

Osage Trails District

(Barton, Pettis and Saline Counties)

Federal Areas

Harry S. Truman Dam and Reservoir

It is difficult to confine Truman lake to this district, since it goes well beyond the boundaries of the district and council to the west. However, simply within the district, there are a multitude of activities and camping areas that are great for scouts of all ages.

Multiple Corps of Engineers areas have camping. The Osage Bluffs area has excellent aquatic activities as well as great wildlife viewing, including bald eagles in the winter months. If fishing is what you are after, Bledsoe Ferry is purported to be one of the best fishing sites in the state. This area also is one of the best places to watch that annual fireworks display. Shawnee Bend is a day use area and would be perfect for scouting or cub scouting events. Long Shoal is a large camping area that very much like Osage Bluffs in terms of activities and animal viewing. Thibault Point is a smaller camping area, but also the only of those in the district that offer group camping areas as well as group rates.

In addition to the camping and aquatic activities, Truman Lake also has local sites of historic interest as well as tours of the dam and power plant itself, making this site a good location for a variety of activities.

There are multiple contacts for the areas. The project office can put you in contact with the proper people. In making reservations, be sure to point out that you are a scout group to be connected with the right people.

Contact: Harry S. Truman Project Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Route 2, Box 29A
Warsaw, MO 65355
(660)438-7317
www.nwk.usace.Army.mil/harryst/hst_home.htm

Campsites: several hundred
Groups?: yes
Water: yes
Scout rates: yes
Toilets: yes
Trails: yes; maps available
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: yes
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: yes
Privacy: yes
Special: yes

State Parks

Harry S. Truman State Park

This is one of Missouri's great parks. The location is incomparable; Truman Lake compares, rightfully so, with the Lake of the Ozarks and Mark Twain Lake. The development at Truman (as well as Lake of the Ozarks) is far greater than Mark Twain Lake State Park.

The park is set up to allow visitors developed experiences (motorboating, waterskiing, etc) or undeveloped experiences (nature hikes, and so forth). The park boasts one of the some of the most varied vegetation in the state, from Oak and Cedar trees to prickly pear.

Tours by rangers can be arranged. Boat rentals and fully stocked marina are located within the park. A large sand beach is available for visitors as well. The park also has two shorter trails (both under 2 miles) they are great for nature hikes. Park personnel will coordinate service projects in advance for troops. There does not appear to be an area set aside for group camping, but troops and larger gatherings of scouts are welcome. From Warsaw, take Hwy 7 west. Park is on Rte. UU.

Contact: HCR66, Box14
Warsaw, MO 65355
(660) 438-7711
www.mostateparks.com/trumanpark.htm

Campsites: 200
Groups?: yes
Water: yes
Scout rates: yes
Toilets: yes; maps available
Trails: yes
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: yes
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: yes; most are reservable in advance
Privacy: yes
Special: yes; events and activities make this almost a summer camp type location

Arrow Rock State Historic Site/Park

Some have compared Arrow Rock to Missouri's version of Williamsburg, and with good reason. Located west of Columbia along the Missouri river bluffs, Arrow Rock is of great historic significance. The area was explored by Lewis and Clark and was later a stop for travelers going from St. Charles to Independence and West Port, on their way along the Oregon or Santa Fe trails.

The main purpose in coming to this park is the historical significance. A trip to Arrow Rock would coincide nicely for a unit working on American Heritage or similar awards. The park is developed and includes a group camping area. A small lake for fishing and small craft is located within the park itself. Thirteen miles north of I-70 on Hwy 41, west of Columbia

Contact: Arrow Rock State Park
Arrow Rock, MO 65230
(660) 837-3330
www.mostateparks.com/arrowrock.htm

Campsites: yes
Groups?: yes
Water: yes
Scout rates: yes
Toilets: yes
Trails: yes
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: yes
Service: yes
Firewood: yes, \$
Shelters: yes; most are reservable in advance
Privacy: yes
Special: Arrow Rock has a variety of events scheduled throughout the year.

Van Meter State Park

This is a smallish park centered around ancient Native American constructions of unknown purpose. This is the home stomping grounds of the Missouri Indians.

The park features a visitors center, which will tell more about the Native Americans who once inhabited this area. A small campground and fishing lake are also located on in the park. Some trails, with limited maps (primarily of the earthworks) are also in the area.

This is an excellent "off-the-beaten-path" park perfect for individual troop activities or special events. Twelve miles north of Marshall on Hwy 122

Contact: Route 1, Box 47
 Miami, MO 65344
 (660) 886-7537
 www.mostateparks.com/vanmeter.htm

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

Bothwell State Historic Site and Sappington Cemetery State Historic Site

Both of these sites are easily reached in this district. The Bothwell site is affectionately known as "Missouri's Castle". An architect's dream home, the Bothwell is worth a visit for any scout group, but especially those working on the architecture or landscape architecture merit badges. There is no camping or other activities on the site.

