

NEOSHO

Located on the broad floodplain below the junction of Flat Rock Creek and the Neosho River, the Neosho Wildlife Area is a man-made marsh developed and operated by

the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP).

The 3,246-acre wildlife area in Neosho County is managed to provide public hunting opportunities, while also furnishing migrat-

ing waterfowl a place to rest and feed. The area is divided into 19 man-made pools, which cover 1,748 acres with water when full.

HISTORY

Construction of marshes began in the fall of 1960, and by early 1961 three pools were completed. Waterfowl hunting was first permitted in 1962. Funding for the original construction came, in part, from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) program, which is derived from excise taxes on outdoor equipment and ammunition. WSFR funds are distributed to states at a cost-share rate of three to one. Lands used for production of agricultural crops as part of the management program remain on county tax rolls.

In the fall of 1988, 270 acres were added to the area

through a cost-share agreement with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. In 2014, 10 acres were purchased along the South Unit to allow the construction of a permanent pump station, which was completed in 2015. That same year, a \$3.5 million renovation project began, utilizing funding from both the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and WSFR. The NAWCA grant came through a partnership with Ducks Unlimited, Inc., as well as donations from other partners and allowed the construction of a modern and more efficient water-pumping delivery system.

HUNTING

During spring and fall migration, duck numbers can sometimes reach 100,000 birds. More than 60,000 ducks, primarily mallards, normally spend the entire winter on the area.

Just prior to hunting seasons, hunting areas (Pool 1, 2A, 2B, 4A, 4B, 5, 6, 7, 8, and the South Unit) are flooded with approximately 2 feet of water. Pool 3, located in the refuge area, is managed to provide food, cover, and resting areas for migratory birds. All other pools are managed through a varying drawdown process to provide food for migrating waterfowl. Portions of all pools are managed in a moist-soil environment through an annual water-level manipulation plan. Four green tree marshes, ranging in size from 5 to 15 acres, offer a different type of hunting opportunity. Approximately 250 acres of corn, milo, and millet are planted in the pools by area KDWP Public Lands staff.

In the waterfowl hunting areas, portable blinds may be used or temporary blinds may be constructed of native vegetation. These blinds must be removed within 10 days of the close of waterfowl season. No holes or

pits may be dug for any purpose. Waterfowl hunters may not shoot from dikes or roads.

Boats (except air boats) may be used for hunting but must be removed daily and must operate at NO-WAKE speeds in boating canals.

On weekends and holidays, Pool 8 is restricted to waterfowl hunters accompanied by a youth hunter 16 or younger. Adults accompanying youth hunters may also hunt.

In addition to waterfowl, other game may be hunted in season, including deer, quail, rabbit, turkey, and squirrel. To ensure everyone has a high-quality experience on a public hunting area where crowded conditions can sometimes exist, it is essential that hunters practice good sportsmanship, handle guns safely and follow all rules and regulations.

All 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.

