Recreational Opportunities


Conservation Areas are closed from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am except for authorized camping, fishing and hunting activities.

- No littering.
- No fireworks.
- No open fires. Pitted fires only in designated areas.
- No free-ranging pets. Dogs must be leashed or confined when not being trained or used for hunting.
- No motor vehicles are restricted to roadways and parking areas.
- Bicycles are allowed only on trails designated for their use and on roads and trails open to vehicular traffic, unless otherwise posted.
- Camping is permitted in designated areas and is limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period. Only two camping or sleeping units are permitted at each site on areas with established campsites. Groups of 10 campers or more must obtain a special-use permit.
- Swimming, scuba diving, water skiing, sailboarding, skateboarding, caving and rappelling are not allowed.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing is permitted under statewide regulations. The following special regulations also apply:

- On streams, fishing is permitted under statewide regulations.
- On impounded waters, daily limits are 2 black bass and 4 catfish in the aggregate (channel, blue and flathead) and 30 crappie. All other fish, statewide limits, but may not exceed a combined total of 20.
- All black bass less than 18 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught. Fish may be taken only by pole and line and not more than three poles and lines may be used by any one person.
- Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken during the statewide season only by hand, handnet, atlatl, gig, bow, snaring, snaring, grabbing, pole and line, and a twenty-two (.22) caliber or smaller rimfire rifle or pistol, pellet gun, or crossbow, only on waters and within dates and hours those waters are open to fishing or hunting.
- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited on all impounded waters and their discharge channels.
- Boats may be used for fishing and wildlife-related activities only and may not be stored or left unattended overnight.
- Electric motors only are allowed.

Hunting and Trapping

Area is open to hunting under statewide regulations. The following special regulations also apply:

- Archery and firearms deer hunting is permitted for antlered or antlerless deer on the following permits only: Archer's Hunting Permit and Firearms Any-Deer Hunting Permit. No archery antlerless or firearm antlerless permits may be used. All other statewide deer seasons and limits apply.
- Only portable tree stands may be placed or used and only between Sept. 1 and Jan. 31. Each stand must be identified with the name and address or conservation number of the user and must be removed from the area by Feb. 1. Use of nails or other materials that would damage the tree is prohibited.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.
- 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.
- Trapping of furbearers is permitted only as specifically authorized by special use permit.

For local information, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
701 James McCarty Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816/271-3100

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