

MILFORD

FISHING

Fishing conditions can change rapidly due to weather and water conditions.

Walleye concentrate along the face of the dam during early April to spawn. Following the spawn, Farnum Creek flat, the mud points near School Creek, and the flats near the military marina are good areas. During the summer, walleye often are taken off the state park points in 25 to 40 feet of water.

Nearly all of the brushy and rocky coves contain crappie, but the coves around Rolling Hills and Curtis Creek are traditional hot spots. Autumn finds the crappie back in the same haunts as in the spring. Ice fishing in winter in the Curtis Creek area often yields sizable strings of crappie.

Milford usually produces a white bass run in the Republican River in late April or early May. When the river is high and turbid, a spawning run occurs off the face of the dam, rather than upriver. In summer, white bass can be taken while trolling deep-diving lures across underwater dropoffs. Night fishing for white bass under lanterns or floating lights is also popular. One of the best places for night fishing is Madison Point. In fall, bass congregate in the upper end on Madison Point and along both sides of the Wakefield Causeway.

The upper end of the lake above the Wakefield Causeway has traditionally offered the best catfishing, but catfish are common throughout the reservoir. Most of the large flatheads are caught along the Wakefield Causeway and in the standing timber in the upper end on setlines and live bait.

Nearly all the wooded coves that hold crappie also hold largemouth bass.

In general, any of the rocky points and banks in the lower half of the lake will harbor smallmouth bass, but the face of the dam has the highest density of this fish.

WILDLIFE VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES

The Steve Lloyd Refuge has an outlook area that provides a great view of the upper refuge area. Several species of shore birds and waterfowl may be viewed at various times during the year.

GENERAL HUNTING

Many game species are present on Milford Wildlife Area. The area has huntable populations of pheasants, quail, turkey, deer, dove, squirrel, coyote, cottontail rabbits, ducks and geese. Though populations fluctuate from year to year, all of these species provide area hunters with a challenging outdoor experience.

There are approximately 19,000 acres of public land surrounding Milford Reservoir. These acres comprise various habitat types such as timber, agricultural fields, wetlands, and native grass plantings. The native grass plantings serve as excellent nesting habitat for upland bird species. The native grass strips are typically burned every three to five years to prohibit invasive tree and shrub growth, and to aid in accessibility to these areas.

Approximately 5,000 acres are leased out for agricultural fields. Varying percentages of crops are left standing throughout the winter to aid wildlife. An additional 50 acres of food plots are planted each summer to further assist wildlife through the winter months. These food plots and standing crops offer both food and shelter for various wildlife species.

Milford Wildlife Area also provides thousands of acres for wildlife viewing for hikers and other wildlife area users.

ELECTRONIC DAILY HUNT CHECK-IN / CHECK-OUT

Hunters are required to Check-in/Check-out before/after each hunt and is required on this property.

Check-in or check-out can be done through the GoOutdoorsKansas app or at ksoutdoors.gov/checkin (use qr-code below). Instructions will be available through the app or website. To learn more about Check-in/Check-out call (620) 672-5911 and ask for Public Lands.



FIREWOOD PERMITS

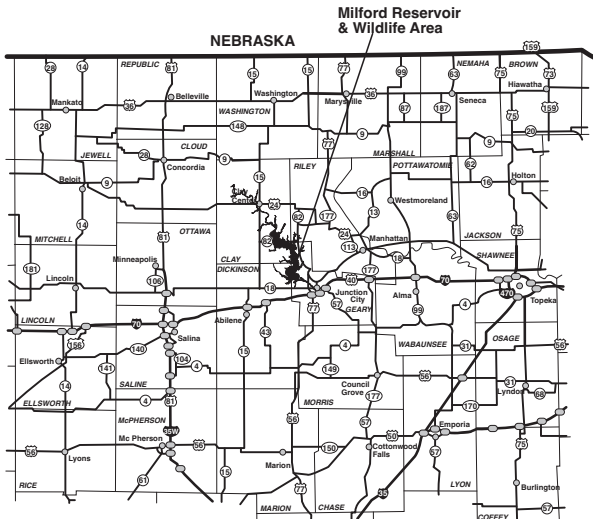
A firewood permit is required to harvest dead and downed firewood along maintained roads. This free permit may be obtained by calling (785) 461-5402 .

