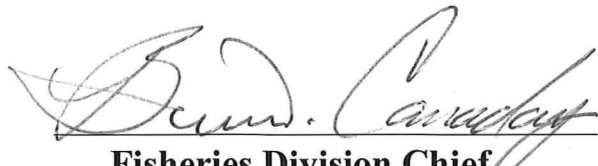

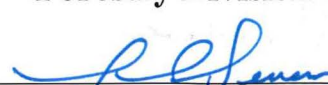


Lower Osage River Accesses

Bagnell Dam Access
Bonnots Mill Access
Kings Bluff Access
Mari-Osa Access
Osage-Tavern Access
Pikes Camp Access
St. Thomas Ferry Access
Tuscumbia Access

Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan FY 2017-2031



 _____ Fisheries Division Chief	<u>Jan 1, 2017</u> Date
 _____ Forestry Division Chief	<u>6-14-17</u> Date
 _____ Wildlife Division Chief	<u>7/31/17</u> Date

Lower Osage River Accesses Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM:

Greg Stoner, Fisheries Management Biologist

Brian McKeage, Fisheries Management Biologist

Paul Johnson, Resource Forester

Chris Newbold, Natural History Biologist

Eric Swainston, Conservation Agent

Samantha Rhoades, Conservation Agent

Stephen Kistner, Conservation Agent

Jodi Moulder, Private Land Conservationist

Brian Flowers, Outdoor Skills Specialist

Shawn Gruber, Outreach and Education Regional Supervisor

CENTRAL REGION

RCT Chair



Signature

5/22/17
Date

FISHERIES DIVISION

Fisheries Management Chief



Signature

6/1/17
Date

FORESTRY DIVISION

Forest Management Chief



Signature

6/9/17
Date

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Management Chief



Signature

7/15/17
Date

OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Bagnell Dam Access	7202	1972 ¹	10	Miller	Forestry	Forestry
Bonnets Mill Access	6114	1961	5.7	Osage	Forestry	Forestry
Kings Bluff Access	7008	1970	6	Miller	Forestry	Forestry
Mari-Osa Access	6706	1967	28.2	Cole	Fisheries	Wildlife
Osage-Tavern Access	6102	1961	27.3	Miller	Forestry	Forestry
Pikes Camp Access	8020	1980	170	Cole	Wildlife	Wildlife
St. Thomas Ferry Access	6425	1964 ²	2	Cole	Fisheries	Wildlife
Tuscumbia Access	6109	1961 ³	1.25	Miller	Forestry	Forestry

¹Leased from Ameren UE through March 31, 2047.

²Leased in 1964 from the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission.

³Leased from the City of Tuscumbia in 1961 for a period of 99 years.

Statements of Purpose:

A. Strategic Direction

These areas were obtained and developed with the primary intent to provide access to the Osage River for boat and bank-fishing anglers. The larger accesses provide additional benefits to area users such as bird watching, hunting (Pikes Camp), limited hiking, and nature study.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of these accesses is to provide recreational fishing and boating access to the Osage River.

C. Federal Aid Statement

- Bagnell Dam, Bonnets Mill, Osage-Tavern, Pikes Camp, St. Thomas Ferry, and Tuscumbia Accesses: N/A

- Mari-Osa and Kings Bluff Accesses: These areas, or a portion thereof, were acquired 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
Bagnell Dam Access	None	None
Bonnots Mill Access	Lower Osage Terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Area, Cadet Creek Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area	None
King’s Bluff Access	Saline Creek Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area	None
Mari-Osa Access	Lower Osage Terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Area	None
Osage-Tavern Access	Tavern Creek Priority Watershed	None ¹
Pikes Camp Access	None	None
St. Thomas Ferry Access	None	None
Tucumbia Access	None	None

¹Bat Cave Natural Area exists on Bat Cave Conservation Area, an adjacent property.

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area Name	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Bagnell Dam Access	Yes ¹	None	None
Bonnots Mill Access	Yes ¹	None	None
Kings Bluff Access	Yes ¹	None	None
Mari-Osa Access	Yes ¹	None	None
Osage-Tavern Access	Yes ²	None	None
Pikes Camp Access	Yes ²	None	None
St. Thomas Ferry Access	Yes ²	None	None
Tucumbia 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.

²Species 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.

III. Existing Infrastructure

Area Name	Concrete Boat Ramps	Parking Areas	Privies	Other
Bagnell Dam Access	1 ¹	2 ²	1 ²	2 picnic tables
Bonnots Mill Access	1	1 ²	1 ²	Open field primitive camping
Kings Bluff Access	1	1	None	N/A
Mari-Osa Access	1 ¹	1	1	Primitive campsites with fire rings
Osage-Tavern Access	1	1 ²	1 ²	17 primitive campsites with fire rings
Pikes Camp Access	1	1	1	Primitive campsites
St. Thomas Ferry Access	1	1 ²	1 ²	N/A
Tuscumbia Access	1	1	None	N/A

¹Two-lane ramp

²Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area Name	Deed Restrictions	Federal Interest	Ease-ments	Cultural Resources	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Bagnell Dam Access	None	Yes ¹	None	None known	Yes ⁵	None
Bonnots Mill Access	None	None	Yes ³	None known	Yes ⁵	None
Kings Bluff Access	None	Yes ^{1,2}	None	None known	Yes ⁵	None
Mari-Osa Access	None	Yes ²	None	None known	Yes ⁵	None
Osage-Tavern Access	None	None	None	Yes ⁴	Yes ⁵	None
Pikes Camp Access	None	Yes ¹	None	Yes ⁴	Yes ⁵	None
St. Thomas Ferry Access	None	None	None	None known	Yes ⁵	None
Tuscumbia Access	None	None	None	None known	Yes ⁵	None

¹Federal 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.

²This 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.

³A waterline owned by the Osage County Water District runs through this access.

⁴Yes, 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.

⁵Endangered 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

All of the Lower Osage River Accesses contain concrete boat ramps and varying levels of bank-fishing opportunities along the Osage River. Some of the accesses are large enough to provide outdoor activities such as hiking, nature study, bird watching, and hunting (e.g., at Pikes Camp).

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities

- 1) Manage the riparian corridor by establishing/maintaining a stand of mixed bottomland hardwood/shrub species.
- 2) Control invasive species.

Management Objective 1: Manage timber resources for stream bank protection and to benefit wildlife.

