Area Highlights

The area contains the Pharrs Island group and the Clarksville Refuge. The area is dominated by forest with marsh and open backwater habitats occurring in Clarksville Refuge. A rock dike was constructed around the head and east side of Pharrs Island to create backwater fish habitats and to slow siltation rates within the island complex.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching – Fishing – Hiking – Hunting
Outdoor Photography – Wildlife Viewing

Conservation Areas are closed from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. except for authorized camping, fishing and hunting activities.

• No fireworks.
• No open fires except in designated areas.
• Dogs must be leashed when not used for training or hunting.
• Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal use. Cutting or removing other vegetation is prohibited. Taking of wild greens from natural areas is prohibited.
• Walk-in camping is allowed year round, except during all firearms deer and turkey seasons. During these seasons, camping is not permitted. Campers are limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period. Groups of more than 10 campers need a special-use permit.
• Bicycling is allowed on service roads and roads open to vehicles.
• Motor vehicles are allowed on public roadways and in parking areas.
• Target shooting is not allowed.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing is permitted under statewide regulations for the Mississippi River with the following exceptions:

• Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited. Gizzard shad may be taken from lakes and ponds by dip net or throw net.
• Salvage seining of non-game fish for personal use is permitted only with written authorization.
• There are no Conservation Department restrictions on boats and motors used on the waters of the Mississippi River.

Hunting and Trapping

Area is open to hunting under statewide regulations with the following exceptions:

• Deer hunting is permitted under statewide seasons and limits.
• Only portable tree stands are allowed and only from Sept. 1 through Jan. 31. Unattended stands must be plainly labeled on a durable material with the full name and address, or Conservation Number, of the owner and be removed from the area before February 1. Use of nails, screw-in steps, and any material or method that would damage the tree is prohibited.
• Waterfowl hunting on the Upper Mississippi Conservation Area is by one of two designations: Open or Restricted. Pharrs Island is designated a restricted site. Waterfowl blind sites are designated and issued through a system of registration and drawing conducted every two years (even-numbered years).
• The Clarksville Refuge is closed to all hunting and is closed to all public use from October 15 to the end of the local duck season.
• Blinds must be constructed within 10 yards of sites assigned by the Department and to Department specifications by Sept. 20 of each year.
• Blinds may not be locked, transferred, rented or sold.
• Boats may not be left at blind sites overnight.
• Blinds unoccupied at one-half hour before legal shooting time may be used by the first hunter to arrive.
• Furbearer trapping is permitted by special-use permit.

For local information, contact:
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 441-4554

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

4/2013

(Publications are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are in Chapter 11 of the Wildlife Code. A free printed copy of the Wildlife Code, which lists most area regulations, is available from the Conservation Department. Chapter 11 on its entirety is available at www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp.) Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102. (573) 751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-6026, Arlington, VA 22203.)