The dam at Milford Reservoir is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The reservoir has a surface area of 16,020 acres and an average depth of about 25 feet.

Numerous camping and picnicking areas are maintained by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the USACE, and the city of Wakefield. Two privately owned marinas are located on the lake, providing services for boaters and anglers.

Approximately 19,000 acres of public land surrounds Milford Reservoir on the west side and the upper end. This land is managed to maximize production of various wildlife species.

Numerous opportunities exist for those who wish to observe or photograph wildlife on the area. The abundant and diverse habitat supports many species of nongame birds, mammals, reptiles, and aquatic life.



General Area Map

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex (gender), sexual orientation, age, disability, genetic information, or protected veteran's status, in employment, access to programs, or other KDWP benefits or services. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any employment, access to programs, or other KDWP benefit or service, please submit a complaint to: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Office of the Secretary, 1020 S Kansas Ave. Topeka, KS 66612-1327 (785) 296-2281. 10/25

YOUTH /MENTOR AREA

The West Broughton Youth/Mentor area has been designated as an area requiring a mentor, age 18 or older, to be accompanied by a youth, 17 years old or younger, to participate in any and all uses of this area in accordance with state and federal regulations.

REFUGE/NO HUNTING AREAS

The Steve Lloyd Wetlands contains approximately 1,300 acres designated entirely as a refuge area. There are two wetlands on this refuge area offering about 600 water surface acres when the pools are completely full. The refuge is closed to all off road activities throughout the year. The Steve Lloyd Outlook access road is open to vehicles year round. A KDWP law enforcement officer must accompany any individual pursuing wounded or dead game onto the refuge area.

WETLANDS

The Kansas City District Corps of Engineers and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks have created 10 wetland complexes with individual wetlands varying from 20 to 250 acres and totaling about 2,300 acres. These wetlands are regulated by water control structures, which allow for precise manipulation of the water surface and acreage.

There are three stationary pumps and six floating pump structures to pump water from the Republican River and fill the wetlands. These wetland complexes provide manageable wetland habitat benefiting breeding and migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife species. They also increase habitat diversity in the upper portion of Milford Reservoir by providing habitat in the form on aquatic vegetation, shallow water, food, nesting, and resting sites.

There are numerous goose mounds within several of the wetlands, which are used primarily by Canada geese rearing their broods in the spring. Wood duck boxes that were washed away in floods of previous years are being replaced in an effort to increase the wood duck population.

Approximately 650 acres of the 2,300-wetland acres are flooded cropland that serve as an excellent food source for waterfowl. The remaining wetland acres are comprised of native vegetation and open water pools. Six portable pumps and three stationary pumps are used to fill the wetlands.

Milford

Reservoir & Wildlife Area



Milford Wildlife Area
PO Box 301
Wakefield, KS 67487

Area Office
(785) 461-5402

Regional Office
(785) 273-6740

www.ksoutdoors.gov



BOATING

There are two boat ramps maintained by the Public Lands Division. The Gatesville Boat Ramp is located directly south of the Smith Bottom Wetlands. This boat ramp gives access to the Republican River only. There is also access at the Mall Creek Parking Area. This gravel boat ramp will only accommodate small boats. Motorized boats are allowed only in the Mall Creek Wetland. Motorized boats with either gas or electric motors are prohibited in all other wetlands.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Vehicles are restricted to maintained roads and parking areas. Off-road vehicle use is prohibited.

Individuals using the wildlife area must take their trash out with them. A no-trash policy is in effect for this area, so no trash barrels are provided.

Special length and creel limits may be in effect for some fish species. Please check the *Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary* and all posted notices prior to fishing. Consult information signs posted in the area for all regulations that apply at Milford.

No camping on the wildlife area.

Entrance fees are required at all state parks.

Target shooting is prohibited on all public lands.

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE AREAS

Annual permits will be issued at the Milford Wildlife Area office for motorized handicapped access on two designated areas for all species and all seasons in accordance with state and federal regulations. These areas are still open to public hunting. Call (785) 461-5402 for more information. A state issued handicapped ID card is required.

