



RINQUELIN TRAIL LAKE CONSERVATION AREA

By Susan Hohman

The scenic natural beauty of the Central Missouri and Ozark region has been preserved for our enjoyment by the efforts of the Missouri Department of Conservation at various locations throughout our region. One such place, found in the Dixon locality is Rinquelin Trail Lake Conservation Area. Via five separate transactions between 1982 and 1990, the acquired area consists of 286 acres of woodland, fields, and lake, and is named after an Indian trail that passed through Vienna and connected the Gasconade and Osage Rivers.

The area features a 29-acre lake, "nestled in the Ozark highlands at the headwaters of the Little Maries River," (as listed on the website) in



Maries County. The lake area includes a concrete boat ramp, a fishing jetty, and a double-pit privy, all accessible to people with disabilities, with two other fishing jetties, as well. Fishermen are provided ample prospects to catch bass, catfish, and sunfish (Bluegill and Redear) and the Missouri Department of Conservation re-stocks the lake with catfish each fall. There is also an intermittent stream on the site that is approximately one mile long.

Individual primitive campsites are available next to one of the parking lots; no camping amenities are provided, however. Besides some scenic walking through non-prairie grassland and old fields, those who enjoy bird-watching can

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