

Originating Committee: Education and Outdoor Recreation

Authors: Moira Crowell, Ashley Hrdina, Emma Haenchen, Demi White, and Amanda Unverferth (CLC)

Intended Recipients: Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Council of the Blind

Implement Permanent Programs for the Visually Impaired and Totally Blind into Nature and Conservation Education Centers

WHEREAS, approximately three-hundred thousand Missourians have visual impairment disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Council of the Blind, and the Saint Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired have expressed a desire for more permanent programs for the visually impaired and totally blind within Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) nature and education centers; and

WHEREAS, while MDC nature areas and education centers offer programs for the visually impaired upon request and have sensory-involved items, they do not consistently provide braille on maps, brochures, or displays in nature areas; and

WHEREAS, nature and education center employees express interest in providing more access and programs to the visually impaired; and

WHEREAS, MDC nature and education centers across the state provide accessibility for wheelchairs, however, the visually impaired experience less equal opportunity for convenience; and

WHEREAS, Missouri Council of the Blind confirmed individuals who are totally blind and some who are visually impaired still learn and use braille; and

WHEREAS, if permanent and consistent programs were put in place at nature and education centers, individuals who are visually impaired could equally learn about and enjoy nature through programs and resources MDC has to offer; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled in Osage Beach, Missouri, this 12th day of March, 2022, encourages Missouri Department of Conservation to work with the Missouri Council of the Blind to provide permanent programs and accessibility at nature and education centers for individuals who are visually impaired or totally blind that include descriptive language, audio, sensory-involved items, and braille.

Searchable Keywords: nature centers, visually impaired, blind, disability, accessibility

Expires: March 12, 2027