Strategy 1: Establish and/or maintain a riparian corridor with a minimum width of 200 feet, where practicable. (Administering Division)

Management Objective 2: Implement an integrated pest management plan to control the spread of invasive species.

Strategy 1: Identify the extent of an invasive species infestation and develop an appropriate removal strategy. (Administering Division)

Strategy 2: Utilize the best known management tools and tactics to remove invasive species. (Administering Division)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Raise public awareness of invasive species.

Management Objective 1: Educate access users regarding the negative impacts of introducing invasive or exotic species.

Strategy 1: Post educational signage pertaining to zebra mussels and Asian carp. (Administering Division)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Minimize disturbance to local residents due to access use.
- 2) Provide safe launching facilities.
- 3) Inform anglers of current fishing regulations.

Management Objective 1: Keep boat ramps in good repair.

Strategy 1: Inspect boat ramps annually, particularly areas at the bottom of the ramp subject to erosion, prop scour, and gravel deposition. Schedule repairs as needed. (Administering Division)

Strategy 2: Maintain public accesses according to maintenance Level 1, from March 15 through Oct. 31, per Department policy. Maintenance Level 1 is defined as the level of maintenance required to keep an area safe and usable by the public and prevent damage to Department-owned or -managed property. (Administering Division)

Management Objective 2: Inform anglers of fishing regulations.

Strategy 1: Keep up-to-date fishing regulations for the Osage River posted at all accesses. (Administering Division)

VII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Manage gravel deposition in close proximity to ramps.

Management Objective 1: Ensure that gravel deposition does not impair boat launching.

Strategy 1: Monitor and remove gravel as needed. Coordinate with county commissions to utilize gravel, if practicable. (Administering Division)

Strategy 2: In extreme cases, consider relocation of ramps, if practicable. (Administering Division)

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

All strategies for this management plan are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Public Input Summary:

The draft Lower Osage River Accesses Management Plan was available for a public comment period July 1–31, 2016. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from one respondent (Appendix A). The Lower Osage 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 Lower Osage River Accesses Management Plan public comment period.

Suggests installing dry hydrants at Osage River accesses.

We have no plans to install a dry hydrant on these areas due to long-term maintenance issues associated with fluctuations in river levels. When installing a dry hydrant, several factors must be considered: access, location, water levels, and maintenance. Dry hydrants must be located in an area that is accessible by fire department pumpers or water tenders throughout the 12 months of the year regardless of weather conditions. Dry hydrants must also be located at a spot where water levels will have little variation. The intake of a dry hydrant must be submerged at all times, including times of severe drought. When installing a dry hydrant, on a river or stream bank we must also consider the amount of debris and silt deposited during flood events as well as the bank stability. Both of these conditions provide extended maintenance concerns.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1. Missouri Department of Conservation Accesses on the Lower Osage River
- Appendix 2. Map of Bagnell Dam Access
- Appendix 3. Bagnell Dam Access Background
- Appendix 4. Map of Bonnots Mill Access
- Appendix 5. Map of Bonnots Mill Utility Easement
- Appendix 6. Bonnots Mill Access Background
- Appendix 7. Map of Kings Bluff Access
- Appendix 8. Kings Bluff Access Background
- Appendix 9. Map of Mari-Osa Access
- Appendix 10. Mari-Osa Access Background
- Appendix 11. Map of Osage-Tavern Access
- Appendix 12. Osage-Tavern Access Background
- Appendix 13. Map of Pikes Camp Access
- Appendix 14. Pikes Camp Access Background
- Appendix 15. Map of St. Thomas Ferry

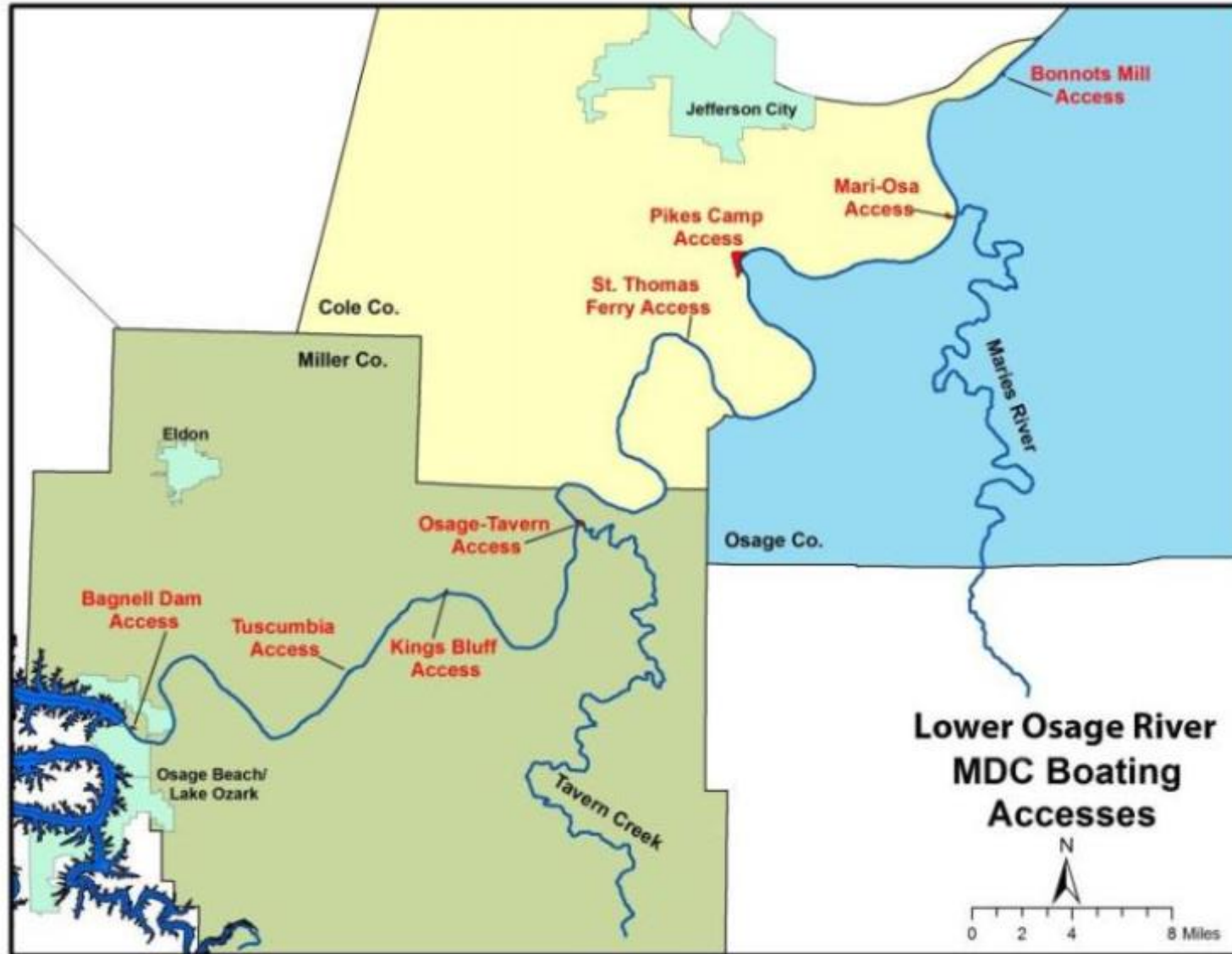
Appendix 16. St. Thomas Ferry Background

