

Franklin County River Accesses

Colter's Landing Access
Mayers Landing Access
Redhorse Access
Reiker Ford Access
Union Access

Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan FY 2017-2031



Lisa B Allen

Forestry Division Chief

12-30-16

Date

Franklin County River Accesses Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

Gus Raeker, Forestry District Supervisor

Matt Pilz, Resource Forester

Mark Johanson, Resource Forester

Tony Peper, Resource Forester

Jen Girondo, Fisheries Management Biologist

Todd Wright, Conservation Agent

Ben Pursley, Conservation Agent

John Vogel, Wildlife Regional Supervisor

Mike Norris, Construction & Maintenance Superintendent

Jennifer Fakes, Outreach and Education Regional Supervisor

ST. LOUIS REGION

RCT Chair


Signature

Dec. 12, 2016
Date

FORESTRY DIVISION

Forest Management Chief


Signature

12-22-16
Date

OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Colter's Landing Access	7506	1975	6	Franklin	Forestry	Forestry
Mayers Landing Access	7920	1979	6.6	Franklin	Forestry	Forestry
Redhorse Access	7931	1979	42.9	Franklin	Forestry	Forestry
Reiker Ford Access	7507	1975	10.9	Franklin	Forestry	Forestry
Union Access	6508	1965 ¹	10.3	Franklin	Forestry	Forestry

¹ Union Access is owned by the City of Union and leased to the Department through a 99-year lease agreement (expires 2064).

Statements of Purpose:

A. Strategic Direction

These areas are managed to provide public fishing access to the Meramec River (Redhorse Access), Boeuf Creek (Colter's Landing Access), and Bourbeuse River (Mayers Landing Access, Reiker Ford Access, Union Accesses) for boat and bank anglers.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future conditions of these accesses are developed landscapes that promote public recreation on the Meramec River, Boeuf Creek, and Bourbeuse River.

C. Federal Aid Statement

- Colter's Landing Access, Mayers Landing Access, Redhorse Access: N/A
- Reiker Ford Access: This area, or a portion thereof, was acquired with Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration funds to restore and manage sport fish, conserve, and restore sport fish habitat (or a buffer to protect that habitat) and provide public access for sport fishing.
- Union Access: This area, or a portion thereof, was developed with Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars to provide land or facilities for public outdoor recreation.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

Area Name	Priority Areas	Natural Areas
Colter's Landing Access	None	None
Mayers Landing Access	Bourbeuse River Fisheries Priority Watershed	None
Redhorse Access	None	None
Reiker Ford Access	Bourbeuse River Fisheries Priority Watershed	None
Union Access	Bourbeuse River Fisheries Priority Watershed	None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area Name	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Colter's Landing Access	None	None	None
Mayers Landing Access	Yes ¹	None	None
Redhorse Access	Yes ¹	None	None
Reiker Ford Access	Yes ¹	None	None
Union Access	Yes ¹	None	None

¹Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the natural history biologist.

III. Existing Infrastructure

Area Name	Concrete Ramp	Privy	Parking Area #
Colter's Landing Access	1	1	1
Mayers Landing Access	1	None	1
Redhorse Access	1 ¹	None	1 ¹
Reiker Ford Access	0	None	1
Union Access	1	None	1

¹ Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area Name	Deed Restrictions	Federal Interest	Easements	Cultural Resources	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Colter's Landing Access	None	Yes ²	None	None	None observed	None
Mayers Landing Access	None	Yes ³	None	Yes ⁷	Yes ⁹	None
Redhorse Access	None	Yes ³	Yes ⁶	None	Yes ⁸	None
Reiker Ford Access	None	Yes ⁴	Yes ⁶	None	Yes ⁸	None
Union Access	Yes ¹	Yes ⁵	None	None	Yes ⁹	None

¹ Union Access is owned by the City of Union and leased to the Department for a period of 99 years (expires 2064).

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ Uses of land acquired with federal funds may not interfere with the purpose for which it was acquired. Closures to sport fishing must be based on the recommendations of the state fish and wildlife agency for fish and wildlife management purposes. 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.

⁵ This land must provide land/facilities for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. 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.

⁶ County road easement runs through property.

⁷ Records kept with the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) environmental compliance specialist. Managers should follow best management practices for cultural resources found in the Department Resource Policy Manual.

⁸ Endangered species are known from this area. Area managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the natural history biologist.

⁹ Endangered species are not known from this site, but are found in the surrounding area. Area managers should consult annually with the natural history biologist.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

There are few wildlife or forestry resources on these small areas. Area maintenance is provided by staff within Forestry Division through the use of litter and mowing contracts.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain adequate riparian corridors.
- 2) Prevent soil erosion.
- 3) Control invasive species.

Management Objective 1: Maintain a wooded riparian corridor at least 100 feet wide.

Strategy 1: Consider forest management activities, if needed, only to correct forest health issues to maintain the existing riparian corridors. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Prevent soil erosion due to infrastructure, heavy public use, or flood events.

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

Strategy 2: Clear flood debris as soon as possible following flood events. (Forestry, Design and Development)

Strategy 3: Plant vegetation or place rock, as needed, in areas where soils become unnaturally exposed. (Forestry)

Management Objective 3: Promote resource management that deters the establishment of invasive plant species; and treat invasive species as time allows.

Strategy 1: Assess and determine the extent of invasive species. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: If warranted and as time allows, implement practices to control invasive species. Look for opportunities to utilize volunteers for control efforts through Stream Team, Adopt-an-Access, and other groups. (Forestry, Outreach and Education)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Stabilize stream banks.

Management Objective 1: Maintain stream bank stability.

Strategy 1: As warranted, develop stream bank stabilization strategies to address specific erosion situations. (Fisheries)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Stream shift has impacted the river access at the Mayers Landing Access boat ramp.
- 2) The road location on Reiker Ford Access leaves the gravel bar susceptible to illegal off-road traffic. Options for restricting vehicular access are limited due to frequent flooding.
- 3) Maintain clean, safe, and user-friendly access for public use along Boeuf Creek and the Meramec and Bourbeuse rivers. All accesses are subject to periodic flooding and the associated maintenance challenges.
- 4) Prevent vandalism from occurring, catch violators, and repair damage from vandalism.
- 5) Keep the public informed of opportunities, regulations, and/or activities on these areas.
- 6) Maintain quality public area experiences: Encourage and enhance legitimate outdoor recreational opportunities for these high use areas. Public use of any Department area involves the establishment and enforcement of appropriate management regulations. Address issues concerning regulations as soon as possible.
- 7) Consider improvements or changes to access parking that will accommodate intended public use, but not put additional workloads on staff.
- 8) Provide fishing opportunities at each access as well as hunting opportunities at Redhorse Access.

Management Objective 1: Maintain suitable public access at each of the access areas.

Strategy 1: Ensure existing infrastructure is maintained regularly to Department standards and Federal Aid requirements for areas. Access maintenance for areas with concrete boat ramps must follow the Motor Boat Access Maintenance Standards. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Clean ramps, parking lots, and roads of flood debris as soon as possible after flood events occur. (Forestry, Design and Development)

Strategy 3: Promote Adopt-an-Access. (Forestry, Outreach and Education)

Management Objective 2: Reduce vandalism at area accesses.

Strategy 1: Encourage open and timely communication between Forestry staff, conservation agents, adjoining neighbors, and local law enforcement concerning observed unlawful activities. (Forestry, Protection)

Strategy 2: Determine and implement best methods to deter vandalism. If necessary, conduct patrol operations with Protection, Forestry, and Fisheries staffs. (Protection, Forestry, Fisheries)

Strategy 3: Install barriers or vegetation to restrict illegal vehicular access from the parking lot, ramp, or roads. (Forestry)

Management Objective 3: Provide information to the public about these areas.

Strategy 1: Keep Conservation Atlas entries up-to-date for all access areas (including information about closures) to inform the public. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Install and/or maintain signs on roadways leading to the areas as needed. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Keep regulations and area information on bulletin boards posted so the public is aware of them and they are clearly visible. (Forestry)

Strategy 4: Promote use of the areas through media sources and advertise Outreach and Education programs held on these areas. (Outreach and Education)

Management Objective 4: Maintain safe areas for riverway recreational pursuits.

Strategy 1: Maintain a high level of law enforcement presence through patrols by Protection Division and other local law enforcement agencies. Respond to and follow up with information provided by other agencies, the public, and neighbors. (Protection, Forestry)

Strategy 2: Collect information to assist Protection in enforcement efforts on access areas. (Forestry, Fisheries)

Management Objective 5: Provide fishing and hunting opportunities.

Strategy 1: Maintain standard Department signs pertaining to fishing and hunting regulations. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Conduct patrols to enforce area regulations. (Protection)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Ensure that flood events and related infrastructure changes are well documented for potential Federal Aid reimbursement purposes, as required under federal funding guidelines.

- 2) Provide opportunities for the public to access the area for appropriate recreational activities.
- 3) Maintain identifiable boundaries for area users and to avoid conflict with adjoining property owners.

Management Objective 1: Keep all flood-related activities documented and on file at local Area Manager's office.

Strategy 1: Provide Federal Aid information, as needed, to document all staff hours, maintenance activities, flooding costs, etc., as needed for reimbursement purposes. (Forestry, Design and Development)

Management Objective 2: Follow Department policy concerning activities allowable through Special Use Permits.

Strategy 1: Refer to the Department's Resource Policy Manual for policies concerning issuing special use permits. If appropriate, avoid issuing special use permits during expected periods of high public use, if user conflicts are likely; or restrict the amount of area to be used. (Forestry)

Management Objective 3: Maintain visible area boundaries for all access areas.

Strategy 1: Mark boundaries at least every five years, or as necessary, to prevent user/landowner conflicts by visitors trespassing onto adjoining private property. (Forestry)

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Administrative Considerations															
<i>Objective 3</i>															
Strategy 1				X					X					X	

APPENDICES

Public Input Summary:

The draft Franklin County River Accesses Management Plan was available for a public comment period August 1–31, 2016. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from three respondents (Appendix A). The Franklin County River Accesses 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 Franklin County River Accesses Management Plan public comment period.

Supports invasive species removal. Suggests washing mowing and farming equipment before moving to other areas.

Invasive species management is a priority for the Department and is a major component of the resource management work that we do. Maintaining clean equipment to help curb the spread of invasive species is a much needed aspect of a good invasive species management plan. In most circumstances, Department staff work to clean equipment between uses on different areas. Department staff will continue to work on invasive species control as funding and workloads allow.

Concerned about partying at Reiker Ford Access. Suggests increased patrols.

Conservation agents regularly patrol the areas in the county they are assigned to, but cannot be everywhere at once due to the large areas they cover. In addition, the Department regularly cooperates with local law enforcement agencies to help enforce conservation area regulations. Please contact one of the county conservation agents or contact local law enforcement to report illegal activity and details (date of incident, time of day, location on Conservation Area, etc.) to assist the Department in investigations.

