

# Five Rivers District

(Callaway, Cole, Gasconade, Maries, Moniteau, Osage Counties)

**Federal Areas**

There are no federally maintained areas in this district.

## **State Parks/Sites**

### **Jefferson Landing**

There are several sites of historic interest in Jefferson City itself. For a variety of advancement purposes, a trip to Jefferson City is worth the drive for scouts in any part of the council.

Beyond state government, Jefferson Landing offers a view into the historic past of the city and state as well. As the city grew, river traffic increased along the Missouri. The area preserved as Jefferson Landing reflects the growth of business and residences from this river traffic in the 1830s and 40s.

*Contacts:* (573) 751-3475 (Jefferson Landing)  
(573) 751-2854 (State Museum)  
(573) 751-4127 (State Capitol information)

*Comments:* “Good to teach about Missouri history, for Cubs and Boy Scouts.”  
Troop 4

*Deutschheim State Historic Site*

Located in Hermann, this sites works to preserve Missouri deep German roots. Several homes have been restored from the 1840s, which are the extent of this site. Private groups and homeowners have preserved other parts of Hermann, which is a virtual living history town. A number of festivals occur here throughout the year and a fun for scouts to experience.

*Contact:* 109 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Hermann, MO 65041  
(573) 486-2200

## Conservation Areas

### Cole County

Binder Lake—this is not a large site, but a good one. Large camping area, mostly RVs, good fishing, including muskellunge. Has a large scout area, but troops must call ahead. No shelters in scout area, but area is very private. Nearly five miles of biking trails on site. Good variety of migratory birds. West from Jefferson City on Hwy 50 1.5 miles to Apache Flat exit. 1.2 miles to S. Binder Lake Road to Rainbow Drive, then .3 miles to Binder Lake.

**Campsites:** 18  
**Groups?:** yes  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** yes  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** yes  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** yes  
**Privacy:** limited  
**Special:** no

Cole County Jaycee Park Lake—small pure fishing facility. Moderate to good fishing. Bicycling trails, but none are marked. Hwy 50 to South Country Club Drive. 1.5 miles then left on County Park Road, .5 miles.

**Campsites:** no  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** no  
**Service:** unk  
**Firewood:** no  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Honey Creek Access—small area, with access to Honey Creek and the Moreau River. Fishing is fair. Not good for wildlife observation. Three miles south of Jefferson City on hwy 54, then 2.25 miles east on Buffalo Road.

**Campsites:** 1  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** unk  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Hough Park Lake—Small fishing area adjacent to Oak Hills Golf Course. Camping not likely; fishing is decent. One miles south of Hwy 54 on Ellis Blvd.

*Comments:* “Catch and release is recommended here, because of fertilizer run-off from the golf course into the lake.” Troop 4

**Campsites:** no  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** unk  
**Firewood:** no  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Mari-Osa Access—Fishing access to Osage River; small campsite, primarily used by fishermen. Seven miles east of Jefferson City on Hwy 50.

**Campsites:** 1  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** no  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Marion Access—Small area, small camping site. Gives access to Moniteau Creek and Missouri River. Fishing is fair. Off Hwy 179 at Marion.

**Campsites:** 1  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** no  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Marion Bottoms Conservation Area—Very large area, camping, fair fishing. Lots of different kinds of wildlife for observation; good for environmental work (1000 acres of wetland). 2.5 miles north of Marion on Hwy 179.

**Campsites:** 1  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** yes; wetland

McKay Park Lake—In-town site for fishing. Biking trails, but not marked. Decent fishing. On McKay street in Jefferson City.

**Campsites:** no  
**Groups?:** unk  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** no  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** no  
**Shelters:** yes  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Moreau 50 Access—small access to Moreau River. Fishing is fair. Good area to start floats. One mile east of Jefferson City on Hwy 50.

**Campsites:** 1  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** no  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Pikes Camp Access—Access to Osage River; site is moderate in size. Fair fishing. One mile south of Wardsville on Hwy W.

