

Maintz Wildlife Preserve

Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan

FY 2018-2032





Wildlife Division Chief

26 MARCH 2018
Date

Maintz Wildlife Preserve Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

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SOUTHEAST REGION

RCT Chair

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WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Management Chief

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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Maintz Wildlife Preserve, # 7712
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1972
- **Acreage:** 804 acres
- **County:** Cape Girardeau
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**

Provide, develop, manage, and protect quality upland habitat and associated wildlife species while providing a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities for the public. Management emphasis is on maintaining vegetative diversity on grasslands and old fields, emphasizing the use of best management practices, and managing open lands to produce high quality habitat for bobwhite quail, grassland birds, and other upland wildlife.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Maintz Wildlife Preserve is a healthy forest/ woodland/riparian/grassland/open land complex that promotes upland wildlife with an emphasis on early successional species while providing a variety of public use opportunities.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

- A. Priority Areas:** Maintz Wildlife Preserve is a Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) Quail Emphasis Area. It also occurs in the Oak Ridge Quail Focus Area and in the Whitewater Fisheries Priority Watershed.
- B. Natural Areas:** None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

- A. Species of Conservation Concern:** Species 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.
- B. Caves:** None
- C. Springs:** None
- D. Other:** Occurs in the Outer Ozarks Border subsection in the Perry Oak Savanna/Woodland Dissected Plains Landtype Association. This large landtype

association consists of long, broad, flat rolling dissected plains associated with several soluble, early limestone and dolomite formations. Much of this landscape was described as “barrens” or tall grass prairie with widely scattered trees (Nigh & Schroeder, 2002).

III. Existing Infrastructure

- Nine gravel parking lots
- One designated camping area (no amenities)
- One old barn
- One walking archery range (with 12 stations)
- Five fishing ponds (1, 1, 1, 2, and 4 acres); Ponds 1, 2, 3, and 4 are stocked with channel catfish.

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None
- B. Federal Interest:** Federal 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.
- C. Easements:** None
- D. Cultural Resources Findings:** Yes, records kept with the Department environmental compliance specialist. Managers should follow best management practices for cultural resources found in the Department Resource Policy Manual.
- E. Endangered Species:** None observed.
- F. Boundary Issues:** None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain and promote the open lands on Maintz Wildlife Preserve in early successional stages.
- 2) Control invasive species.
- 3) Maintain forest and woodlands in a healthy sustainable condition.

Management Objective 1: Manage open lands in a manner that provides early successional habitat to improve upland wildlife populations.

Strategy 1: Prescribe burn warm-season grass and old fields with varying size and timing to provide a diversity of plant responses. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Disc or spray a portion of the disturbed ground in the same year as the prescribed burn. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Manage open land fields for annual crops.

Strategy 1: Use permittee farming to manage a mixture of crops, food plots, idled acres, and Department legume fields. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Plant a mixture of crops annually for dove management. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Have staff plant food plots in smaller fields on the area by planting a variety of grain and green browse crops to supplement native food sources for wildlife. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Control invasive species in open land and forested habitats.

Strategy 1: Monitor the area for invasive species. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Use mechanical and chemical treatments, as needed, for management of selected invasive species. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 4: Create and enhance shrubby/edge cover to enhance wildlife habitat.

Strategy 1: Use mechanical (e.g., chainsaw and tree shear) to disturb overgrown shrub groups, fence rows, and brushy draws. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Use foliar and basal treatments to disturb overgrown shrub groups. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Edge feather timbered habitats by use of chainsaw and/or tree shear. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 5: Manage for sustainable and healthy forest and woodland communities with emphasis on wildlife habitat.

Strategy 1: Use uneven-aged, even-aged, forest thinning, and prescribed fire management practices to maintain and regenerate forest and woodland communities, where appropriate. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Monitor forests and woodlands for invasive vegetation, diseases, and insects. Suppress any infestations that may develop using mechanical and chemical control methods. (Forestry, Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Install best management practices to prevent soil erosion, according to the Missouri Watershed Protection Practices for Missouri Forests: 2014 Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014) after timber harvest. (Forestry)

Management Objective 6: Establish and/or maintain a riparian corridor of trees along all stream drainages.