Suggests improvements to Mayers Landing Access to allow easier travel down the river.

The ramp is located in a bend that is being naturally cut off from the main stem of the river; this local area has a long history of shifting channels. We will continue to look into possible solutions and the costs before deciding if something can be done at that site or if we should consider alternate locations for river access in the future. Any new river access locations would be dependent on land acquisition opportunities from willing sellers. For the time being, the access still allows walk-in access for fishing and canoe launching.

Suggests allowing unlimited take of spotted bass and an 18 inch limit on smallmouth bass.

The current fishing regulations on most rivers in Franklin County allow for 12 spotted bass of any size to be kept per day, as long as no other black bass are kept. Our standard statewide stream black bass regulations are a six-fish daily limit with a 12” minimum length limit; these regulations were liberalized in 2002 in response to spotted bass prevalence in the Meramec and Bourbeuse rivers. Our creel surveys show that most anglers are not taking advantage of that higher daily limit, and unless more anglers begin to participate in the removal of spotted bass from the system, there does not seem to be a need to further liberalize the spotted bass regulations.

Regarding smallmouth bass length limits, smallmouth bass have to live 8-10 years before reaching 18” in length; in those 8-10 years, most die from natural causes like disease, predation, old age, etc. rather than being removed by anglers. Our studies indicate that a higher length limit would not result in more, larger smallmouth bass in the stream, therefore there would be little benefit to anglers from further restricting harvest.

Appendices:

