

Deer Hunting:

Deer and turkey regulations are subject to changes. Refer to the Spring Turkey or Fall Deer and Turkey booklets for current regulations.

- 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 must be removed from the area before Feb. 1. Use of nail, screw in steps and any material of method that would damage the tree is prohibited.

Small Game Hunting:

- Beginning Jan. 1 areas outside the Waterfowl Hunting Zones and Refuges are open to small game hunting.

Fishing and Boating:

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

- On Grand River, Locust Creek, and Parsons Creek, statewide limits and methods apply.

- On area ponds and Jo Shelby Lake, daily limits are six black bass and four catfish in the aggregate (channel, blue, and flathead catfish) and 30 crappie. All other fish, statewide limits, but the total number taken may not exceed 20 in the aggregate. Fish may be taken only by pole and line and no more than three poles and lines may be used by any one person.

- On Che-Ru Lake, the methods and daily limits are the same except the limit for walleye is four, and all flathead catfish less than 24" must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.

- On area ponds and Jo Shelby Lake, all black bass between 12 and 15 inches total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.

- On Che-Ru Lake black bass and walleye less than 15 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.

- Che-Ru Lake and Goose Pond are closed to all uses Oct 15-March 1

- Jo Shelby Lake and numbered ponds are open to fishing all year-round.
- Boats may only be used to access waterfowl hunting locations in the Waterfowl Hunting zones Oct. 15 through the end of the Canada goose season.
- Boats may not be stored or left unattended overnight.
- Electric motors only are allowed on Jo Shelby Lake and area ponds.
- Outboard motors in excess of 10 horsepower are permitted on Che-Ru Lake and all wetland pools but must be operated at slow, no-wake speed.
- Carp, buffalo, suckers, and gar may be taken by gig, bows and crossbow during the statewide season.
- Seining or trapping live bait, excluding all frogs and tadpoles, in compliance with 3 CSR 10-6.605 is permitted on designated lakes and ponds excluding Che-Ru and Jo Shelby Lakes, Bittern Marsh, Goose Pond, and all numbered ponds.

For local information, contact:

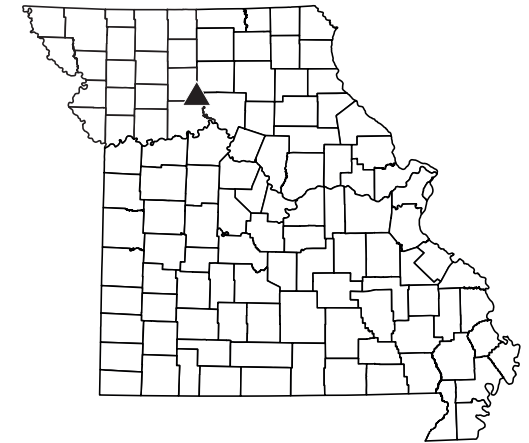
Fountain Grove Conservation Area
32988 Blackhorn Drive
Meadville, MO 64659
660/626-1794
or
Chillicothe Office
660/646-6122

2/2026

(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, 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.

Fountain Grove

CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Fountain Grove Conservation Area

About This Area

Fountain Grove Conservation Area sits in the floodplain of the Grand River and serves as an important migration stop for a variety of wildlife. It also plays an important role in providing wintering habitat for Canada geese of the Eastern Prairie Population.

The area was the first wetland area developed by the Conservation Commission and has grown from its original 3,433 acres in the 1940's to its present size of 7959.4 acres.

The area is managed to provide diverse wetland habitats, including marshes, bottomland forests, grain fields, oxbow lakes and sloughs. Bald eagles are commonly seen on the area throughout the winter.

Rules and Regulations:

Area hours: Open daily from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. Camping, hunting, fishing, dog training and launching and landing boats are permitted at any time when authorized.

- No littering. Waste containers may be used only for disposal of trash generated on area.
- No fireworks.
- No open fires except in designated camping areas.
- 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. Taking of wild greens from natural areas is not allowed.
- Motor vehicles are restricted to gravel parking areas and gravel roadways unless roadways are posted closed.
- 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.

- Quiet hours are effective from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. daily. Visitors who are not occupying a campsite are required to leave the camp area by 10:00 p.m. Quiet hours are defined as the cessation of excessive noise from people or any mechanical device which causes disturbance to other campers.
- Bicycles and horses allowed on multi-use trails and bicycles allowed on designated service roads year-round. Multi-use trails and service roads (if any) can be located at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>
- No target shooting allowed.
- Swimming, scuba diving, water skiing, sailing and skateboarding are not allowed.

Hunting and Trapping:

Area information, Daily Hunting Tags and area maps are located and accessible 24 hours a day at the Area Headquarters Hunter Check-In Room and at the South Side Wetland Complex information bulletin board. Deer and turkey hunting is subject to annual changes. Refer to Spring Turkey or Fall Deer and Turkey booklets for current regulations.

- To meet resource objectives and/or avoid conflicting resource uses, certain portions of the area may be restricted or designated for special use. Consult maps prior to hunting to learn about areas restricted or designated for special use.
- To monitor harvest of all game species, all hunters are required to accurately fill out a Daily Hunting Tag prior to their hunt.
- All waterfowl hunters must possess a Daily Waterfowl Hunting Tag.
- All hunters must check out immediately after the close of their hunting trip by accurately recording their harvest and returning this information to the Hunter Check In Room or South Side Wetland Complex information bulletin board.

- Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited.
- Trail and game cameras are prohibited.
- The area is closed to waterfowl hunting on Christmas Day.
- Trapping of furbearers is permitted only as specifically authorized by special use permit.
- Refuge Areas are in effect Oct. 15 through March 1 and are closed to all uses. Refuge Areas are closed to hunting from March 2 through March 31.
- The South Side Wetland Complex is an Open Hunting Zone and is open to statewide regulations except deer may be hunted by archery methods only.
- March 2 through Oct. 15 all lands north of the Grand River are open to hunting under statewide regulations except during teal season, the early portion of Canada goose season and the spring Conservation Order.
- Oct. 15 to the end of the Canada goose season, all lands north of the Grand River are closed to hunting except as follows:

Waterfowl Hunting:

- All lands north of the Grand River are closed to Canada goose hunting during early portion of the Canada goose season.
- Waterfowl Hunting Only Zones are in effect Oct. 15 through Feb. 15 and are designated for waterfowl hunting only during that time.
- Non-Hunters and Fisherman are prohibited in waterfowl hunting only zones from Oct. 15 through February 15, unless they are properly licensed members of and remain with a party authorized to use these areas.
- During the north zone duck season, daily morning draws are conducted to allocate waterfowl hunting opportunity north of the Grand River. Waterfowl hunters or members of their party are only allowed in these designated locations. Waterfowl hunting from an assigned water blind or blind mound is permitted during established statewide shooting hours. Waterfowl hunters hunting in designated walk-in hunting pools is allowed until 1:00 pm.