Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary

RMBS was created in 1988, after the construction of the Melvin Price Locks & Dam
Sanctuary was designated as an Important Birding Area by the Audubon Society in 2005
The Audubon Center at Riverlands opened in 2011
The Sanctuary comprises of approximately 1,200 acres of restored prairie/marsh habitat, 550 acres of bottomland forest habitat and 1100 acres of open water
Federal and state threatened and endangered species like least tern, decurrent false aster, and smooth softshell turtle are management priorities
Trails offer immense birding opportunities throughout prairie/marsh areas
Environmental Learning Facility onsite for educational programs
Civil War memorial dedicated to the remembrance of smallpox victims located at Lincoln Shields recreation area
National Great Rivers Museum offers Melvin Price Locks & Dam tours daily at 10 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm

Area Guidelines:

- Visitors must remain on designated trails or roadways at all times
- Fishing in the Mississippi River, Ellis Bay, Lincoln Shields Access and Maple Island Access requires either an Illinois or Missouri fishing license. One must follow the regulations of their respective state’s fishing license
- To fish in Teal Pond and Ellis Lake requires a Missouri license
- Refuge boundary is marked with a dotted line on map. This area has NO hunting year round
- No boats are allowed within the safety zone 500 feet upstream and downstream the Melvin Price Locks & Dam

Further refuge regulations on back

Visit our website for more information:

Email us at: riversproject@usace.army.mil
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Trail Distances (approx.)
- Ellis Is. Forest Trail - 1.2 mi (loop from parking lot)
- Ellis Is. Main Trail - 1.0 mi (one-way)
- Heron Pond - 1.7 mi (loop from parking lot)
- Teal Pond - 0.5 mi (one-way)
- Two Pecan Pond - Loop 1.1 mi (loop from gate)
- Audubon Center Trail - 1.0 (total paved trails)

Visitors must remain on trails at all times.