenged by bad dog owners in the park. People, carry guns to parks now. Ban dogs period just like powder valley does. Dog owners can take their dogs to a number of parks in the area. Thank you for providing this opportunity for public input. Emmy is special to many people and a sanctuary for both wildlife and stressed out people. Please preserve it in its natural state for generations to come, once it's gone- it's gone for good. More thoughts - I think constructing some ephemeral ponds that could collect and hold spring rainfall on the steep slopes would help the reptile populations ie frogs and toads. Please work with the soccer facility across the river to lower their music which is too loud and disrupts visitors to Emmy. Sorry to ramble but I don't know how to edit in this format.

Please give top priority to the wildlife, because they can't protect themselves from us. Remove

invasive exotic species, and protect the park as a travel corridor for wildlife. Please don't develop the park. The presence of people prevents the wildlife from thriving. For the same reason, please don't allow bicycles anywhere but on paved roads.

Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996: <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb10.htm> . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking...

A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/scb7.htm>). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which did not favor mountain biking, and came to the opposite conclusions.

Those were all experimental studies. Two other studies (by White et al and by Jeff Marion) used a survey design, which is inherently incapable of answering that question (comparing hiking with mountain biking). I only mention them because mountain bikers often cite them, but scientifically, they are worthless.

Mountain biking accelerates erosion, creates V-shaped ruts, kills small animals and plants on and next to the trail, drives wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and, worst of all, teaches kids that the rough treatment of nature is okay (it's NOT!). What's good about THAT?

To see exactly what harm mountain biking does to the land, watch this 5-minute video: <http://vimeo.com/48784297>.

In addition to all of this, it is extremely dangerous: http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb_dangerous.htm .

For more information: <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtbfaq.htm> .

The common thread among those who want more recreation in our parks is total ignorance about and disinterest in the wildlife whose homes these parks are. Yes, if humans are the only beings that matter, it is simply a conflict among humans (but even then, allowing bikes on trails harms the MAJORITY of park users -- hikers and equestrians -- who can no longer safely and peacefully enjoy their parks).

The parks aren't gymnasiums or racetracks or even human playgrounds. They are WILDLIFE HABITAT, which is precisely why they are attractive to humans. Activities, such as mountain biking, that destroy habitat, violate the charter of the parks.

Even kayaking and rafting, which give humans access to the entirety of a water body, prevent the wildlife that live there from making full use of their habitat, and should not be allowed. Of course those who think that only humans matter won't understand what I am talking about -- an indication of the sad state of our culture and educational system.

These comments are in a sense generic, but in reality and application, they are specific to any location that is subjected to the negative environmental, social and regulatory impacts always associated with mountain bikes and bikers.

On Wildlife and mountain bikes!

The basic science of human – wildlife interaction solidly supports the general claim that mountain bikers and bikes are displacing bears (and almost all other species), can contribute to their habituation and are consequently adding negative load on human / wildlife conflict. I think it has been conclusively established that most kinds of human activity / presence displace bears, and if/when there are bears that are not displaced and/or become habituated, they die at a disproportionate rate, consequently their reproductive fitness is reduced (as is that of their mothers and fathers). Amongst the leading agents of displacement are industrialized forms of human activity that depend on machines / motors / mechanization to move people great distances, move them often and quickly, and with considerable "baggage" (garbage, guns, trailers, ATVs, dogs, and so on). Mountain bikers fit the general category of industrial users, since they come by vehicle (mechanized means), move greater distances and more quickly than people on foot, (allowing quick approach and surprise encounters), have escalated their use of all public lands, and are a behavioral cult in which a significant proportion of participants exhibits high levels of aggression, partly against the environment, partly against traditional outdoor users, and partly against members of society who identify their activities as destructive.

Cumulative Impacts

Another not inconsequential impact of mtn bikes and bikers is they have forced themselves into landscapes that historically and even quite recently did not have traditional mechanized vehicle access. There are literally hundreds of formerly "mini" security areas (of a wide range in size) in local and regional parks (and this is in addition to what are thought of as traditional public lands - National parks, National or State/provincial Forests, and in the US, BLM lands) that harbored some forms of wildlife because they had limited and low access refuge areas. These are the "homes" of urban deer, coyotes, badgers, even bears and cougars, that are no longer providing day time (high human activity time) refuge and escape (from humans, pets and daytime heat).

I was just in Calgary a bit back and went for a walk in a provincial Park (Fish Creek) inside Calgary city borders that formerly contained some forested refuge lands. These areas were cool, relatively dark, and discouraging to most (almost all) walking and running Park users. I was dismayed to see the extensive mtn bike roads, along with formal support of biking. The dense aspen and spruce/pine stands that I estimate were 5 - 50 acres in size, and functioned as ecological and behavioral "spaces" that provided security and thermal refuge for wildlife, are gone. The bike roads are well used (there are 1.2 millions people in the city, and there ARE

bikers) and now bring bike and biker threats to wild animals that formerly had a daytime hideout. One such threat (there are several) is the common practice of bikers who “run” their pet dogs when they bike, dogs that are often allowed off leash (most often illegally), and are not only a threatening presence to wildlife via odor, sound and movement, but can be expected to (not uncommonly) leave the road and, at least short term, pursue wild animals. But it remains the bikes and bikers who are most intrusive. While there are high levels of use of the initially established paved trails the majority of users (walking, hiking, running, just wanting to be outside) stick to them and leave the formerly off trail areas alone. Because of bikers and their roads, this “standoff” no longer exists (to the detriment of wildlife).

And it gets worse! The demand / need for refuge from humans is greatest when human use is highest, usually on weekends. Previously un-biked niches in the landscape are of disproportionate ecological value during these peak periods. So, what happened? These refuge habitats have been dissected by bike roads, which are destructive by themselves, but biker use also peaks on weekends, aggravating loss of habitat effectiveness at a time when demand / need for it is greatest, so the negative impact of biker use is not linear in relation to the increased number of bikes, but exponential given conflict with the elevated need for refuge by wildlife.

Habituation

Will this result in or increase the level of wildlife habituation? Any activity that escalates contact (space, visual, sound) between humans and their infrastructure and an animal changes the ambient environment for an animal and produces some sort of learning in a wild animal. If the learning modifies behavior by eliminating or altering the strength or frequency of behaviors in response to a given stimulus (human yelling at it from the back yard, vehicle sound/movement, visual presence of human structures, dogs barking) and that initial behavior contributed to that animal's fitness (survival and reproductive success), then that animal is subject to increased risk of injury and death and, consequently, life time reproductive success is jeopardized.

It may well be that the invasion of bikes/bikers “forces” contact with humans and leads to a more delicate and potentially explosive conflict. While I can't find any evidence in the scientific literature to support this particular situation, it seems reasonable to consider that an animal forced from its routine and from secure (to what ever degree) habitat, makes for an uneasy state of contact with humans and their infrastructure – a condition that could be more explosive due to the stress level related to the forcing. This contrasts with contact that might be initiated by the animal or other animals – for example, attraction to food, or a bear female with young that wants to avoid other bears and but can still use that habitat other years when she has no young or when other bears are absent. In the case of biker/biking displacement there is essentially permanent displacement and limited, if any, opportunity to reoccupy formerly (more) effective habitat. In other words, the predictability or stability, even strength, of the forced habituation could lead to unpredictable confrontation.

Could local residences and human centers of activity begin to experience use by wildlife that formerly stayed away? I don't think there's any doubt about it. The consequences will be / are that fragmentation and use of refuge areas by bikers and bikes will reduce their capacity to harbor animals, displace them and their use/activity to other adjacent landscapes, many of which

will be ecological traps, increase conflict with humans (and other animals), and incrementally reduce overall wildlife use of the larger area as well as reduce population size, distribution and movement. All these will unbalance wildlife dynamics and contribute to long term, incremental reduction of population viability.

The social / educational loss of tolerance for wildlife (the deer eating the roses, the black bear “near” the fence, the bear that “threatened” a biker) that some parts of human society can develop are also (generally) unproductive by-products of conflict and association: amongst these are distrust of, anger towards, and fear of “wild” animals, and not just local animals, but generalized attitudes to wildlife on a much larger scale of human perception, as well as resentment and irritation toward, and consequent decline in support of wildlife and land conservation and the people who are supposed to be doing it.

