

Big Buffalo Creek Conservation Area

About This Area

Big Buffalo Creek Conservation Area is in east-central Benton and west-central Morgan counties.

This 3,612 acre, mostly forested area contains one fishing pond, three springs and 3 miles of Big Buffalo Creek, plus one mile of Pole Hollow Creek.

Big Buffalo Creek Conservation Area has one designated natural area: Big Buffalo Creek Fen Natural Area. The fen area is a 40-acre portion of the conservation area with natural features that include a small, spring-fed fen, a spring branch and creek, dolomite glades and woodland. Sedges dominate the fen vegetation, and blue flag, marsh coneflower, Riddell's goldenrod, willow and the rare bushy aster are found here.

This area is managed to protect and enhance forest health. Forest management activities that can be seen include timber harvest, thinning, and tree planting.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching – Fishing – Frogging – Hiking – Hunting – Outdoor Photography – Picnicking – Wildlife Viewing – Camping – Self-guided nature trails (Several unmaintained trails and roads suitable for hiking and horseback riding)

Rules and Regulations

- No littering.
- No fireworks.
- No open fires except in areas designated camping areas.
- No free-running pets. Dogs must be leashed or confined when not being trained or used for hunting.

Hunting and Trapping

Area is open to hunting under statewide regulations, except as further restricted by the following regulations:

- Deer and turkey regulations are subject to annual changes. Refer to the Spring Turkey or Fall Deer and Turkey booklets for current regulations.
- Firearm use is prohibited within No-Shooting Zones around a private residence. The zones are posted with signs.
- Only portable tree stands are allowed and only from September 1 through January 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.
- Trapping furbearers allowed only by special use permit.
- Non-toxic shot is required when hunting waterfowl on this area.
- Decoys and portable blinds are permitted but must be removed from the area daily. Blinds may be constructed on-site, but only from willows and non-woody vegetation.



- Destroying, cutting or removing vegetation is prohibited. Nuts, berries, fruits, edible wild greens and mushrooms may be taken only for personal consumption. On areas designated as Missouri Natural Areas, taking edible wild greens is prohibited.
- Motor vehicles are restricted to gravel roadways and parking areas.
- Primitive camping is permitted only in designated areas and is limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30 day period. Groups of 10 campers or more must obtain a special use permit.
- Swimming, scuba diving, water skiing, sailboarding, jet skiing, collecting plants and animals, skateboarding, caving and rappelling are not allowed.
- Horseback riding is permitted only on roads open to vehicles and on designated multi-use trails or by special use permit. Groups of 10 or more horses must obtain a special use permit.
- Bicycles are allowed only on roads open to vehicles, multi-use trails and service roads.
- No target shooting allowed.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.

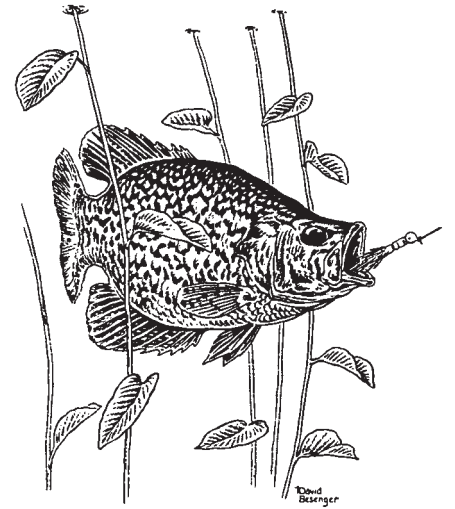
Fishing and Boating

Fishing and frogging are permitted under statewide regulation. The following special regulations also apply:

- On streams, fishing is permitted under statewide regulations.
- On impounded waters, fish may be taken only by pole and line and no more than three poles and lines may be used by any one person.
- On impounded waters, daily and possession limits are six black bass, four catfish in the aggregate (channel, blue and flathead catfish) and 30 crappie. The combined total number of all other fish may not exceed 20 in the aggregate.
- On impounded waters, all black bass between 12 (twelve) and 15 (fifteen) inches must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after

being caught.

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



Nearby Department Areas:

Carpenter Memorial Conservation Area
Brickley Hollow Conservation Area
Granny's Acres Conservation Area

For local information, contact:

Department of Conservation
2000 South Limit
Sedalia, MO 65301
660-530-5500

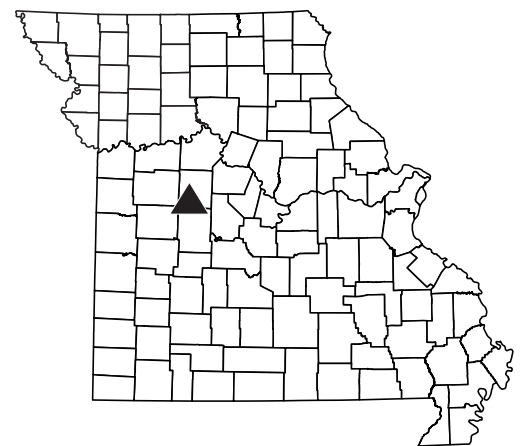


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(Regulations are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are in Chapter 11 of the Wildlife Code. A free printed copy of the Wildlife Code, which lists most area regulations, is available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

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CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION