

Sterling Price Community Lake

Ten-Year Area Management Plan FY 2018-2027




Wildlife Division Chief

12 Oct 2017
Date

Sterling Price Community Lake Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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NORTHWEST REGION

RCT Chair

 8/29/17
Signature Date

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Management Chief

 9/7/17
Signature Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Sterling Price Community Lake, #5603
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1956
- **Acreage:** 84 acres
- **County:** Chariton
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Primary Purpose:**

A. Strategic Direction

The area was purchased to provide public fishing in southern Chariton County. The area is managed to protect and enhance the area's natural resources while providing public recreation to the extent compatible with those resources.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of Sterling Price Community Lake is a lake and surrounding forest that provides high quality fishing for multiple species and other public uses along with excellent water quality.

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

- One gravel boat ramp
- Seven fishing jetties
- Three parking lots
- One privy
- Sterling Price Lake (26.3-acre fishing lake)

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None
- B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.
- C. Easements:** None
- D. Cultural Resource Findings:** No known cultural resources.
- E. Endangered Species:** None observed.
- F. Boundary Issues:** Establishing accurate and identifiable boundary markers is a priority for this property.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Control invasive species.
- 2) Protect the Sterling Price Lake watershed.

Management Objective 1: Control invasive species.

Strategy 1: Annually treat sericea lespedeza, Johnson grass, Canada thistle, and any other invasive species with herbicides, mechanical treatments, and prescribed fire. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Protect the Sterling Price Lake watershed.

Strategy 1: Maintain the existing 150' forest buffer along each side of the main tributary that enters Sterling Price Lake. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Continue to work with landowners within the watershed to encourage soil conservation practices. (Wildlife, Private Land Services, Fisheries)

Management Objective 3: Manage forest, grassland, and woodland habitats for early successional species.

Strategy 1: Use mechanical cutting and chemical treatment as needed. (Wildlife)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Prevent the infestation and spread of nuisance aquatic species.
- 2) Manage lake habitat to maintain quality recreational fishing.

Management Objective 1: Manage Sterling Price Lake for quality recreational fishing.

Strategy 1: Conduct bi-annual fish surveys to monitor for quality largemouth bass (Proportional Stock Density (12) values of 20-50) and bluegill (Proportional Stock Density values of 40-70). (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Provide supplemental stocking of channel catfish to maintain quality angling opportunities. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 2: Prevent the infestation and spread of nuisance aquatic species.

Strategy 1: Provide educational materials on the spread of invasive species on area bulletin boards. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Remove aquatic invasive species using techniques such as herbicide application and mechanical removal. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 3: Manage lake habitat to maintain a quality fishery and maintain quality bank fishing opportunities.

Strategy 1: When fish kills become common or the fish population is no longer acceptable, physically renovate the basin. (Fisheries)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Promote a quality recreational fishery.

Management Objective 1: Provide quality fishing opportunities for the public.

Strategy 1: Maintain quality fish populations on Sterling Price Lake through bi-annual monitoring, supplemental stocking, and assessment of creel and length limits. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Maintain access to angling opportunities on Sterling Price Lake through maintenance of boat ramp, privy, and parking lots. (Wildlife, Design and Development)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain existing infrastructure.
- 2) Consider land acquisition, when available.

Management Objective 1: Maintain existing infrastructure.

Strategy 1: Maintain facilities and grounds according to the current Area and Facility Maintenance Policy located in the Resource Policy Manual. (Wildlife)

Lands Proposed for Acquisition:

When available, land within the lake’s watershed may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Aquatic Resources Management										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 1	X		X		X		X		X	

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Sterling Price Community Lake was built in 1958 and is located approximately 3 miles southwest of Salisbury in Chariton County. Original specifications indicate that it was constructed to be a 35-acre lake with a 16-foot maximum depth and 441-acre watershed. Seventy-seven acres encompassing the lake are owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation (Figure 2). The lake was physically renovated in 1977. The project consisted of deepening the lake and building fishing jetties with the excavated materials.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land /Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forest and Woodland	47	56
Open Water	26	31
Grassland (non-prairie)	6	8
Infrastructure	4	5
Total	84	100

Public Input Summary:

The draft Sterling Price Community Lake Management Plan was available for a public comment period August 1–31, 2016. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from one respondent (Appendix A). The Sterling Price Community Lake 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 Sterling Price Community Lake Management Plan public comment period.

Supports invasive species removal. Suggests washing mowing and farming equipment before moving to other areas.