Appendix 17. Map of Tuscumbia Access

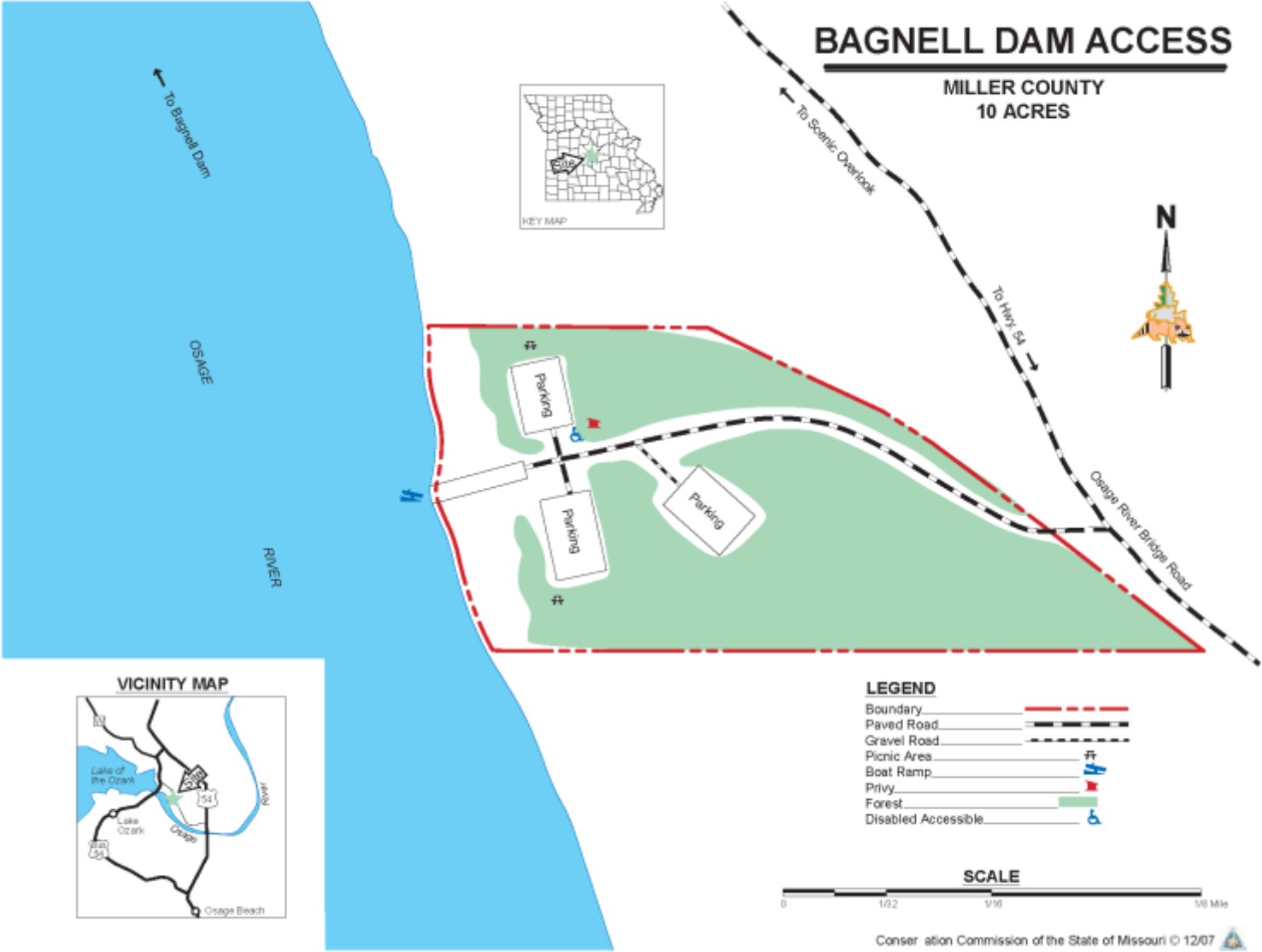
Appendix 18. Tuscumbia Access Background

Appendix 19. Lower Osage River Accesses Management Plan Public Comments

Appendix 1. Missouri Department of Conservation Accesses on the Lower Osage River



Appendix 2. Map of Bagnell Dam Access



Appendix 3. Bagnell Dam Access Background

Bagnell Dam Access has been leased from Ameren UE through March 31, 2047. This is likely the most heavily used ramp on the Osage River due to its close proximity to the Bagnell Dam tailwater, an extremely popular fishing destination. This access receives heavy use, particularly during paddlefish snagging season and during periods of extended heavy generation from Bagnell Dam which generally enhances fishing success.

At the bottom of the ramp are two brass markers (attached to the median between the two lanes) that designate the low water mark of the river. Care should be taken when launching, if these markers are visible or exposed.

In 2002, the Department conducted a tree planting on a 200-plus foot wide corridor immediately downstream from the access along a strip of stream bank that was actively eroding. Trees were planted at a density of 454 stems per acre over a total area of 10 acres.

Legal Description: Township 40N, Range 15W, Sections 20 and 29

Area Location/Directions: Bagnell Dam Access is just below Bagnell Dam on the Osage River. From immediately north of the Osage River Bridge on Highway 54, go west on the Osage River Bridge Road approximately 0.4 miles to the access.