Appendix 1. Map of Franklin County River Accesses

Appendix 2. Colter’s Landing Access Area Background

Appendix 3. Map of Colter’s Landing Access

Appendix 4. Mayers Landing Access Area Background

Appendix 5. Map of Mayers Landing Access

Appendix 6. Redhorse Access Area Background

Appendix 7. Map of Redhorse Access

Appendix 8. Redhorse Access Easement Map

Appendix 9. Reiker Ford Access Area Background

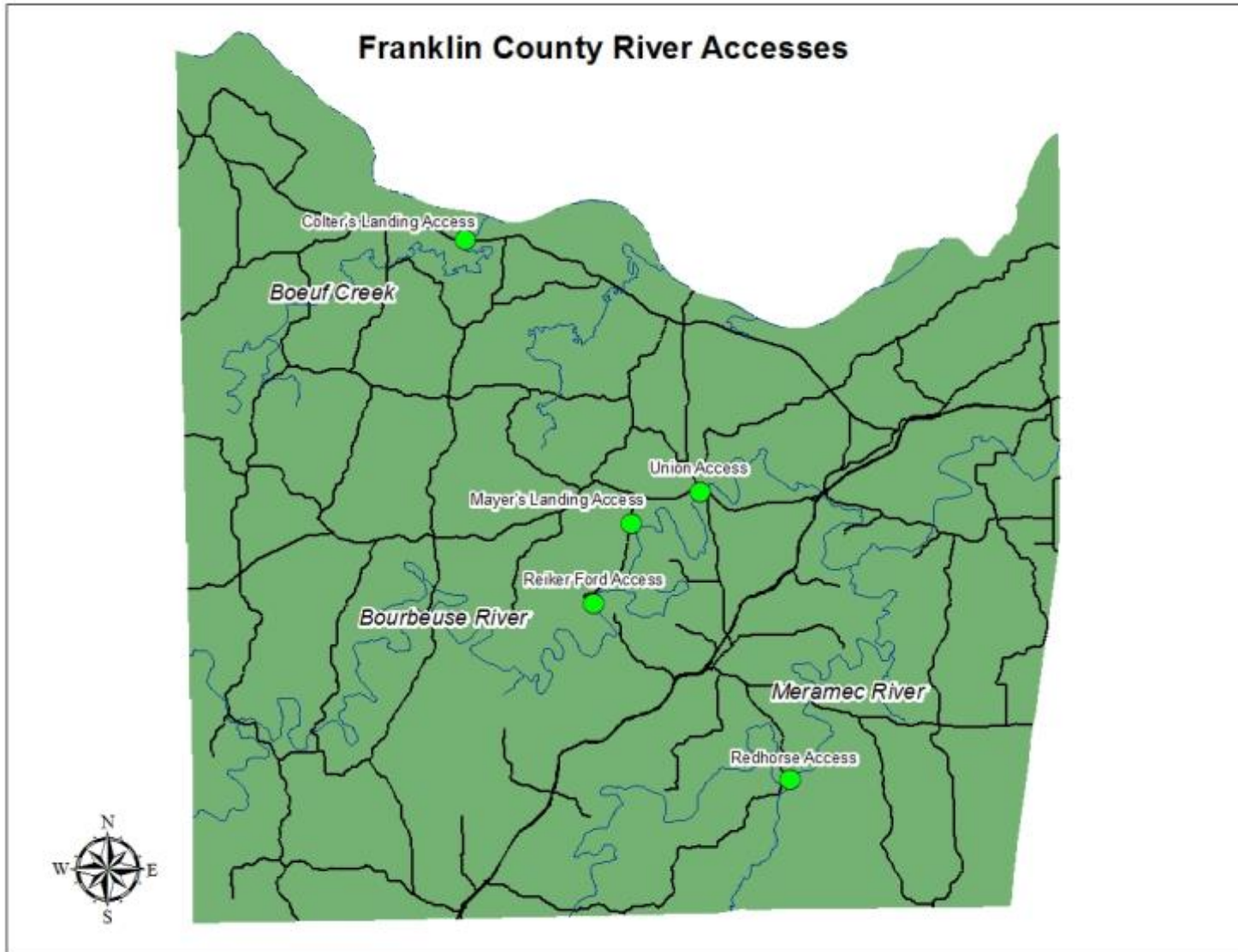
Appendix 10. Map of Reiker Ford Access

Appendix 11. Union Access Area Background

Appendix 12. Map of Union Access

Appendix A. Franklin County River Accesses Management Plan Public Comments

Appendix 1. Map of Franklin County River Accesses



Appendix 2. Colter’s Landing Access Area Background

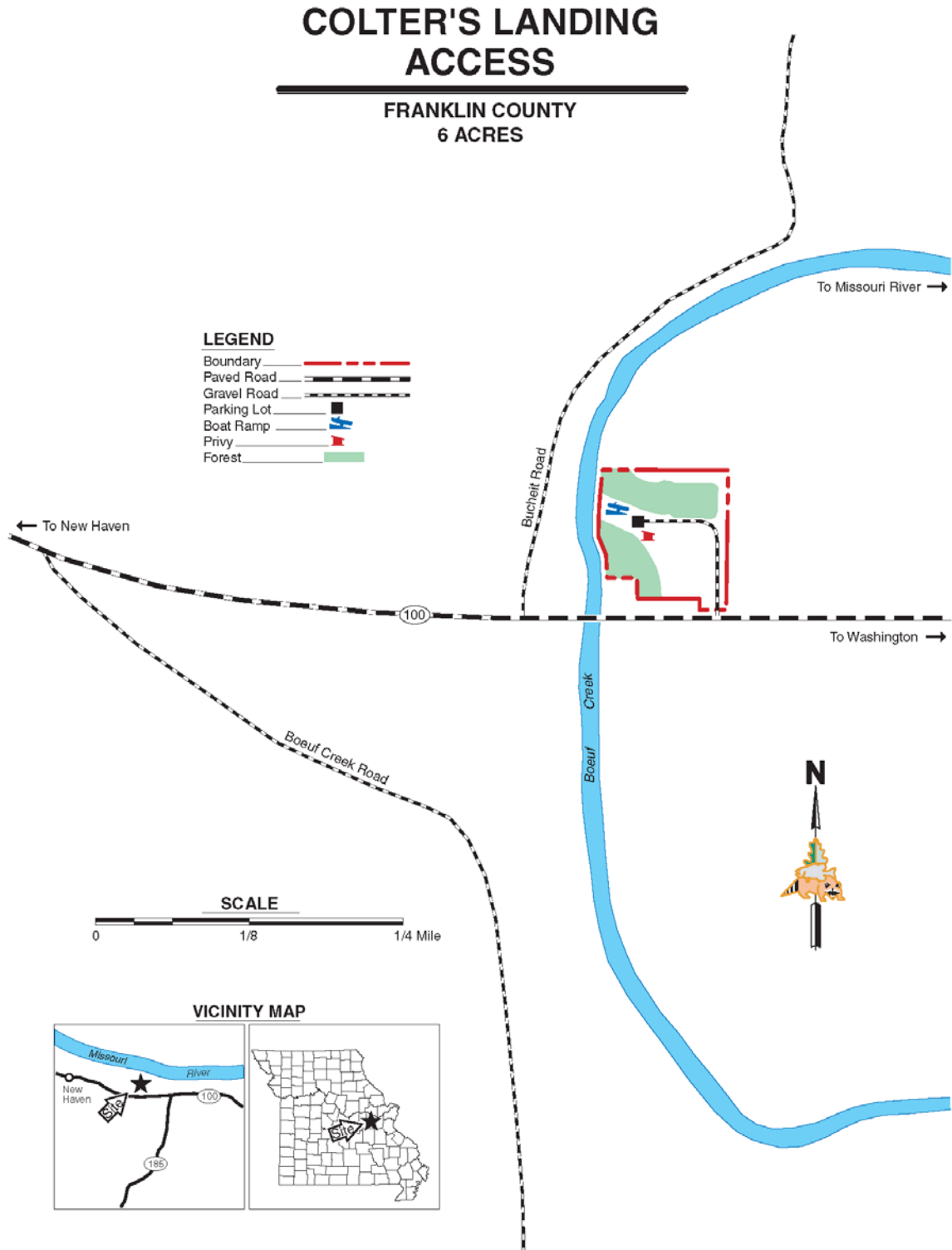
Colter’s Landing Access is located along Boeuf Creek, 1.4 miles upstream from the Missouri River. It provides boat access to the river. Bank anglers also have a small length of bank that provides access to Boeuf Creek. The area was purchased from willing sellers in 1975 and has provided significant public use since that time. The area includes a small amount of bottomland forest and grassland.

Area Location: Colter’s Landing Access is located 7 miles west of Washington on Highway 100.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Grassland	4		67
Forest	2		33
Total	6		100
Stream Frontage		0.08	

Appendix 3. Map of Colter's Landing Access



Appendix 4. Mayers Landing Access Area Background

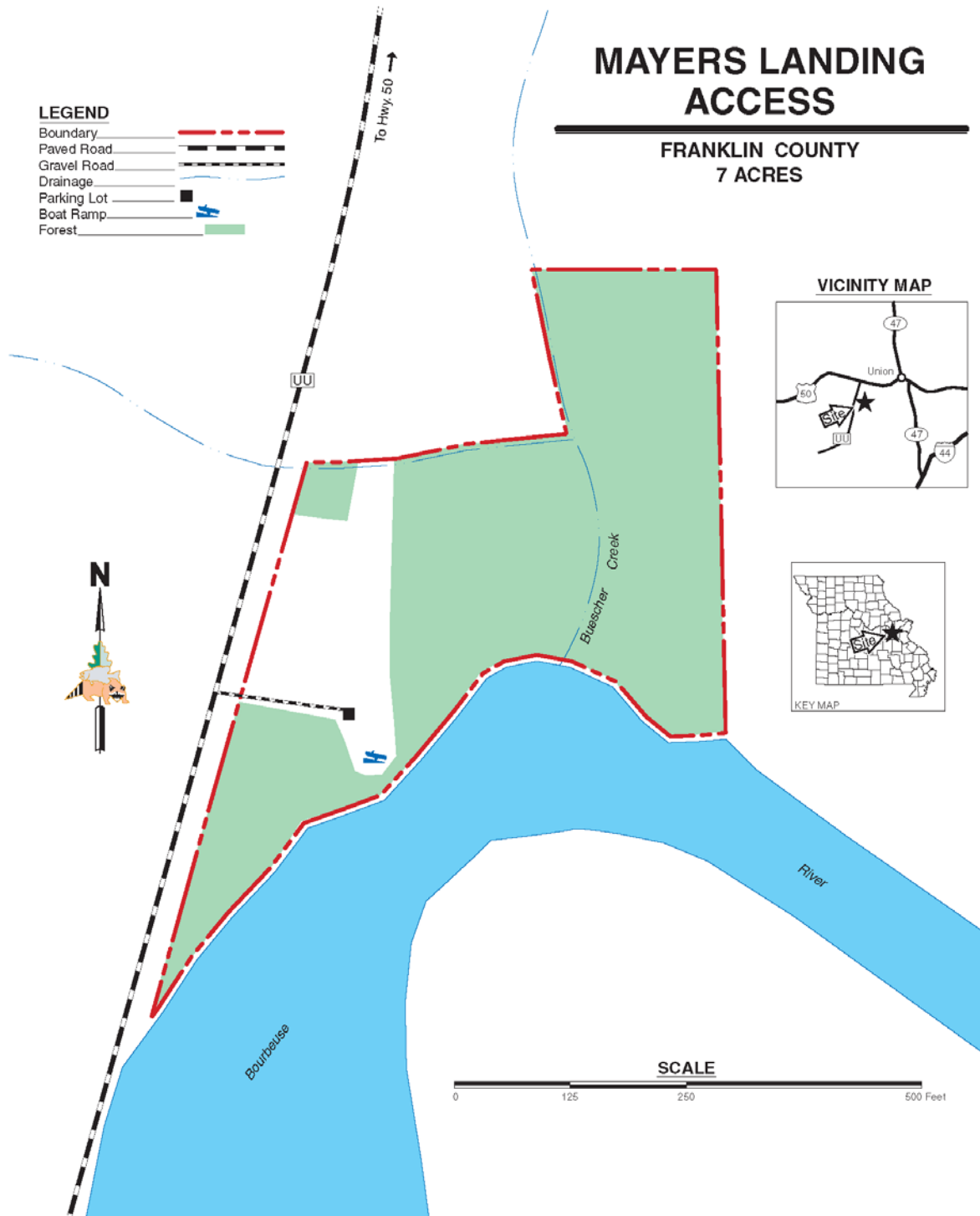
Mayers Landing Access is located along the Bourbeuse River and provides access to the river. The area was purchased from willing sellers in 1979 and has provided significant public use since that time. The area includes a small amount of bottomland forest and grassland.

Area Location: To get to Mayers Landing Access from Union, take Highway 50 west 1 mile, then Route UU south 1 mile.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	4.6		57
Grassland	2		43
Total	6.6		100
Stream Frontage		0.1	

Appendix 5. Map of Mayers Landing Access



Appendix 6. Redhorse Access Area Background

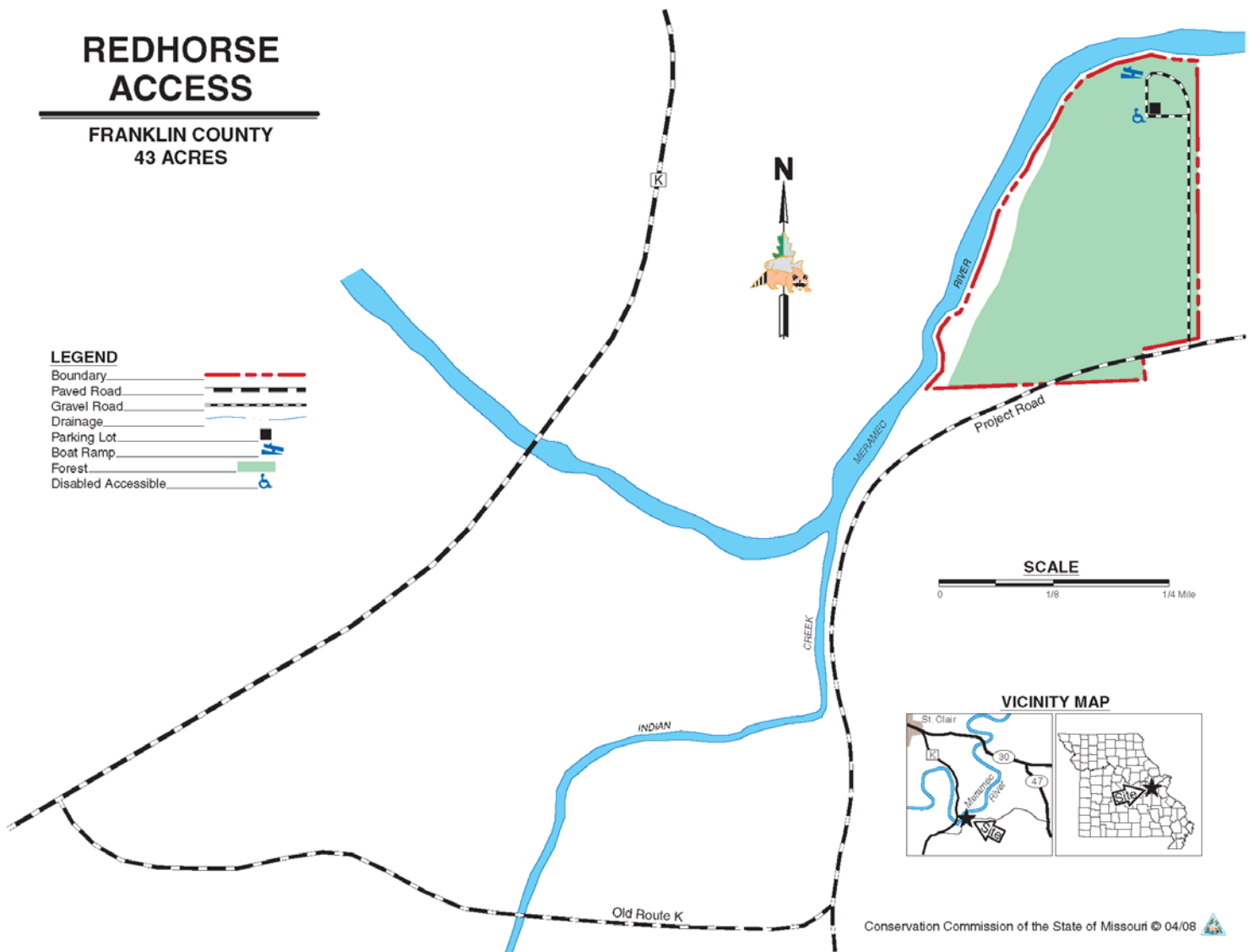
Redhorse Access is located along the Meramec River and provides boat access to the river. Bank anglers also have access to a gravel bar for fishing. The area was purchased from willing sellers in 1979 and has provided significant public use since that time. The area is forested with a variety of bottomland tree species.

Area Location: To get to Redhorse Access from St.Clair, take Route K south. After crossing the Meramec River bridge, take Old Route K east across Indian Creek, then Project Road north about 0.75 mile.

Current Land and Water Types:

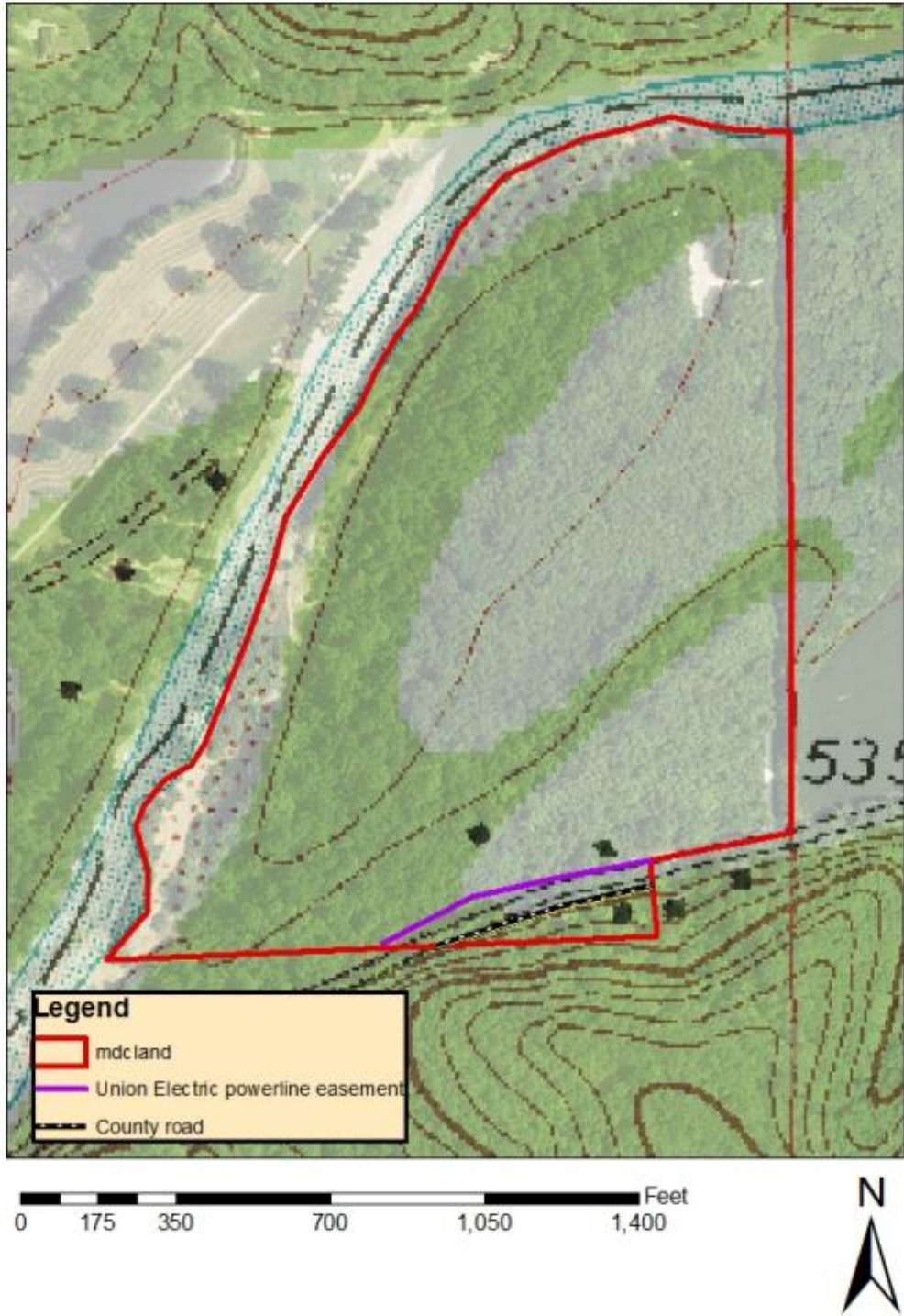
Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	42		100
Other (Gravel bar)	0.91		<1
Total	42.91		100
Stream Frontage		0.5	

