

About This Area

Corkwood Conservation Area is in Butler County, about 1 mile west of Neelyville on Highway 142. The Conservation Department purchased this 434-acre area, which is one of the few remaining tracts of bottomland forest in southeastern Missouri, in 1984 in order to protect and manage its forest communities and the rare and endangered species they support. This area contains part of an unusual sand dune field with many forested dunes that rise 2-4 feet above adjacent swales. The forested dunes support plant species often associated with upland areas, including white oak, sugar maple, black walnut, Kentucky coffeetree, sassafras, and pawpaw. Corkwood, a rare shrub found in wet swales on the area, has the lightest wood of any wood plant in North America and occurs in only 3 southeastern counties in Missouri. Other species found in the wet swales include buttonbush, willow, cottonwood, and swamp red maple. The bottomland forest at Corkwood Conservation Area is dominated by willow oak and includes swamp red maple, hickories, sugarberry, green ash, overcup oak, winged elm, red mulberry, persimmon, and deciduous holly. Tree seedlings and acorns have been planted in most open fields to help restore the diverse forest communities that the land once supported. Over time, these areas will add to our dwindling supply of lowland bottomland forests.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bird Watching — Hunting
Outdoor Photography — Wildlife Viewing

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

- No littering.
- No fireworks or open fires.
- Target shooting is not allowed.
- Bicycles and horses allowed on public roadways year-round.
- 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.

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.
- Deer hunting with firearms is prohibited.
- 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.
- Furbearer trapping is permitted by special use permit.
- 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.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.

For information, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
2302 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
573-290-5730

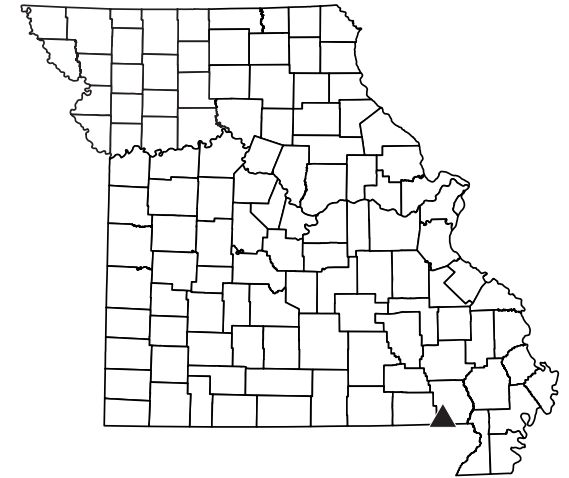
Additional area information is posted on bulletin boards located in parking areas and area offices.

5/2026

(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, PO 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.

Corkwood

CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION