

Anthony & Beatrice Kendzora Conservation Area

Ten-Year Area Management Plan

FY 2017-2026



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Wildlife Division Chief

14 APRIL 2017

Date

**Anthony & Beatrice Kendzora Conservation Area Management Plan
Approval Page**

PLANNING TEAM

Chris Blunk, Wildlife Management Biologist

Jake Allman, Fisheries Management Biologist

Wendy Sangster, Community Forester

Randy Keeran, Private Land Conservationist

Doug Yeager, Conservation Agent

Nathan Woodland, Outdoor Education Center Supervisor

KANSAS CITY REGION

RCT Chair



Signature

3/31/2017
Date

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Management Chief



Signature

4/7/17
Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Anthony & Beatrice Kendzora Conservation Area, #9608
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1995
- **Acreage:** 746 acres
- **County:** Platte
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

Manage for wildlife and aquatic resources while providing compatible public recreational opportunities.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of the Anthony and Beatrice Kendzora Conservation Area (Kendzora CA) is healthy woodland, aquatic, wetland, grassland, and old field communities that include a diversity of habitat complexes.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** None
 - B. Natural Areas:** None

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

- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - Two parking lots
 - One concrete building
 - Kendzora Lake (fishing lake, 35 acres)
 - Six fishless ponds (4 acres total)
 - One concrete control structure between river and wetlands
 - One stop log style water structure with flap gate between wetlands
 - One screw gate with flap gate between wetlands
 - Two screw gates below the lake dam under county road
 - One screw valve through the lake dam

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. **Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** 1-acre life estate, including house, outbuildings, and land
- 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:** 50-foot pipeline easement to Hydrocarbon Transportation, Inc.
- D. **Cultural Resources Findings:** Yes, records kept with Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) environmental compliance specialist. Managers should follow best management practices for cultural resources found in the Department Resource Policy Manual.
- E. **Endangered Species:** None observed.
- F. **Boundary Issues:** None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Invasive plants are a threat. Sericea lespedeza, Johnson grass, tall fescue, and musk thistle are well established. Small populations of shrub honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle, garlic mustard, autumn olive, and teasel have been located on or very close to the area. These species will pose a problem in the future.
- 2) Lack of accessibility limits our ability to manage the forested portions of the area. Subsequently, there are opportunities for the Department to maintain and enhance the forest health and existing wildlife habitat through sustainable forest management practices.
- 3) Grassland and early successional field habitats provide food and cover for various wildlife species, including bobwhite quail, white-tailed deer, turkey, rabbits, and song birds. Kendzora CA has open fields that were planted to native grasses and forbs, and converted to other early successional vegetation types. These fields become void of the forb component over time, making them less desirable for wildlife. Management is needed to increase plant diversity and promote forb growth. Managers can maximize quality habitat by managing for a mix of shrub, forb, and grass components. Management of these open fields is needed to provide adequate brood rearing areas for ground nesting birds, increased forage for white-tailed deer, and habitat for rabbits and other wildlife.

Management Objective 1: On appropriate sites, manage forested areas to improve overall natural community health while improving habitat for wildlife.

Strategy 1: Periodically monitor and suppress invasive species. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Inventory forests and develop prescriptions that use sustainable forest management practices to promote healthy forest communities. Practices may include, but are not limited to, timber harvesting, forest thinning, and tree planting, seeding, and prescribed burning. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Provide food and cover for wildlife, and maintain open fields for a variety of wildlife species.

Strategy 1: Plant food plots annually. Crop rotation and other techniques will be used to promote soil health. A portion of these acres will be fallowed each year to increase early successional habitat acres for wildlife. Ensure management practices are conducted in a way that minimizes the potential for soil erosion. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Manage early successional old fields and existing stands of planted native grasses and forbs to maintain diverse vegetative habitats. Rotate management units to provide adequate habitat during management activities. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Control/suppress invasive species. (Wildlife)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations:

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Riparian corridors are restricted due to the levee along the Platte River.
- 2) Despite numerous pond resources, most of them have inadequate depth for sustaining fish populations.
- 3) Kendzora Lake outflow is damaged and scours the base of the dam.
- 4) Approximately 215 acres of the area is managed as opportunistic wetlands. Moist soil management in the wetland is important to provide enhanced water quality and additional acres of seasonal habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife. Water for the wetland can be obtained from floodwaters of the Platte River, or from Kendzora Lake. To manage the wetlands to their full potential, it is imperative to have and maintain fully functional high quality water control structures and levees.

Management Objective 1: Protect and enhance stream corridors to improve water quality, promote stable stream banks, provide flood abatement, and increase habitat diversity.

Strategy 1: Fisheries staff will evaluate buffer widths and conditions and provide recommendations to the area manager. Additional evaluations will be repeated every five years to account for changes in land management and area boundaries. (Fisheries, Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Maintain and/or establish 100-foot or wider vegetated buffers (pursuant to Department guidelines, 2009) on both sides of permanent and intermittent streams, when possible due to levee placement. A diversity of suitable trees and shrub species will be planted if buffers need to be enhanced. Herbaceous vegetation with a woody component is suitable for buffers along streams with channels that are not deeply incised. (Fisheries, Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Manage ponds for amphibians and reptiles unless renovation is feasible.

Strategy 1: Evaluate depth of each pond and potential for renovation. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Request renovation of ponds that have fishing potential or have lost ability to protect lake from siltation. (Fisheries)

Strategy 3: Evaluate potential of ponds as amphibian ponds. (Fisheries, Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Maintain the integrity of the dam.

Strategy 1: Repair the valve and outflow through the dam to protect dam integrity. (Design and Development)

Strategy 2: Control muskrat and beaver, where burrowing creates significant threat to the integrity of the dam or safety hazards for mowers. (Wildlife, Fisheries)

Management Objective 4: Manage Kendzora Lake to provide a variety of fishing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Manage aquatic vegetation to allow reasonable shore angling by using targeted aquatic-herbicide applications. Promote beneficial aquatic plants, where appropriate and when possible, through seeding and transplants. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Maintain pond dam devoid of trees and shrubs to minimize potential for leaking and associated negative impacts to fish habitat. (Fisheries, Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Utilize additional fish stocking, as necessary, to maintain a healthy fishery. (Fisheries)

Strategy 4: Time controlled burns conducted within the lake watershed to limit bare soil exposure and reduce sedimentation and excessive nutrient runoff. (Wildlife, Fisheries)

Management Objective 5: Maximize wetland productivity and potential by maintaining early successional habitat while providing emergent vegetation for nesting species.

Strategy 1: Manipulate water levels to encourage early successional growth of desirable wetland plants like millet and smartweed. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Control/suppress invasive species. (Wildlife)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Manage for a diversity of habitats and wildlife species to provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing within a short drive from a major metropolitan area.
- 2) Kendzora Lake is the main aquatic feature of the area. Access to the lake is walk-in only.
- 3) There are opportunities for school and civic groups to use the area for fishing and hunting through the special use permit process.
- 4) There are opportunities to build relationships with neighboring land-owners.

Management Objective 1: Maintain a diversity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats to provide public users with quality hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Implement annual management activities targeting improvement of terrestrial and wetland wildlife populations. Terrestrial and wetland management activities should provide opportunities for hunting and viewing a variety of species including deer, turkey, doves, waterfowl, and small game species such as squirrel, rabbit and quail. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Manage the area's aquatic resources to provide access and opportunity to quality fishing experiences. Public access to the Platte River, Kendzora Lake, and area ponds should be maintained, evaluated, and improved as feasible. Conduct a periodic review of area ponds for the suitability of stocking to provide additional fishing opportunities as resources allow. (Fisheries, Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Maintain adequate access to area habitats through the existing network of parking lots, levees, and service roads. Take advantage of opportunities to improve access to area resources when feasible to do so. (Wildlife, Design and Development)

Strategy 4: Continue to allow trapping on the area, as appropriate, through the special use permitting guidelines. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Manage Kendzora Lake as a walk-in area.

Strategy 1: Maintain the access bridge across the drainage ditch for short portage of small boats, canoes, and kayaks. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Promote the use of the area by school and civic groups through the special use permitting guidelines.

Strategy 1: Allow group use requests that do not interfere with area management priorities according to special use permit guidelines. (Wildlife, Outreach and Education)

Strategy 2: Promote educational opportunities and school field trips as area resources and staffing will allow. (Wildlife, Outreach and Education)

Management Objective 4: Promote a positive working relationship with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Respond to neighbors' requests for shared fencing, boundary issues or trespass problems. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Respond to neighboring landowners with interest of habitat management on their private property. (Wildlife, Private Land Services)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.
- 2) Prioritize acquisition of adjoining land because of the close proximity to a large urban area and the area's small acreage.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure according to Department guidelines and at currently identified maintenance level. (Wildlife, Design and Development)

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, should be considered.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Terrestrial Resource Management										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 2	X									
Aquatic Resource Management										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 1	X					X				
<i>Objective 2</i>										
Strategy 1	X									
Strategy 2		X								
Strategy 3		X								
<i>Objective 3</i>										
Strategy 1		X								
Public Use Management										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 2		X					X			

APPENDICES

Area Background:

The property was acquired from the Anthony and Beatrice Kendzora Trust in 1995 with over 50 percent of the cost being donated. A portion of this land was used as a lumber mill. The logs were floated down the Platte River and then hauled across the road to the mill. When purchased by the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department), the area had a tobacco allotment. The Union Mill Opry House on the east end of the property started having country music performances in the mid-1960s. This was the largest country music facility in the United States north of Branson, Missouri. The Department sold the opry house and some land shortly after acquiring the property.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	299		40
Old Field	135		18
Wetland	117		16
Cropland/ Open Land	98		13
Grassland	62		8
Lakes/Ponds	35		5
Total	746		100
River Frontage-east bank		1.6	
River Frontage-west bank		1.0	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Anthony & Beatrice Kendzora Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period Sept. 1–30, 2016. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from seven respondents (Appendix A). The Kendzora Conservation Area 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 Kendzora Conservation Area Management Plan public comment period.

Suggests managing area for deer, turkey, and rabbit populations.

Prescribed burning, forest stand improvement, building downed tree structures, and other management activities are conducted on the area to improve habitat for many different species, including deer, turkey, and rabbits.

Suggests enhancing fishing opportunities on Kendzora Lake.

Many area users have indicated they enjoy the walk-in aspect of Kendzora Lake. The lake is annually stocked with channel catfish to maintain the population. Largemouth bass, bluegill, and crappie are common and maintain their populations through natural reproduction.

Suggests renovating small ponds for fishing.

Renovating small ponds is cost prohibitive. The Department does have renovation plans for many lakes statewide, and it will take over a decade before those are completed. The primary function of small ponds is generally to extend the life of large bodies of water below them by capturing sediment from upland erosion. These ponds are also important breeding sites for various amphibians.

Suggests adding an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible dock on Kendzora Lake with a ramp for small boats only.

Area infrastructure will be maintained at current levels due to budget and staffing restraints. Currently there are three locations nearby with these amenities: Belcher Branch Lake CA is 10 miles away in Buchanan County, Guy B. Park CA is 16 miles away in Platte County, and Smithville Lake is 12 miles away in Clay and Clinton counties.

Enjoys Kendzora CA for recreational activities such as fishing and photography.

Although the area is only 746 acres, it supports a vast diversity in habitat. The bottomland and upland forest, seasonally flooded wetlands, 35-acre lake, and other habitats provide a great opportunity for many recreational activities.

Supports current deer hunting regulations of archery hunting only at Kendzora CA.

The area planning team appreciates your support for keeping the current area regulations.

Concerned about the large number of waterfowl hunters on the area. Suggests limiting the number of hunting parties each day through a morning draw.

Staff has observed large numbers of waterfowl hunters utilizing the area. This is mainly on those typical high use times, such as opening day, weekends, and/or suspected flight days. The majority of the season, fewer than five parties are observed. The area planning team does not support a morning draw at this time due to the area's small size and limited staff time.

Suggests adding a waterfowl refuge to the area.

Currently the 35-acre lake is designated as a waterfowl refuge.

Concerned that motor boats may be disturbing wildlife and area users. Suggests allowing idle speed only.

The current regulation for conservation area lakes is: “Only electric motors are permitted on lakes and ponds of less than seventy (70) acres. Electric motors and outboard motors are permitted on lakes of seventy (70) or more acres and on certain areas in conjunction with waterfowl hunting. Outboard motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower must be operated at slow, no-wake speed.” Conservation agents will enforce this regulation and cite violators. Contact your local conservation agent or the Kansas City Regional Office to report observed violations.

Suggests acquiring adjacent land when available.

The area planning team agrees it would be beneficial to acquire additional land when it becomes available 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, will be considered.

Suggest better marking of area boundaries.

Clearly marked and maintained boundaries are a priority. If area users have any questions or comments about boundaries, contact the area manager at 816-858-5718.

Suggests purchasing nearby Opry House and developing that site for camping.

Area infrastructure will be maintained at current levels due to budget and staffing constraints. Camping is offered at Missouri State Parks, some local county-managed recreation areas, and privately owned and operated campgrounds.

Suggests developing youth soccer fields.

The Mission of the Missouri Department of Conservation is to protect and manage the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state; to facilitate and provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources. Youth soccer fields do not fit within that mission.

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.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Topographic Map

Figure 3: Aerial and Easement Map

Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map

Additional Appendices:

Appendix A. Kendzora Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Figure 1: Area Map

ANTHONY AND BEATRICE KENDZORA CONSERVATION AREA

BUCHANAN & PLATTE COUNTIES
746 ACRES

LEGEND

- Boundary
 - Paved Road
 - Gravel Road
 - Drainage
 - Parking Lot
 - Pond
 - Forest
 - Marsh
 - Waterfowl Refuge
 - Topography
- Contours at 10 meter intervals

