

Miller Community Lake

Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan FY 2017-2031



Lisa M. Allen
Forestry Division Chief

4-19-17
Date

Miller Community Lake Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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SOUTHEAST REGION

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Date

FORESTRY DIVISION

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4/19/17

Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Miller Community Lake, # 5504
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1955
- **Acreage:** 61 acres
- **County:** Carter
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

Maintain healthy aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Provide quality fishing and outdoor recreational opportunities for area users.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Miller Community Lake is to provide a healthy, diverse aquatic and forested/woodland natural community and provides compatible recreational opportunities.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** Priority Forest Landscape, Cave/Karst Conservation Opportunity Area
 - B. Natural Areas:** None

- II. Important Natural Features and Resources**
 - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** Species 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.
 - B. Caves:** None
 - C. Springs:** None
 - D. Other:** Overflow from Miller Lake drains into Little Brushy Creek. Numerous small landowners surround the lake. The entire area falls in the Current River Pine-Oak Woodland Dissected Plain Landtype Association.

- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - One concrete boat ramp
 - Two parking lots
 - Six picnic tables

- Two benches
- One dry hydrant
- One privy, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible
- Miller Community Lake, fishing lake (27 acres)
- One-mile hiking trail surrounding Miller Lake

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: No known cultural resources.

E. Endangered Species: None observed.

F. Boundary Issues: Establishing accurate and identifiable boundary markers is a priority for this property.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain grounds surrounding the lake for public users to enjoy.
- 2) Periodically burn the vegetation surrounding Miller Lake.
- 3) Control invasive plants.

Management Objective 1: Maintain grounds surrounding the lake for public users to enjoy.

Strategy 1: Conduct routine area maintenance to keep the site presentable to the public. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Remove trash and clean privy at regular intervals, dependent on season and public use. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Periodically burn the vegetation surrounding Miller Lake.

Strategy 1: Continue to burn the un-mowed vegetation surrounding Miller Lake to reduce fuel loading. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Conduct a prescribed burn of the pioneer understory species to provide a more open appearance along the designated hiking trail. The prescribed

burn application will assist in making the edges of the lake easier to fish and promote wildflowers. (Forestry)

Management Objective 3: Control invasive plants on the area.

Strategy 1: Control and mitigate invasive plants when found on the area.

VI. Aquatic Resources Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide quality fish populations that offer diverse angling opportunities.
- 2) Use appropriate fisheries management tools to maintain or improve the quality of fishing.
- 3) Increase public awareness of the area and angling opportunities to maintain or improve public use and satisfaction.

Management Objective 1: Provide quality fish populations that offer diverse angling opportunities.

Strategy 1: Conduct electrofishing samples at intervals determined by the fisheries biologist to assess the fish population. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Maintain alternative angling opportunities through supplemental stocking of channel catfish as needed. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 2: Use appropriate fisheries management tools to maintain or improve the quality of fishing.

Strategy 1: Promote better catch rates with periodic placements of brush piles or artificial fish attractors to help concentrate sportfish. (Fisheries, Forestry)

Strategy 2: Manage aquatic vegetation to a level of not more than 25 percent coverage of the lake. Vegetation can develop problematic densities and impede successful angling. Apply spot treatment of aquatic-approved herbicide to reduce plant densities, as needed. (Fisheries)

Strategy 3: Regularly remove trees and reduce shrub growth in the spillway fenced area; and continue to regularly mow the dam and keep it clear of small brush. (Fisheries, Forestry)

Management Objective 3: Increase public awareness of the area and angling opportunities to maintain or improve public use and satisfaction.

Strategy 1: Prepare, as needed, news releases for regulation changes and to inform the public of fishing opportunities. (Fisheries, Outreach and Education)

Strategy 2: Prepare lake report and fishing prospects for inclusion in *Fishing Prospects at Selected Missouri Lakes and Streams* for years when samples are taken. (Fisheries)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide adequate angler accessibility and associated public use facilities to support current level of public use.
- 2) Provide angling and area information.
- 3) Investigate the feasibility of installing a fishing jetty/platform that is ADA-accessible.

Management Objective 1: Provide adequate angler accessibility and associated public use facilities to support current level of public use.

Strategy 1: Maintain infrastructure on an as-needed basis to ensure parking lots, boat ramp, picnic areas, and privy are in good condition. (Design and Development, Fisheries, Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Provide angling and area information to the public.

Strategy 1: Maintain fishing regulations signs in accordance with Department guidelines, as outlined in the Department's sign manual. (Fisheries, Forestry)

Management Objective 3: Investigate the feasibility of installing a fishing jetty/platform that is ADA-accessible.