This large scale negative outcome of mountain biking invasion of a landscape is just another cumulative effect of catering to extreme recreation and the shrill political intimidation of mtn bikers. With stunning ease the mtn biking lobby has overpowered citizens and local councils and regulators/managers and crushed, derailed and/or displaced traditional uses and wildlife and land conservation measures and initiatives in urban and municipal Parks and landscapes.

While mountain biking and bikers continue to build a legacy of environmental destruction and social conflict that has been ongoing in a large scale way on National-state-provincial Forests and in National Parks, their invasion of urban and municipal park areas is “new” and threatens to destroy further the already stretched and frayed tentacles that connect the natural world to the majority of Americans and Canadians that now live in Urban areas.

Calgary, AB and Penticton, BC

07 August 2014

Make sure you understand that any concession to bikes and bikers is just the camel's nose under the tent flap. More to the point, with this process you blaze the future of Emmenegger as either a nature park or a sweat park. By the path you choose now, one will come to dominate. With many other commenters, I recommend:

---new entrance sign should say "Emmenegger Nature Park" not just

"Emmenegger Park," to preserve the park's unique identity

---NO trail development through the Meramec riverfront, essential as

a wildlife corridor, peaceful aesthetic refuge and irreplaceable

local example of natural river habitat

---continue bike ban to protect against mountain bike abuse, need

sign + bike rack at entrance

---work with Kirkwood Parks Department in addressing off-leash dog problems

---don't waste \$\$\$ on a playground, kids should be encouraged to explore nature

---prioritize + earmark \$\$\$ for restoration of glades and other natural assets

---dedicate \$\$\$ for honeysuckle and euonymus eradication

---improve for BEST water quality, wildlife corridor, biodiversity

and deer management

---NO further development/construction, preserve the park's rustic

and unspoiled qualities

I was wondering if there's some way you guys could convince Kirkwood to allow Emmenegger to remain open at least half an hour after sunset, like most parks administered by the St. Louis county parks department. Currently they have a restriction of having to leave the area exactly at sunset, and it tends to be enforced to the letter regardless of the day of the week, even though pretty much all the county parks nearby are open for at least another half hour, with the park rangers frequently closing the gates to the parks a bit later than even that. Also would it be possible, to convince them to allow for maybe a night or two in the summer, where they allow fishing overnight? Aside from that would it be feasible to allow access for fishing on the river a little further into the wooded area via some trail leading to a clearing on the bank of the river. Currently all the fishing opportunities are concentrated within a short distance from the parking lot, which is convenient but can get packed when the river has risen a lot and there's only a few spots available where vegetation or debris in the river by the bank make it difficult to fish the area if someone's already there doing the same.

As the then president of the Kirkwood Park Board, I had given comments, clarifications and questions on the first draft of this management plan. My questions have been answered and suggestions incorporated into this second draft. The Management Plan looks great to me. My only suggestion is to address the somewhat frequent violations of the dog leash regulations and occasional use of bikes in the park. Is it possible to increase patrols by MDC and Kirkwood Park rangers to minimize these violations. These are my personal observations of violators made while doing invasive plant removal at Emmenegger as part of the Kirkwood Parks Assistance Corp (KPAC). This is a volunteer group I started while on the Board.

24 August 2014

TO : MDC

MANAGEMENT PLAN SUGGESTIONS

The purpose of this message is to respond to the MDC invitation for comment on the proposed Management Plans for Emmenegger Nature Park and Possum Woods Conservation Area.

I wish to commend the Missouri Department of Conservation for inviting public participation during the development phases of this plan.

1. The long range highest and best use for these areas is one where the biological integrity (natural processes and optimum biodiversity) of the Terrestrial Natural Communities are restored/reconstructed to those conditions that were extant prior to the advent of the European culture to the maximum degree possible.

1.1 To establish a baseline, this will require that MDC perform a thorough study of valid historical records, private and governmental, to establish the condition of the vegetative communities prior to urbanization, agriculture and the concomitant invasion of exotic species, et al.

1.2 Conduct scientifically designed, thorough & comprehensive mapping and inventory of all current biota (plant, animal, bryophyte, & fungi) in each of the areas.

1.2 The plan should call for a repeat of these surveys on a schedule (5 - 10 years ?) such that future list differences may trigger corrective action where invasive species or changes due to climate change are considered threats to the integrity of the natural communities.

1.3 Encourage participation of citizen nature study organizations to maintain, exchange, or augment survey lists of biota observed at the areas over time.

