

Mexico Area Fishing Lakes

Tri-City Community Lake
Vandalia Community Lake
Wellsville Lake Conservation Area

Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan FY 2018-2032





Wildlife Division Chief

26 MARCH 2018
Date

OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Tri-City Community Lake	5602	1956	102	Boone	Wildlife	Wildlife
Vandalia Community Lake	5511	1955	146	Audrain	Wildlife	Wildlife
Wellsville Lake Conservation Area (CA)	6125	1961	126	Montgomery	Wildlife	Wildlife

Statements of Purpose:

A. Strategic Direction

These areas are managed to provide public lake fishing, camping, and some hunting opportunities.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future conditions of Tri-City Community Lake, Vandalia Community Lake, and Wellsville Lake CA are undeveloped landscapes that promote recreation and facilitate angling and boating activities.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

Area Name	Priority Areas	Natural Areas
Tri-City Community Lake	None	None
Vandalia Community Lake	Cuivre River Fisheries Priority Watershed	None
Wellsville Lake CA	None	None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area Name	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs
Tri-City Community Lake	None observed	None	None
Vandalia Community Lake	None observed	None	None
Wellsville Lake CA	None observed	None	None

III. Existing Infrastructure

Area Name	Concrete Ramp	Boat Slide	Parking Areas	Privies	Pavilion	Shooting Range	Fishing Lakes	Other
Tri-City Community Lake	None	1	1	1	None	None	27 acres	1 campsite
Vandalia Community Lake	1	1	2 ¹	3 ¹	1	None	44 acres	3 campsites
Wellsville Lake CA	None	1	1	None	None	1 ²	14 acres	1 campsite

¹Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible

²Shooting range offers 25-, 50-, 75-yard target shooting.

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area Name	Deed Restrictions	Federal Interest	Easements	Cultural Resources	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Tri-City Community Lake	None	Yes ¹	None	None known	None observed	None
Vandalia Community Lake	None	Yes ¹	Natural gas, electric	None known	None observed	None
Wellsville Lake CA	None	Yes ¹	None	None known	None observed	None

¹Federal 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.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Reduce the abundance of invasive species on the areas.
- 2) Provide healthy and sustainable forest and grassland habitats on the areas.

Management Objective 1: Manage for healthy wildlife populations on the areas.

Strategy 1: Manage and maintain quality forest and grassland habitats. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Create and maintain edge habitat adjacent to open lands. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Reduce the abundance of invasive species.

Strategy 1: Monitor for invasive species, including autumn olive, bush honeysuckle, fescue, and sericea lespedeza. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Apply invasive species management techniques, including, but not limited to, chemical control and mechanical removal to reduce their abundance and spread, as needed on mined portions of the area. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Restore native grasslands on areas where appropriate.

Strategy 1: Use mechanical and chemical treatments as well as prescribed fire to restore and manage grasslands. (Wildlife)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Manage fish populations in area lakes.

Management Objective 1: Manage fish populations in area lakes.

Strategy 1: Monitor fish populations annually and recommend changes to creel limits, as needed. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Stock catfish annually. (Fisheries)

Strategy 3: Annually construct fish attractors using hardwoods, red cedar, or recycled Christmas trees. (Fisheries)

Managed Objective 2: Treat aquatic vegetation that interferes with bank fishing.

Strategy 1: Physically remove or apply herbicide to aquatic plants that interfere with bank fishing. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Mow, as needed, to provide accessibility for bank fishing. (Wildlife)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Considerations:

- 1) Maintain infrastructure for public use and enjoyment.

Management Objective 1: Maintain infrastructure that is inviting to the public.

Strategy 1: Maintain the area in a desirable condition. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Provide regulations and information on area bulletin boards. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Mow along lakeshore for angler access. (Wildlife)

Strategy 4: Maintain shooting range for area users. (Wildlife)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Area boundaries require periodic maintenance to ensure that they are clearly marked.

Management Objective 1: Build relationships with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Maintain clearly identified property lines by inspection and marking on a regular cycle. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Work with neighbors to minimize boundary issues, trespass, or any other issues affecting the conservation area or adjoining private property. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Cooperatively patrol the area and report unauthorized activities.

Strategy 1: Regularly patrol and enforce the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, with emphasis on off-trail abuse, vandalism, littering, and response to public complaints. (Protection, Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Inform public about area regulations.

Strategy 1: Maintain signs according to Department policy. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Maintain accurate and timely information on the Department's Atlas Database. Review information annually. (Wildlife)

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

All strategies for this management plan are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Public Input Summary:

The draft Mexico Area Fishing Lakes Management Plan was available for a public comment period Nov. 1–30, 2017. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from five respondents (Appendix A). The Mexico Area Fishing Lakes 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 Mexico Area Fishing Lakes Management Plan public comment period.

Suggests adding a concrete boat ramp at Wellsville Lake.

The Department recently performed some repairs on the gravel ramp at Wellsville Lake to make it easier to launch a boat (making a more gradual slope). There are currently no plans for a concrete boat ramp.

Suggests planting a perennial food source for ducks.

The Department typically plants food (i.e., row crops) in conservation areas that are intensely managed for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. The areas listed in this management plan are not currently targeted toward those species. However, the vegetation that naturally grows on the areas is used by waterfowl and shorebirds.

Suggests changing bass fishing length limit at Vandalia Community Lake to a slot limit.

