

LEARN ABOUT THE DEVELOPEMENT OF

YOUR Missouri

TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEM

Contact Us:

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Environmental
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WHY DOES MoDOT NEED TO ENTER

MY PROPERTY?

a guide to understanding field studies

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation system that is safe, innovative, reliable and dedicated to a prosperous Missouri.

FIELD STUDIES Q & A



WHY DO MoDOT STAFF OR CONSULTANTS NEED ACCESS TO MY LAND?

Access to your property is needed to investigate for cultural resources, to identify water resources, threatened or endangered plant or animal species, or other unique habitats. This work is a necessary step for MoDOT to comply with state and federal laws and identify any known environmental issues near or within a proposed project. This information is used to help MoDOT select a preferred improvement alternative.



WHAT ARE MoDOT STAFF OR CONSULTANTS LOOKING FOR WHEN CONDUCTING A SURVEY?

MoDOT staff or consultants are looking for any environmental issues, such as:

- Cultural resources: e.g. archaeological sites, historic districts, buildings, including houses, barns and associated resources, or cemeteries.
- Water resources, (e.g., wetlands, ponds, rivers, streams, ditches, ravines, seeps, springs).
- Threatened or endangered species, including any plant or animal species listed on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's or Missouri Department of Conservation's lists of threatened or endangered species, or any habitat that may have a protected species living in it.
- Any other unique habitat, such as native prairie or woodland.



WHAT SURVEYS MAY BE CONDUCTED ON MY PROPERTY?

Archaeological studies

In floodplains, river terraces, and areas covered with vegetation, holes are dug approximately every 50 feet looking for artifacts. Typically, holes are about 12 inches in diameter and 24 inches in depth. Soil from each hole is either sifted through a screen or sorted by trowel. The holes are then immediately back-filled (exhibit 1).



Exhibit 1



Architecture studies

- The exterior of buildings are photographed.
- Sometimes more in-depth studies are needed. The property owner may be asked about the history of the property or alterations made to the buildings.



Threatened or endangered studies

- A walk through to look for threatened or endangered plant or animal species. Plant and animal habitats are also examined.
- Sometimes more in-depth studies are needed. This would be discussed with the landowner before any further work occurs.



Water resource studies

- A walk through to look for water resources, such as rivers, streams, wetlands, and ponds.
- Wetlands are defined by collecting information on plants, soils, and water at one or several spots on the property. This involves use of a 3/4-inch diameter soil probe or digging a shallow soil pit with a spade (exhibit 2). All soil pits are backfilled immediately once the work is complete.



Exhibit 2



Other possible studies

- Land surveys or soil borings.
- Noise study to determine sound levels and traffic noise.
- Other surveys as needed.

MoDOT staff and consultants will attempt to return the property to the condition it was before the survey work began.



WHAT DOES MoDOT DO WITH THE INFORMATION COLLECTED?

The information collected by MoDOT or its consultants is intended for the analysis and guidance of transportation-related decisions. MoDOT may be required to report findings to other state and/or federal agencies if a project has the potential to impact regulated resources.



WILL THIS BE THE ONLY TIME I AM CONTACTED BY MoDOT?

MoDOT tries to minimize the time needed to be on your property, but sometimes studies require a return trip to collect more information or to conduct additional investigations. MoDOT staff or consultants will make an effort to contact you before coming on your property, if you request.

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