

Helen K. Wiese Conservation Area

Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan

FY 2019-2033



Michael D. Schwan

Wildlife Division Chief

7/16/18

Date

Helen K. Wiese Conservation Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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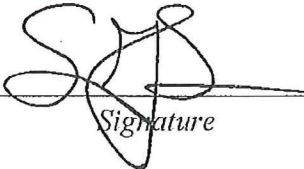
Chris Chesher, Conservation Agent

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NORTHWEST REGION

RCT Chair


Signature

7-9-2018
Date

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Management Chief


Signature

7/12/2018
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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Helen K. Wiese Conservation Area, #200221
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 2002
- **Acreage:** 104.5 acres
- **County:** Chariton
- **Region:** Northwest
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

Provide, develop, manage, and protect quality bottomland/riparian habitat and associated wildlife species, while providing a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities for the public.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Helen K. Wiese Conservation Area (CA) is an ecologically healthy forest, comprised of cottonwood, silver maple, ash, elm with some remnant pecan and pin oak, and associated riparian habitats. Due to limited access, this area lends itself to more old growth forest management, with minimal silvicultural intervention.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

- A. Priority Areas:** A portion lies within the Lower Grand River Wetland Conservation Opportunity Area and the Lower Grand River Grassland/Prairie/Savanna Conservation Opportunity Area.
- B. Natural Areas:** None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

- A. Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed.
- B. Caves:** None
- C. Springs:** None
- D. Other:** This area lies within the Lower Grand River Lowland Prairie Plains and the Missouri-Grand River Alluvial Plain Landtype Associations. The Lower Grand River Lowland Prairie Plains historically consisted of very gently rolling upland and lowland prairie. Oak savannas and woodlands graded to forest in lower protected

areas, while bottomlands consisted primarily of marshes, savannas, and shrub swamps. Soils are deep, but poorly drained.

The Missouri-Grand River Alluvial Plain consists of moderately broad alluvial plains subject to frequent flooding. The plain contains numerous oxbow and remnant channels. Historically this landtype was dominated by wet prairie with the rest contains bottomland forest and marsh. (Nigh & Schroeder, 2002)

III. Existing Infrastructure

There are no developed facilities at Helen K. Wiese CA.

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations: None

B. Federal Interest: Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

C. Easements: None

D. Cultural Resources Findings: None

E. Endangered Species: None observed.

F. Boundary Issues: None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Helen K. Wiese CA is primarily comprised of bottomland/riparian forest. Historic meanders and remnant oxbows exist on the area as well, which have become predominantly filled with sediment and forested over time. The bottomland forest community is comprised of cottonwood, silver maple, ash, elm with some remnant pecan and pin oak.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide a diversity of habitats for wildlife. Access will create challenges for future forest management.
- 2) Provide a diversity of food sources for wildlife.
- 3) Control invasive vegetation (such as purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, and garlic mustard) and manage for native vegetation.

Management Objective 1: Maintain and promote healthy bottomland forests to enhance wildlife habitat and forest health.

Strategy 1: Utilize a variety of sustainable forest management techniques to promote healthy forest communities, including, but not limited to, timber harvesting, forest thinning, salvage cuttings, tree planting, seeding, invasive species removal, and prescribed burning. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Utilize best management practices during forest management as described in the Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice Recommended Practices for Missouri Forests: 2014 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014) and *Missouri Forest Management Guidelines: Voluntary Recommendations for Well-Managed Forests* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014). (Forestry, Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Maintain vegetated riparian corridors.

Strategy 1: Monitor the riparian corridor for vegetative losses due to erosion. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Maintain riparian corridors as specified in the Department's *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009). (Wildlife)

VI. Aquatic Resources Management Considerations

Grand River, a sixth-order stream, is the major stream that dissects the area. Approximately 0.65 miles of river frontage exists through the area.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain riparian vegetated corridor width and tree species composition.
- 2) Maintain in-stream habitat.

Management Objective 1: Maintain riparian corridor and stream habitat conditions on Helen K. Wiese CA.

Strategy 1: Inventory riparian and stream habitat conditions on Helen K. Wiese CA as needed. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Implement and maintain good riparian corridor practices on Helen K. Wiese CA, based on inventory results and according to Department guidelines (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009). (Fisheries)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Helen K. Wiese CA receives limited public use during hunting seasons due to limited access. Access is limited to boat via the Grand River or with permission with adjacent private landowners. The most popular hunting seasons include spring turkey and fall firearms deer. Bosworth Access is upstream approximately 1,900 feet and provides boat access to the Grand River.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide hunting and viewing opportunities.
- 2) Provide updated and readily available area information for the public.

Management Objective 1: Provide quality public hunting and viewing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Conduct management activities, such as forest management, that will provide habitat for a variety of species. (Wildlife, Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Provide and update area information for the public.

Strategy 1: Annually review the Missouri Atlas database to maintain up-to-date information for the public. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Communicate the area's recreational opportunities to the public (e.g., using brochures, Missouri Atlas database). (Wildlife)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) There is limited public and management access.
- 2) Due to the shifting of the Grand River channel, the property boundary appears to be on both sides of the current river alignment.
- 3) Build relationships with neighboring landowners.

Management Objective 1: Improve public and management access of area, as feasible.

Strategy 1: Investigate potential options for access via land.

Management Objective 2: Determine accurate and identifiable property boundary lines.