The Department's fall 2017 fish sampling results did show a change in the bass population's size structure. This change was indicative of a crowded or stockpiled bass population. However, populations can fluctuate from year to year due to several different variables. This year was the first time we saw a significant change in the population compared to previous years. Before Department biologists recommend regulation changes, they look at multiple years of sampling data to better detect trends in populations and make sure sampling during one year was not just an anomaly. The Department will continue to sample Vandalia Lake during the next couple of years to determine if a largemouth bass regulation change may be needed. If the bass population does not change significantly during that time, then a slot length limit may be recommended.

Suggests adding more ADA-accessible fishing locations at the Tri-City Community Lake.

The Department administers Federal Sportfish Restoration Grant Fund monies, which provide cost-share for constructing ADA-accessible fishing areas by installing ADA-compliant parking lots, walkways, and docks. We have several ADA-accessible fishing accesses in the area. Lakeview Lake in Mexico has an ADA-accessible parking lot, concrete path, and fishing dock.

Teal Lake in Mexico has a fishing dock with a concrete path leading to it. Vandalia does not have ADA-fishing access, but provides an ADA-accessible parking lot and privy. Currently, the Department does not have any plans to provide ADA-compliant fishing access at Tri-City Lake.

Suggests removing weeds along the banks of the Tri-City Community Lake to improve bank fishing.

Aquatic plants are essential for a healthy fish population. Microscopic plants make up the base of the food web, providing food and oxygen to other animals. Larger plants provide food, oxygen, and habitat for aquatic animals. However, too many plants, especially in high-use areas, can become a nuisance. The Department Fisheries staff conducts regular aquatic vegetation removal in the summer, in areas that have too much vegetation, and/ or get regular use by bank-fishers. We will continue to monitor the vegetation at Tri-City Lake and remove vegetation as needed.

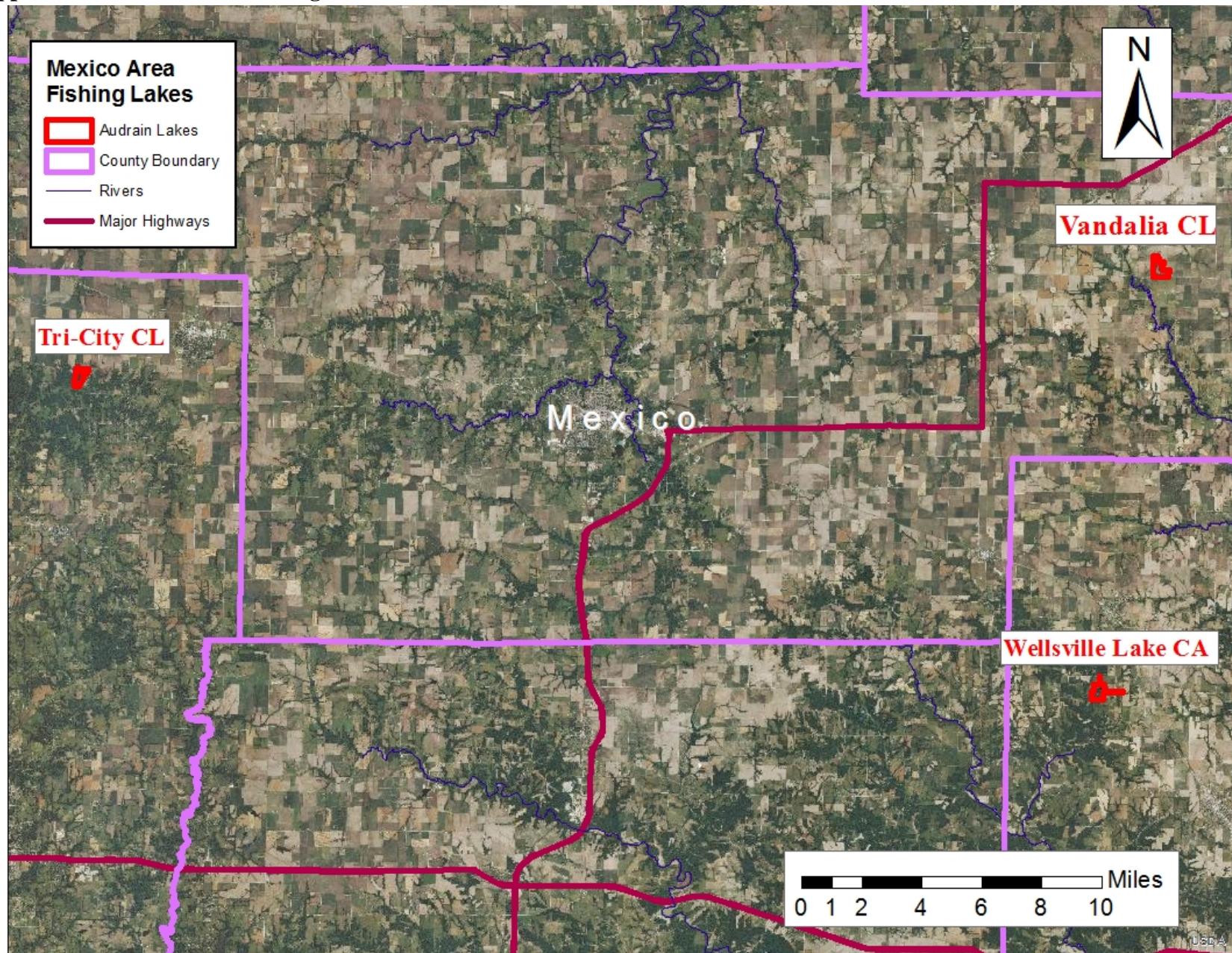
Suggests removing hydrilla from the northeast side of Tri-City Community Lake.