Strategy 1: Plant bottomland tree species along streams, where needed, to widen the existing riparian corridor to a more functional and protective width. A minimum riparian corridor width of 50 feet will be established on first- and second-order streams. All other streams will have a minimum riparian corridor width of 100 feet. (Wildlife, Forestry)

VI. Aquatic Resources Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Manage fish populations for quality angling.
- 2) Manage aquatic and/shoreline vegetation for quality fish habitat and angler access.
- 3) Maintain area wildlife watering holes as habitat for amphibians, reptiles, and other wildlife.

Management Objective 1: Manage fish populations in lake.

Strategy 1: Periodically monitor fish populations and adjust regulations and stocking rates as needed. (Fisheries, Protection)

Strategy 2: Maintain good water quality and prevent soil degradation through land management activities and best management practices. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Manage aquatic and shoreline vegetation.

Strategy 1: Use chemical, biological, and/or mechanical methods to control aquatic and/or shoreline vegetation. (Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Establish desirable aquatic vegetation in ponds. (Fisheries)

Management Objective 3: Manage wildlife watering holes as habitat for amphibians, reptiles, and other wildlife.

Strategy 1: Maintain wildlife watering holes by allowing shoreline and aquatic vegetation to develop. (Wildlife, Fisheries)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide for hunting, fishing, and recreational opportunities.
- 2) Improve educational and interpretive opportunities.
- 3) Build relationships with neighboring landowners.

- 4) Conduct field trial activities.
- 5) Manage unmanned shooting range

Management Objective 1: Promote and monitor public hunting and viewing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Conduct annual management activities that will provide habitat for a diversity of species. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Collect quail hunter numbers and harvest data through daily hunter cards. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Improve educational and interpretive opportunities on Maintz Wildlife Preserve.

Strategy 1: Communicate to the public recreational opportunities (e.g., using brochures, Atlas database). (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Communicate the uniqueness of the area to teachers, students, scout groups, and youth groups to facilitate as a possible destination for ecology classes, school programs, and workshops. (Outreach and Education)

Management Objective 3: Facilitate a good working relationship with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Work with neighbors to minimize any boundary, trespass or any other issues affecting Maintz Wildlife Preserve or adjacent private property. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Promote habitat management on neighboring landowner properties. (Private Land Services, Wildlife)

Management Objective 4: Ensure field trial activities comply with event guidelines and policies.

Strategy 1: Provide a field trial user-friendly area by maintaining trails/grounds and conduct maintenance mowing that doesn't conflict with small game management. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Monitor trial event use and document reported conflicts or concerns with other area uses. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 5: Provide and maintain archery shooting range and facilities.

Strategy 1: Complete annual inspection forms and share inspection needs with area staff. (Outreach and Education, Protection)

Strategy 2: Maintain range and perimeter fence, and issue Special Use Permits for group use of range as appropriate. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Monitor range use and document reported conflicts or concerns with other area uses. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 6: Provide area users diverse recreational opportunities on the area that are consistent with defined management objectives and sensitive to the natural communities and features of the area.

Strategy 1: Maintain accurate area information and regulations through the Atlas database, area brochures, posted information, and staff contacts with area users. (Wildlife, Protection, Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Maintain parking lots/camping areas, bulletin boards, and service roads to promote a presentable appearance for area users. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Repost boundary lines in 2021 and 2026. (Wildlife)

Strategy 4: Promote compatible, safe uses of hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, target shooting, camping, and nature photography. (Wildlife)

Strategy 5: Monitor and document multiple use conflicts or concerns. Identify potential timing/seasonal use conflicts and modify special use permit conditions and dates, as needed, to minimize concerns. (Wildlife)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.
- 2) Deter illicit public use on the area such as littering, all-terrain vehicle trespass, horseback riding, vandalism, etc.
- 3) Consider land acquisition, when available.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines and at currently identified maintenance level. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Deter illicit public use on the area.

Strategy 1: Use Cape Girardeau County conservation agents to enforce area rules and regulations and deter any illicit activities on the area, e.g., littering, all-terrain vehicle trespass, horseback riding, vandalism, etc. (Wildlife, Protection)

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, unless listed in the following table:

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32
Public Use Management Considerations															
<i>Objective 6</i>															
Strategy 3				X					X					X	

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Maintz Wildlife Preserve is located in west central Cape Girardeau County, about 5 miles southwest of Oak Ridge. Maintz Wildlife Preserve was established in 1972, when Ty Maintz donated 155 acres along with funds to be used to purchase adjoining lands. These funds purchased an additional 309 acres. Department funds were used for additional acquisitions to bring the present size of the area to 804 acres.

The Maintz Wildlife Preserve once consisted of several small family farms. Typically these farms were used to pasture livestock, produce hay, and (to a lesser extent) raise small grain. In later years, cash crops (particularly soybeans) were produced, which lead to erosion problems on some of the steeper fields. Woodlands were often grazed along with pasture fields. After Maintz Wildlife Preserve was established, livestock were removed and many crop and hay fields have been converted to native warm-season grass fields. Maintz Wildlife Preserve was used as a demo farm during the 1990s with the goal to demonstrate agricultural practices that are income producing and beneficial to wildlife. In 2004, Maintz Wildlife Preserve was designated as a Quail Emphasis Area as part of the Northern Bobwhite Recovery Plan. This designation places greater emphasis on quail and grassland bird habitat.

Today, current management on Maintz Wildlife Preserve is to maintain vegetative diversity on grasslands and old fields, emphasize the use of best management practices, and manage open lands to produce high quality habitat for bobwhite quail, grassland birds, and other upland wildlife.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Grassland	254	32
Woodland	170	21
Open Land	166	21
Forest	140	17
Old Field	50	6
Open Water	14	2
Wetlands	5	<1
Infrastructure	5	<1
Total	804	100

Public Input Summary:

The draft Maintz Wildlife Preserve Management Plan was available for a public comment period April 1–30, 2017. The Missouri Department of Conservation received comments from six respondents (Appendix A). The Maintz Wildlife Preserve 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 Maintz Wildlife Preserve Management Plan public comment period.

Wonders what open land management accomplishes.

Maintz Wildlife Preserve has been designated a Quail Emphasis Area with the goal of maintaining and expanding useable habitat for quail on the area. We try to balance habitat needs for the life cycle of quail with nesting, brood rearing, and shrubby escape cover habitats. Quail are early successional habitat species, which requires some type of disturbance every one to three years on these habitats using a combination of techniques. Area staff has been mechanically removing woody encroachment, edge-feathering, planting food plots, controlling invasive species, and using prescribed burns and herbicides to setback succession to create a diversity of habitats on the area.

Suggests adding a multiple-use trail (horseback riding and hiking) to Maintz Wildlife Preserve.

The planning team recognizes the need to provide access to Maintz Wildlife Preserve. There are currently no plans to establish additional designated hiking trails on this area; however we do maintain over 5.5 miles of access trails that are open for hiking. The locations of the area access trails are located on our area maps in this plan.

Adding multi-use trails for horseback riding would increase interference with existing area uses, increase area maintenance and enforcement, and could negatively impact sensitive habitats on the area. All public roads, including the multiple county roads that dissect the area, are open for horseback riding. Horseback riders can pursue this recreational opportunity nearby on Apple Creek CA (15 miles away), Castor River CA (44 miles away), or Holly Ridge CA (55 miles away).

Would like more Department staff to be present during events and hunting seasons.

The planning team recognizes the need for staff to be present during events and hunting seasons, and area staff try to be present at as many events as possible. Area staff and the county conservation agent work on and visit numerous conservation areas in our districts, and due to

timing, job responsibilities, and number of conservation areas, being present on the area during all events and the entire hunting season can be very challenging. Any immediate need can be directed to the Cape Girardeau County conservation agent or the Southeast Regional Office (573) 290-5730.

Concerned area users do not observe area boundaries. Suggests adding more signs along area boundaries.

The planning team recognizes the need to respect neighboring landowners' properties by maintaining signs along the area boundaries. Boundary signs are inspected and reposted on a five-year rotation or as needed. An effort will be made to add additional signs where needed or where they have been vandalized. Any trespassing issues should be immediately reported to the county conservation agent or sheriff.

Concerned private lane is used by Department staff.

Staff has made contact with the landowner of the private lane and will work toward reducing use of the lane and adding a sign to make the public aware that it is a private lane.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). *Missouri watershed protection practice recommended practices for Missouri forests: 2014 management guidelines for maintaining forested watersheds to protect streams*. Jefferson City, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Nigh, T. A., & Schroeder, W. A. (2002). *Atlas of Missouri ecoregions*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map

Additional Appendices:

Appendix A: Maintz Wildlife Preserve Management Plan Public Comments

Figure 1: Area Map

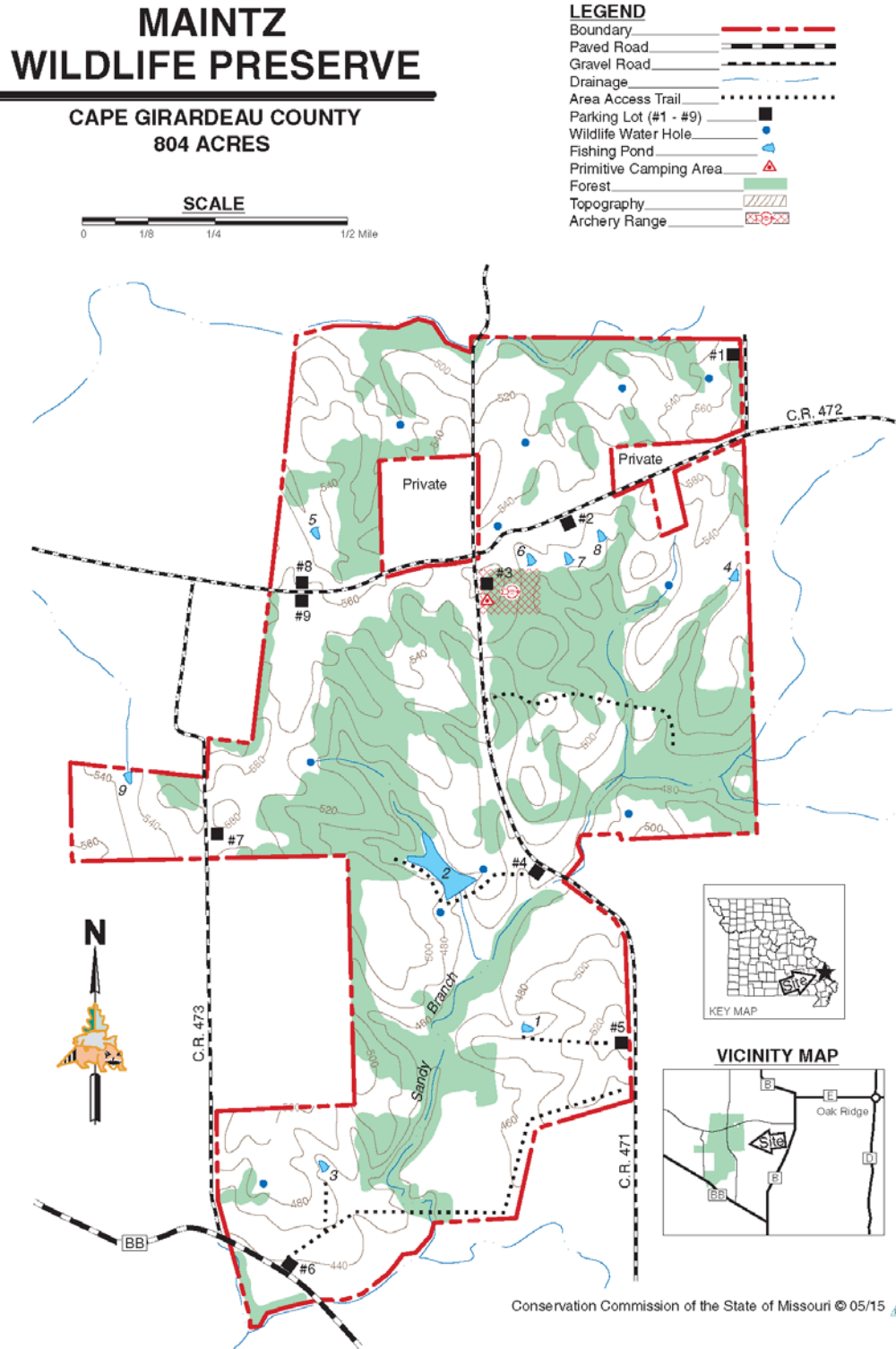


Figure 2: Aerial Map

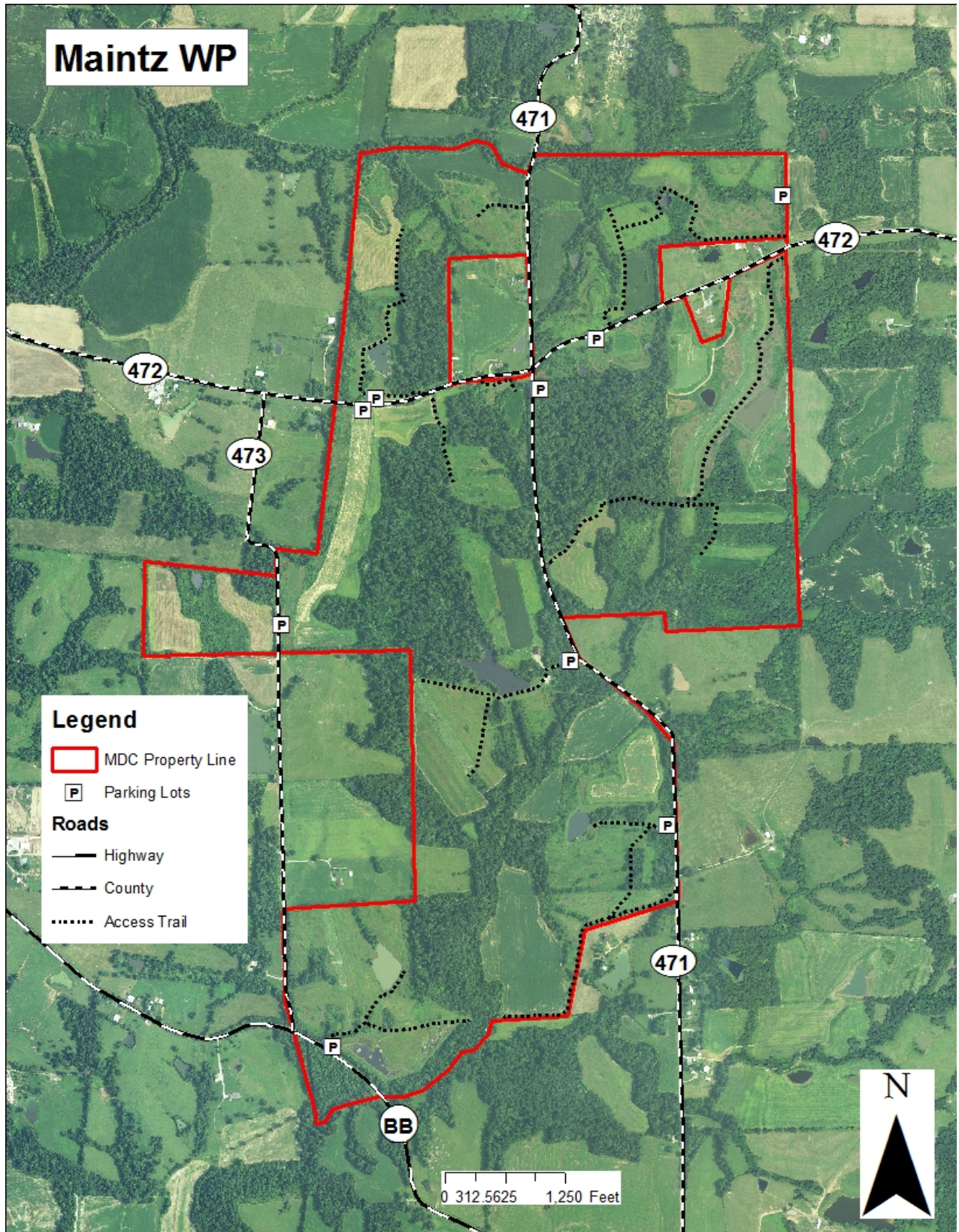


Figure 3: Topographic Map

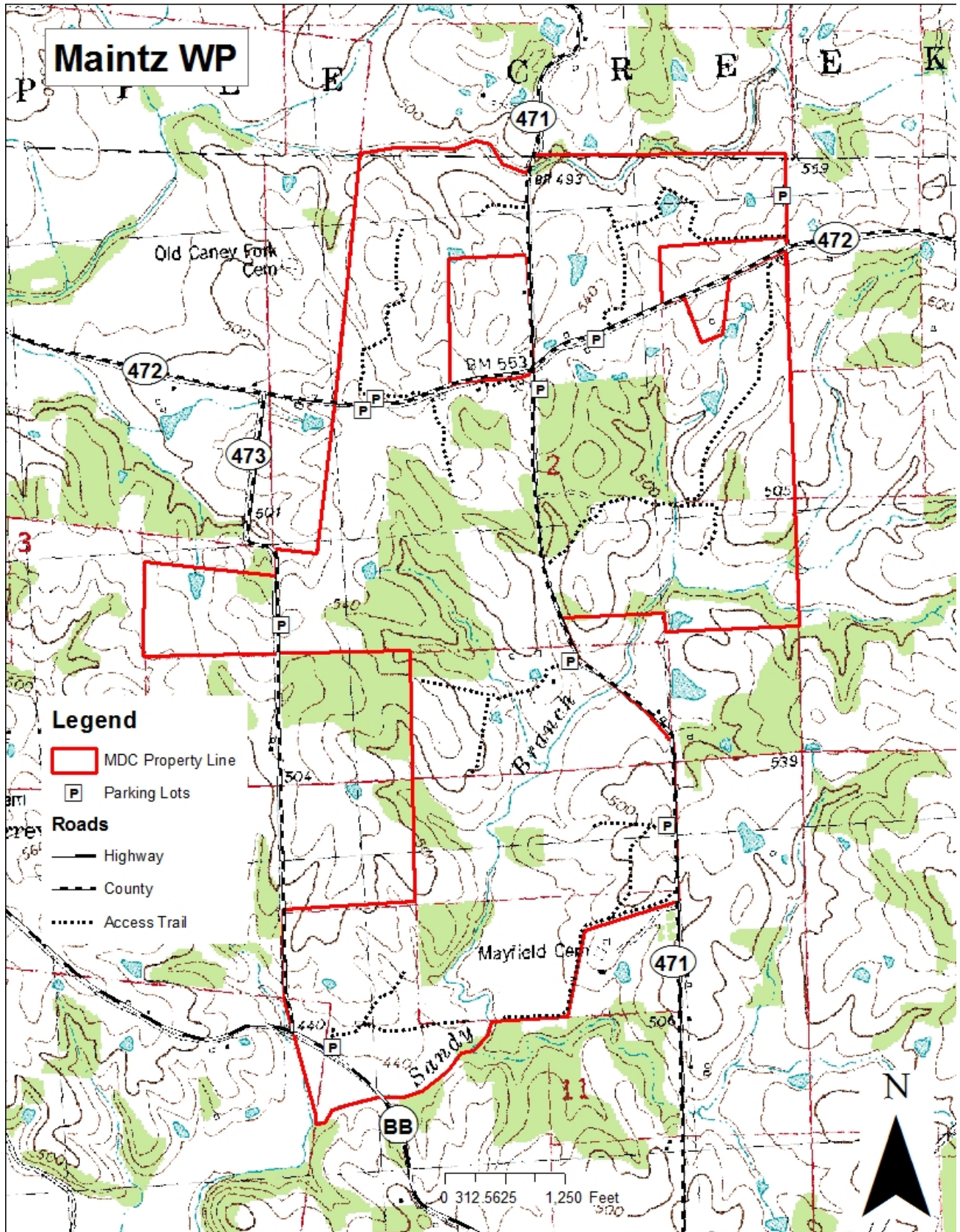
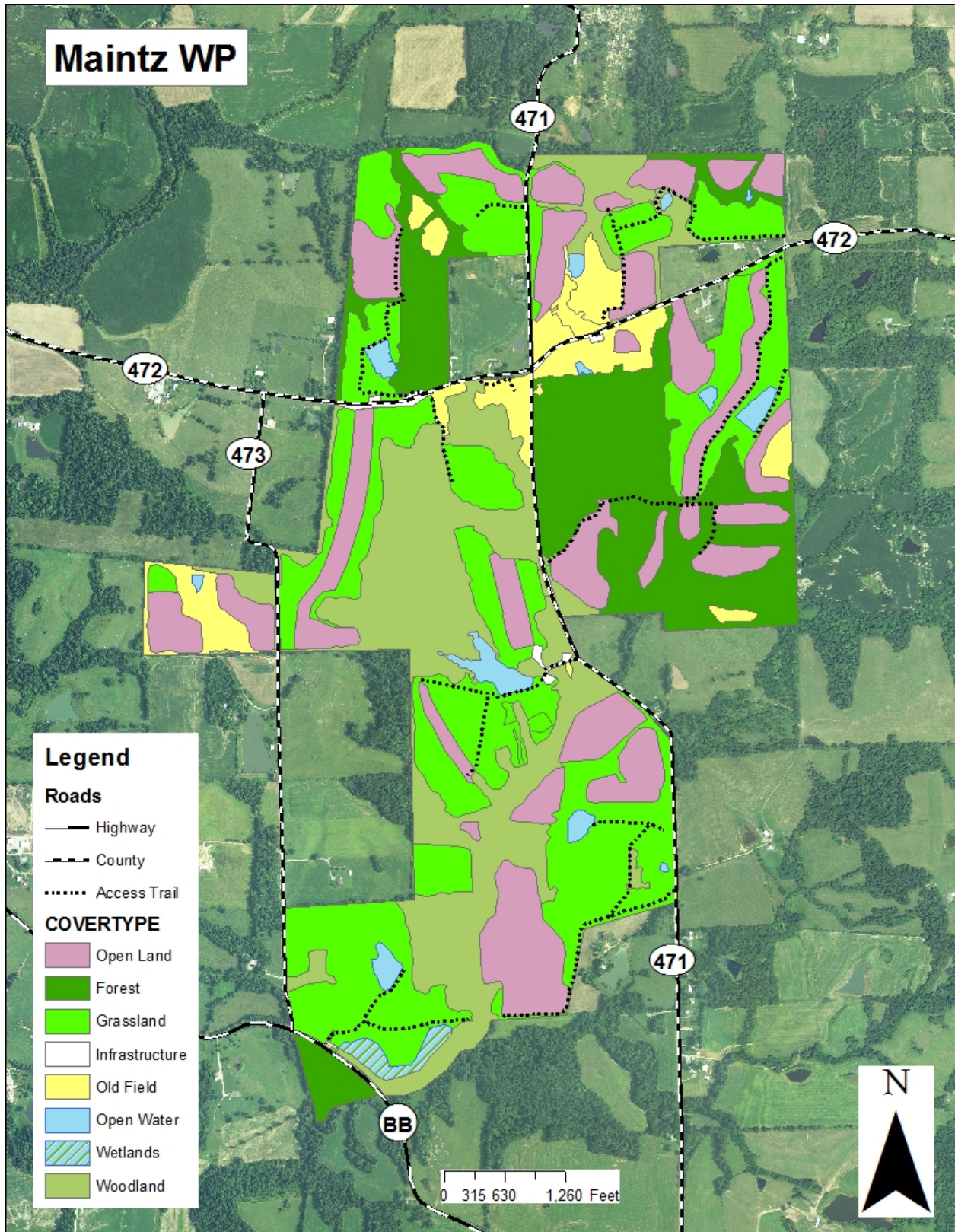


Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map



Appendix A: Maintz Wildlife Preserve Management Plan Public Comments

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

No comment
I would like to see more conservation department presence during events and hunting seasons. There are times that hunters do not observe private property boundaries. I would also like for more signage to be prevalent denoting differences between public and private property.
Would love to see a Horse Back Riding trail established like the one at the Apple Creek Area.
I would like to see horse trails with living so close it would nice to enjoy it on horseback
You indicated NO easements. My private lane gets used by conservation people regularly. Some help with gravel and grading would be appreciated occasionally. Also, part of the area next to my drive is considered Open Land. I'm not sure what one year in corn and two years in ragweed accomplishes. After two years the wild life has stripped all the corn. With the attached email address maybe I can be kept abreast of who my contact is with the Maintz Wildlife Area. thanks
I am a neighboring land owner and resident. I have horses that I trail ride and show. I share my pond, woods and pasture with Maintz wild life's wild animals and I would love to see trails for horses.