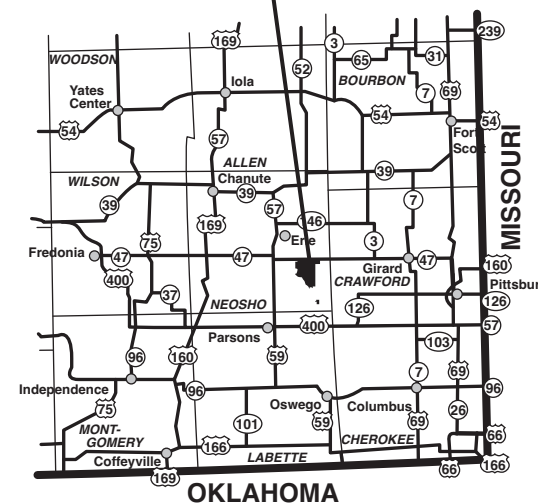
FISHING

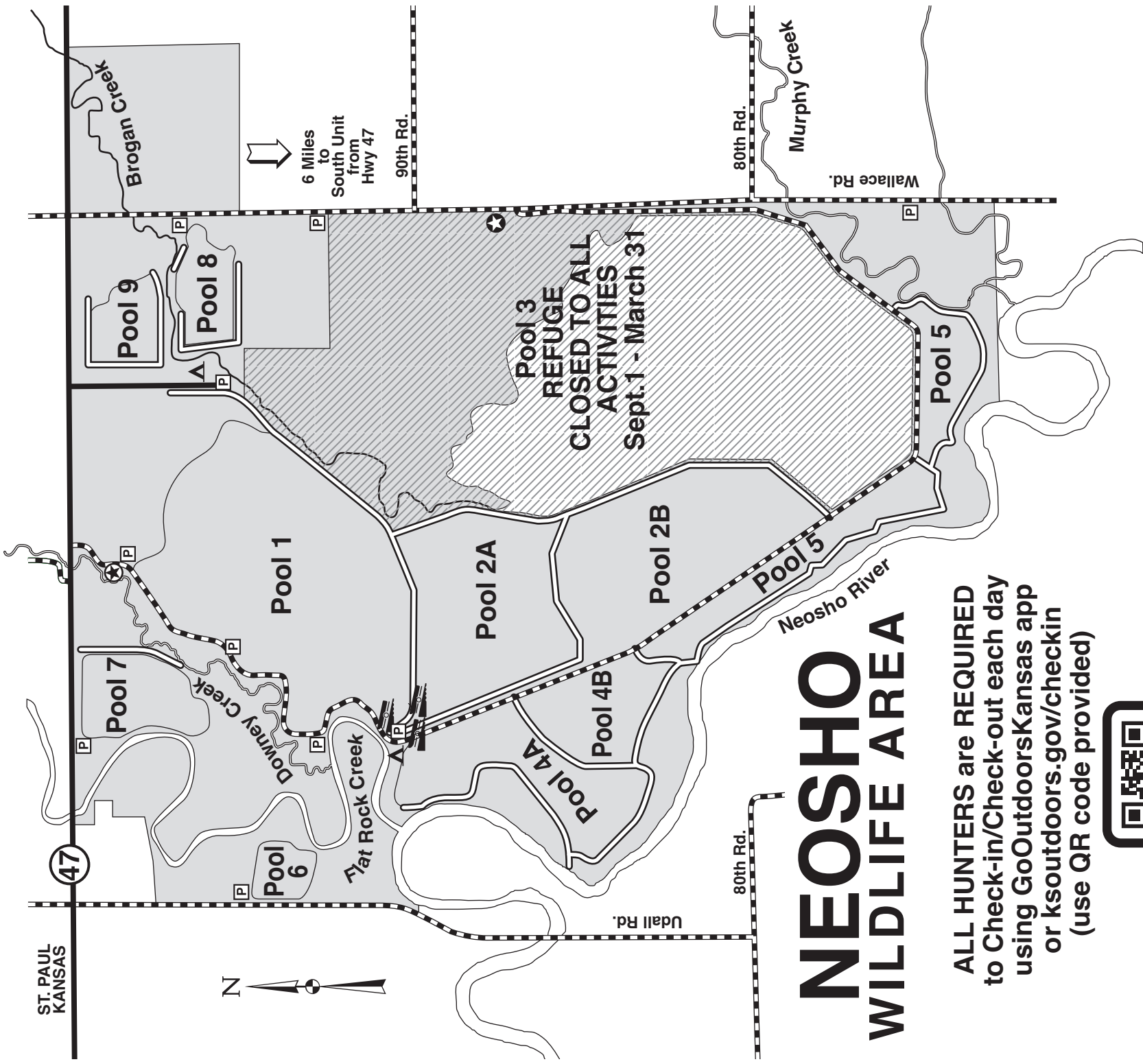
Fishing on the area is normally allowed from April 1 to August 31 and anglers are encouraged to try their luck. Fishing for flathead and channel catfish on the Neosho River, which forms the west boundary of the area, can be seasonally good to excellent. Bowfishing for carp on the mudflats in spring and summer can also be excellent.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Vehicles are permitted on maintained roads only.
- Primitive camping is allowed in designated areas only, but please take your trash with you.
- Consult area information signs for additional rules and regulations on the area.
- **Non-toxic shot for all hunting.**
- All Hunters are required to Check-in prior to hunting and Check-out when finished hunting at the end of the day. Check-in or check-out can be done through the GoOutdoorsKansas app or at ksoutdoors.gov/checkin.

Neosho Wildlife Area





LEGEND

- Office
- Information Station
- Public Use Area (Hunting Allowed)
- Wildlife Refuge (No Hunting)
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Dike/Levee
- Parking Area
- Primitive Camping Area
- Boat Ramp