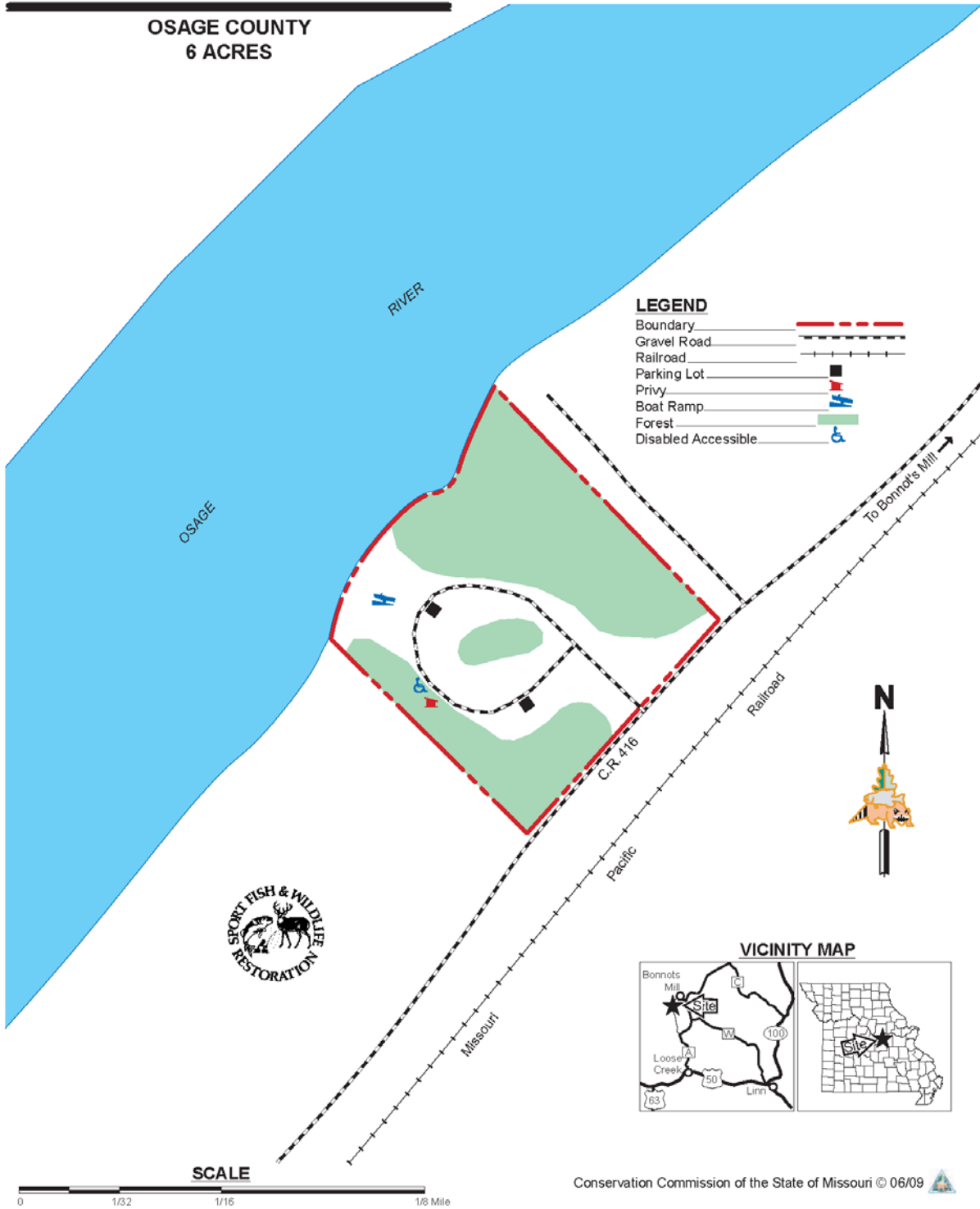
Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest/Woodland	7.3		73
Parking Lot/Roads/Lawn	2.7		27
Total	10.0		100
Stream Frontage		0.1	

Appendix 4. Map of Bonnots Mill Access

BONNOTS MILL ACCESS

OSAGE COUNTY
6 ACRES



Appendix 5. Map of Bonnets Mill Access Utility Easement



Appendix 6. Bonnots Mill Access Background

Bonnots Mill Access is very popular due to its proximity to the Missouri River.

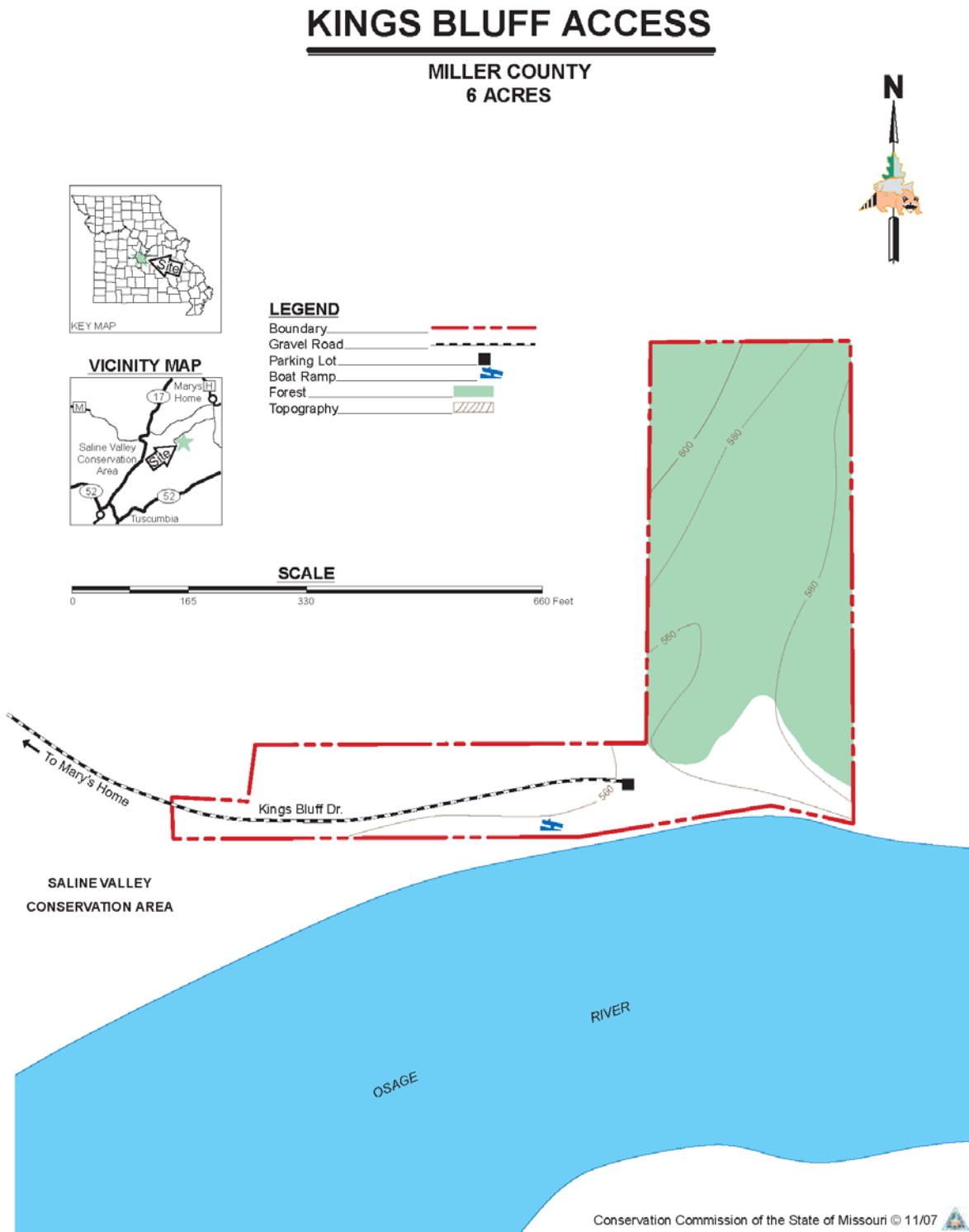
Legal Description: Township 44N, Range 10W, Section 12

