

## RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bird Watching — Bicycling — Outdoor Photography  
Fishing — Hiking — Hunting — Camping

*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 except at campsite.
- Bicycles allowed on multi-use trails and designated service roads year-round. Multi-use trails and service roads can be located at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>.
- Hiking is permitted on service roads and trails.
- Primitive camping is permitted only in designated areas on the area map and are limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period. Groups of 10 campers or more must obtain a special use permit.
- Vehicles are restricted to public roadways and parking lots unless otherwise allowed by area regulations.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal use. Cutting or removing other vegetation is prohibited.
- Dogs must be leashed when not used for training or hunting.
- Target shooting is not allowed.
- Swimming is not allowed.

## Fishing and Boating

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

- Fish may be taken only by pole and line and not more than 3 poles may be used by any person.
- Daily limit is 6 black bass, 4 catfish (channel, blue, and flathead combined), 10 bluegill, 15 warmouth and 30 crappie. Total number of all other fish may not exceed 20.
- All bluegill less than eight inches must be released immediately after being caught. Daily limit is 10.

- All black bass less than 15 inches must be released immediately after being caught.
- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited.
- Salvage seining of non-game fish for personal use is permitted only by special use permit.
- Boats may be used but may not be left unattended overnight.
- Only electric motors are permitted.

## Hunting and Trapping

*Hunting is allowed under statewide regulations with the following exceptions:*

- Deer and turkey regulations are subject to annual changes. Please refer to Spring Turkey and Fall Deer and Turkey summaries for current regulations.
- Portable tree stands may be used between Sept. 1 and Jan. 31. Stands must be identified with the name and address, or conservation number, of the user and must be removed from the area by Feb. 1. Screw-in steps or other materials that would damage the tree are 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.
- Furbearer trapping is permitted by special use permit.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.

**For information, contact:**  
**Missouri Department of Conservation**  
2302 County Park Drive  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 290-5730

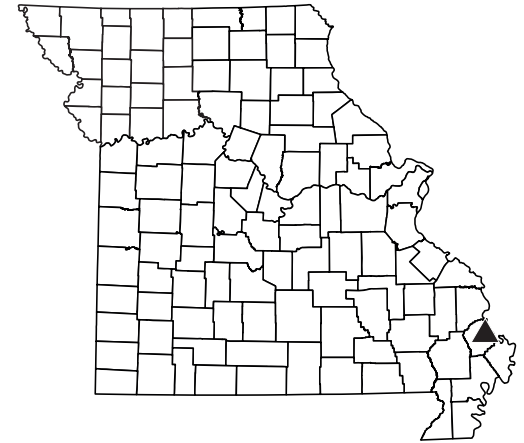
*Additional area information is posted on bulletin boards located in parking areas and area offices.*

3/2025

(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/5csr/3csr.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/5csr/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.

# General Watkins

## CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION