

Thurnau Conservation Area

About This Area

Thurnau Conservation Area is in Holt County, West of Craig. Visitors can reach the area by taking the Craig Exit off Interstate 29, traveling one mile west on Highway 59, then going four miles west on Highway 111.

The Conservation Department purchased this 366-acre property in 1965 in order to preserve unique wetlands and habitats associated with the Missouri River and to provide public lands and recreational opportunities in north-west Missouri.

This conservation area was acquired in part through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Early exploration and settlement of this area began with the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1804. Journal entries from that expedition mentioned an abundance of wildlife along the broad marshlands of the heavy bottomland timber near the Missouri River. This area was part of the Platte Purchase, arranged by the U.S. government with the Indians in 1836.

This area is managed for a wide range of game and non-game wildlife species and is available to the public for a variety of outdoor activities.

Management of the open fields includes farming, haying and controlled burning, plus developing wildlife habitat by tree, shrub and grass plantings, wetland management and selective harvesting of timber.

Things To Do

- Hunting. The area supports good numbers of deer and fair numbers of squirrel and rabbits. An old river slough has been developed into a 35-acre marsh, providing good waterfowl hunting.
- Fishing. The banks and wing dikes of the Missouri River provide excellent fishing for channel and flathead catfish. A boat ramp is

available.

- Camping. No special facilities are provided.
- Hiking. Gravel or field roads provide good hiking opportunities.
- Nature study and birdwatching. Fall and spring are excellent times to view migrating waterfowl and various predatory birds, such as the bald eagle.
- Outdoor photography.
- Picnicking.
- Frogging.

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.
- No fireworks.
- No open fires.
- No free-running pets. Dogs must be leashed or confined when not being trained or used for hunting. Special use permits are required for field and retriever trials.
- Dog training allowed only by special use permit.
- Destroying, cutting or removing vegetation is prohibited. Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal consumption only.
- No target shooting allowed.
- Motor vehicles are restricted to roadways and parking areas.

- Horseback riding is permitted on trails by special-use permit.
- Camping is permitted only in designated areas and is limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period. Groups of 10 campers or more must obtain a special-use permit.
- Bicycles are allowed only on roads open to vehicles and service roads.
- Swimming, scuba diving, water skiing and sailboarding are not allowed.

Fishing and Boating:

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

- Fishing is permitted in the Missouri River under statewide regulations.
- In lakes and ponds, fish may be taken only by pole and line and not more than three poles and lines may be used by any one person.

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 may not 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.

- Other restrictions may apply to specific ponds, lakes and stream segments.
- Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken during the statewide season only by hand, hand-net, gig, longbow or hook and line and only on

waters open to fishing.

- Seining or trapping live bait, including tadpoles, is prohibited on all impounded waters and their discharge channels.
- Salvage seining of non-game fish for personal use is permitted only with written permission of the Conservation Department.
- Boats may be used for fishing and wildlife-related activities only and may not be stored or left unattended overnight. Houseboats are prohibited.

Hunting and Trapping:

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

- Only portable tree stands may be placed or used and only between Sept. 15 and Jan. 31. Each stand must be identified with the name and address of the user and must be removed from the area by Feb. 1. Use of nails or other materials that would damage the tree is 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.
- Trapping of furbearers allowed only with a special use permit.

(Regulations are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are from Provision 3CSR 10-4.115 of the Wildlife Code. Free copies of the Wildlife Code and Special Area Regulations are available from the Conservation Department.)

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. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 18th and C Street NW, Washington D.C. 20240.

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Welcome

Missouri is a state rich in history, folklore and natural resources. The Conservation Department encourages you to visit, use and enjoy this area and other Department areas.

Land surrounding Thurnau Conservation Area belongs to private landowners. The boundaries adjoining private property are clearly marked. Please respect landowners' rights with these simple courtesies: obtain permission before going on private property, pick up all litter, be careful with fire, do not damage property, practice safe hunting.

Nearby Department Areas:

Bob Brown Conservation Area
Brickyard Hill Conservation Area
Jamerson C. McCormack Conservation Area
Nodaway Valley Conservation Area

For local information, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
701 N.E. College Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816/271-3100

Your comments and suggestions regarding area facilities and management are welcome.

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Missouri Department of