

Area Highlights

Young Conservation Area is located in north Jefferson County. To reach the area, from Eureka, take Route W south, then go 3 miles west on Route FF. The original 970-acre tract was acquired through a donation and purchase by the Conservation Department in 1986. Since then, several tracts have been added to the area. The area is about 93 percent forested with oak, maple, hickory and other species native to this region. Deer, turkeys and squirrels are abundant. LaBarque Creek, a permanent stream running along the northern portion of the area, is known for its high-quality riparian ecosystem. Glades, restored woodlands, tree plantations and open fields provide diverse wildlife habitat. Two hiking trails traverse the area. During your visit, you may view forest improvement practices designed to improve wildlife habitat, maintain watershed quality and enhance tree growth, quality and species composition. Wildlife habitat management practices include maintaining fields in native vegetation, edge feathering, planting trees, thinning woodlands and using prescribed fire. Fish habitat improvements, protecting stream banks and planting trees along the stream corridor have been implemented along LaBarque Creek.

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching – Fishing – Hiking – Hunting
Outdoor Photography – Wildlife Viewing

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

- No camping.
- No horseback riding.
- No bicycling.
- No open fires or fireworks.
- No target shooting.
- Hiking.

The **2.5-mile Taconic Loop Trail** winds along LaBarque Creek past bountiful spring wildflowers that grow in the restored forest and woodland natural communities; and along a pine stand.

The **3.5-mile LaBarque Hills Trail** meanders along streams and rolling hills past seasonal waterfalls, wildflowers and oak-hickory forests. The trailhead is located along the southeastern portion of the Taconic Loop Trail.

- Dogs must be leashed when not used for training or hunting. Dog training is allowed by special-use permit only.
- Motor vehicles are allowed on public roadways and in parking areas.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal use. Cutting or removing other vegetation is prohibited.
- Swimming is prohibited.

Fishing and Boating

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

- Bullfrogs and green frogs may not be taken with firearms.
- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited. Gizzard shad may be taken from lakes and ponds by dip net or throw net.
- Daily limits for the ponds are 6 black bass and 4 catfish in the aggregate (channel, blue and flathead catfish) and 30 crappie. Total number of all other fish may not exceed 20.
- All black bass between 12 and 15 inches must be released immediately after being caught from the ponds.

Hunting and Trapping

Hunting is allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions:

- Firearms firing single projectiles are prohibited.
- Deer hunting is permitted. According to the Fall Deer and Turkey Regulations: only archery methods may be used.
- Only portable tree stands are allowed and only from Sept. 1 through Jan. 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 Feb. 1. Use of nails, screw-in steps, and any material or method that would damage the tree is prohibited.
- Furbearer trapping is permitted by special-use permit.
- Collection of any wildlife is prohibited.

For local information, contact:

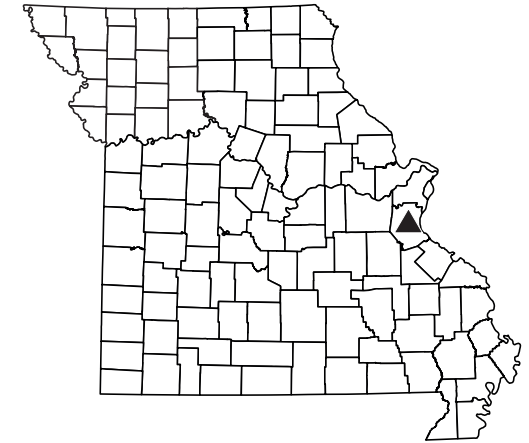
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 441-4554

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

10/2024

(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, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, 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 Chief, Public Civil Rights, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Young CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION