

Urich Access

Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan FY 2019-2033



Brian Canaday

Fisheries Division Chief

9/18/2018

Date

Urich Access Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Urich Access, # 7216
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** The Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) entered into a cooperative agreement with the Missouri State Highway Commission (the Missouri Department of Transportation) in 1976, granting the Department the right to provide a Missouri Department of Transportation access to the South Grand River on the right of way of Route K.
- **Acreage:** 5 acres total; 1.6 acres are owned by the Department; the remainder are owned by the Missouri Department of Transportation.
- **County:** Henry
- **Region:** Kansas City
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Fisheries
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife and Design & Development
- **Statements of Purpose**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

The management emphasis is to maintain an improved boat access to the South Grand River and provide bank fishing opportunities.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of the area is to provide boat and bank fishing access to the South Grand River.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** Big Creek Bottomland Forest – Forest and Woodland Conservation Opportunity Area; Big Creek Bottomland Forest – Wetland 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

- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - One concrete boat ramp

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** The Missouri Department of Transportation has the right to relocate, construct or reconstruct the highway in a way that may necessitate destruction of the access facilities on the Route K right of way. The right of the Department to provide access is contingent on following the contract agreed upon by the Department and the Missouri Department of Transportation.
- B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds were used in the development of this area, or a portion thereof. The Department 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.
- C. Easements:** None
- D. Cultural Resources Findings:** Yes, records kept with the Department environmental compliance specialist. Managers should follow best management practices for cultural resources found in the Department Resource Policy Manual.
- E. Endangered Species:** None observed.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Minimize erosion to maintain a healthy riparian corridor. Limited erosion occurs on small sections of the parking area following heavy rains.

Management Objective 1: Maintain a riparian corridor that is at least 100 feet in width, where feasible.

Strategy 1: Refrain from cutting or mowing within the riparian corridor.
(Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Manage the riparian corridor to ensure compliance with the *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009). (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Prevent soil erosion.

Strategy 1: Ensure roads and road-side drainages are managed to reduce runoff, sedimentation, and erosion. (Wildlife and Design & Development)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

There are no aquatic resources to manage at this area.

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) The access offers public use opportunities, including boat access and bank fishing.

Management Objective 1: Provide boat and bank-fishing access to the South Grand River.

Strategy 1: Maintain parking lot and boat ramp to provide access to public recreational opportunities. As needed, clear boat ramp of debris and excessive mud. (Wildlife and Design & Development)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure for public use and enjoyment.
- 2) Maintain good relationships with neighboring landowners.
- 3) Enforce area regulations.
- 4) Inform public about public use opportunities and area regulations.
- 5) Consider land acquisition, when available.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area infrastructure for public use and enjoyment.

Strategy 1: Ensure roads and parking areas are maintained according to Department policy to facilitate recreational activities. (Wildlife and Design & Development)

Management Objective 2: Maintain good relationships with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Maintain clearly identified property lines by inspecting and marking on a regular cycle. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Work with neighbors to minimize boundary issues, trespass, or any other issues affecting the conservation area or adjoining private property. (Fisheries, Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Enforce area regulations.

Strategy 1: Regularly patrol and enforce the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, with emphasis on vandalism, littering, and response to public complaints. (Protection, Wildlife)

Management Objective 4: Inform public about public use opportunities and area regulations.

Strategy 1: Maintain signs according to Department policy. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Maintain accurate and timely information on the Department's Atlas Database. Review information annually. (Fisheries)

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 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:

Urich Access is in Henry County, 0.25 miles south of Urich. The original portion of the area is located on Highway K right of way. The portion of the area located on the right of way was offered to the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) by the Missouri Department of Transportation. Use of the area was arranged through a lease agreement with the Missouri Department of Transportation in 1976. Surveys completed prior to construction of the parking lot and boat ramp revealed inadequate spaces for the proposed developments. In 1992, the Department accepted a 1.6-acre land donation from Mr. James L. Jolly as an addition to the access. Construction of the access was completed in 1992. The access is managed to allow boat- and bank-fishing access to the South Grand River.

Area Location: Urich Access is 0.25 miles south of Urich, directly off state Highway K.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Grassland (non-prairie)	3		60
Other (road and parking areas)	2		40
Total	5		100
Stream frontage		528	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Urich Access Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period April 1–30, 2018. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from seven respondents (Appendix A). The Urich Access 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.

Department responses to themes and issues identified through the Urich Access Area Management Plan public comment period.

Suggests improving the boat ramp to allow easier access. Suggestions include:

- Redesigning the ramp to reduce the amount of debris and sediment that collects on the ramp;
- Extending the length of the ramp; and
- Removing debris from the ramp after high-water events.

Accumulation of debris and sedimentation is a problem on many of our ramps on similar sized rivers regardless of the ramp design. This ramp's close proximity to Truman Lake causes additional issues with sedimentation due to reduced water flow velocity as the reservoir backs up toward the access. At this time there are no plans to extend or redesign the ramp due to relatively low public use compared to other areas and budgetary constraints. Currently, sediment and debris is cleared from the ramp as needed and usually within a few days of a high-water event. Staff watch river gauges to see when the flooding starts to recede to a level that will facilitate the removal of all the silt from the ramp. This way, time and efforts are not used inefficiently while the river levels are still rapidly changing. On rare occasion the ramp may not be cleared within a few days after a high-water event. Usually, on those occasions, other boat ramps around the west central part of the state are being cleared.

Suggests adding trash receptacles, restrooms, and a picnic area to the access.

Due to the limited availability of staff for maintenance and the problems associated with trash receptacles, restrooms, and picnic areas in similar locations, particularly in an area that floods regularly, we do not plan on adding the requested infrastructure.

Logjams (upstream and downstream) of the access limit the distance that boats can travel from the access. Would like to know if there are plans to address logjams near the access.

We are aware of the ongoing problems caused by logjams in the areas above and below Urich Access. Unfortunately, logjams will be a chronic issue in this area due to largescale land-use issues in the watershed combined with Truman Lake's effect on the hydrology in this area. We do not have any plans to address logjams near the access.

Would like clarification about whether this plan addresses the Grand River Access or the Urich Wildlife Area.

This plan addresses the access on the South Grand River near Urich, Missouri.

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.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Land Ownership Map

Additional Appendices:

Appendix A: Urich Access Area Management Plan Public Comments

Figure 1: Urich Access Area Map

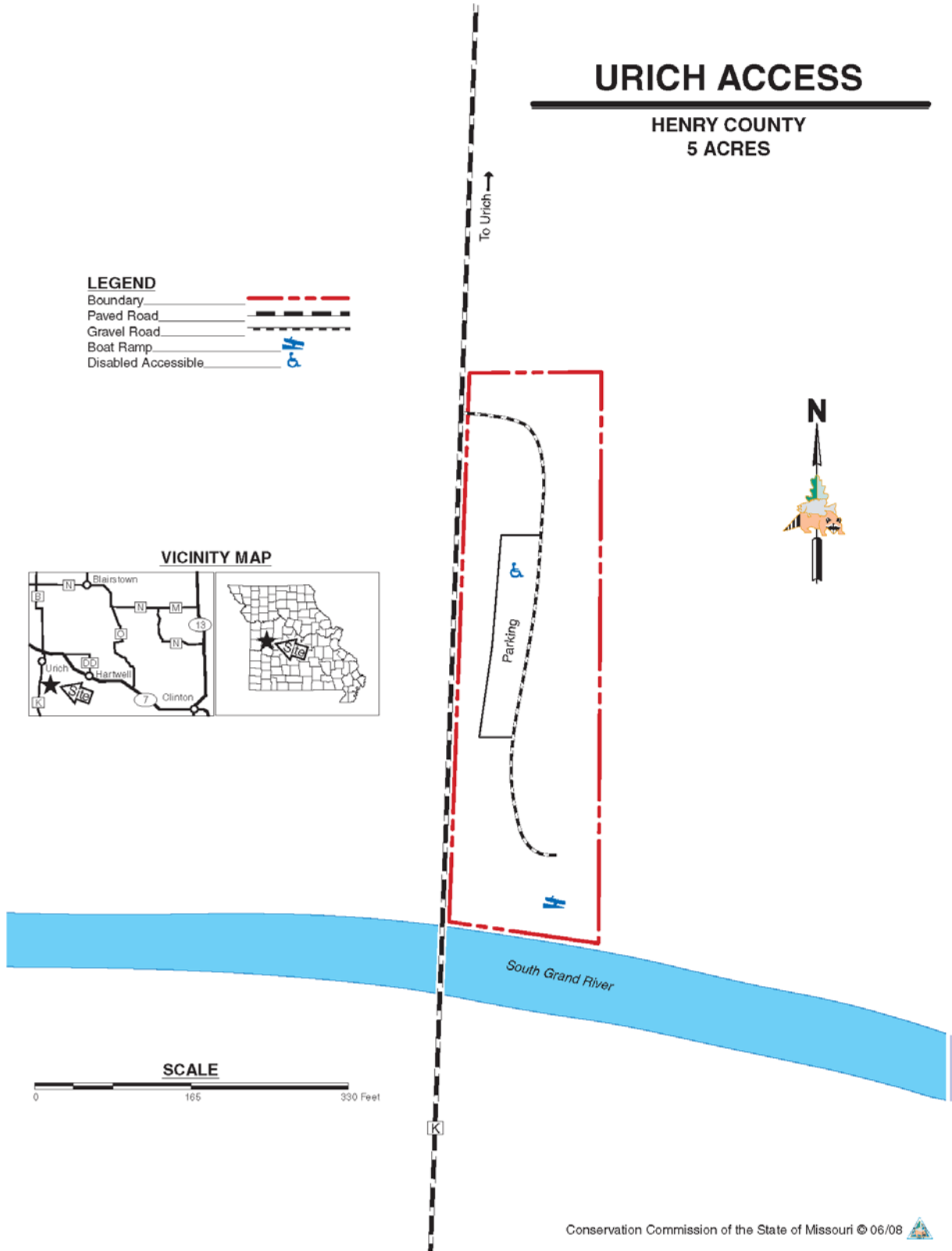


Figure 2: Land Ownership Map



Appendix A: Urich Access Area Management Plan Public Comments

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

<p>Very much in favor of both improving the boating access at this location along with enhanced bank fishing.</p> <p>As an aside I utilize many of the MDC Conservation Areas and I hope the MDC and the State of Missouri continue to maintain, improve and add to these areas for myself and for future generations. I hunt, fish, hike camp, bird watch and just plain enjoy myself on many of these lands. My adult children and their children do quite a bit of the same. THANKS! Keep up the efforts please. I really do appreciate it all.</p>
<p>something needs to be done about the poor ramp design...it is facing upstream which allows debris and large amounts of mud and silt to collect on the ramp during high water. I myself have busted out countless tail lights and ruined many tires do to the unseen objects hidden by up to a foot of mud at times and even though I have a large 4 wd the ramp becomes nearly unclimbable when leaving with my boat during these conditions . I have rescued countless other fishermen who have been there and suffered the same issues. It is quite dangerous to use it alone at these times and footing for some of the children and older folks is as bad as ice when the mud turns to slick clay as it dries. Loading and unloading a boat is also made hard during higher water conditions do to thje poor angle the ramp was designed....and during lower water conditions in the summer the ramp ends 4 feet from the water which also causes issues for certain vehicles. Thank you for considering my suggestions. sincerely, *****</p>
<p>Are there any plans to address the log jams on the Grand River both upstream and downstream of the Urich access boat ramp? The amount of river that you can access by boat from the Urich ramp is very limited. The jams have gradually gotten worse over the last few decades.</p>
<p>Extend concrete at base of ramp and keep it clean after high water event. Place trash receptacles in area. I know this is unrelated, but I would like to see camping area at Settle' Ford.</p>
<p>Please extend the concrete ramp. Needs more frequent maintenance after flooding. Nowhere to put trash! Need trash cans. Restrooms possible? Picnic area?</p>
<p>Is this regarding the Grandriver Access or the Urich Wildlife Area?</p>
<p>Dredge channel at base of ramp.</p>