Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching – Bicycling – Fishing - Hiking
Horseback Riding – Hunting - Outdoor Photography

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

- No littering. No fireworks. No open fires. Pitted fires only in designated areas.
- No free-running pets. Dogs must be leashed or confined when not being trained or used for hunting.
- Destroying, cutting or removing vegetation is prohibited. Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal consumption only.
- Motor vehicles are restricted to roadways and parking areas.
- Horseback riding and bicycles are allowed only on trails designated for their use and on roads and trails open to vehicular traffic, unless otherwise posted.
- Groups of 10 or more people must obtain a special use permit.
- Swimming, sailboarding, scuba diving, water skiing, target shooting, rappeling, water skiing, paint-balling or skateboarding are not allowed.

Fishing and Boating

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

- On lakes and ponds, fishing is permitted under statewide regulations. Other restrictions may apply to specific ponds, lakes and stream segments.
- 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 limits are 6 black bass, 4 catfish in the aggregate (channel, blue and flathead) and 30 crappie. All other fish taken may not exceed a combined total of 20.
- All black bass between 12 and 15 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.
- Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken during the statewide season only by hand, handnet, atlatl, gig, bow, snagging, snaring, grabbing, pole and line 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.
- Salvage seining of non-game fish for personal use is permitted only with written permission of the Conservation Department.
- Boats may be used for fishing and wildlife-related activities only and may not be stored or left unattended overnight.

Hunting and Trapping

The cross hatched portions indicated on the map are closed to hunting. Other areas are open to hunting under statewide regulations. The following special regulations also apply:

- Firearms firing single projectiles are prohibited.
- Deer may be hunted with archery methods only. All other statewide 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 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.
- 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:
Department of Conservation
701 James McCarthy Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64507-2298
(816) 271-3100

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

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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-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.