Appendix 7. Map of Redhorse Access



Appendix 8. Redhorse Access Easement Map

Redhorse Access Easements



Appendix 9. Reiker Ford Access Area Background

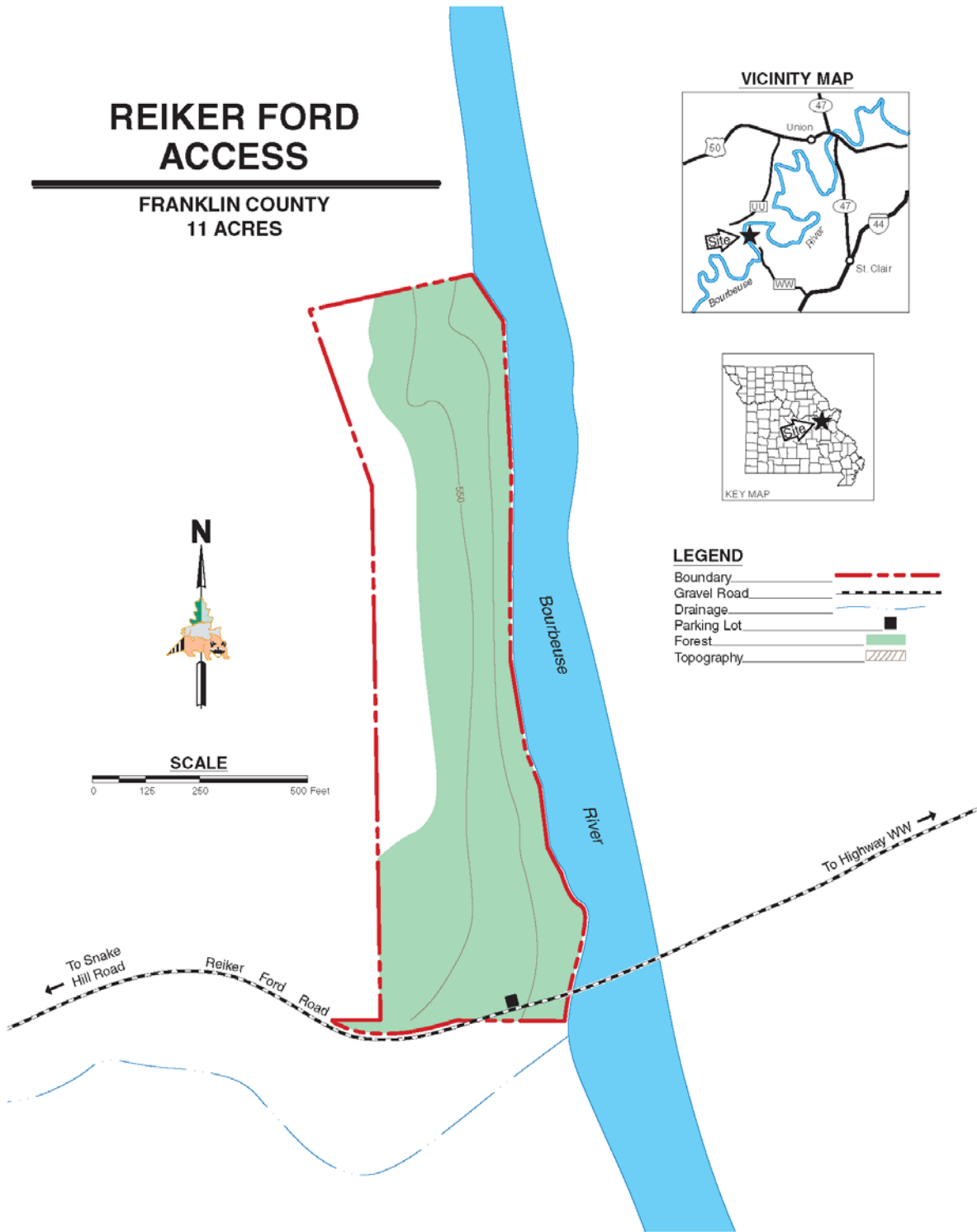
Reiker Ford Access is located along the Bourbeuse River and provides canoe and bank fishing access to the river. The area was purchased from willing sellers in 1975 and has provided significant public use since that time. The area is forested with a variety of bottomland tree species.