1.4. Develop and implement prescribed fire protocols that incorporate the latest science that will achieve the highest potential for the optimum biodiversity of vascular plants, bryophytes, invertebrates, animals, and fungi.

1.5 Design a natural surface trail system that brings the visitor to viewing access of all appropriate features and that tends to protect from erosion and human impact any rare/endangered species or Species of Conservation Concern. A riparian trail along the Meramec River, if any, should be of natural surface, narrow/single file tread, and at least 10 meters from the high-water shoreline.²

1.6 Purchase adjoining property from willing sellers or encourage conservation easement agreements with willing participants.

2. Set area rules and restrictions specifically for these two areas as follows:

2.1 Prohibit all publicly operated vehicular traffic access such as ORV's, motor bikes, mountain bikes, bicycles, et al.

2.2 Motorized vehicles/equipment should be permitted only when operated by MDC personnel for the purposes to effectively achieve and enhance the goals in paragraph 1. above, and for

response to emergency situations regarding the life and safety of human visitors.

2.3 Permit deer/?turkey? hunting by archery only and in seasons according to state laws.

2.4 Prohibit horseback riding.

2.5 Prohibit use of single projectile firearms, fireworks, target shooting, and camping.

2.6 Prohibit any domestic livestock grazing.

2.7 Prohibit collection or taking of any plant, fungi, or animal specimens for any purpose without specific permission from MDC for scientific purposes.

2.8 Install motion detecting / photo systems if routine surveillance fails to protect the areas.

1. The Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri; Nelson, Paul W., Rev. Ed.; 2010; and the Missouri Species of Conservation Concern Checklist.

2. A paved trail along the riparian area will invite constant and heavy flow of traffic which in turn will disturb all wildlife and tend to cause them to stay away from the area. I observed this condition when a paved trail was installed at Clydesdale Park along Gravois Creek. Commonly seen were beaver, mink(?marten?), deer, turkey, kingfisher, great blue heron, rabbit, and others. Rarely are these seen since the installation of a paved trail.

Please place my name and address on the list to receive future notices of developments and planning at Emmenegger Nature Park and Possum Woods Conservation Area.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Please PLEASE respect the "nature" in Emmenegger, it is a slice of natural beauty that is fragile, and valuable. Fragile in that it is being restored from invasive plants, like honeysuckle, by the hundreds of hours of volunteers, with native plants slowly coming back. Valuable in the beauty and solitude of the forest, views of the ridge, the many deer. I would suggest better signage, to explain why dogs NEED to be leashed, the damage they can do to a delicate area. The front area, where the pool was, can be more "public" but the back side, the trails..is a rare piece of land...Keep it free from bicycles, dogs, skateboards, pavement...You cannot really improve much on it, but you CAN destroy it..Please dont. Minimal development in the front, with the goal of protecting the natural aspect of the trails, is my request. Better explanatory signage, of the ecosystem, the plants, and the rules, is desirable, better knowledge, probably giving better compliance with dog rule. Thank you for the chance to input, and act wisely on this....its a treasure.

Collecting mushrooms for personal use should be permitted at Emmenegger -- as well as at Powder Valley. Unlike plants, mushroom organisms are not harmed when the fruiting bodies are picked, any more than picking an apple off a tree harms the tree. I am a member, but do not represent, the Missouri Mycological Society, and I value the DOC book, Missouri's Wild

Mushrooms, by my friend, Maxine Stone.

Emmenegger Management Plan Draft 2014

Under Terrestrial Resource Mgt Considerations much concern is given to “suppression and control of invasive species” and that is greatly needed in this Nature Park. (page 5)

That should be the number one priority for the whole plan. It is costly in money and time spent by staff/volunteers but must be done to preserve the area plant and animal life.

Establishment of demonstration areas for established workshops and classes is important. (page 6)

Under Aquatic Mgt Considerations (page 7) Develop and construct a low impact gravel bar access.

This should be given careful consideration as problems already exist for adjacent landowners because visitors wander onto private property from the gravel bars. In fact, the gravel bar itself presents a problem because Missouri law is not clear on what part is public and what part is private at different times. (level of water) Perhaps it is better to not increase such confusion for visitors.