We will continue efforts to reduce invasive species and limit their spread from equipment transportation by personnel and/or contractors.

Figures:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Infrastructure and Public Use Facilities

Figure 3: Habitat Cover Types

Figure 4: Topographic Map

Additional Appendices:

Appendix A: Sterling Price Community Lake Management Plan Public Comments

Figure 1: Area Map

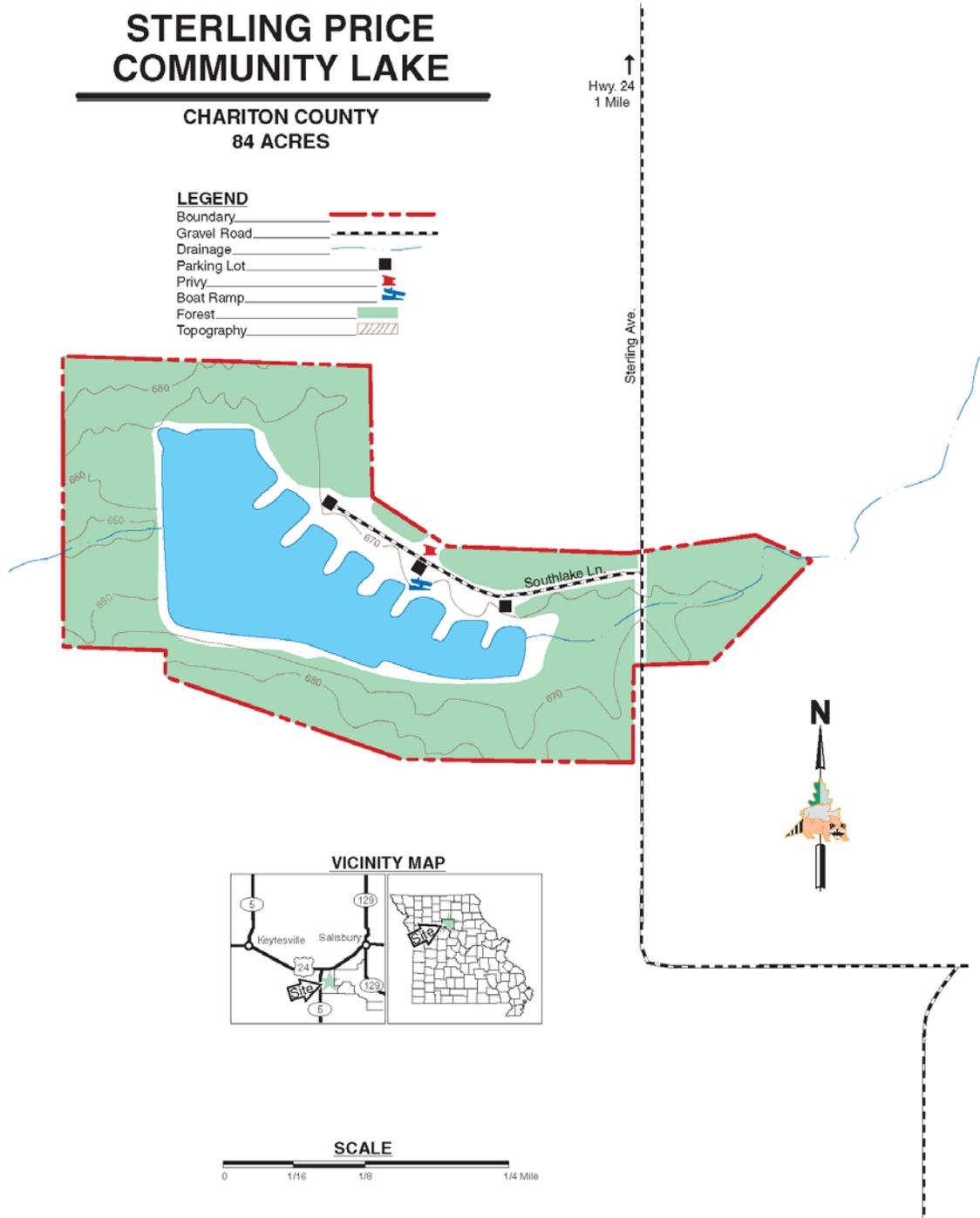


Figure 2: Infrastructure and Public Use Facilities



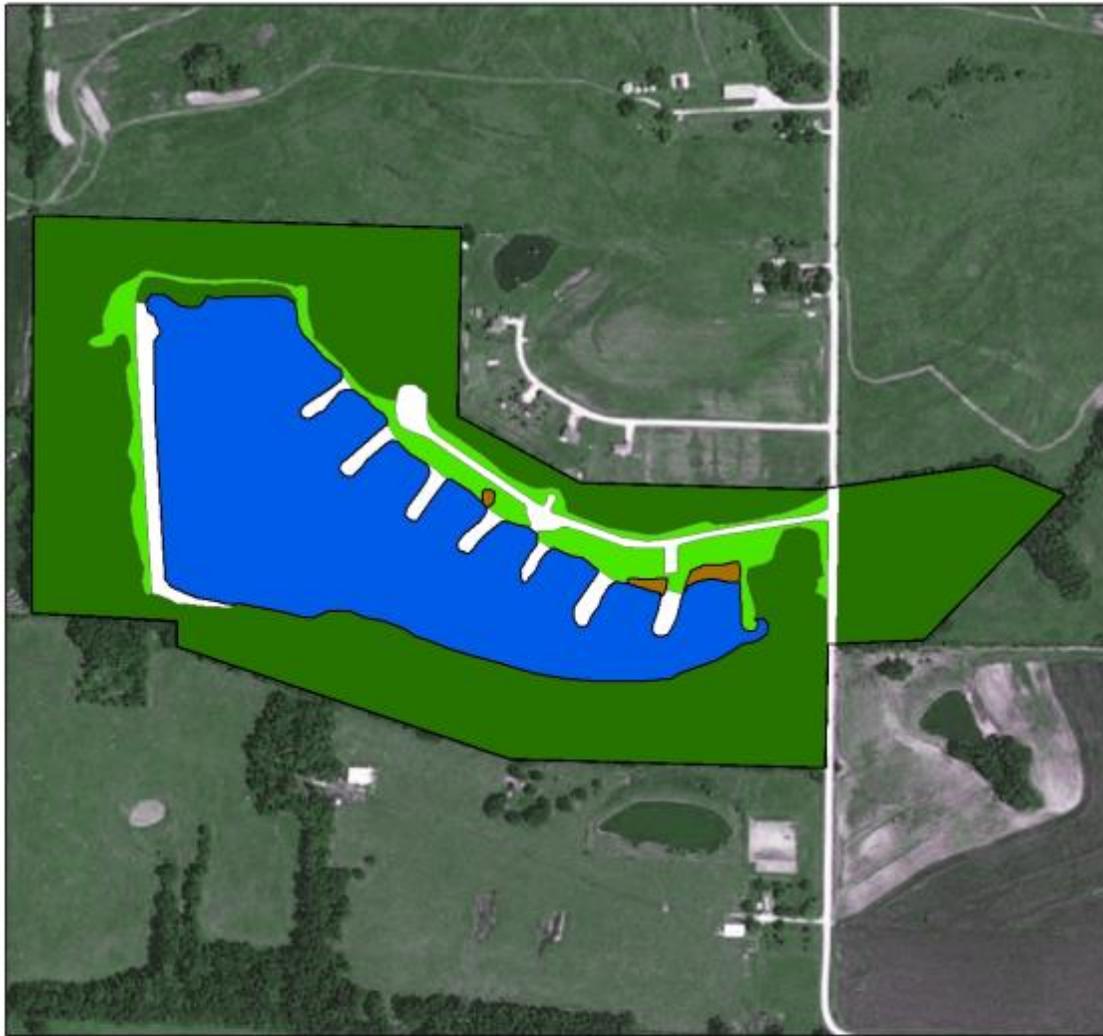
Legend

Infrastructure

-  Parking Lot
-  Gravel Boat Ramp
-  Privy
-  MDC Gravel Road
-  Sterling Price CL Boundary



Figure 3: Habitat Cover Types



Legend

HABITAT COVER TYPE	
	FOREST
	GRASS
	INFRASTRUCTURE
	OPENWATER
	WOODLAND
	Sterling Price CL Boundary



Appendix A: Sterling Price Community Lake Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (August 1-31, 2016):

Some of the MDC lands are incredible with native species diversity while others are dominated by non-native species. The number one Management need is the control or reduction of non-native species. It is imperative that mowers and farmers wash their equipment before moving into a new area. There must be an active role in the control of exotic species. If there is not more of an active role then the remaining pristine sites will subcumb to exotic species and degrade ecological integrity.

Respectfully,