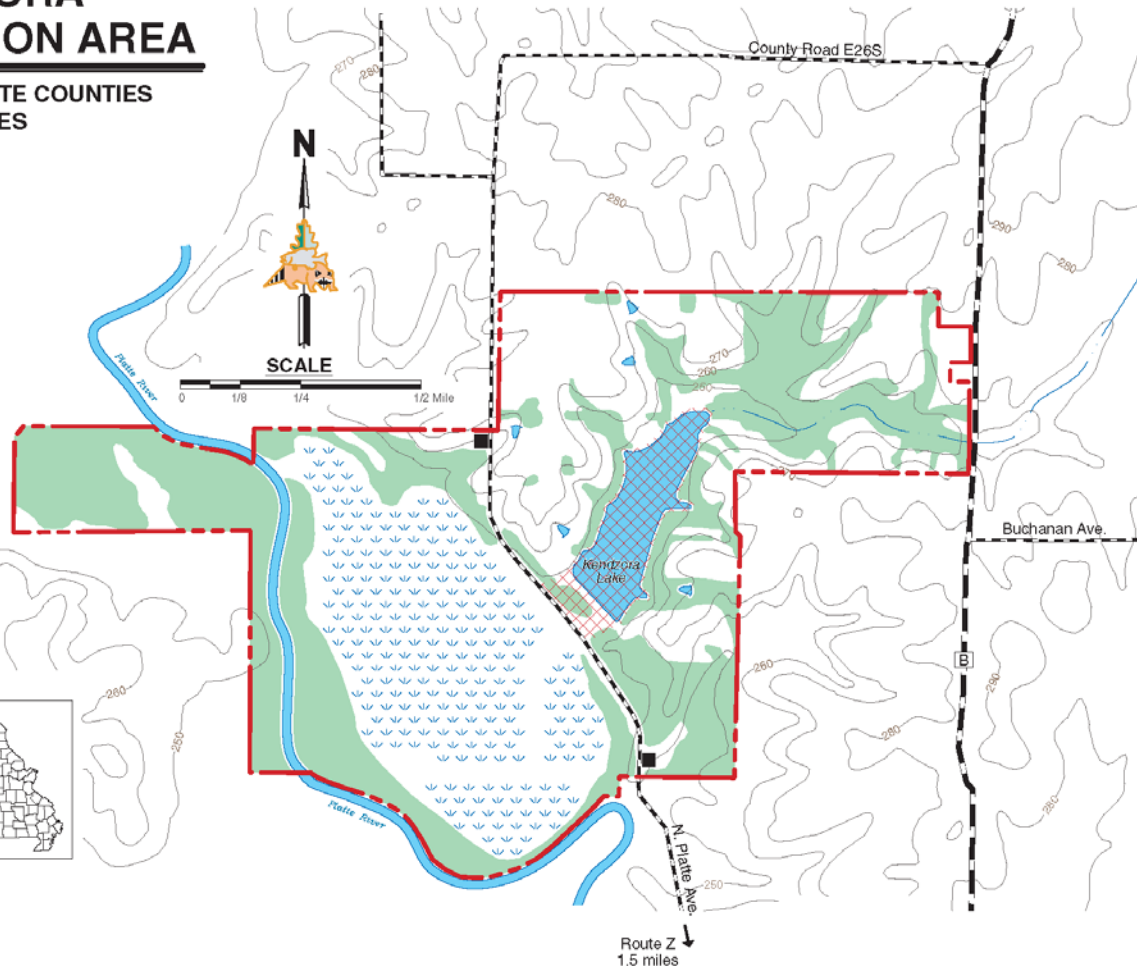
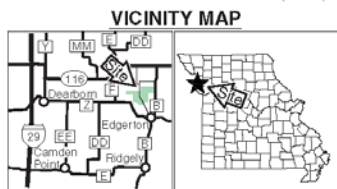