*Comments:* “Good fishing; beware of flooding.” Troop 4

**Campsites:** 1  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** no  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Scrivner Road Conservation Area—moderate sized area, fair fishing. Marked trail is 8 ½ miles long, plus other, shorter trails. Shooting range on site. Good for bird watching as well. From Russellville, go south on CR AA, then turn left on Scrivner Road. After 1.25 miles, turn left on an unnamed gravel road. Watch for signs.

**Campsites:** 1  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** yes  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** limited  
**Special:** yes; bird-watching; shooting range

St. Thomas Ferry Access—very small access area only to Osage River. Fishing is not great. Nine miles south of Jefferson City on Hwy B.

*Comments:* “This is a good place to start a 5 – 6 mile float down river to Pike’s Camp Access.” Troop 4

**Campsites:** no  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** no  
**Firewood:** no  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Stringtown Bridge Access—small access area to Moreau River. Fair fishing. Five miles west of Jefferson City on Hwy C, then 1 mile west on Hemstreet Road.

<b>Campsites:</b>	no
<b>Groups?:</b>	no
<b>Water:</b>	no
<b>Scout rates:</b>	no
<b>Toilets:</b>	no
<b>Trails:</b>	no
<b>Fishing:</b>	yes
<b>Aquatics:</b>	limited
<b>Service:</b>	no
<b>Firewood:</b>	yes
<b>Shelters:</b>	no
<b>Privacy:</b>	no
<b>Special:</b>	no

*Gasconade County*

Canaan Conservation Area—large area, large camping area. Several springs are in the area, as well as fens. Interesting for environmental work. Three miles north of Bland on Hwy A; follow signs.

**Campsites:** 18  
**Groups?:** yes  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** no  
**Aquatics:** no  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** yes; multiple landcover

Fredricksburg Ferry Access—good fishing on the Gasconade. Very small area; decent size camping area. One mile east of Morrison on hwy 100, then 5.5 miles on Hwy N, then 2 miles on Hwy J, then 1 mile down Old Ferry Road.

**Campsites:** 8  
**Groups?:** limited  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** limited  
**Special:** no

Gasconade Park Access—fishing and camping in the city of Gasconade. Contact city for more information (no phone given).

Helds Island Access—access to Gasconade; decent fishing, bird watching depending on season. From Hwy 50, take Hwy K 4 miles north, becomes gravel road. 2 more miles, watch for signs.

**Campsites:** 10  
**Groups?:** yes  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Hermann Riverfront Park—fishing in the city of Hermann (no phone number given). Good fishing for large river species.

Mint Spring Conservation Area—small area; designated natural area. Could be interesting for nature or environmental activities. 9.5 miles south of Owensville on Hwy EE.

**Campsites:** no  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** no  
**Aquatics:** no  
**Service:** unk  
**Firewood:** no  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** yes; natural area

Tea Access—small fishing access on the Bousbeuse. Decent fishing. Take Hwy 19 south from Owensville to Hwy V, east 5 miles to hwy T, south 4 miles to Tea Road.

**Campsites:** no  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** no  
**Firewood:** no  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

*Maries County*

Bell Chute Access—small fishing access to Gasconade River. Camping available; good fishing. Ten miles south of Vienna on Hwy Y, then down CR 513. Watch for signs.

**Campsites:** 1  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** unk  
**Firewood:** unk  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Clifty Creek Conservation Area—hunting area. There is a designated natural area here. No fishing, but good for wildlife observation. Watch hunting seasons. There is a natural rock bridge in the hunting area. Six miles northeast of Dixon on Hwy W.

**Campsites:** no  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** no  
**Aquatics:** no  
**Service:** no  
**Firewood:** no  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** natural area

Paydown Access—Not terribly large, but has several campsites. Good fishing and access to the Gasconade. Northeast of Vienna on Hwy 63. Watch for signs.

**Campsites:** 6  
**Groups?:** limited  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** unk  
**Firewood:** unk  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Rinquelin Trail CL—Moderately sized area, not terribly good fishing (but several places to fish from). Twelve miles southwest of Vienna off Hwy 133.

**Campsites:** 1  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** limited  
**Special:** no

Spring Creek Gap Conservation Area—Large tower site with natural area and one camp site. Four miles south of Vichy on Old Hwy 63.