Strategy 1: Maintain property boundary lines according to Department guidance. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Investigate feasibility of a boundary survey. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Facilitate good working relationships with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Work with neighbors to minimize any boundary, trespass, or other issues affecting Helen K. Wiese CA or private property. Contact adjacent landowners and identify areas of mutual concern. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Promote habitat management on neighboring landowner properties. (Wildlife, Private Lands)

Lands Proposed for Acquisition:

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, increase connectivity with other neighboring tracts, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities may be considered.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

All strategies for this management plan are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Helen K. Wiese Conservation Area (CA) is in Chariton County, approximately 4 miles east of the town of Bosworth. The area is accessible by boat via the Grand River (downstream from Bosworth Access) or with permission of adjacent private landowners. Helen K. Weise CA was acquired through donation in 2002 from Mrs. Helen K. Wiese. The area includes 104 acres of bottomland riparian forest and 0.65 miles of Grand River frontage.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	102		98
Wetland	2		2
Infrastructure (Levee)	0.5		<1
Total	104.5		100
Stream Frontage		0.65	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Helen K. Wiese Conservation Area Management Plan was available for public comment April 1-30, 2018. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2009). *Watershed and stream management guidelines for lands and waters managed by Missouri Department of Conservation*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). *Missouri forest management guidelines: Voluntary recommendations for well-managed forests*. Jefferson City, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). *Missouri watershed protection practice recommended practices for Missouri forests: 2014 management guidelines for maintaining forested watersheds to protect streams*. Jefferson City, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Nigh, T. A., & Schroeder, W. A. (2002). *Atlas of Missouri ecoregions*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Habitat Cover Types

Figure 3: Area Streams

Figure 1: Area Map (Acres shown on map include Bosworth Access)

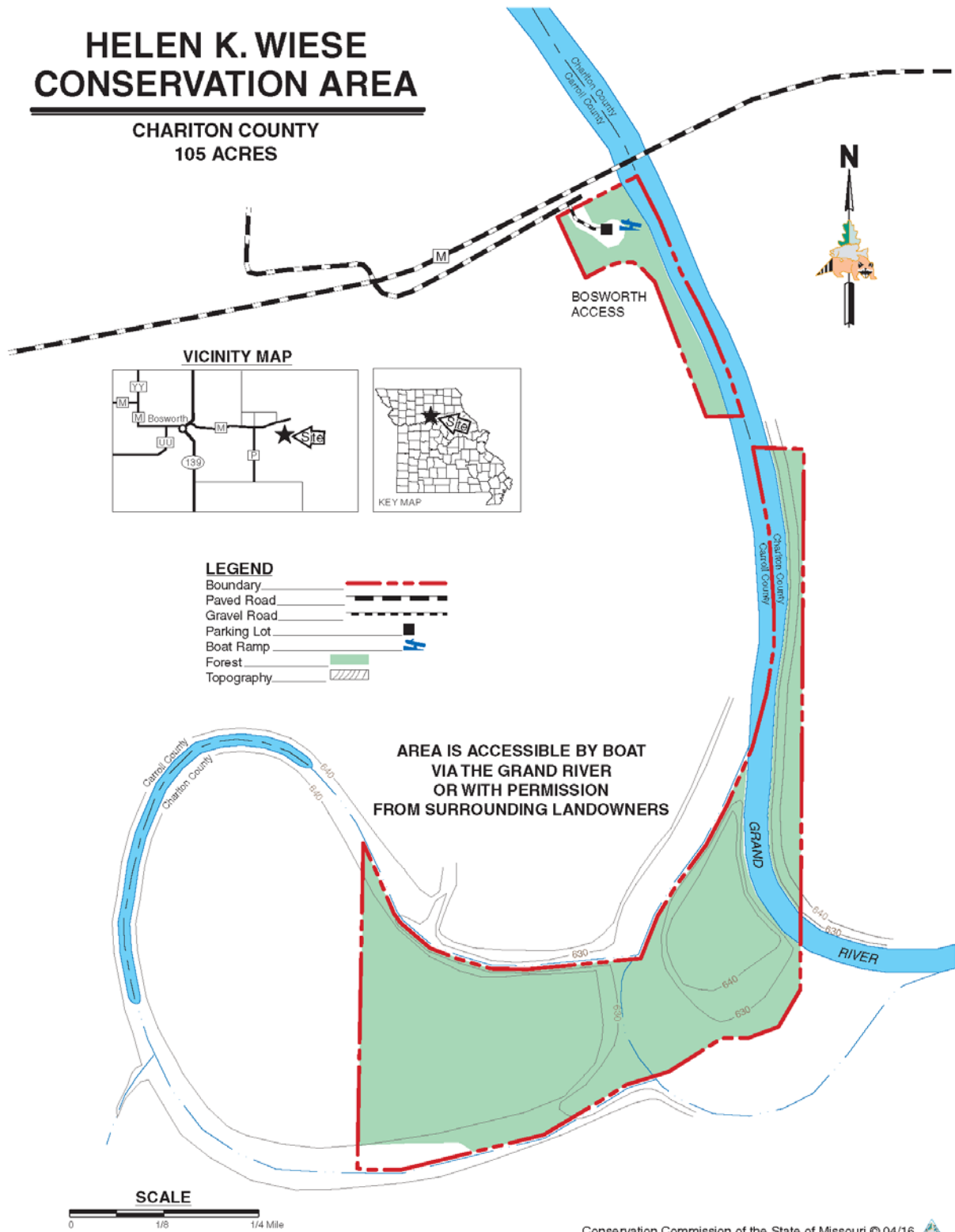



Figure 2: Habitat Cover Types



Legend


 Wiese Boundary

Habitat Cover Types

COVERTYPE

 Forest

 Levee

 Open Water

 Wetlands

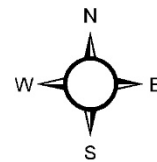
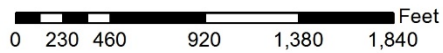




Figure 3: Area Streams



Legend

-  Grand River
-  Wiese Boundary