Area Location/Directions: From Highway 50, take Route A 6 miles to Bonnots Mill. Turn left on Riverview Drive leading under the railroad tracks to County Road 416. Cantilever sign is 0.5 miles west of town. The access is located 2.2 river miles above the mouth of the Osage River.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Parking Lot/Roads/Lawn	5.7		100
Stream Frontage		0.1	

Appendix 7. Map of Kings Bluff Access



Appendix 8. Kings Bluff Access Background

Kings Bluff Access was purchased in 1970. This area is adjacent to the Saline Valley Conservation Area (4,782 acres).

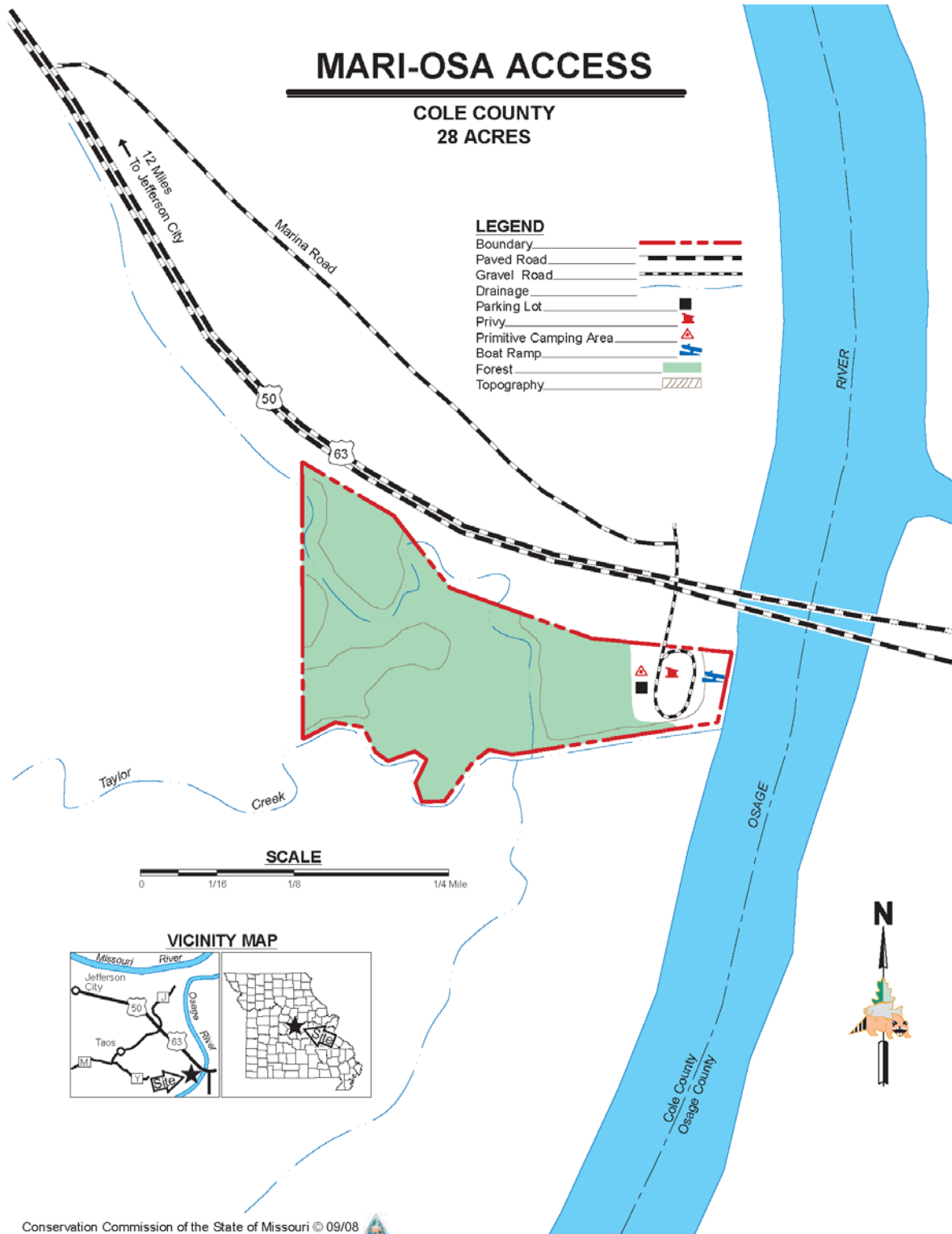
Legal Description: Township 41N, Range 13W, Section 29

Area Location/Directions: Take Highway 17 south from Eugene to Route H. Take Route H to Marys Home and continue straight on gravel road for 0.75 miles. Watch for signs to the area and turn south on the designated gravel road. This access is located 60.5 river miles above the mouth of the Osage River.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest/Woodland	5.4		90
Parking Lot/Roads/Lawn	0.6		10
Total	6.0		100
Stream Frontage		0.2	

Appendix 9. Map of Mari-Osa Access



Appendix 10. Mari-Osa Access Background

The Mari-Osa Access is across and upriver from the mouth of the Maries River, a major tributary of the Osage River. There has been a history of trees floating downstream and getting caught on the boat ramp.