Area Location: To get to Reiker Ford Access from Union, take Highway 50 west 1 mile, Route UU south 5 miles, Snake Hill Road south 0.5 miles, and Reiker Ford Road east to the area.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	11		100
Stream Frontage		0.5	

Appendix 10. Map of Reiker Ford Access



Appendix 11. Union Access Area Background

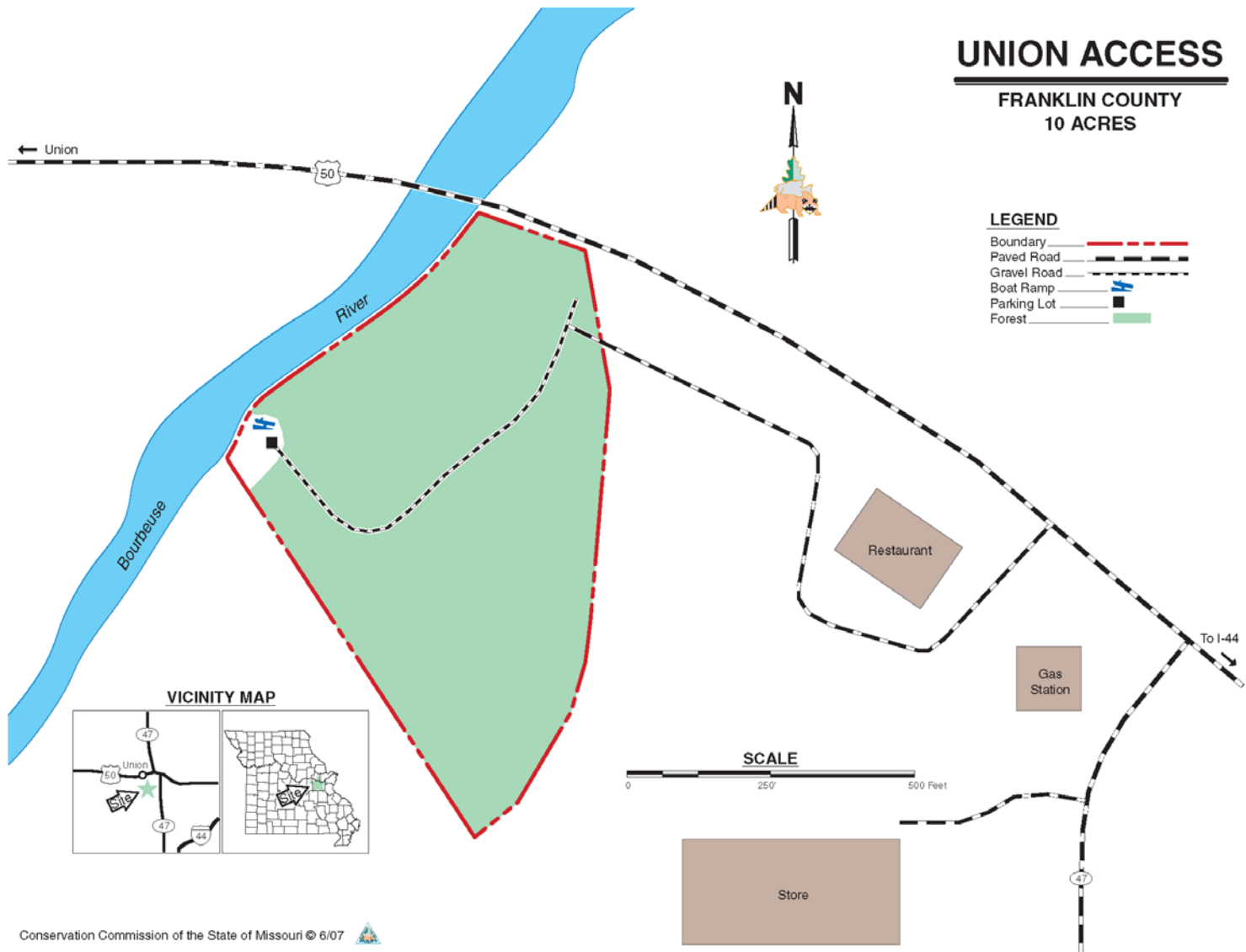
Union Access is located along the Bourbeuse River and provides boat and bank fishing access to the river. The area is leased from the City of Union and provides significant public use opportunities. The area is forested with a variety of bottomland tree species.

Area Location: Union Access is located in Union off Highway 50, near the intersection of Highway 47.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	10.3		100
Stream Frontage		0.1	

Appendix 12. Map of Union Access



Appendix A. Franklin County River Accesses Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (August 1-31, 2016):

Some of the MDC lands are incredible with native species diversity while others are dominated by non-native species. The number one Management need is the control or reduction of non-native species. It is imperative that mowers and farmers wash their equipment before moving into a new area. There must be an active role in the control of exotic species. If there is not more of an active role then the remaining pristine sites will subcumb to exotic species and degrade ecological integrity.

Respectfully,

(Hardcopy comment received 8/11/2016): My farm joins this (Reiker Ford Access) access on the north side. I use the access to farm ground on the other side of the river. At times it is impossible to use because of the cars that are parked everywhere. This area is used by the young generation to party. If you want to use it for recreation you need to get there early and leave early. If this area is to be in the future for the public it needs to be patrol more regularly. There is a lot of driving of vehicles on private land and up Voss creek. It has come to be a pain for this area.

Thank you for listening,

At Mayers Landing the floods have going down the river difficult. Please work the access to make it easier going down the river. Also a 18 inch length limit on smallmouth. Unlimited on spotted bass.