Several famous Missourians, including Missouri's confederate governor, rest in Sappington Cemetery

See their web pages for more information:

Bothwell: www.mostateparks.com/bothwell.htm

Sappington: www.mostateparks.com/sappington.htm

Conservation Areas

Benton County

Big Buffalo Creek Conservation --This rather large area boasts excellent fishing multiple settings. The presence of trails and natural areas make this site excellent for a variety of nature activities. Two short trails are present; one is 2 ½ miles long. North of Edmonson on Hwy W, then east on Hwy WW. Turn left on gravel at end of WW.

Campsites: 30
Groups?: yes
Water: no
Scout rates: no
Toilets: no
Trails: yes
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: limited
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: limited
Special: no

Bricklev Hollow Access--This is a small area use primarily for fishing. A camping area is shown on the map. Fishing here is excellent. Eight miles east of Hwy H from Hwy 65 to junction of H & W. Continue 1 ½ miles on unnamed blacktop and turn right. Turn right again just past the road to Henry's Acres.

Campsites: 1
Groups?: small
Water: no
Scout rates: no
Toilets: yes, but not in camping area
Trails: no
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: limited
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: yes, but not in camping area
Privacy: yes
Special: no

Edmonson Access--A pure fishing area. Located on the north side of Hwy H, 7 ½ miles east of Hwy 65.

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

Grannys Acres Conservation Area--No facilities. An extremely primitive site. Permission for access must be given by surrounding property owners, as the site has no access roads.

Hi Lonesome Prairie Conservation Area--Day use. No camping or fishing. 1 mile west of Cole Camp on Hwy 52, then ½ mile north on unnamed gravel road.

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

Pettis County

Clover Deli Park--This is a good fishing site close to Sedalia. Seasonal bird watching is also good. Camping for scouts *may* be available. One mile west of Sedalia City Limits, off 32nd St.

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

Drovers Prairie Conservation Area--Environmental study location. This area is known for its native wildflowers in the spring and summer months. Check for primitive camping. Ten miles south of Sedalia on Hwy 65, then one mile west on Hwy 52.

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: flora and fauna

Friendly Prairie Conservation Area--Site similar to Drovers. Nine miles south of Sedalia on Hwy 65, then 1.5 miles west on Manila Road.

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: flora and fauna

Grandfather Prairie Conservation Area--Area similar to Drovers and Prairie. The area is forested; hunting is allowed in this area. Very limited activities for scouts. Eight miles south of Sedalia on Hwy 65, then 2 miles west on Mather Rd.

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: flora and fauna

Kahrs-Boger Park--A nice area with some fishing and a variety of land types. Eleven miles south of Sedalia on Hwy M.

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

Kearn Memorial Conservation Area--an undeveloped site used for protected hunting. Little else available here. Three miles west of Green Ridge on Route B, 2 miles south on Hopedale Rd.

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: flora and fauna

Paint Brush Prairie Conservation Area--A medium sized area known for its designated natural area. This area makes a good nature study area for scouts. Nine miles south of Sedalia on the east side of Hwy 65.

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: flora and fauna

Pinhook Access--Small fishing access to Muddy Creek. One mile north of Sedalia on Hwy 65, then 3 miles east on Hwy HH, then 3 % miles north on Hwy EE.

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: flora and fauna

Saline County

Blind Pony Lake Conservation Area--Large area devoted to fishing and a large fish hatchery. Tours available. Camping for small groups may be available with advance permission. Fishing here is rated as fair - good. There are three parts to the area. Directions to the main area are given: From the junction of Hwy 127 and I-70, Route ZZ north 6.5 miles.

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

Blue Lick Conservation Area--Fishing area that may also allow for primitive camping with a permit (as with all conservation areas). Hwy 65 north of I-70 3.5 miles, then 1.5 miles west on unnamed gravel road.

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

Grand Pass Conservation Area--Wildlife refuge area with good fishing. Site staff make this a good place to work on conservation-related merit badges, as well as waterfowl viewing. Eight miles west Marshall on Hwy 65, then 5 miles north on Hwy N.

Campsites: yes
Groups?: small
Water: no
Scout rates: no
Toilets: yes
Trails: yes
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: limited
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: no
Special: yes; see site staff

Malta Bend Community Lake--Fishing lake in rural Saline County. Lake and just the surrounding land is the area. Three miles east of Grand Pass on Hwy 65, then 1.25 miles south on Hwy 127.

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

Marshall Rehabilitation Center Lake--Excellent day activity area with great fishing and plenty of access and tables. On N. Lincoln Avenue in Marshall.

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

Marshall Junction Conservation Area--Variable terrain features; small troops can camp with permit. Good fishing. Limited trails; no maps. Good for small troop weekend getaways. Two miles south of Hwy 65 and I-70, then 3 miles west on Hwy CC, then 1 mile north on CR RE.

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

McAllister Springs Access--this area is little more than a small bank fishing area and a boat ramp with access to the Black Water river. Four miles east of Sweet Springs on I-70, then 2 ½ miles south on Hwy K.

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

Miami Access--fishing access with a primitive camping area just outside the town of Miami. Boat ramp. Off of Hwy 41 in Miami.

Campsites: 4
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