<b>Campsites:</b>	1
<b>Groups?:</b>	no
<b>Water:</b>	no
<b>Scout rates:</b>	no
<b>Toilets:</b>	no
<b>Trails:</b>	no
<b>Fishing:</b>	no
<b>Aquatics:</b>	no
<b>Service:</b>	yes
<b>Firewood:</b>	yes
<b>Shelters:</b>	no
<b>Privacy:</b>	no
<b>Special:</b>	yes; natural area

*Moniteau County*

Manito Lake Conservation Area—Nice area with many types of land cover. Must have a permit to camp. Fishing is okay, but not spectacular. Good for nature or environmental work. Five miles south of Tipton on Hwy 5, then ½ mile west on unnamed gravel road (watch for signs on Hwy 5).

**Campsites:** yes  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** yes; nature/environmental work

Plowboy Bend Conservation Area—nice mix of land cover, including wet land. Good for observation of waterfowl. Fishing is not rated good, except for catfish. Gives access to Missouri River. Five miles north of Jamestown on Rte. Y. Watch for signs.

**Campsites:** 3  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** yes; wetland

Proctor Park Lake—Day use fishing area. Fishing is not great. Half-mile south of junction of Hwys 50 and 87, on 87.

**Campsites:** no  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** no  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** no  
**Shelters:** yes  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Smith Conservation Area—Nice types of cover, including glade. Decent fishing; hiking on a horse trail. Bicycling on trail as well. Two miles north of Centertown on Hwy NN, then left on Pen Ridge for ¼ mile, then right on Bird Haven Road.

**Campsites:** 1  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** yes  
**Fishing:** no  
**Aquatics:** no  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** yes; nature/environmental projects

*Osage County*

Ben Branch Lake Conservation Area—Nice area, good fishing, very short trail. Ten miles northwest of Linn on Hwy 89.

**Campsites:** 8  
**Groups?:** limited  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** yes  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** limited  
**Special:** no

Bonnots Mill Access—very small area, giving access to the Osage River. Fishing is fair. Located in the town of Bonnots Mill.

**Campsites:** 1  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** unk  
**Firewood:** unk  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Bruns Access—Old field. Access to Maries River, “fair” fishing. ¼ mile north of Westphalia on Hwy 63.

**Campsites:** 1  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** unk  
**Firewood:** unk  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Chamois Access—fishing access only on Hwy 100.

**Campsites:** no  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** no  
**Firewood:** no  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Cooper Hill Conservation Area—No designated camping area, but camping is listed as an activity. Contact local office. Decent fishing. Access to Gasconade. Average land cover. From Mt. Sterling, south 2 ½ miles on hwy A, west 2 ¾ miles on D to west side of Cooper Hill.

**Campsites:** yes  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** unk  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Painted Rock Conservation Area—Nice, large area. Two locations for wildlife and waterfowl viewing. Short trail on a bluff. Decent fishing on the Osage. Seven miles SW of Westphalia on Hwy 133.

*Comments:* “Good camping and scenery, but very rocky.” Troop 4

**Campsites:** 6  
**Groups?:** limited  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** yes  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** limited  
**Special:** no

Pointers Creek Access—fishing access with small camping area, used mostly by fishermen. Good fishing on the Gasconade. Eight miles SE of Linn on Hwy CC to the end of CR RA.

*Comments:* “Good float from Hwy 89 access down to Pointer’s Creek. Below Pointer’s Creek on the Gasconade requires a good deal of paddling.”  
Troop 2, Jefferson City.

**Campsites:** 1  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** yes  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** unk  
**Firewood:** unk  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Rollins Ferry Access—Small area, much like Pointers Creek. South of Linn at junction of E and 89.

**Campsites:** 1  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** unk  
**Firewood:** unk  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** no

Smoky Waters Conservation Area—interesting area where Missouri and Osage meet. Dodds Island is of historic value; can be reached by boat. Fishing is not good. Two miles east of Osage City on Engineers Road.

**Campsites:** 3  
**Groups?:** no  
**Water:** no  
**Scout rates:** no  
**Toilets:** no  
**Trails:** no  
**Fishing:** yes  
**Aquatics:** limited  
**Service:** yes  
**Firewood:** yes  
**Shelters:** no  
**Privacy:** no  
**Special:** yes; historic island