Strategy 1: Within the time span of this management plan (FY17-FY31), explore the idea of budgeting for and installing a floating fishing dock to make fishing and area use more accessible to disabled users. (Design and Development, Fisheries, Forestry)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.
- 2) Maintain boundary lines and area signage.
- 3) Consider land acquisition, when available.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Continue to maintain the 1 mile walking trail around Miller Community Lake. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Maintain boundary lines and area signage.

Strategy 1: Maintain the area's 1.4 miles of painted boundary lines. Maintain boundary lines with blue paint every five years, or as needed. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Reinstall area signage and post regulations, as needed. (Forestry)

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 Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

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 2</i>															
Strategy 1			X					X					X		

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Miller Community Lake is located in Carter County. At normal pool, the lake is 27 surface acres with a maximum depth of 18 feet. The lake has a watershed of approximately 300 acres (Missouri Department of Conservation, 1999). Roughly 50 percent of the watershed is woodland, while the other half consists of pasture and private development.

Miller Lake is situated on a 61-acre tract of land that was donated to the Missouri Department of Conservation by an area landowner. It was later built in 1956. During construction of the lake, all trees within the lake basin were removed. However, numerous humps and depressions were constructed along the basin bottom to provide irregular contours. Miller Lake was first opened to fishing May 30, 1959 (Missouri Department of Conservation, 1999).

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Woodland	29		48
Lake	27		44
Open Land	5		8
Total	61		100
Stream Frontage		0	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Miller Community Lake Management Plan was available for public comment Dec. 1-31, 2016. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (1999). *Miller Community Lake area plan*. Missouri Department of Conservation.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 4: Land Cover Map