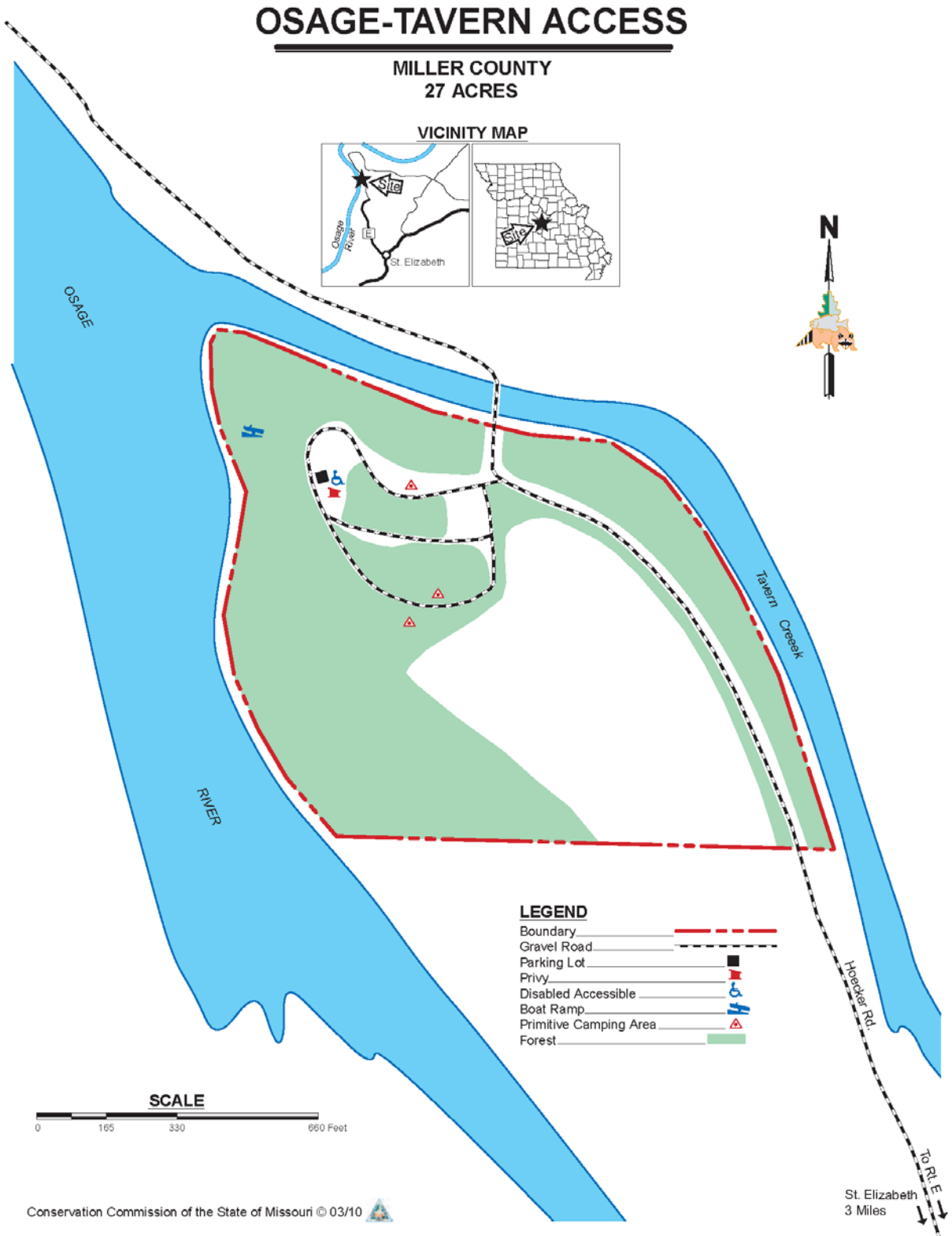
Legal Description: Township 43N, Range 10W, Section 10

Area Location/Directions: From Jefferson City, go east on Highway 50 approximately 10 miles to Marina Road. About 0.75 miles before you reach the Osage River bridge, turn north (left) on Marina Road, continue east toward the Osage River. At T-intersection, turn south (right) under Highway 50.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest/Woodland	24.1		85.5
Parking Lot/Roads/Lawn	4.1		14.5
Total	28.2		100
Stream Frontage		0.03	

Appendix 11. Map of Osage-Tavern Access



Appendix 12. Osage-Tavern Access Background

A gravel bar, which has developed upstream of and at the ramp, occasionally creates issues with launching and loading boats under low river conditions. The Department has looked at this site in the past and determined that the cost of measures to relocate the bar by changing river flow at the site would be prohibitive. When necessary, the Department has been able to maintain the ramp’s utility by small-scale gravel removal conducted by Miller County.

Primitive camping is available on 17 different designated camp sites. Each campsite features a graveled parking slip and steel fire ring.

