Hunting and Trapping

- Special hunting provisions provided for the mobility impaired. Contact area manager or regional office for further information.
- 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 seasons and limits apply.
- Only portable stands are allowed from Sept. 1 through Jan. 31. Unattended stands must be plainly labeled on a durable material with full name and address or Conservation number of the owner and be removed from the area by Feb. 1st. Use of nails, screw-in steps, and any material or method that would damage the tree is prohibited.
- Trapping allowed only with special use permit. Contact area manager.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.
- Deer and turkey regulations are subject to annual changes. Please refer to Spring Turkey or Fall Deer and Turkey summaries for current regulations.

For local information, contact:
Missouri Department of Conservation
3500 E Gans Rd
Columbia, MO 65201
(573)815-7900

OR
Visit us at:
mdc.mo.gov
About this Area

Three Creeks Conservation Area is 5 miles south of Columbia on Highway 63 and 1.75 miles west on Deer Park Road.

Three Creeks Conservation Area is in Boone County (halfway between Columbia and Ashland). The area takes its name from the three creeks that run through the area: Turkey Creek, Bass Creek, and Bonne Femme Creek. The rugged forest features scenic bluffs, intermittent streams, geologic formations, and old eastern red cedar trees. Through the years, the area was treated like much of Missouri’s land. The timber was grazed and logged and occasional fires swept through the area. Because of these practices, the land has suffered sheet and gully erosion. Three Creeks Conservation Area was considered for purchase as a result of substantial public input and interest in protecting the general Three Creeks area from further urban development, which would destroy its appearance and natural features. Moreover, Three Creeks Conservation Area was acquired to maintain and manage representative plant and animal communities and to provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities in an urbanizing region of central Missouri.

Recreational Opportunities


Rules and Regulations

Open for public use from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. except for authorized camping, fishing and hunting activities.

- Multiple Use Trail will be muddy and susceptible to damage during wet periods. Please refrain from using bicycles and horses on the trails at these times. Please be aware of trail conditions and ride responsibly.
- Interpretive trail brochure for Turkey Creek Trail is available on the area. Good hiking opportunities on both the Turkey Creek Interpretive Nature Trail and the Multiple Use Trail.
- Horseback riding and bicycles are permitted on trails marked with “Horse/Bike” trail signs. Groups of 10 or more need a special-use permit.
- Vehicles are only permitted on public roadways and in parking lots.
- Walk-in primitive camping year round except during modern firearms deer season. Camping along roads and parking lots permitted only during modern firearm deer hunting by deer hunters. No amenities provided.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal consumption.
- Digging of roots is prohibited on all Conservation areas.
- Designated multi-use trails are open for use year-round. Trail users are advised to wear hunter orange during the November portion of the firearms deer season.
- Pets and hunting dogs are permitted but must be on a leash or confined at all time. Hunting dogs may be used off the leash and unconfined for hunting and training purposes. Hunting permit required to train dogs in pursuit of wildlife.
- Field trials prohibited.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing and frogging are allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions:

- Seining and trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited on impounded areas.
- For more information on fishing creeks and streams, refer to A Summary of Missouri Fishing Regulations.