

Red Star Access and Headwaters Access

25-Year Area Management Plan FY 2019-2043



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Forestry Division Chief

8/26/2019

Date

Red Star Access and Headwaters Access Management Plan Approval Page

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OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Headwaters Access	8236	1982	12	Cape Girardeau	Forestry	Forestry
Red Star Access	200104	2001	8	Cape Girardeau	Forestry	Forestry

Statements of Purpose:

A. Strategic Direction

These areas are managed to provide public fishing access to the Mississippi River and Headwater Diversion Channel for both boat and bank anglers.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future conditions of Red Star Access and Headwaters Access are developed landscapes that promote recreation while preventing activities from compromising streambank integrity.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

Area Name	Priority Areas	Natural Areas
Headwaters Access	None	None
Red Star Access	None	None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area Name	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Headwaters Access	Yes ¹	None	None
Red Star Access	Yes ¹	None	None

¹Species of conservation concern are not known from this site, but are found in the surrounding area. Area managers should consult annually with the natural history biologist.

III. Existing Infrastructure

Area Name	Concrete Ramp	Boat Slide	Floating Dock	Parking Areas	Privy	Shelter
Headwaters Access	1	None	None	1 ¹	None	None
Red Star Access	1	None	None	1 ¹	2 ¹	1 ¹

¹Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area Name	Deed Restrictions	Federal Interest	Easements	Cultural Resources	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Headwaters Access	Yes ¹	Yes ²	None	None known	Yes ⁵	None
Red Star Access	None	Yes ³	Yes ⁴	None known	None observed	None

¹Leased from the Little River Drainage District.

²Federal 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.

³Federal funds (Sport Fish Restoration) were used in the development of this area, or a portion thereof. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) must maintain the developed project throughout its useful life. Federal funds may also 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.

⁴Sewer/railroad/utility easement with Ameren Union Electric.

⁵Endangered species are not known from this site, but are found in the surrounding area. Area manager should consult annually with the natural history biologist.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide access to the Mississippi River and Headwater Diversion Channel.
- 2) Establish and maintain adequate, vegetated riparian corridors.
- 3) Prevent soil erosion.

Management Objective 1: Establish and maintain a vegetated riparian corridor.

Strategy 1: Continue to manage riparian areas for streambank stability, which will help promote quality instream habitats for fish and other aquatic organisms, in accordance with MDC's *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation* (MDC, 2009). (Wildlife)

Strateg 2: Enlist Stream Teams and master naturalists to assist with vegetation management if needed. (Fisheries)

Strategy 3: Maintain mowing practices in accordance with desired appearance for public viewing, safety, and fishing access. Allow limited natural regeneration to progress where it is applicable. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Prevent soil erosion due to infrastructure.

Strategy 1: Ensure roads and roadside drainages are managed to reduce runoff, sedimentation, and erosion. (Forestry, Design and Development)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Prevent excessive streambank erosion.
- 2) Monitor for presence and status of species of conservation concern and possible threatened and endangered aquatic species.

Management Objective 1: Ensure that infrastructure doesn't increase bank erosion.

Strategy 1: Boat ramps will be maintained to have a low profile on the bank to prevent back eddies and plunging currents.

Strategy 2: New boat ramp will be installed at Headwaters Access. (Design and Development)

Strategy 3: Armor bank with rip-rap to stabilize bank, re-visit and enhance as needed. (Design and Development)

Management Objective 2: Monitor and ascertain potential for presence of species of conservation concern and threatened and endangered aquatic species.

Strategy 1: Oversee potential developments to address habitat adjustments and concerns as needed. (Wildlife, Forestry, Fisheries)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide boat and bank access along the Mississippi River and Headwaters Diversion Channel.

- 2) Inform the public of opportunities available at these areas.
- 3) Maintain the areas in a desirable condition.

Management Objective 1: Maintain suitable public access at each area.

Strategy 1: Maintain signage, facilities (privies, shelter), and parking areas in accordance with MDC policy. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Maintain boat ramps and monitor for dropoffs that may pose difficulties for launching boats. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Reconstruct boat ramp at Headwaters Access to reduce difficulty of boats entering and exiting the channel. (Design and Development)

Strategy 4: Redesign parking lot at Headwaters Access to expand parking space and create a driving loop to accommodate users. (Design and Development)

Strategy 5: Maintain contact with the City of Cape Girardeau for pedestrian bridge over Sloan Creek (Mississippi Riverwalk Trail) at Red Star Access to address mutual maintenance needs. (Forestry)

Strategy 6: Utilize Stream Teams and master naturalists for minor area maintenance. (Forestry, Fisheries)

Management Objective 2: Continue to inform the public of the opportunities at these areas.