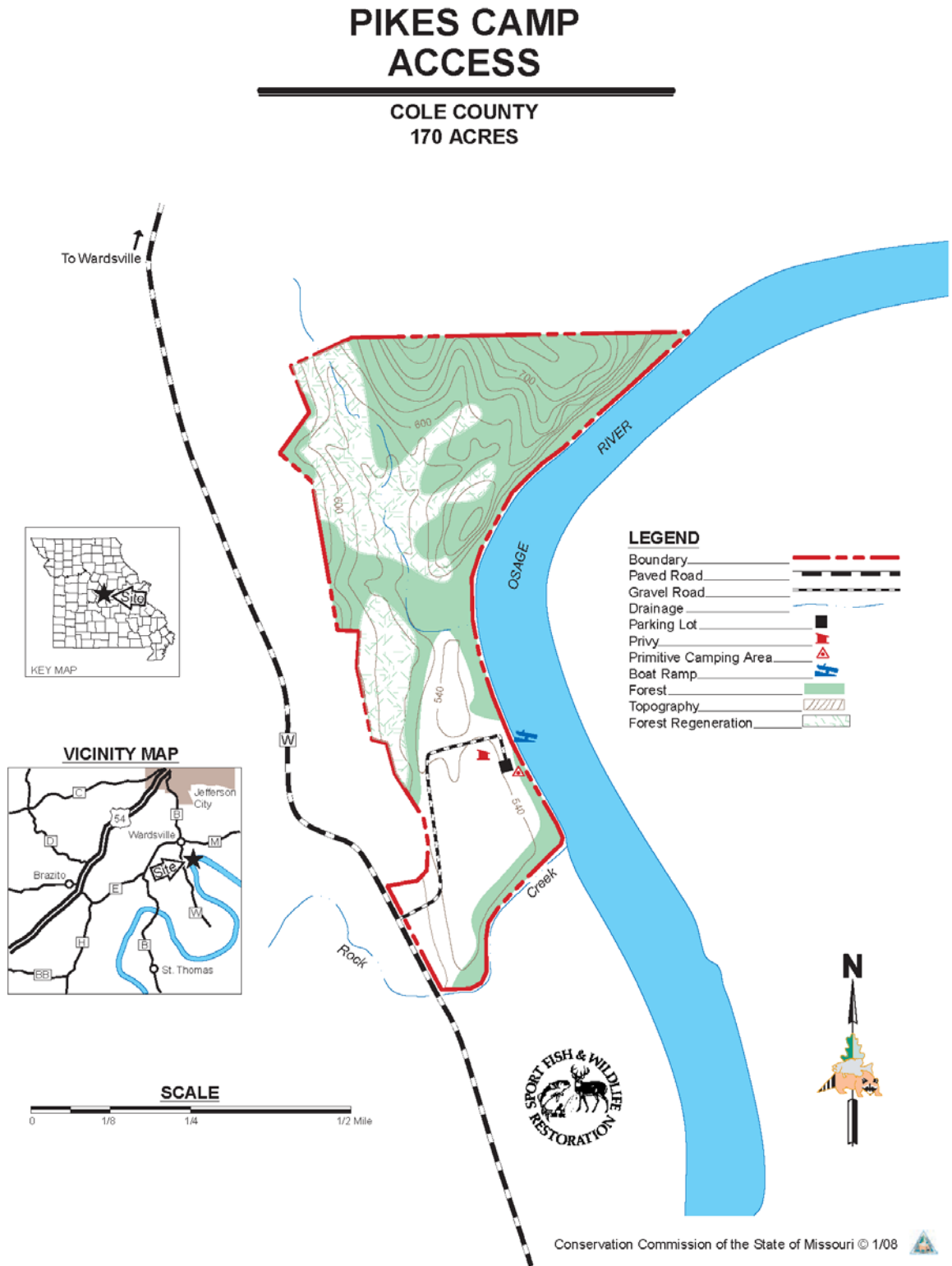
Legal Description: Township 41N, Range 12W, Section 7

Area Location/Directions: Osage-Tavern Access is north of St. Elizabeth. Take Route E to end and go north on Hoecker Road about 1 mile. This access is located 50 river miles above the mouth of the Osage River.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest/Woodland	24.5		90
Parking Lot/Roads/Lawn	2.8		10
Total	27.3		100
Stream Frontage (Osage River)		0.25	
Stream Frontage (Big Tavern Creek)		0.4	

Appendix 13. Map of Pikes Camp Access



Appendix 14. Pikes Camp Access Area Background

Hunting is permitted on Pikes Camp Access. This area consists of forest and cropland.

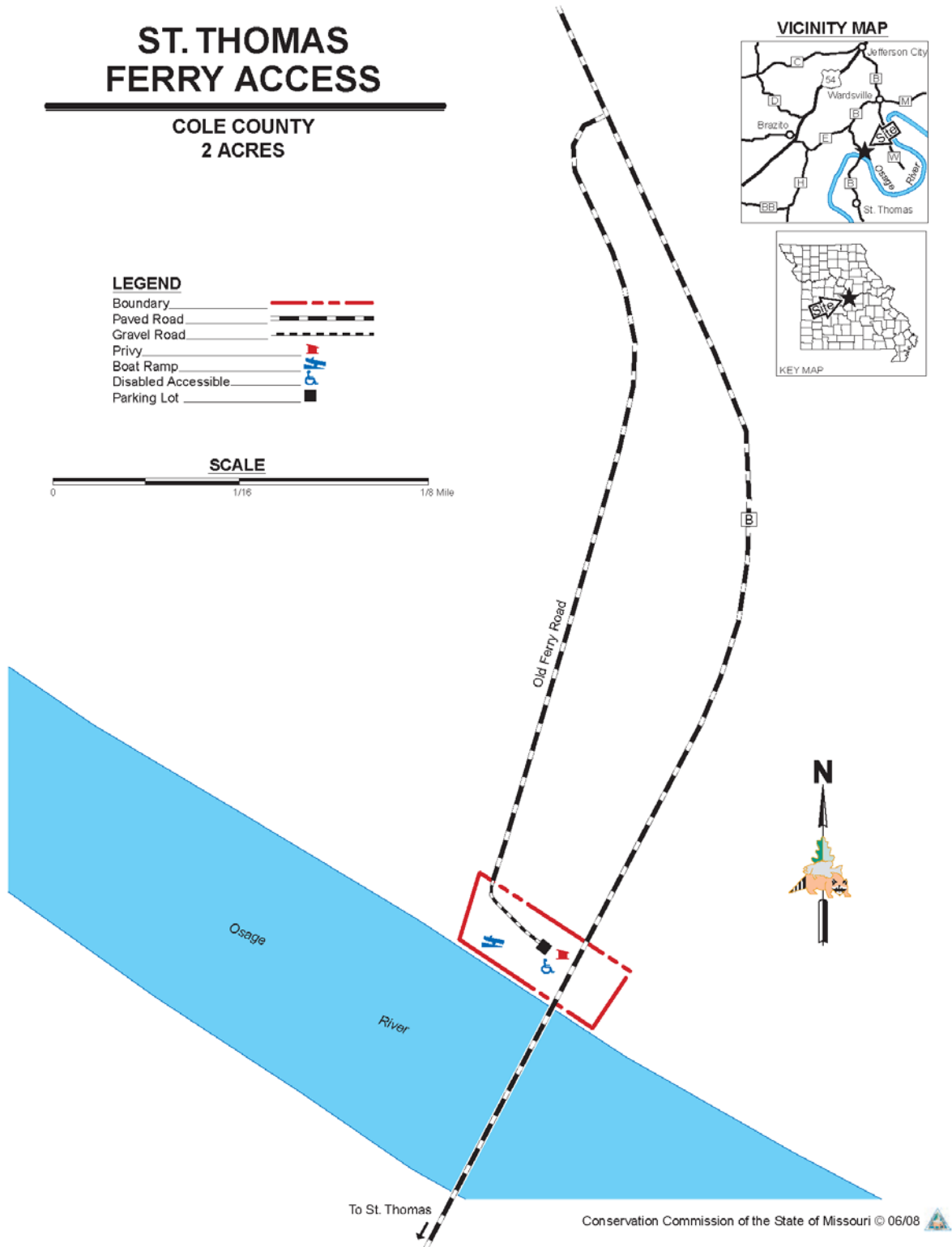
Legal Description: Township 43N, Range 11W, Sections 17, 18, and 20