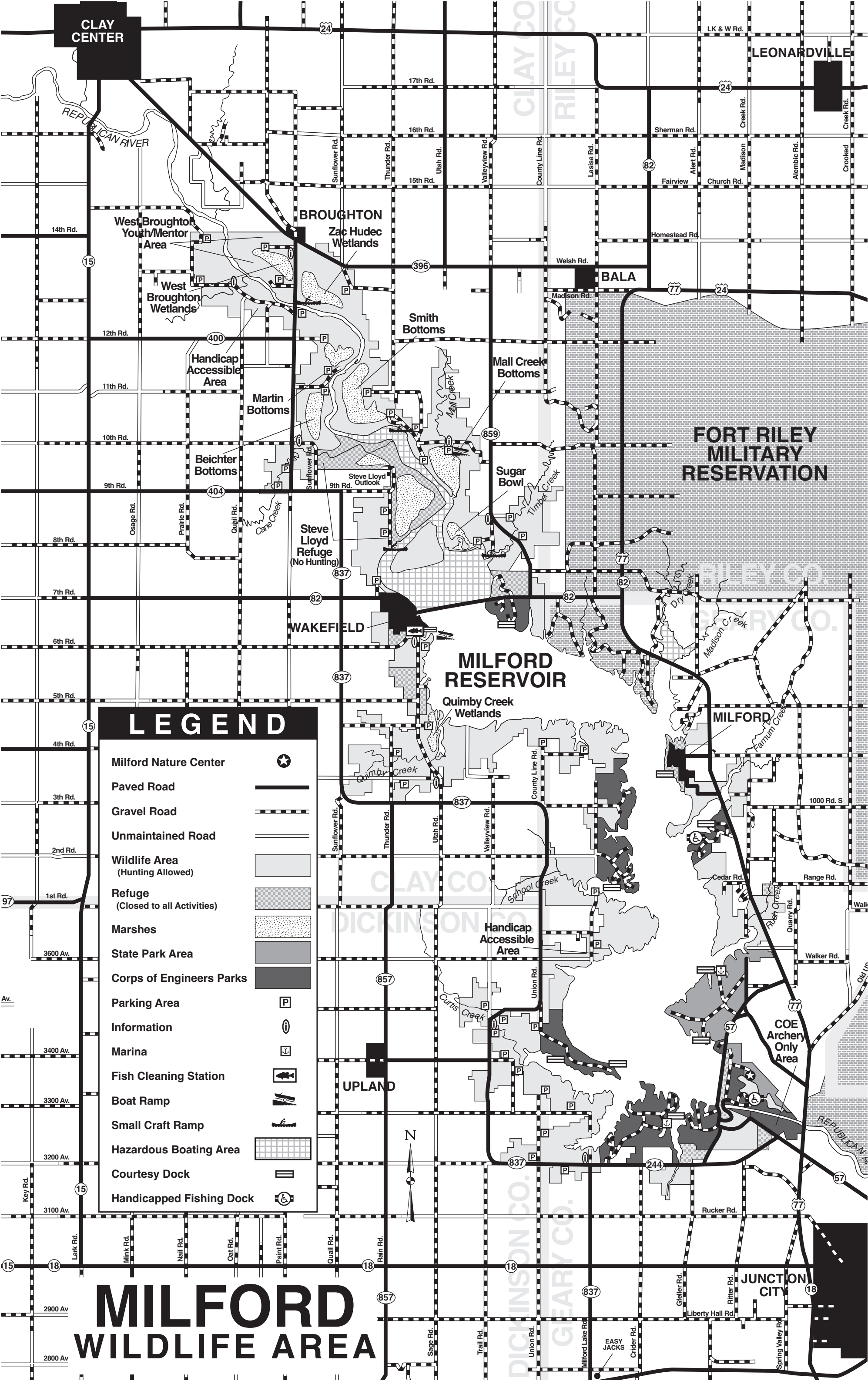
SHOOTING RANGES

The following is a list of shooting ranges located near the Milford Wildlife Area. Call for operational days and times.

Ft. Riley (785) 239-6211

Fancy Creek (785) 539-7941

Sportsman's Acres (785) 238-8727



MILFORD WILDLIFE AREA