About this Area

Lick Creek Conservation Area is 9 miles north of Columbia on Highway 63, then 3 miles west on Highway 124, and 1.8 miles north on Oak Grove School Road. This area is mostly forest.

The Lick Creek Conservation Area, named for Lick Creek that runs through the area’s west end, is made up of approximately 317 acres. The area was farmed in the early part of the century until severe erosion and poor economic conditions forced farmers to abandon the area for crops. For about 30+ years from the 1930’s to the late 1960’s, the area was used for pasture for livestock. In 1968, Monte Gurwit purchased the area for recreational purposes. Later in 1972, the current 12-acre lake was built. Missouri Department of Conservation purchased the area in 1992. The natural resources include upland hardwoods, bottomland hardwoods, a 12-acre lake, Lick Creek, a 4-acre pine plantation, and old field habitat.

Recreational Opportunities


Rules and Regulations

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

• Nuts, berries, fruits, edible wild greens, and mushrooms may be taken only for personal consumption.
• Camping is allowed along interior roads and/or parking lots. No amenities provided. Seasonal closures and restrictions may apply. Stays are limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period. Groups of 10 or more campers need a special use permit.
• Pets and hunting dogs are permitted but must be on a leash or confined at all times. 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.
• Target shooting is prohibited.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing and frogging are allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions and except as further restricted by signs or area brochures.

• On lakes and ponds, fish may be taken only with pole and line and not more than three (3) poles may be used by one (1) person at a time.
• Statewide daily and possession limits shall apply for all species, except that: In lakes and ponds, daily limits are catfish in the aggregate (channel catfish, blue catfish, flathead catfish), four (4); black bass, six (6); crappie, thirty (30); and all other fish, statewide limits, but not to exceed twenty (20) in the aggregate.
• Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited in lakes and ponds.
• For more information on fishing creeks and streams, refer to A Summary of Missouri Fishing Regulations.
• Only electric motors are permitted.

Hunting and Trapping

Hunting is allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions.

• Only portable stands are allowed from September 1 through January 31. Unattended stands must be plainly labeled or on durable material with the full name and address or Conservation number of the owner and be removed from the area by February 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.
• 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
Central Regional Office
3500 E Gans Rd.
Columbia, MO 65201
(573) 815-7900

Visit us at:
www.mdc.mo.gov

(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 on its entirety is available at www.moscow.org/ed/index.cfm?event=conf agregate 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.)