Area Location/Directions: Pikes Camp Access is 1 mile south of Wardsville on Route W. It is located 20.4 river miles above the mouth of the Osage River.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest/Woodland	120		70
Old Fields/Upland Fields	25		15
Cropland	25		15
Total	170		100
Stream Frontage		1.0	

Appendix 15. Map of St. Thomas Ferry Access



Appendix 16. St. Thomas Ferry Access Background

St. Thomas Ferry Access is located on a Missouri Department of Transportation right of way.

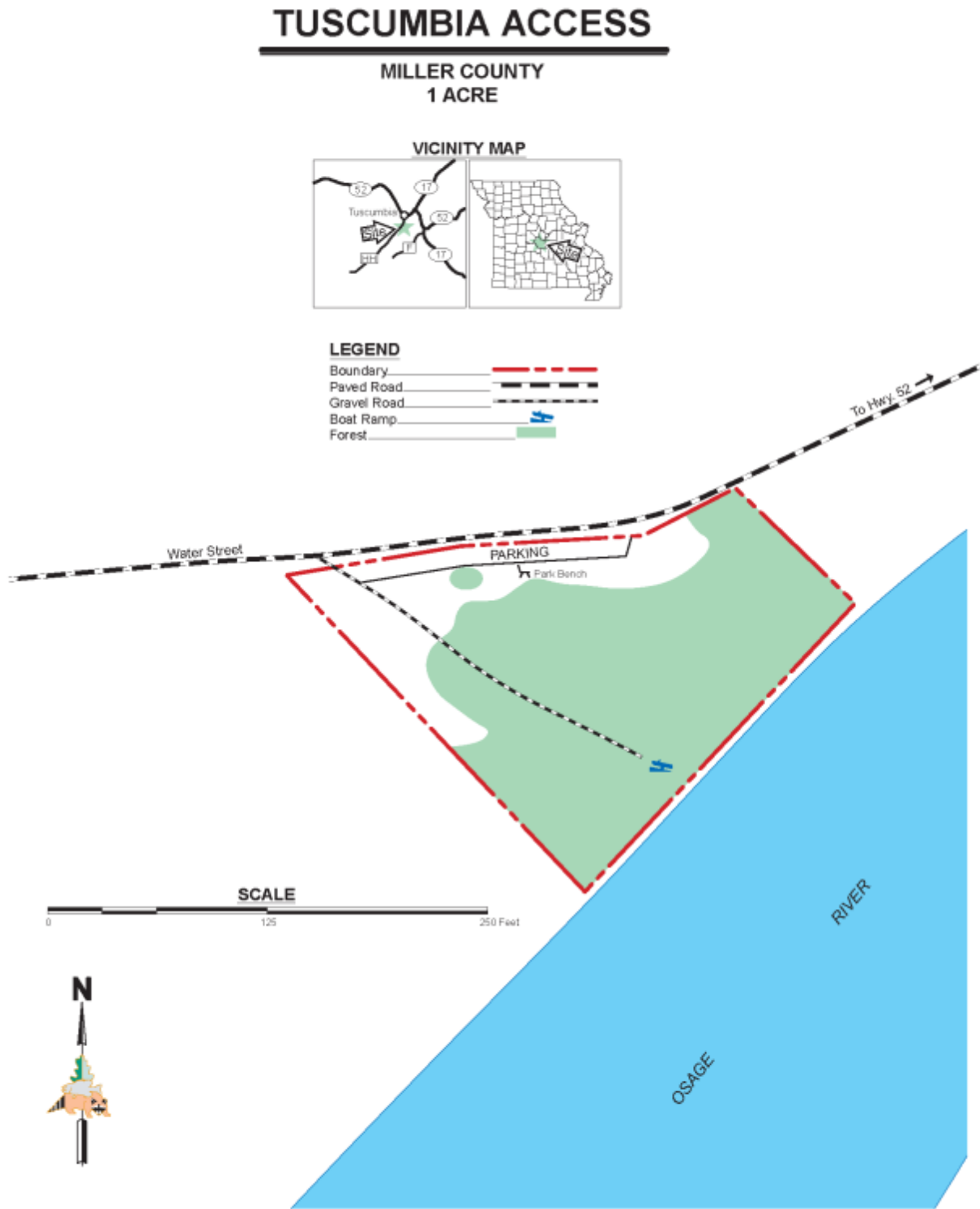
Legal Description: Township 42N, Range 12W, Section 1

Area Location/Directions: From Jefferson City, go south on Route B approximately 10 miles and turn west (right) on Old Ferry Road just before the Osage River Bridge.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Parking Lot/Roads/Lawn	2.0		100
Stream Frontage		0.06	

Appendix 17. Map of Tuscumbia Access



Appendix 18. Tuscumbia Access Background

Tuscumbia Access was leased from the city of Tuscumbia in 1961 for a period of 99 years. A gravel bar, which has developed mid-channel, occasionally limits boat access under low river conditions.

Legal Description: Township 40N, Range 14W, Section 10

Area Location/Directions: Tuscumbia Access is marked by a cantilever sign on Highway 52, just west of the junction of Highway 17 and Highway 52. This access is located 66.1 river miles above the mouth of the Osage River.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Parking Lot/Roads/Lawn	1.25		100
Stream Frontage		0.04	

Appendix 19. Lower Osage River Accesses Management Plan Public Comments

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

I would like to see dry hydrants put in at the Osage river accesses. This would be a huge benefit for the community. It would allow us to get water when conditions are bad.