Under Public Use Mgt considerations; (page 7) there is discussion of possible development of a “nature play area”

I am concerned about the idea of making an additional attraction of play area in a nature park. People should come here to emphasize the study and observation of plant and animal life. We have plenty of play areas in Kirkwood Park and Greentree Park would be a good one to add such a playground.

I suggest the cost of building and maintaining such an area be put to the greatest need of removal of invasive species.

Under Public Use Mgt Objective 5 (page 8) “monitor regional trail efforts including the Ozark Trail and the Great River Greenway District River Ring” should be an on-going concern. Park Board has voted to not support/allow a trail between Emmenegger and the Meramec River. Outside interests may continue to press for such a trail. It is NOT in the interest of Kirkwood for two main reasons:

1. It will diminish the condition of the natural park by encouraging greater usage as people walk and bicycle through. The presence of any asphalt/developed path will discourage the passage of wild animals along the river.

2. When such trails are built they become the responsibility of the city to maintain. The area along the Meramec floods a lot. Often, several times in a year. Kirkwood does not need the added financial burden of paying, every year, for the maintenance of a path used mostly by non-Kirkwood residents.

Kirkwood needs to protect its natural and financial assets.

A problem which is not addressed:

That is the great number of off-leash dogs that visitors allow to roam through this natural area. Observers have reported many such sightings. When people are reminded that it is on-leash for dogs, they become angry or simply ignore the statement.

Even on-leash dogs are a problem in a nature park. It is well known that when dogs mark the areas with urine and feces it deters wild animals from staying in that area. Because we do not have on site rangers who can issue tickets, and because it has been observed that dog walkers bring several dogs to walk in the area, and because dog walkers ignore the signs and warnings, I suggest this park be made a NO DOG park, even on leash. People have been observed bringing their dogs from Illinois to this park to walk them off leash.

Why do we want to allow this excellent, historic, but relatively small piece of OUR nature to be degraded in plant and wild animal life because visitors selfishly and ignorantly ignore the law. Making it NO Dogs and having rangers visit regularly for the first few months should at least decrease the illegal actions in the area. Quarry Park is a No dog park and the number of dog walkers has decreased there.

We do need better signage marking the limits between private and public property in the area.

We need to be good neighbors and respect the property owners adjacent to the park.

I have been told that bikes have been observed on the Emmenegger trails. That should absolutely not be allowed and DOC should devise some plan to discourage bikes. As time passes, our natural areas will become more and more popular and the public will want to use them as they use Kirkwood Park, for example. That is very inappropriate and DOC should find some way to educate the public and eliminate usages of this natural area which tend to diminish the wild plant and animal life, and destroy the importance of a NATURAL AREA.

Thanks for hearing my concerns! I think we need to focus on the most important concerns AND not spend huge dollars!

I commented previously. However, I wish to add something to that statement. It has been reported that mountain bikers have been seen riding in Emmenegger and tracks have been noted there. Because of the threat to the wildlife and natural plants I wish to recommend that signs be posted prominently and spot checks be made to ticket bikers in that park, along with dog walkers. It becomes a serious matter of our taking the necessary actions to protect this natural area and attempt to keep it in as natural as possible. Although some people wish to use the area inappropriately, it is the responsibility of the DOC and Kirkwood Park Board, of which I am a member, to take actions to education users and take action to keep this natural area from being eroded and erased as time passes.

I don't think a paved bicycle path along the Meramec River is a good idea. It would spoil the scenic view and the serenity of the area, which is supposed to be a nature park and conservation area, not a typical city park.

III Infrastructure: Access Road from Stoneywood Dr. to the paved disabled access loop is not listed

Overview and IV.A. Deed restrictions: While the City of Kirkwood lease says the State MCD manages the park, I thought it was a joint management arrangement. Does the City of Kirkwood, or its Parks & Recreation Department share Administrative responsibility with MDC's Outreach and Education department; and Maintenance Responsibility with MDC's Outreach and Education, and Design and Development departments? Will it in the future as the lease is renegotiated?

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

V. General Description: Albizia julibrissin, the Mimosa or Silk tree is also an invasive exotic species which needs to be suppressed and controlled.

