

MARAIS des CYGNES

Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area is along the picturesque Marais des Cygnes River about 60 miles south of Kansas City.

The 7,654-acre area was one of

the first areas purchased by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The broad floodplain with mature hardwood forests and wetlands, provides unique scenic and wildlife resources. The area has

natural and man-made wetlands, upland and bottomland forests, native prairie, croplands, and streams.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Initial wetlands development began in the mid-1950s and continues today. Water pumps along with canals and water control structures, allows intensive management of impounded wetlands.

Water level manipulation is the primary wetland management tool at Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area. Each spring, selected marshes are dewatered. Some marshes may be burned, disked, or mowed to stimulate desirable plants or inhibit undesirable species. Units are flooded

in fall to provide habitat for migratory and wintering wetland wildlife.

Some marshes are not dewatered. These marshes produce submerged aquatic vegetation sought by some species of waterfowl. These marshes also harbor fish and amphibians that provide food for wading birds, pelicans, cormorants, and grebes.

Crops are managed to provide food for upland wildlife as well as for waterfowl that feed in fields.

RECREATION

Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area is open to hunting during legal seasons. Fishing is allowed in marsh units from April 15 through September 15; the river and streams are open to fishing year-round. Although no

camping facilities are provided, primitive camping is allowed at designated sites. The area provides good opportunities for birdwatching, hiking, picnicking, and photography.

FISHING

Catchable size game fish are generally not abundant within the marshes due to periodic dewatering for wildlife management. However, Unit G produces good catches of crappie and white bass in some years. The river and some streams within the area provide excel-

lent fishing for catfish. Paddlefish snagging is allowed. Bowfishing for rough fish can be excellent in shallow water and at outlets during marsh drawdowns. Salvage of fish during dewatering of marshes may be allowed by posted notice.

WILDLIFE

Large concentrations of waterfowl and other wetland birds at Marais des Cygnes provide exciting opportunities for birdwatching and photography. Over 300 species of birds have been documented on the wildlife area. More than 100 species nest in the area's diverse habitat.

This is one of the premier waterfowl hunting areas in Kansas. In addition to duck and goose hunting, it also provides excellent white-tailed deer, turkey, and squir-

rel hunting. Snipe, rail, and woodcock hunting can be good during the peak of migration.

Development of the wildlife area has been funded by the sale of hunting licenses and federal taxes on sporting firearms and ammunition. Beginning in 1987, Ducks Unlimited has cost shared waterfowl habitat enhancement programs. Income from the Kansas Waterfowl Habitat Stamp, required of all waterfowl hunters, is used for wetland habitat enhancement.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Units B and C-North are refuges and are closed to all activities. Birds may be observed in these units from public roadways, but entry into the units is prohibited.

Nontoxic shot is required for all shotgun hunting. Hunters may not have lead shot in their possession.

Waterfowl hunters must obtain a free daily permit available after 5 a.m. at the area headquarters prior to hunting, and they must report harvest after the hunt.

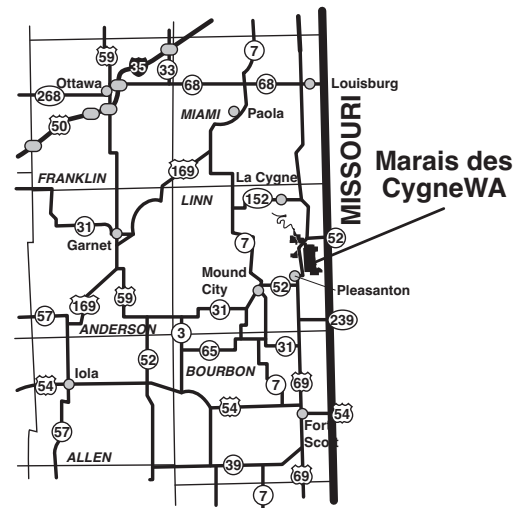
Archery deer hunters must obtain an access permit that is valid for the season.

Boats may be used for hunting; hunters should check posted regulations concerning use of motors.

Hunting from dikes, levees, or roads is prohibited. Portable blinds and stands may be used, or blinds may be built from natural herbaceous or woody debris present at the blind site. Blinds and stands must be removed within 14 days of the close of the appropriate season. Pit blinds are prohibited.

Motor vehicles are restricted to established, maintained roads and parking lots.

Trash barrels are not provided, and users must take their trash out of the area. Please do not litter!



General Area Map

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Marais des Cygnes

Wildlife Area



Marais des Cygnes
Wildlife Area
16382 Vail Rd.
Pleasanton, KS 66075

Area Office
(913) 352-8941

Regional Office
(316) 683-8069

www.ksoutdoors.com



MARAIS DES CYGNES WILDLIFE AREA