Figure 1: Area Map

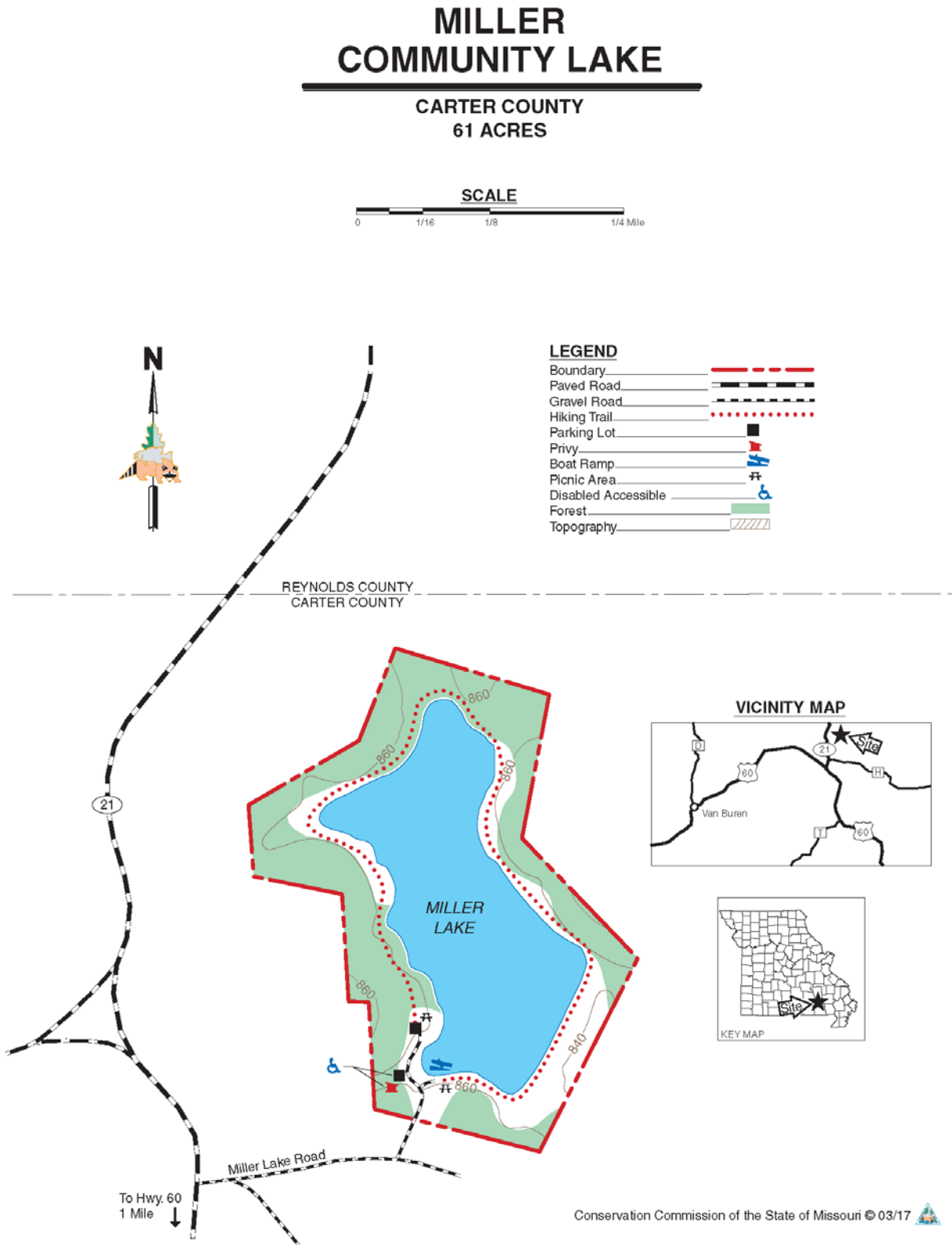


Figure 2: Aerial Map

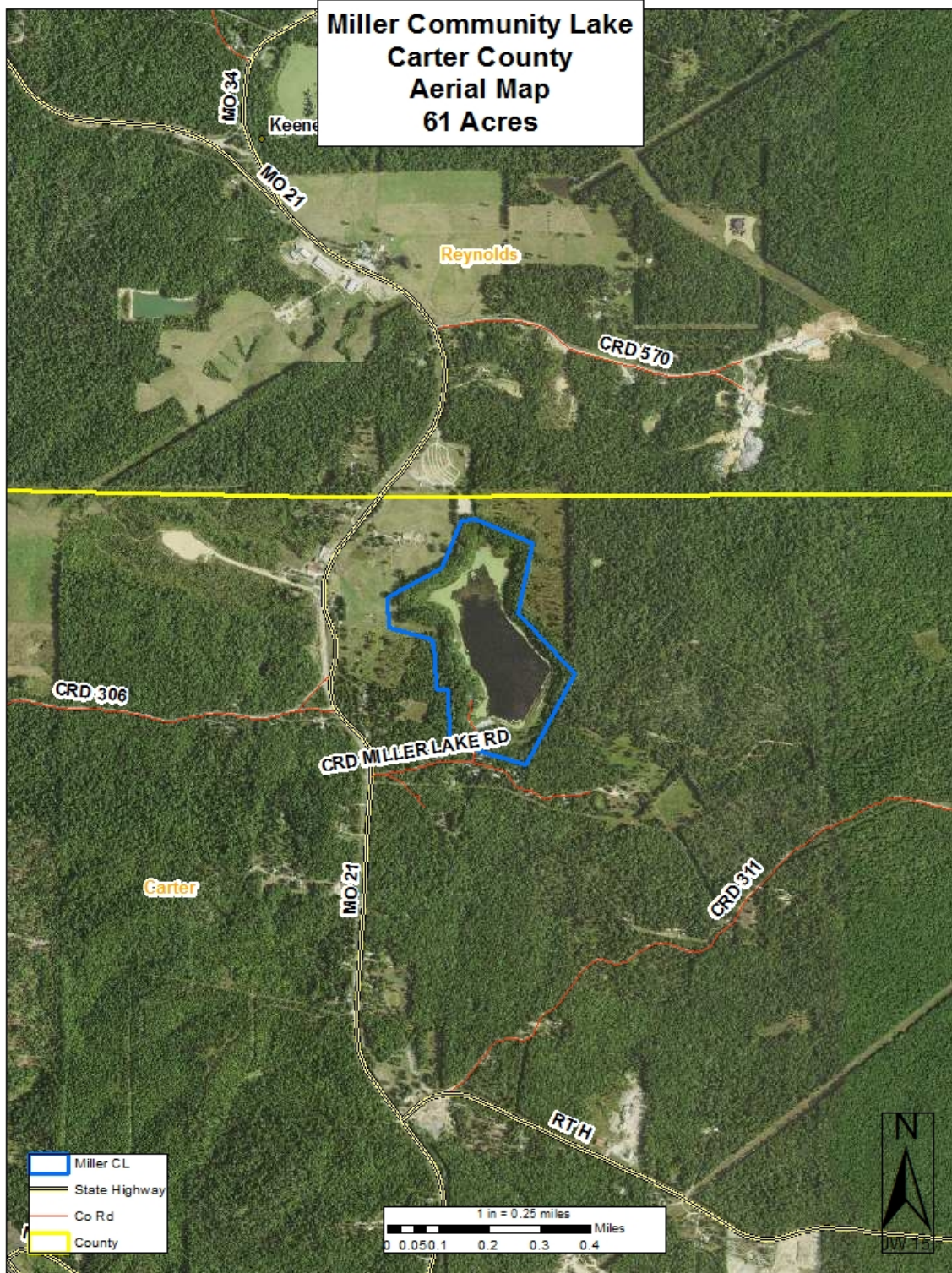


Figure 3: Topographic Map