Strategy 1: Continue to maintain signage at the accesses supporting area usage and regulations in accordance with MDC policy. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Work with local media specialist to highlight underutilized resources. (Fisheries, Outreach and Education, Forestry)

Strategy 3: Prepare news releases, as needed, for regulation changes, flooding closures, and angling opportunities. River levels for river inaccessibility are currently advertised on MDC's Red Star Access and Headwaters Access Area Summaries on the web. (Fisheries, Forestry)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Evaluate land offered as additions to these areas.

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, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other MDC priorities, as identified in the annual MDC land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

APPENDICES

Appendices:

Appendix 1. Red Star Access Area Background

Appendix 2. Map of Red Star Access

Appendix 3. Headwaters Access Area Background

Appendix 4. Map of Headwaters Access

Appendix 5. Red Star Access and Headwaters Access Management Plan Public Comments

Public Input Summary:

The draft Red Star Access and Headwaters Access Management Plan was available for a public comment period September 1–30, 2018. MDC received comments from two respondents (Appendix A). The Red Star Access and Headwaters Access Conservation Area Planning Team carefully reviewed and considered these ideas as they finalized this document. A brief summary of public input themes, including how they were incorporated or why they were not, can be found below. Rather than respond to each individual comment, comments are grouped into general themes and are addressed collectively.

MDC responses to themes and issues identified through the Red Star Access and Headwaters Access Management Plan public comment period.

Is concerned about kayaker safety at the Red Star Access. To improve kayaker safety, suggests providing a launch area for kayakers that is separate from the motor boat ramp and posting signs for boaters to be aware of kayakers.

Due to siltation problems, river-level fluctuations, and bank-stability factors, a launch area specifically for kayakers is not feasible. However, signage instructing others to keep the boat ramp clear and drive carefully can be installed as a reminder to consider multi-use boat ramp users.

Suggests redesigning the Red Star Access boat ramp to lessen the current on the ramp and make using the ramp easier. It is difficult to get a boat on or off a trailer without being pushed into the rocks.

The river currently deposits silt on the boat ramp and the parking lot every time the river level rises and falls. Slowing the current of the river down further would aggravate this problem, hindering the river from scouring material that accumulates on the ramp. Changing the engineering design of the river due to these water-level fluctuations is not possible. However, tie ups were built into the existing ramp along the sides by the curb which can be used to assist in loading and unloading. Angling boats downstream of the current will also aid with this process.

Appendix 1. Red Star Access Area Background

Red Star Access was purchased from Ameren Union Electric; the boat dock was donated from the Honkers Boat Club in 2001 (formally known as Honkers Access). It provides public fishing access to the Mississippi River. The pavilion is provided for recreational usage, lighting has been installed in the parking lot, and ADA-approved privies have been implemented. The access used to have a floating dock that fell into disrepair and was eventually removed. The City of Cape Girardeau assisted in providing funds for the gravel entrance leading into the parking area. With the assistance of the Sport Fish Restoration Program, the City recently installed a pedestrian bridge to provide access to Mississippi Riverwalk Trail that is located in downtown Cape Girardeau.