V. Management Objective 1: While it helps to designate who is responsible for each strategy, I believe that rather than have three different groups assigned to specific management strategies, it would be better to organize a group of volunteers from all three, but devoted to Emmenegger. I cannot tell you how many times I have heard, "Well I thought Powder Valley volunteers were doing that." or "I heard that KPAC (Kirkwood Parks Assistance Corps) was doing that." "That job belongs to Kirkwood Parks & Recreation maintenance staff." I know there are not enough volunteers, or staff hours, to achieve this objective and its strategies. But I also know the division of responsibility for each one of them is leading to confusion, misinterpretation, and lack of clarity in achieving this objective.

V. Management Objective 2: There needs to be a strategy of building and maintaining the fences for the glades; right now the wooden fences marking the glades by the trail have been vandalized and some rails have been broken--for several years now. It is also a desire of mine to have the trees which have overgrown the glades be cut down (not only fire suppression), as well as enlarging them.

V. Management Objective 3, Strategy 3: There are existing signs that have been placed on the trail, or in front of structures like the chimney swift tower. But many were poorly designed (could not last in weather), vandalized, are inconsistent with other interpretative signs, or have deteriorated due to neglect.

V. Management Objective 4, Strategy 4: The best pervious surface for the unpaved, single-use Bluff Creek trail is the use of wood chips--which are pervious, along with erosion barriers erected at a 30 angle to the path--and the chips are free and freely available. While some may disagree, the wood chips are a stable, permeable and long lasting surface which does not appear to erode or wash out rapidly. I have never seen any instance where these chips were washed into the rivers and streams during a storm. And they do prevent erosion of the trail path. The current

spreading of wood chips over part of the trail was laid down a year and a half ago, and they still largely remain on the path. However, the trail is desperately in need of a new spreading of wood chips. This is also an issue of whose responsibility is it to spread chips. Is it Kirkwood Park maintenance staff, KPAC, or MDC volunteers who do this?

VII Public Use Management Considerations

VII Management Objective 2, Strategy 1: There used to be a 3-D topo map under glass at the shelter by the small parking lot; was that vandalized/stolen or just removed? It would be nice to get it replaced. And to have the bulletin board more consistently updated and maintained, including having brochures available.

VII Management Objective 2, Strategy 3: I have a concern that the more signs and sign pollution, the less effective they are in providing information, direction and education, as well as regulation enforcement. Erecting six regulatory signs regarding leashing dogs has not prevented violators. Perhaps interpretive and regulatory signs could be more uniform and consistently posted and placed. And regulatory signs posted could be rotated on some sort of schedule. Not many read the signs with all regulations on it in fine print, and remember what rules to follow. Having a rotation of interpretive signs might be a good idea, too.

VII Management Objective 5, Strategy 3: Monitoring regional trail efforts will not facilitate a good working relationship with neighbors. It is a separate process between the City of Kirkwood, Great River Greenway and Trailnet. And consideration of trails to Emmenegger, purported to connect Emmenegger to other parks, or consideration of making Emmenegger a trailhead, in addition to considering a biking/hiking paved trail through Emmenegger, will significantly alter the character of the park. The greatest concern is for continual and persistent violations of cyclists using the existing Bluff Creek trail as a bike path, which it isn't, and thus causing erosion. If Emmenegger becomes a trailhead on a bike route, or a stop on a paved hiking/biking trail such as the existing Grants Trail (which I understand the Ozark Trail may resemble), the enforcement of existing regulations will have to be greatly increased. And it still will alter the character of the existing park. I believe this strategy should be eliminated from the plan. And if not, then eliminate the monitoring of the Ozark trail as part of this strategy.

VIII. Administrative Considerations

VIII. Management Objective 1, Strategy 1: What ARE the current responsibilities for maintenance? Clarity on this is needed, sooner than later. This is critical in maintaining infrastructure, at any level.

VIII. Management Objective 2, Strategy 1: I would say "at an optimal level" rather than the current level. There is so much that isn't being done now, due to financial/budgetary constraints, the number of volunteers available, and the fact that volunteers are never solely dedicated to Emmenegger. I have a list I could submit, but I hold back because I don't know who can do it, who is responsible, and where the money will come from. It includes everything from re-erecting barriers to prevent hillside erosion at the shortcuts from the paved disabled accessible trail to the Loop (Bluff Creek) Trail--to honeysuckle removal, trail maintenance, repair and

coating the asphalt on the disabled accessible loop, interpretive signs, prevention of bicyclists using the walking trail as a bike route, planting butterfly friendly species of milkweed, erecting bluebird houses, marking important and significant tree species, erecting historical signs, removing mud from the older wooden bridge on the Bluff Creek Trail, replacing the trail marker signs--the list can go on and on and on.

