

GREEN

Located west of Topeka near the town of Willard, the 83-acre Green Wildlife Area is a unique and interesting natural area developed and managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP.) This area affords users a glimpse of the local

history, a chance to observe native plants and animals in a natural setting, and a brief look at various management practices being employed to promote wildlife habitat. To reach Green Wildlife Area from Topeka, travel west on Hwy 24 to Rossville. Go south across

the Kansas River Bridge to Willard. Turn east on Second Street at the south edge of Willard and go 0.3 miles east. At Gilkerson St. go 0.8 mile south. Green Wildlife Area is on the west side of the road.

WILDLIFE AREA

The Green Wildlife Area is rich with the history of Kansas from before statehood. The present site and the land surrounding it was once the site of Uniontown. This town was originally established as a trading post for the Pottawatomie Indians in 1848, and grew to a population of 300. Uniontown was eventually met by a branch of every major trail in the area. These included the California-Oregon Trail, the Fort Leavenworth-Ft. Riley Road, the Salt Lake City Trail, and the U.S. Mail Route. Remnants of the Oregon Trail can still be seen along one of the area's nature trails. Uniontown suffered through two outbreaks of cholera until it was burned and abandoned in 1859. A cemetery on nearby private property contains the mass graves of Uniontown cholera victims.

In the 1870s, the area became the property of the Green family and was used for agricultural purposes until the 1960s. The Green family built a home from the native stone remnants of Uniontown in 1877. The dated stone that once was laid above the doorway to the home may now be seen near the parking area.

MANAGEMENT

Several management practices are currently being employed to return these areas to a more native conditions. Because fire was a naturally occurring event that maintained grasslands, controlled burning is now used to control woody invasion and stimulate native plant species once occurring here. Certain areas are being overseeded with native grass and forb seed. Some woody vegetation is being physically removed by chainsaw and used for brushpiles at woodland edges. Brushpiles provide cover

Remnants of farming operations may be seen throughout the area.

The Green Wildlife Area contains many diverse and fascinating wildlife habitats, giving its users the opportunity to view different plant communities and the various stages of ecological succession that have taken place.

The northern part of the area provides eastern deciduous oak-hickory woodlands. Post Creek, running though the western boundary of the area, is a typical eastern Kansas stream with its associated riparian vegetation. The eastern edges of the area contain what was originally fingerlike extensions of tallgrass prairie containing native warm-season grasses and forbs. These areas were disturbed by cultivation and overgrazing by livestock, resulting in the invasion of woody vegetation (primarily Osage orange and honey locust), cool season exotic grasses, and inedible forbs (invasive plant species).

for many ground dwelling animals. Previously, the grazing that occurred in the woodland areas removed many seedling woody plants at edges of the woodlands.

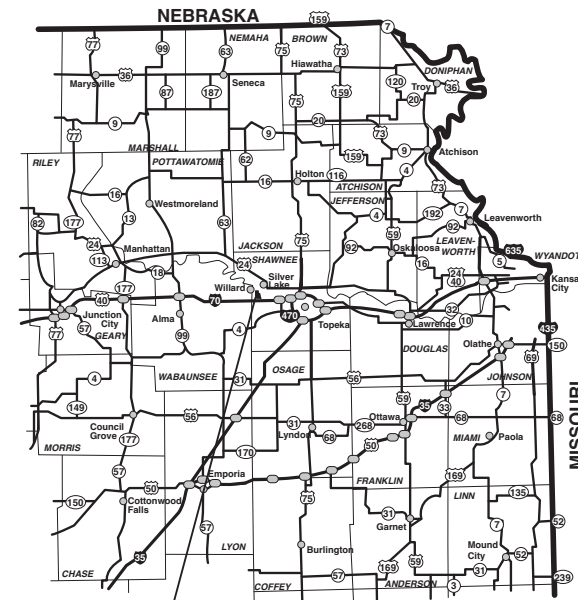
Area use regulations are posted at the entrance to the parking area and nature trails. A condition under which the previous owner donated the property to KDWP's WILDTRUST program was that fishing, hunting, and trapping be prohibited on the area. Because of this, only activities such as birdwatching and hiking are allowed. These

same activities are also permitted on KDWP's wildlife areas where hunting, fishing, and trapping is permitted.

For the comfort of birdwatchers and hikers, several benches are provided along the nature trails. Maps are posted at the trail entrances and numbered markers designate items of interest on the nature trail. Each numbered trail marker has a brief explanation contained in the trail guide.

While using the nature trails, you are encouraged to walk slowly and quietly in order to observe more wildlife. Binoculars and field guides are valuable in observing and identifying area plants and animals. However, users are not confined to nature trails as long as they stay within property boundaries, which are fenced and marked. Remove any litter observed when using the area even if you did not bring it in.

The Green Wildlife Area was developed in part with Chickadee Checkoff contributions. You can donate to this nongame wildlife program on your state tax return.



Green Wildlife Area

General Area Map

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Green

Wildlife Area



Clinton WA
206 N 1600 Rd.
Lecompton, KS 66056

Area Office
(785) 887-6882

Manager
(785) 256-5260

Regional Office
(785) 273-6740

www.ksoutdoors.gov



HERBERT REINHARD GREEN MEMORIAL WILDLIFE AREA

Wabaunsee County
Shawnee County

Carlson Rd.

to
I-70

Post Creek

Green Cemetery

NW 17th St.

N

LEGEND

Wildlife Area
(No Hunting Allowed)



Paved Road



Gravel Road



Seasonal Road



Parking Area



Trails



Towns or Cities



Section/County Lines