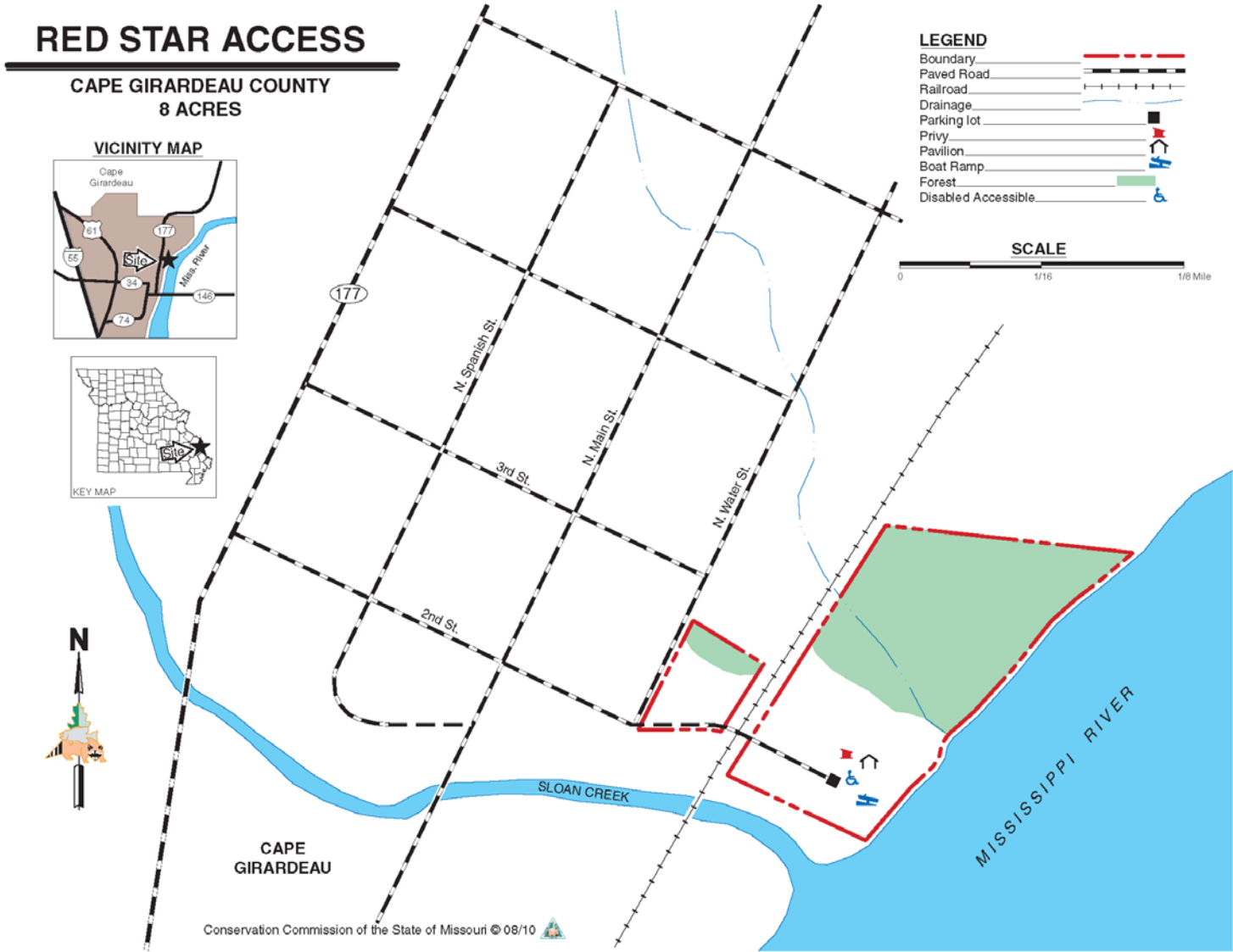
Legal Description: Township 31 North, Range 14 E, Section 32. GPS coordinates N 37 DEG 18.930 W 089 DEG 30.773.

Area Location: Red Star Access is located in Cape Girardeau just north of the downtown district. Look for the brown MDC sign at Second and Main Street, and follow Second Street east one block to Water Street, where the access begins.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area	Feet
Other	8	100	
Total	8	100	
Stream Frontage (Mississippi River)			912
Stream Frontage (Sloan Creek)			312

Appendix 2. Map of Red Star Access



Appendix 3. Headwaters Access Area Background

Headwaters Access is leased from the Little River Drainage District to provide public fishing access to the Headwaters Diversion Channel. The lease agreement started in 1982 and was renewed in 2015. Three miles downstream, boaters can access the Mississippi River. The entrance road, parking lot, and boat ramp were repaved with concrete. Bald cypress and pecan trees have been planted around the parking lot. In 2015, MDC agreed to reposition the boat ramp at a downstream angle to the Headwater Diversion Channel to assist in reducing scouring during highwater levels. The parking lot will be redesigned and implemented in FY2019 to incorporate a loop to allow for better flow of traffic and expand it to 35 parking spaces.

