

## Ben Branch Lake

Region - Ozark Border

Ben Branch is located in Osage County and is owned and managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. This lake is approximately 30 acres in size and has a watershed of 625 acres. The majority of the watershed (70%) is forested, with grass/pasture making up another 20% of the land use. During 1999, Secchi transparency was the only parameter monitored on this lake.

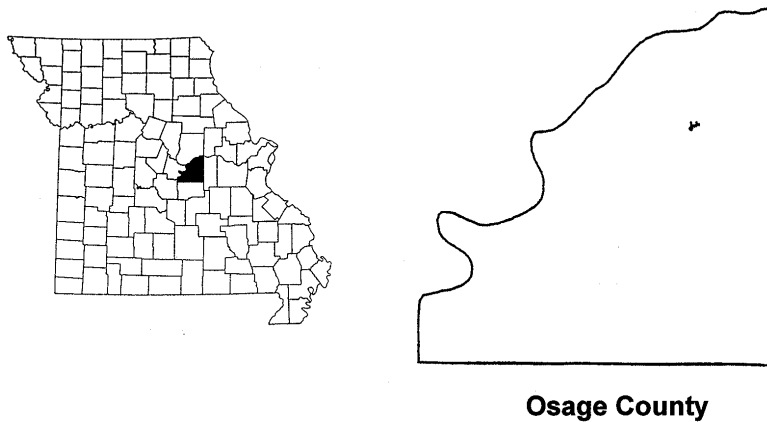


Figure 10. Location of Ben Branch Lake.

Table 3. Secchi (inches) readings from Sites 1 and 2 on Ben Branch Lake - 1999.

Date	June 16	July 10	August 20	September 4	October 28
Site 1	90	94	85	54	125
Site 2	76	93	69	52	125

- ▶ Site 1 was located near the dam and Site 2 was in the cove of the largest inflowing stream.
- ▶ Average Secchi readings were 90 and 83 inches for sites 1 and 2, respectively.
- ▶ It is common for Secchi readings to be deeper at a lake's dam site compared to the inflow end of the lake.
- ▶ The average Secchi reading at the dam was twice as deep as the Ozark Border regional average (see Table 2 on page 10).
- ▶ Secchi transparencies in Ben Branch Lake were comparable to mesotrophic sites on Table Rock Lake.