

Recreational Opportunities

Bird Watching – Fishing – Hiking – Hunting – Wildlife Viewing

- No littering.
- No fireworks.
- No open fires.
- 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 allowed only on graveled public roadways and parking areas unless otherwise posted.
- Bicycles allowed on designated service roads year-round. Service roads can be located at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>. Horses, and horseback riding are allowed only on roads open to vehicles.
- Primitive camping is permitted only in areas identified on area map. Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period. Total camping days on all department lands are limited to thirty (30) days within one (1) calendar year. Groups of 10 campers or more must obtain a special use permit.
- No target shooting allowed.
- Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited.
- Swimming, scuba diving, water skiing and sailboarding are not allowed.
- Vehicle access from the north gate to the blue hole parking lot will be closed by the Levee District when the Missouri River is at or near flood stage.

Fishing and Boating

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

- On impounded waters, daily limits are six black bass and four catfish in the aggregate (channel, blue and flathead catfish) and 30 crappie. All other fish are not to exceed 20 in the aggregate. All black bass between 12 and 15 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught. Pole and line methods only, not to exceed 3 poles per person.
- Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken during

the statewide season only by hand, handnet, atlatl, gig, bow, snagging, snaring, grabbing, pole and line, 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 lakes and ponds.
- Boats may not be stored or left unattended overnight.

Hunting and Trapping

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

- Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited.
- Deer and turkey regulations are subject to annual changes. Refer to the Spring Turkey or Fall Deer and Turkey booklets for current regulations.
- Only portable tree stands are allowed 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.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.
- Trapping of furbearers is permitted only as specifically authorized by special use permit.

For local information, contact:

Nodaway Valley CA 660/446-3371

or

St. Joseph Regional Office

816/271-3100

11/2025

(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, 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.

Rush Bottoms

CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION