

General Pershing District
(Linn, Macon and Shelby Counties)

Federal Areas

There are no Federally managed areas in this district.

State Parks/Sites

General Pershing district has two large state parks and two interesting state historic sites.

Pershing State Park—Pershing is one of Missouri’s larger parks, at over 3,500 acres. Pershing is a great location for environmental activities, nature merit badges and observation, and other outdoor scouting activities. One of Missouri’s largest wetlands is located in the park, allowing for superb wildlife and bird watching activities. An endangered species of rattlesnake makes Pershing it’s home, as does a variety of flora and fauna that are both native and unique.

The park does not have boating or swimming, but an abundance of fishing is available in several stocked ponds and in Locust Creek. Several trails have been developed, including a short 6.5 mile backpacking trail which connects with the Fountain Grove Conservation Area. This trail was built largely by local scouts.

A group camping area is also available at the park.

Contact: 29277 Hwy 130
Laclede, MO 64651
(660) 963-2299
www.mostateparks.com/pershingpark

Location: 7 miles west of Brookfield on Hwy 36, south on Hwy 130.

Campsites: 50+
Groups?: yes
Water: yes
Scout rates: yes
Toilets: yes
Trails: yes
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: no
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: yes
Privacy: yes
Special: wildlife tower; special programs

Long Branch State Park—Long Branch is one of Missouri’s newer parks. Located just west of Macon on Hwy 36, Long Branch boasts a large lake, suitable for any kind of water craft or water activities. The park also has a trail that follows the lake. This is a great park if all you want to do is cool off in the summer.

Contact: 28615 Visitor Center Road
Macon, MO 63552
(660) 773-5229
www.mostateparks.com/longbranch.htm

Location: 2 miles west of the U.S. Hwy. 63 and U.S. Hwy. 36 junction in Macon County

Campsites: 50+
Groups?: yes
Water: yes
Scout rates: yes
Toilets: yes
Trails: yes
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: yes
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: yes
Privacy: yes
Special: yes; bald eagle watching

Locust Creek Covered Bridge Historic Site—one of Missouri four remaining covered bridges. This served as a railroad bridge for the country’s first transcontinental railroad. Worth a stop; very close to Pershing state park.

www.mostateparks.com/locustbridge.htm

Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site—Restored home and story of one of America’s greatest generals, John J. Pershing. One of only three men to ever be designated by Congress “General of the Armies.” Site includes World War I memorial.

www.mostateparks.com/pershingsite.htm

State Conservation Areas

Linn County

Brookfield City Lake—small grassy area with camping available. Highlight is the large lake, with good fishing and canoeing. Two miles east of Brookfield on Hwy 11.

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

Fountain Grove Conservation Area—very large (6000+ acres) area adjacent to Pershing State Park. Camping, great fishing, nature walks and hikes, marked trails. Area is frequented by hunters during various seasons. Nearly 10 miles of Riparian trail between the park and this area. On-site staff can assist. Five miles south of Meadville junction on Route W.

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

Mussel Fork Conservation Area—The appeal of this area is its variety of land and landscape: forest, wetland, savanna, crops, grassland. Decent fishing, good for wildlife observation. No designated trails. Ten miles east of Brookfield on Hwy 36.

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

Macon County

Atlanta Conservation Area—Good sized area that might be good for multi-troop gathering. Good fishing; no designated trails. Good for bird watching, especially herons that nest in the area. Follow signs from Atlanta town square.

Campsites: 40
Groups?: yes
Water: no
Scout rates: no
Toilets: no
Trails: no
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: limited
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: no
Special: shooting range; bird watching

Bee Hollow Conservation Area—Day use for fishing; primitive camping *may* be allowed for small scout troops with advance permission. Access to East Fork of the Chariton for fishing and canoeing. Nine miles south of Macon on Hwy 63, then 2 ½ miles west on Jackpot St.

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

Blees Lake—Here, the lake *is* the area. Located just past a residential community, the area around the lake has unmarked trails. Decent fishing. Follow signs from south end of Macon across from fairgrounds on Hwy 63.

Comments: “Fish were killed in fall 2001; lake restocked in 2002 with nice size channel cat and crappie.” Troop 81, Macon.

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

Dodd Access—small area to provide access to Chariton River. Decent shore fishing. Hwy 36 west of Callao to Hwy UU. North 5 miles, then take CR 647 one mile.

Campsites: 1
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

Griffiths Memorial Conservation Area—Small area with limited camping and decent fishing in stock ponds. Good for bird watching; watch for hunters. 2 ½ miles north of New Cambria on Hwy 149, then west on CR 918B.

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

Hidden Hollow Conservation Area—largish area with camping and limited fishing. Good for forestry merit badge; contact office for assistance. Seven miles west of La Plata on Hwy 156, then 1 ½ miles south on Hwy 3, then 3 miles west on CR 590C

Campsites: 4
Groups?: no
Water: no
Scout rates: no
Toilets: no
Trails: limited; no maps
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: no
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: no
Special: no

La Plata City Lake—day use fishing area. 2 ½ miles east of La Plata on Hwy 156; watch for signs.

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

Long Branch Lake—Adjacent to state park; in many ways is an addition to the state park. See state park information.

Macon City Lake—200 acre fishing lake. Good fishing, unmarked trails. One mile north of Macon on Hwy 63, follow signs.

Comments: “Must check-in with Macon Municipal Utilities to let them know you are camping.” Troop 81, Macon.

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

Thomas Hill Reservoir—large, premiere conservation area; former strip mining operation. Great for wildlife and nature activities; could be used for multi-troop activities. Great fishing and boating. Parts are wildlife and waterfowl refuge. Six miles west of Macon on Hwy 36, then 8 miles south on Hwy C to College Mound, then 2.4 miles west on Hwy T.

Comments: “Check before going; there is a possibility that part of the camping area may be closed.” Troop 81, Macon.

Campsites: 80
Groups?: yes
Water: no
Scout rates: no
Toilets: yes
Trails: no
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: yes
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: no
Special: yes; wildlife refuge

Shelby County

Arrow-wood Conservation Area—forested area with decent fishing. Good for viewing an endangered species of plant. Three miles north of Shelbina on Hwy 15.

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

Bollow Conservation Area—undeveloped site.

Hunnewell Lake—not a large area, but devoted to camping in two camping areas around the lake. Good fishing; hatchery tours available. Lake is large enough for different sizes of boats; rental available. Three miles north of Hunnewell on CR Z.

Campsites: 70
Groups?: yes
Water: no
Scout rates: no
Toilets: yes
Trails: no
Fishing: yes
Aquatics: yes
Service: yes
Firewood: yes
Shelters: no
Privacy: no
Special: fish hatchery

Mound View Access—small area with access to North Fork Salt River. Unmarked trails. From Shelbina, take Hwy 15 north 1.5 miles. Turn right on Hwy HH. Follow until you reach CR 455; take CR 455 for .5 miles and turn left on CR 470.

Campsites: 1
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

Pin Oak Conservation Area—small area with wetlands and marsh. Hwy 36 west of Shelbina 6 miles, then 4 miles north of Lentner on Hwy N.

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