

Thousand Hills District
(Adair, Knox, Putnam, Schuyler, Scotland and Sullivan Counties)

Federal Areas

There are no federally maintained areas in the Thousand Hills district.

State Parks

Thousand Hills State Park

Located in North Central Missouri, Thousand Hills State Park offers one of the state's premiere state park facilities. The highlight of the park, and its activities, is the 570+ acre lake. Thousand Hills offers a full complement of aquatic activities, including a swimming beach, boat rentals, and boat ramps. The park has many different camping options; group camping is possible by arrangement. Several trails of varying difficulty are located in and around the park. One begins outside the park, in the neighboring Big Creek State Forest. The park itself boasts six other trails, at least one being over five miles in length. Backcountry camping is not permitted.

Deer season presents a problem for state park camping in Missouri. However, its location and the location of the camping areas may allow for Thousand Hills to be a safe, viable option. Thousand Hills is a popular day area. A wide variety of programs regarding local flora and fauna, as well as the Thousand Hills petroglyph site make this park ideal for a variety of scouting overnight or day programs.

Contact: Thousand Hills State Park
Route 3, Box 126
Kirksville, MO 63501
(660) 665-6995

Location: 2.5 miles west of Kirksville, off Hwy 6, on Hwy 157

Campsites: 58 (one campground was closed for repairs at the time of printing)
Groups?: yes, no special area
Water: yes
Scout rates: yes
Toilets: house
Trails: yes; maps available
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: yes
Service: yes; make arrangements in advance
Firewood: yes
Shelters: yes; for a fee they can be reserved
Privacy: some; mostly depends on how crowded the area is
Special: mountain biking, interpretive programs, petroglyph site, plant and animal identification

Conservation Areas

Further information on all sites in the Thousand Hills district can be found at the Department of Conservation Regional Office: (660) 785-2420.

Adair County

Big Creek Conservation Area—relatively large area, especially given that the state park shares a board. Short trail from this area to the state park. Some fishing here; several lakes. Fishing reports are mixed. Camping is allowed. Migratory birds pass through this area, particularly in fall. One mile SW of Kirksville, off State Road H.

Campsites: 2
Groups?: yes
Water: no
Scout rates: no
Toilets: no
Trails: yes
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: no
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: limited
Special: yes; bicycling on trails

Cook Memorial Access—primarily day use. Good fishing on a portion of the Chariton. From Kirksville, west on Hwy 11 for 7 miles. Access is on the north side of the road, just before crossing the Chariton River bridge.

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

Hazel Creek Lake—Large area north of Kirksville. Used primarily for hunting in season; scouts should use with caution. No developed camping or hiking facilities. Hwy 63 north of Kirksville 2.5 miles, then 1.5 miles west on country gravel road (marked by sign).

Comments: “Great fishing!” Troop 537, Kirksville

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

Montgomery Woods Conservation Area—Small forested area, perfect for a weekend scout getaway. Isolated area, with some access to creeks. Eighteen miles west of Kirksville on Hwy 11, then $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south on CR 417.

Campsites: 2
Groups?: yes
Water: no
Scout rates: no
Toilets: no
Trails: no
Fishing: limited
Aquatics: no
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: limited
Special: none

Mullanix Ford Access—Small day use area on the Chariton River. Six miles west of Greentop on K to Chariton River bridge.

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

Shoemaker Conservation Area—A forested area in rural Adair county. Small primitive camping area for smaller troops. Some fishing; be careful during hunting season. On CR 171, off Highway O.

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

Sugar Creek Conservation Area—Large area west of Kirksville. Ample camping. No fishing information, but two creeks run through the area; 6 ponds rated as “fishless.” Two good trails; one just over 10 miles. Four miles west of Kirksville on Hwy 11, then ¼ miles south on Hwy N.

Comments: “Great camping and outdoor activities, but not during deer or turkey seasons.” Troop 537, Kirksville

Campsites: 8
Groups?: yes
Water: no
Scout rates: no
Toilets: no
Trails: 2
Fishing: limited
Aquatics: no
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: limited
Special: bird-watching

Truitt Access—very small (3+ ac.) day use fishing area. One mile east of Novinger on Hwy 6.

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

Union Ridge Conservation Area—Very large (6000+ ac) area, with multiple types of land cover. Large camping area; would be suitable for environmental projects and activities, including observation. Fishing is rated “fair”; most ponds are classified as “fishless.” Hwy D, 2 miles north of Greencastle.

Comments: “Backpacking possible with backcountry campsites; lots of area to hike.”
Troop 537, Kirksville

Campsites: 11
Groups?: yes
Water: no
Scout rates: no
Toilets: 1
Trails: being built
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: limited
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: limited
Special: yes; nature/environmental activities

Knox County

Sever Lake Conservation Area—This is one of Missouri’s premiere conservation sites. Though not terribly large (less than 1,000 acres), the site features a 160 acre lake, boat docks, boat rental, good fishing and hiking. This area appears to be a good location for multi-unit activities. This is also a good natural area to demonstrate various natural features. One mile north of Newark on Route KK.