Figure 2: Topographic Map

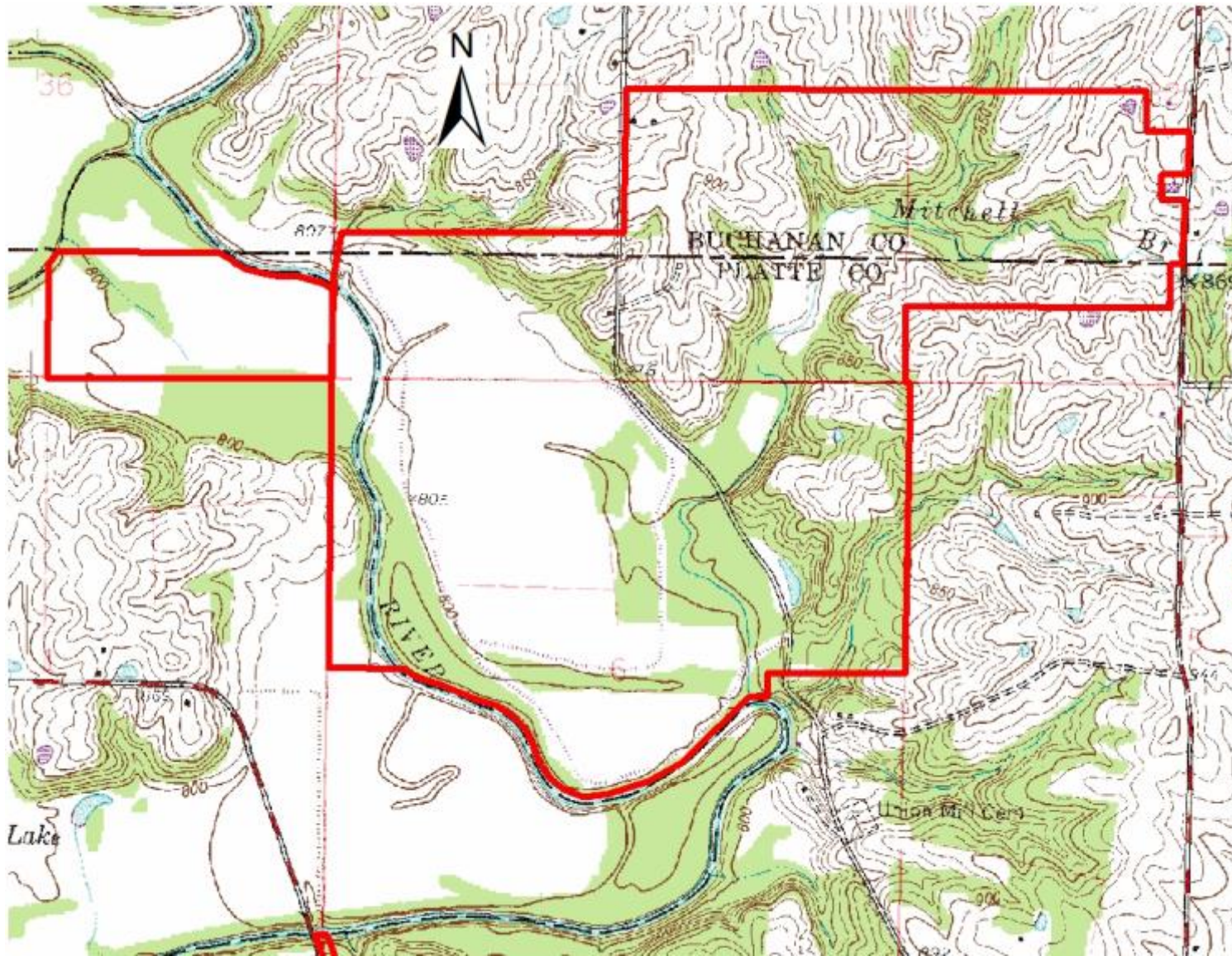


Figure 3: Aerial and Easement Map