The fish population at Tri-City Lake was surveyed during the summer of 2017, at which time the biologists surveyed the lake for vegetation issues as well. No hydrilla was found at this time. We appreciate the public looking out for hydrilla and reporting possible locations to the Department in a timely manner, as this is a highly invasive species that should be removed as quickly as possible. Department biologists will continue to keep watch for hydrilla at this location, specifically the northeast side. Currently, hydrilla has only been confirmed in four counties in Missouri: Green, Warren, Dallas, and St. Louis counties. Vegetation growing at the lake, specifically in the northeast side, included coontail, water primrose, and Eurasian water milfoil. Species that look similar to hydrilla, but are found in more locations in Missouri, include elodea and egeria, but neither of these species were found at Tri-City Lake during the most recent survey.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1. Mexico Area Fishing Lakes
- Appendix 2. Tri-City Community Lake Background
- Appendix 3. Tri-City Community Lake Map
- Appendix 4. Tri-City Community Lake Cover Types
- Appendix 5. Vandalia Community Lake Background
- Appendix 6. Vandalia Community Lake Map
- Appendix 7. Vandalia Community Lake Cover Types
- Appendix 8. Vandalia Community Lake Easement Map
- Appendix 9. Wellsville Lake Conservation Area Background
- Appendix 10. Wellsville Lake Conservation Area Map
- Appendix 11. Wellsville Lake Conservation Area Cover Types
- Appendix 12. Mexico Area Fishing Lakes Management Plan Public Comments

Appendix 1. Mexico Area Fishing Lakes



Appendix 2. Tri-City Community Lake Background

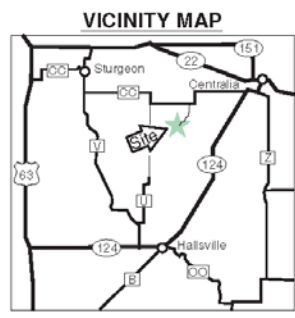
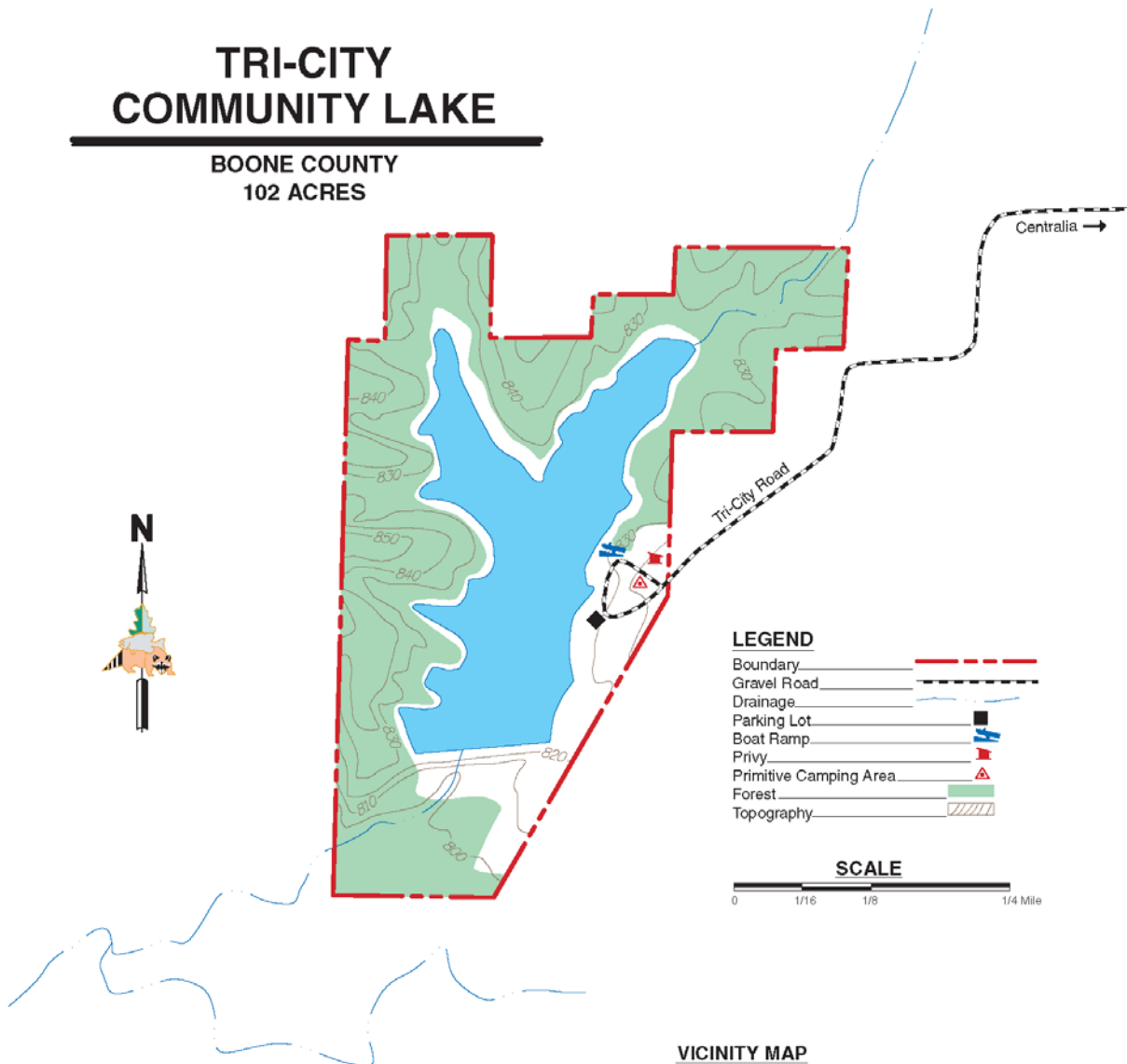
Tri-City Community Lake is in Boone County near Centralia. From Centralia, take Route CC west 3 miles, and then south 1 mile on Tri-City Road.

Tri-City Community Lake was acquired by the Missouri Department of Conservation in 1956. The main feature of this 102-acre property in the Silver Fork Creek watershed is the 27-acre lake, which was first stocked in 1957 and opened to fishing in 1959. The remaining acres are mostly forested, dominated by oak and hickory on the ridges and bottomland hardwoods in the drainages feeding the lake. Improved camping is available with gravel pull-ins, fire pits, and a privy. A gravel slide provides boat access to the lake and footpaths encircle much of the lake perimeter. Deer hunting is by archery methods only while other upland game and waterfowl may be taken by shotgun.

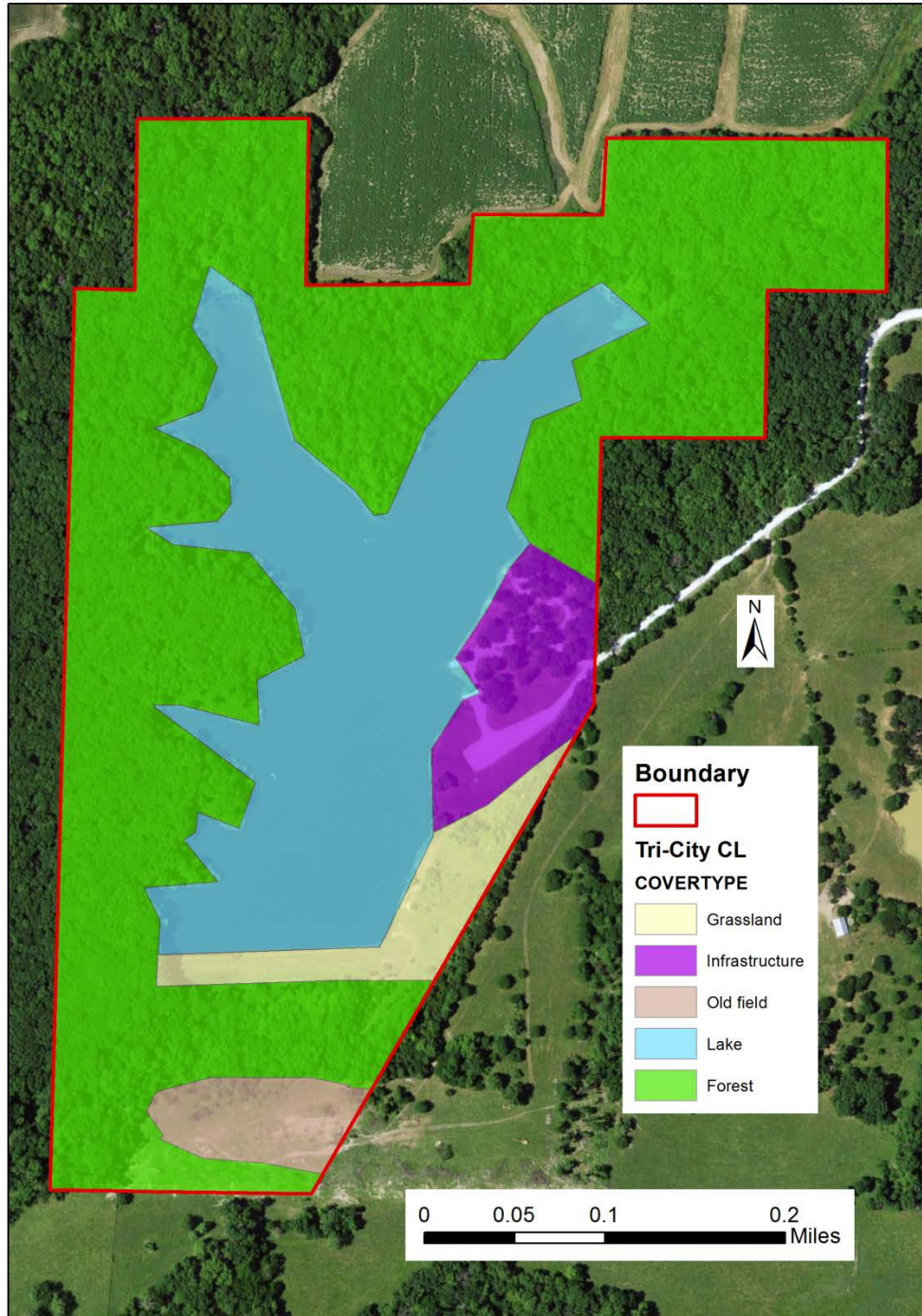
Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	62		61
Lake	27		26
Infrastructure	6		6
Grassland	4		4
Old field	3		3
Total	102		100
Stream Frontage		0	

Appendix 3. Tri-City Community Lake Map



Appendix 4. Tri-City Community Lake Cover Types



Appendix 5. Vandalia Community Lake Background

Vandalia Community Lake is 5 miles east of Laddonia on Route K and Audrain County Road 524. A 44-acre lake, built in 1957 and opened to fishing in 1959, lies in the Hickory Creek and Cuivre River watersheds. The lake is the principle feature of this 146-acre area.

Vandalia Community Lake is within the Audrain Flat Prairie Plain Landtype Association, which encompasses the largest expanse of flat uplands in Missouri with less than 20 feet of local relief over an area of 100 square miles. The landtype association was formerly more than 90 percent prairie with scattered ephemeral wetlands and narrow belts of woodlands along streams.

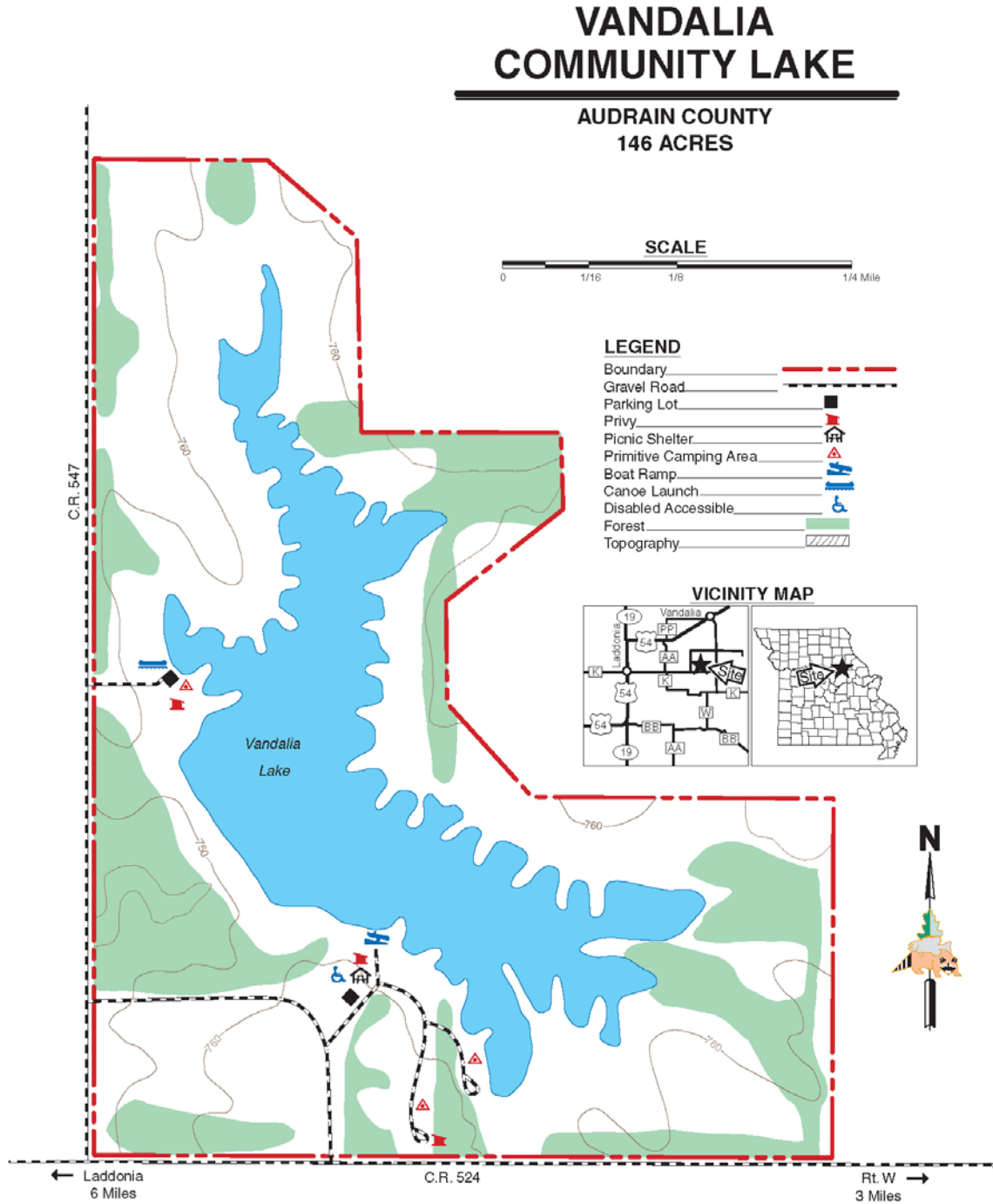
A fish kill in January 1986 caused the lake to be closed, drained, and deepened approximately 2 feet before being reopened to fishing in 1991.

Plantings of trees, grasses, and forbs not native to that region of Missouri were done in the 1960s to improve aesthetics and wildlife habitat. Current efforts are underway to restore the remaining remnant prairie habitats via tree removal, fire, and herbicide applications to invasive species.

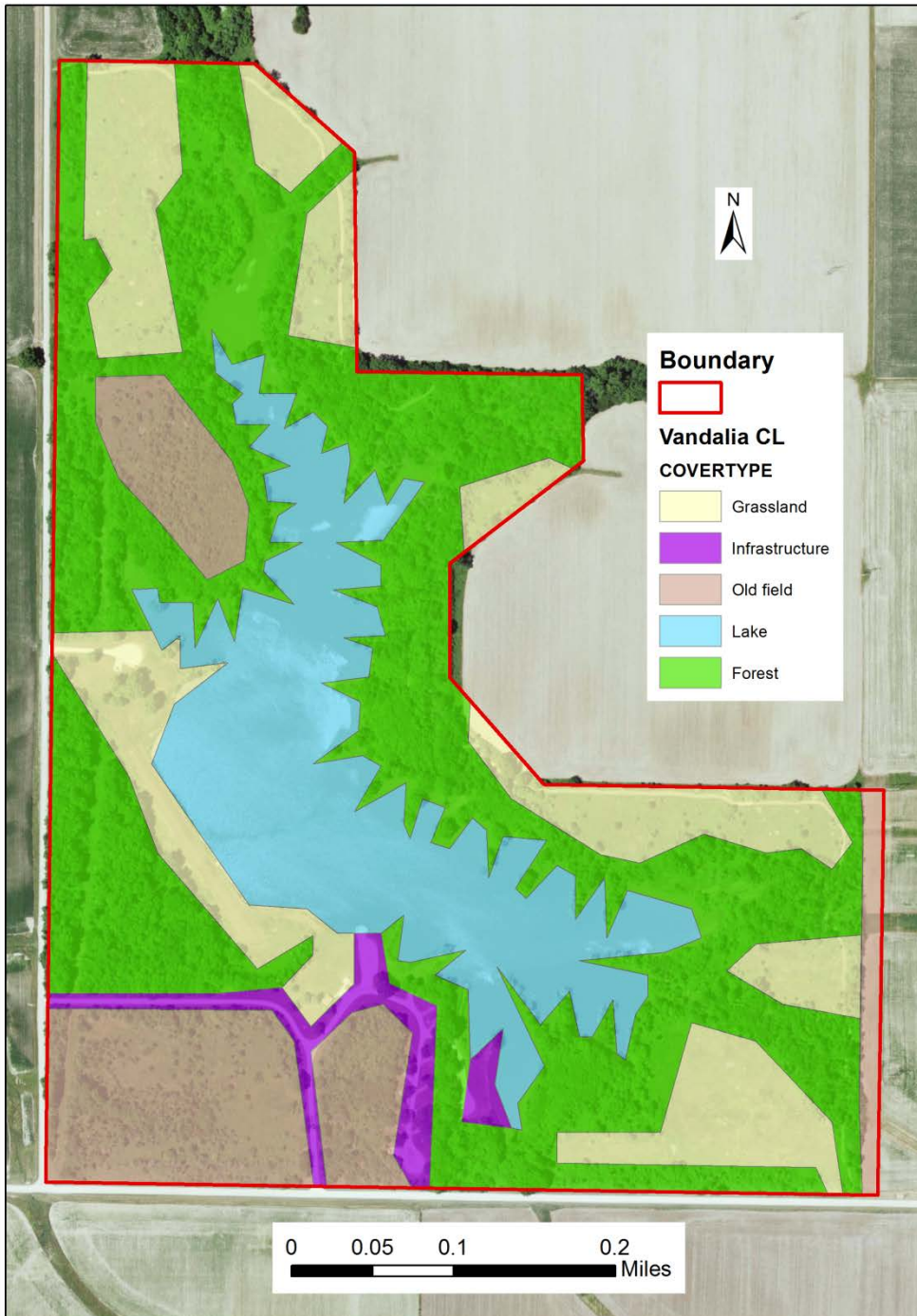
Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	82		56
Lake	44		30
Grassland	10		7
Old Field	10		7
Total	146		100
Stream Frontage		0	