Comments: “Almost commercial, its so well developed.” Troop 537, Kirksville

Campsites: 84
Groups?: yes
Water: no
Scout rates: yes
Toilets: 11
Trails: yes; 7.5 mile loop
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: yes
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: yes
Special: canoeing, birding, bicycling, driving tour

White Oak Bend Access—nice area located on the South Fabius. One of the few designated ‘access’ areas with camping. Fishing relatively good here. Three miles west of Newark on 156, then 1 mile north on unnamed gravel road.

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

Putnam County

Mineral Hills Conservation Area—large forested area, with potential ample access to streams, as well as 5 ponds. Three miles south of Unionville on Hwy 5, and 2 ½ miles east on F.

Campsites: 5
Groups?: yes
Water: no
Scout rates: yes
Toilets: no
Trails: no
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: no
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: limited
Special: no

Rebels Cove Conservation Area—Fairly large (4000+ ac.) area with multiple uses. Abundance of water makes bird-watching as well as decent fishing a good activity. Unmarked trails. Two and half miles north of Livonia on Hwy. N.

Campsites: 13
Groups?: yes
Water: no
Scout rates: yes
Toilets: no
Trails: no
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: yes
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: 1
Privacy: limited
Special: no

Unionville City Lake—Day use aquatics area. One mile north of Unionville on Hwy 5.
First county road outside city limits, head west one mile and cross the dam.

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

Schuylers County

Archangel Access—Small fishing access to Chariton River. One mile east of Livonia on Hwy 136.

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

Bloch Memorial Pond—This area is limited, essentially, to the 6 acre pond and its immediate surroundings. Bass, in particular, are considered good here. Five miles north of Lancaster on Hwy 63, at Iowa/Missouri border.

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

Scotland County

Indian Hills Conservation Area—A large area just under 15 miles from Memphis. Good fishing of all kinds, multiple fishing ponds, relatively large camping area. Could be a small multi-troop area. Used by hunters as well. Eight miles south of Memphis on Hwy 15, then 3 ½ miles west on T, then south 1 mile at area sign.

Comments: “Lots of area to backpack and fish. Some campsites are very open with no trees.” Troop 537, Kirksville

Campsites: 9
Groups?: yes
Water: no
Scout rates: yes
Toilets: no
Trails: no
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: limited
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: yes
Privacy: limited
Special: no

Lake Showme—Two hundred+ acre lake, plus the surround environs. Excellent for day use as well as overnight events. Fishing is considered good here, including potentially for walleye. Two miles west of Memphis on Hwy 136, then 1 mile south on *first* road named Lake Showme Drive.

Comments: “Excellent fishing; water from Memphis city water.” Troop 537, Kirksville

Campsites: 7
Groups?: yes
Water: yes
Scout rates: yes
Toilets: 2
Trails: no
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: yes
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: 1
Privacy: yes
Special: no

Sullivan County

Dark Hollow Natural Area—A different sort of conservation site, in that natural areas of yester-year have been preserved. Small camping area; no fishing. For location, see map of site.

Campsites: 1
Groups?: no
Water: no
Scout rates: yes
Toilets: no
Trails: no
Fishing: no
Aquatics: no
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: limited
Special: untouched forests and remnant prairie (see site brochure)

Elmwood Lake—Another largish (180 ac) lake, where the lake is the focal point of the area. Small camping area, decent fishing. Good for watching migratory birds. North on Hwy 5 from Milan, then west on first county road past bridge. Road ends at ‘T’; turn left and follow to the lake.

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

Green City Lake—day use area. Two miles east of Green City on Hwy 6.

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

Henry's Mill Access—Day use area. Decent, but not spectacular, fishing. Five miles north of Milan on Hwy 5, then 2 ½ miles west on unnamed gravel road.

Campsites: no
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

Locust Creek Conservation Area—Fairly large and well-known area. Decent fishing, unmarked trails, also used by hunters. Good for multi-troop gatherings. Stream and fishing pond access. Two miles SW of Milan on Hwy 5.

Comments: “Good for backpacking and hiking, but watch hunting seasons.” Troop 537, Kirksville

Campsites: 12
Groups?: yes
Water: no
Scout rates: yes
Toilets: no
Trails: no
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: limited
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: limited
Special: no

Rocky Ford Access—day use. Creek crossing is of some local historical significance; service or historic projects may be available. Relatively poor fishing. Three miles north of Browning on Hwy 5.

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

Sears Community Lake—small sites, decent fishing, unmarked trails. Three miles north of Milan on Hwy 6, then north on Hwy Y, then down Route RA.

Comments: “Great fishing, but very limited camping.” Troop 537, Kirksville

Campsites: 1
Groups?: small
Water: no
Scout rates: yes
Toilets: yes, shown on map
Trails: no
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: limited
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: limited
Special: no