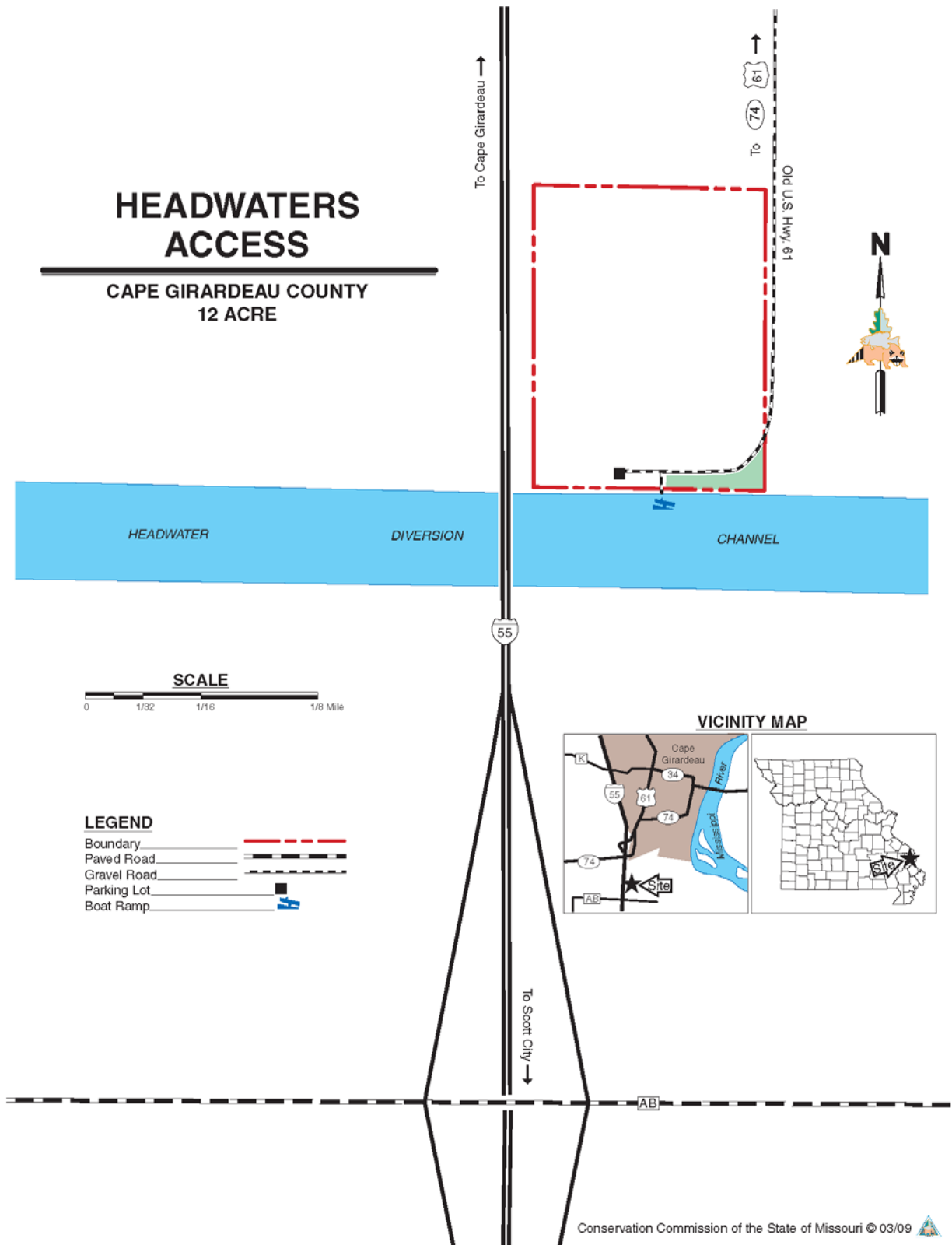
Legal Description: Township 30 North, Range 13 E, Sections 25 and 26. GPS coordinates N37 DEG 14.709 W 089 DEG 33.940.

Area Location: Headwaters Access is located off Old Highway 61 (S. Kingshighway), south at the access sign, and south of Cape Girardeau.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area	Feet
Other	7	63	
Open Land	5	42	
Total	12	100	
Stream Frontage (Headwater Diversion Channel)			644

Appendix 4. Map of Headwaters Access



Appendix 5. Red Star Access and Headwaters Access Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (September 1–30, 2018):

As a local kayaker, please consider options that would make using a kayak in these areas easier and more importantly safer. For example, a small (sidewalk size) launch ramp so we don't have to use the main boat ramp where boaters have trouble seeing us. I've been almost hit by a boat on several occasions. Also, please post signs warning boaters to watch for kayaks. Thank you.

first thank you for providing the access to the Mississippi river. I'm not positive on the future plans for the red star boat ramp but please take into consideration revamping the boat ramp by possibly putting a dike or some other device to restrict the current so it does not flow directly across the ramp. this ramp is extremely hard to get your boat on and off your trailer without being pushed into the rocks. I've had to help serval people when I go as they are not used to the current and there boats get pushed off the trailer and some onto the rocks. thank you for again for providing us the opportunity to improve the current area.