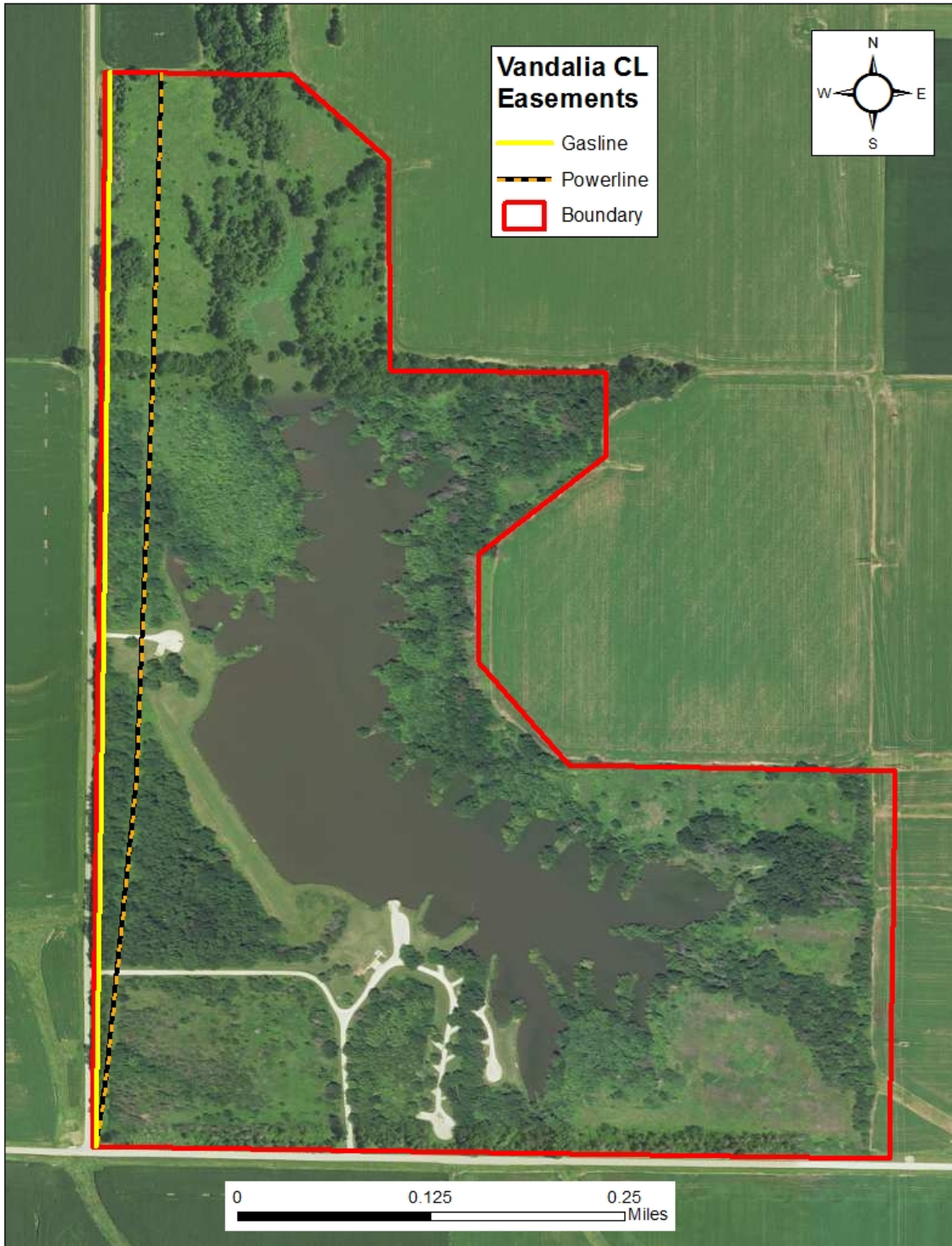
Appendix 6. Vandalia Community Lake Map



Appendix 7. Vandalia Community Lake Cover Types



Appendix 8. Vandalia Community Lake Easement Map



Appendix 9. Wellsville Lake Conservation Area Background

Wellsville Lake Conservation Area is located in Montgomery County near Wellsville. From Wellsville, take Highway 19 south, then County Road 21 south 1.5 miles, and go west on County Road 27 0.25 miles to the area.

This 126-acre conservation area was donated to the Missouri Department of Conservation in 1959 by the City of Wellsville. The main feature of the property is the 14-acre lake, originally formed by two clay pits, which has depths from 80-100 feet in the deepest portion. The lake receives annual stocking of channel catfish and also supports good populations of bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, and green sunfish. The remaining acres are mostly forested, dominated by oak and hickory species with a few brushy areas. A gravel slide provides boat access to the lake and an unstaffed shooting range was built on the area in 1975. The shooting range offers 25-, 50-, and 75-yard target shooting. The area does not offer a separate shotgun range. Only paper targets affixed to the backstop are allowed and they are not provided.

Deer hunting is by archery and muzzleloader methods only. The area supports fair populations of small game species, deer, and turkey.

Current Land and Water Types:

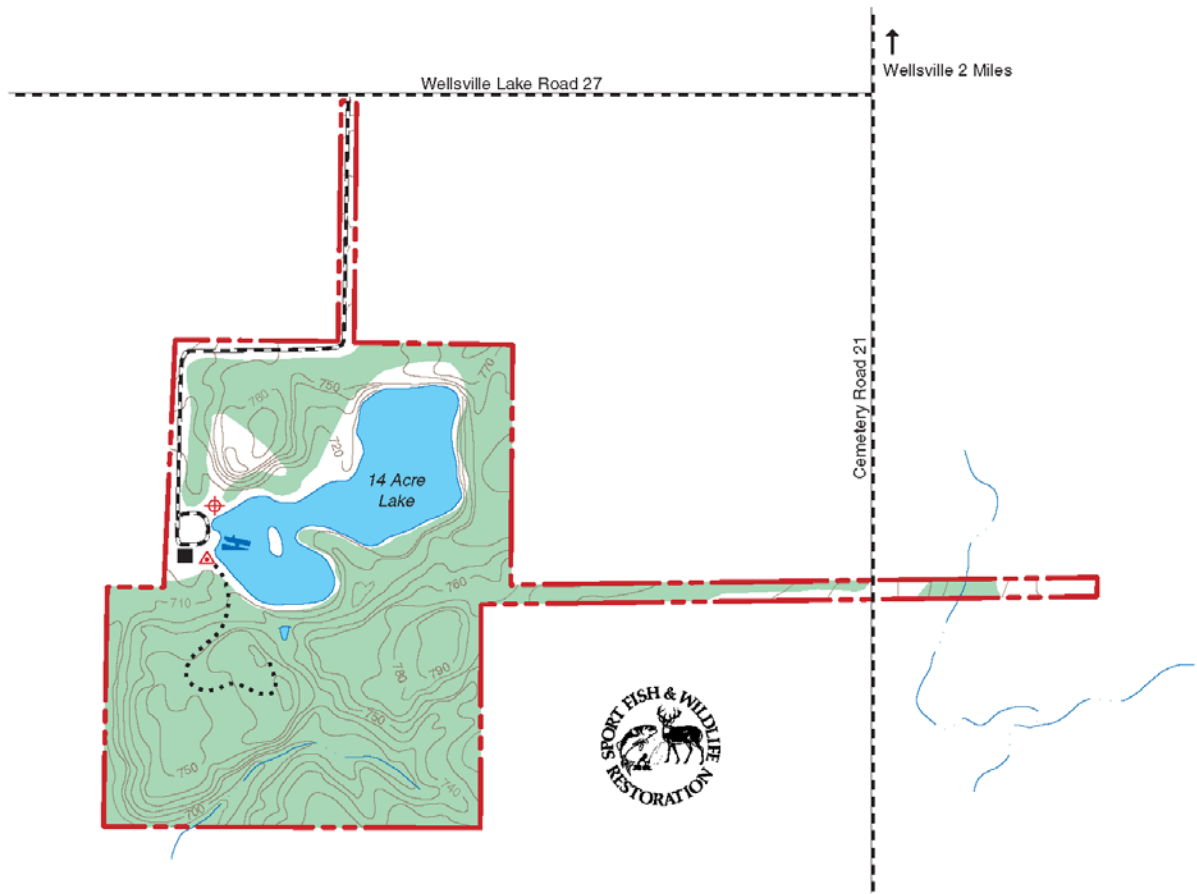
Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest	109		87
Lake	14		11
Infrastructure	3		2
Total	126		100
Stream Frontage		0	