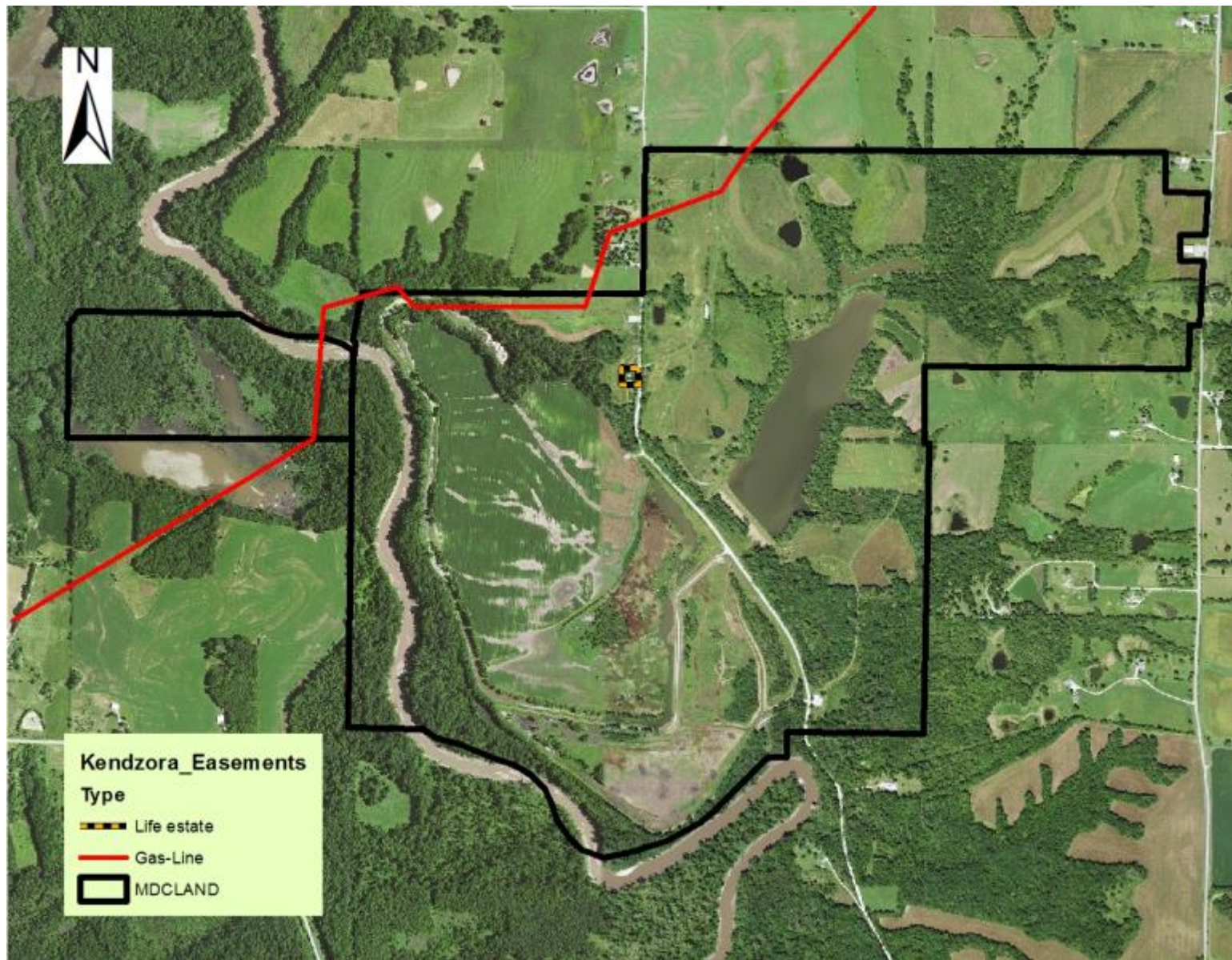
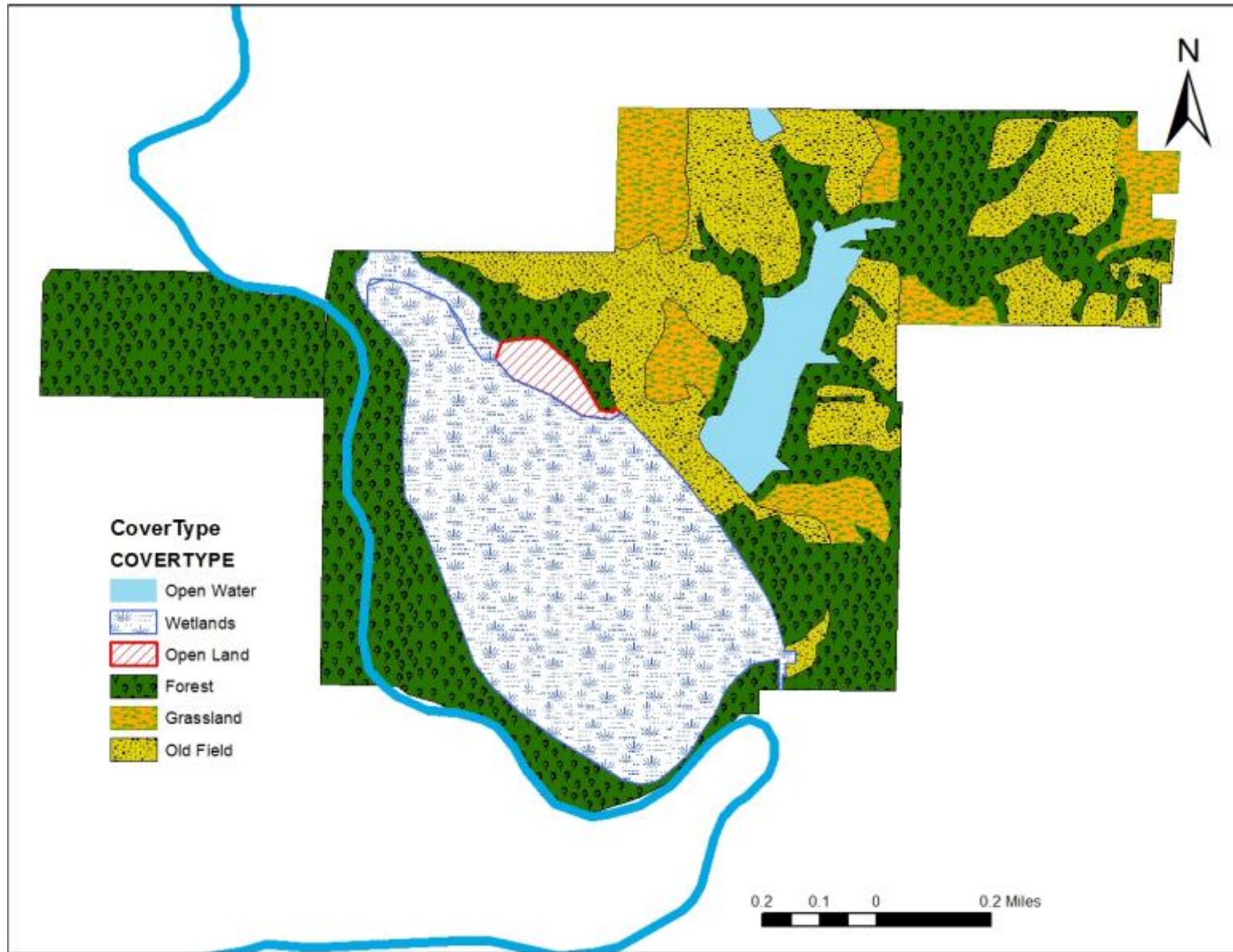


Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map



Appendix A. Kendzora Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

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

<p>I think this area should be the first priority. It looks like it would provide the largest number of activities for the public to enjoy. And it looks like it can be done in only a couple of years.</p>
<p>I hope it will be possible to renovate the small ponds for fishing. I enjoy fishing small ponds on any site that has them. The farther from the parking lot the better.</p>
<p>I really enjoy the Kendzora area. It is a very lightly used and aside from fishing it allows for great access to the seasonal wetlands and excellent photo opportunities.</p>
<p>As a neighboring land owner, I encourage you to continue to limit deer hunting to archery method only. Our close proximity between two metropolitan areas would become problematic and dangerous for visitors to the area and landowners alike should firearms be allowed for deer season. Your management practices have proven to work on this area and thank you for the good work.</p>
<p>Some things I would like to see addressed read as following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management for the marsh and conservation for waterfowl. As it stands right now no rules regulate the problem that Kendzora has been having with a over abundance of people hunting. I think rules need to be established to allow only a certain amount of parties to hunt there each day and a area need to be marked as a waterfowl refuge to keep birds on the premises. 2 years ago I hunted here a few times and had great success but last year due to lack of crops and over hunting, I only hunted here once. I seen a grand total of 10-15 parties with people parking right on the side of the road and hunting less than 10 ft away. It was absolutely ridiculous. I think there should be a morning draw to hunt here so it doesn't burn species out of the area. 2. I think a rule need to be implemented about the use of boat motors. If there is one I think it needs to be enforced. Too many times I have seen people using 30 h.p or bigger and running them full throttle in the area. This I think also ruins a hunting area and creates too much noise and disturbance. I would like to see it as idle speeds only. <p>These are just my comments on what I would like to see along with management of water. I have begun to see and catch catfish in the field when it has been flooded but I would also like to see crops to grow so management of water intake and outflow would be great as well.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I encourage expansion thru land acquisition as soon as possible. 2. Enhance deer, turkey, rabbit populations. 3. Boundary markings need to be improved. 4. Enhance fish populations in Kendzora lake. Also, last time I was there bridge to lake was in poor shape. Would be hard to get myself let alone my kayak into the lake...
<p>Design and implement a disabled dock on the lake part of the area with small boat only boat ramp. Develop a primitive camping area away from the major portions of the uses area. I suggest buying the old Opry building and develop that as the camping area.</p>

Any chance this area could be used for youth soccer fields?