Finally, thank you for all the hard work you have put in on this plan.

Appendix G. Black Island Conservation Area Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (September 1-30, 2014)

Could you consider putting a boatslide in ramp at north end of Samples Bayou. Samples Bayou is a good distance from the Hostler Bayou ramp and a times the entrance is blocked by logs or the water is too shallow to get a boat in. Sample has the best fishing and largest brim of all three bayous.

Appendix H. Cape Girardeau Urban Wild Acres Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (September 1-30, 2014)

MDC has done a very good job preparing the management plan, particularly the Cape LaCroix Bluffs Conservation Area which adjoins Semo Port.

MDC has coordinated its development plans with those of Semo Port and we look forward to continuing these efforts in the future.

We believe the Port's transportation and economic development can be done in a manner that protects the unique and valuable habitat at Cape LaCroix Bluffs.

The Port has assisted MDC in providing a parking area and trail from Route AB to MDC's hilltop area. Other aspects of the Port's infrastructure plans have been tailored to fit with MDC plans.

Let me add that my wife and I really enjoy walking and biking on the Cape trail.

Thanks

Appendix I. Sunset Park Access Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (September 1-30, 2014)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. My wife and I made the arrangements for the donation/sale of the land for this park on behalf of her parents Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fisher.

The sale/donation document for this land contained three covenants.

1. The land would be used for a park to be named Sunset River Access
2. A sign would commemorate the contribution of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fisher and family.
3. The land would never be sold or rented.

These items have always been observed but should be identified in the park management plan.

The Empire Power Line easement has always been a problem due to the need for spraying and the resulting dead vegetation. Would like to see a vegetation plan that would provide for low growth river line plants or perhaps some more mowing under the easement right of way. This part of the management plan for the park needs improvement, but an easy solution isn't evident.

Vandalism as been a periodic problem in the park. In the early days there were picnic tables available for day users of the park. Would still like to see some tables and benches for the day users. Would it possible to consider floodplain type outdoor furnishings to accommodate day users in the park. A heavy concrete material of construction would inhibit vandals as well as survive the low level of river flooding that occasionally occurs in a portion of the park.

Thank you for your consideration.

I am the person that originally donated the land for the Sunset Park Access area.

Your Management Plan states that Sunset Park Access was purchased and developed in 1971. Most of this 21.1 acres was donated to the Missouri Conservation Commission in memory of my father Mr. Fred Fisher. He was an avid fisherman and outdoorsman. He passed away in 1969 and had always wanted to provide an area for people to fish and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors. The MCD purchased the small acreage where the road is now located because that tract was highly productive farm land and we didn't want to donate it at that time. The compromise was to sell the arable tract and donate the remainder. Acreage wise the remainder was much larger than the tract purchased.

There were three conditions to the donation/sale of the land:

1. The name would be Sunset Park-named for the small village of Sunset that was settled there in 1864.
2. A sign would be maintained there with the name and information that it was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Fisher and family.

3. It could never be rented or sold.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this management plan. The continued viability of this park is very important to me and my family.

Sunset Park Access was not purchased, but was donated by The Fisher Family in memory of Fred and Bertha Fisher. My father Fred Fisher was an avid hunter and fisherman and did not want the river access to be sold to anyone who would restrict its use of allowing fishing etc. So, my brothers, sisters and I donated the access to MDC to honor his wishes.

Thank you for your plans for Sunset Park Access!

1) Area needs to be mowed more often because several churches use area for water baptisms and many times the weeds are too high and it doesn't look good. 2) The area needs restrooms and potentially a picnic table or two - I understand that this may not be possible due to vandalism, but it would be nice.

A citizen called the Bolivar office to clarify what he might need to comment on. I explained to him that we were taking public comments on the Sunset Park Access Area Plan. He asked what the plan entailed and I explained how we had planned on managing the access, vegetation, powerline easement, and illicit activities and he said that it sounded fine. We got into a conversation about how he used the area and said that he and others used the area for water baptisms and said he would like for us to continue allowing it.