Appendix 10. Wellsville Lake Conservation Area Map

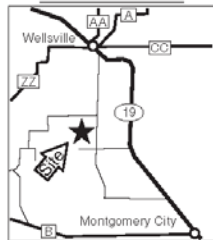
WELLSVILLE LAKE CONSERVATION AREA

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
126 ACRES

SCALE



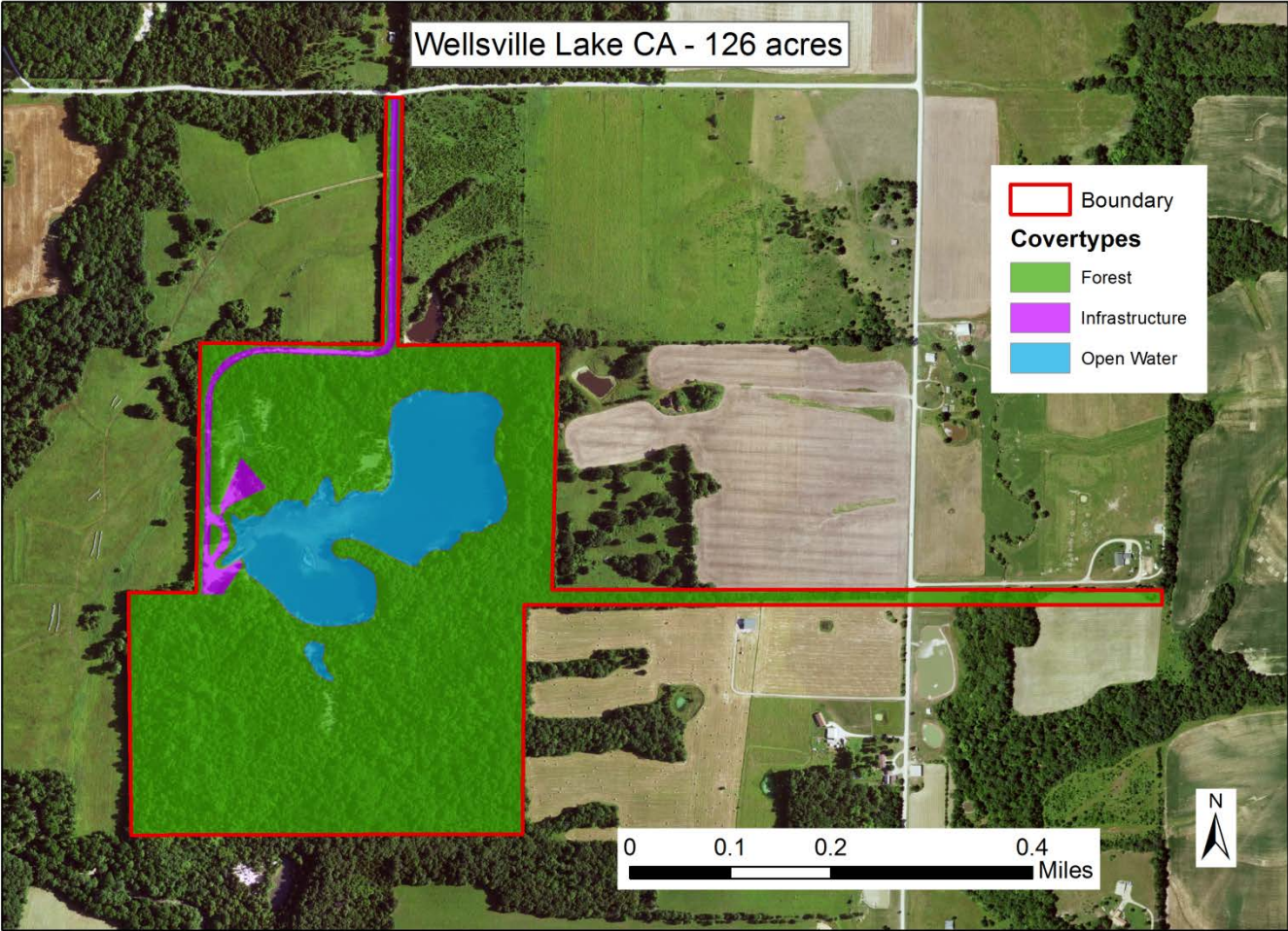
VICINITY MAP



LEGEND

Boundary	
Gravel Road	
Foot Path	
Drainage	
Parking Lot	
Pond	
Primitive Camping Area	
Boat Ramp	
Shooting Range	
Forest	
Topography	

Appendix 11. Wellsville Lake Conservation Area Cover Types



Appendix 12. Mexico Area Fishing Lakes Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (Nov. 1–30, 2017):

<p>I would like to see a concrete boat ramp at wellsville lake. Thanks</p>
<p>plant food for ducks that will grow year after year</p>
<p>Fished Vandalia City lake last week, caught over 30 bass, released all, none over 12". need length limit changed to slot , put back 12" to !5". very nice lake to teach a child how to plastic worm fish.</p>
<p>i think there should be more access ways to the tri city lake area expecially for handicap people and disablethere is alot of lake but only 1 way in and noy many places to fish unless you walk and have a boat same way with the lakeview lake in mexico</p>
<p>The Tri-City Lake public use area has a great deal of potential, but there is a problem with weeds along the banks that prevent quality shore fishing. These weeds limit fishing opportunities to mostly those with paddle or electric watercraft. Those without watercraft must either fish from the ramp areas, or risk losing tackle chancing a cast into the dense underwater and above water weeds.</p> <p>There is also a possible hydrilla outbreak on the northeast side of the lake that may soon need to be addressed.</p>