

# SAND HILLS

Sand Hills State Park, a 1,172-acre natural area, has been preserved for its sand dunes, grasslands, wetlands, and woodlands. Located north of Hutchinson, Kansas, this park can be accessed off of Highway K-61 at East 56th street or East 69th street.

For thousands of years the Arkansas River carried sediment from the Rocky Mountains into this area. Prevailing southwesterly winds blew the fine sand out of the river valley, forming a narrow band of unstable sand dunes. The sand shifted and changed shape until vegetation established a foothold and stabilized the dunes. This line of sand dunes has created a diversity of unique habitats. The area is limited to walk-in access in order to help us protect the natural features of this area as well as to enhance your enjoyment.

## Fees and Facilities

Permits are available at self-pay stations, Sand Hills State Park, Cheney State Park, Regional Wildlife and Parks Offices, and the Pratt and Topeka Offices. State park vehicle permits are now required for entrance or use. Standard camping fees apply.

Visit [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com) to reserve a site or contact the park office.

Sand Hills State Park has a modern restroom and showerhouse with four family units in the campground. The trails also have four areas with vault toilets.

## Trail Season and Access

The hiking, horse, and the multi-use trails are open year round. During rainy times of the year expect some muddy sections on the trails. Please be aware that the trails will be closed when controlled burns are taking place. Signs will be posted if a controlled burn is to occur.

Most trails start from one of four parking lots located on either 56th street or 69th street. The Prairie Trail may be reached via Dune Trail or Cottonwood Trail. Six horse gates on the multi-use trails allow more access points for both equestrians and hikers.

## Recreation

The most popular activities at Sand Hills State Park are hiking and horseback riding. Other activities include archery deer and upland game hunting, bird watching, wildflower walks, and jogging. When participating in these activities please use caution, obey all regulations, and be courteous.

## Camping

Camping is available at Sand Hills State Parks campground. There are a total of 64 utility sites with 50-amp service. 44 sites have water, sewer, and electric utilities. 20 sites have water and electric utilities. There are 14 pull-through sites with double horse pens measuring 12 foot by 12 foot. Now, pack in multiple days of hiking and riding while enjoying nature at its finest.

## Trail Rules

To help maintain the beauty of the trails, please follow these rules:

1. State Park vehicle permits are now required for parking lots and campgrounds.
2. Park all vehicles in designated parking areas.
3. Dogs are welcome on a leash. No off lead training is allowed. Exceptions are made during hunting season if the dog is accompanying a hunter carrying a special hunting permit for Sand Hills State Park.
4. NO motorized vehicles allowed on trails.
5. Trail access is allowed only from designated trailheads.
6. Camping only allowed in campgrounds.
7. NO fires - this includes cigarettes, charcoal grills, propane stoves etc. Campfires allowed in campground fire rings only.
8. Pack it in, pack it out! Carry out all trash.
9. Hikers yield right of way to horseback riders. Please stay on trails when hiking.
10. Horseback riders must remain on marked trails. Horses are not to be ridden on "hiking only" trails, dunes, or erosion prone areas.
11. Collecting fruit, nuts, leaves, flowers or other plant parts is prohibited. Special permits for scientific collecting may be obtained through the Department of Wildlife and Parks.

## Controlled Burns

At Sand Hills State Park the primary habitat is tall-grass prairie. To maintain this habitat, controlled burns are necessary to decrease the woody invaders and the excess dead vegetative matter. Without fire the park would turn into solid woody thickets and trees thus losing the valuable prairie ecosystem which it now enjoys.

The Department of Wildlife and Parks conducts periodic controlled burns designed to meet different resource management goals. Before the burn, signs will be posted at the park entrances notifying the public.

## Public Hunting

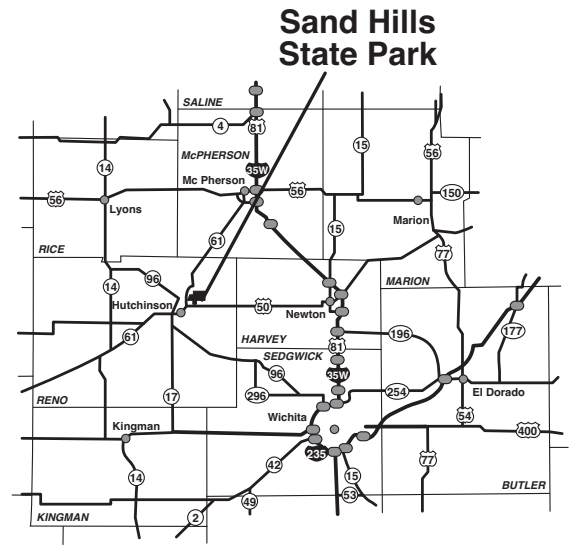
Archery deer and upland game hunting are available only by special permit. Permits are issued through a drawing. For current information contact Cheney State Park at (316) 542-3664. Archery deer and upland bird hunting is available by special permit only.

## Wildlife Observation

From the Pond Trail during the summer, visitors can get a close up peek at nature in action. From the trail, ducks, geese, songbirds, deer, turkey, muskrats and many other creatures are frequently seen.

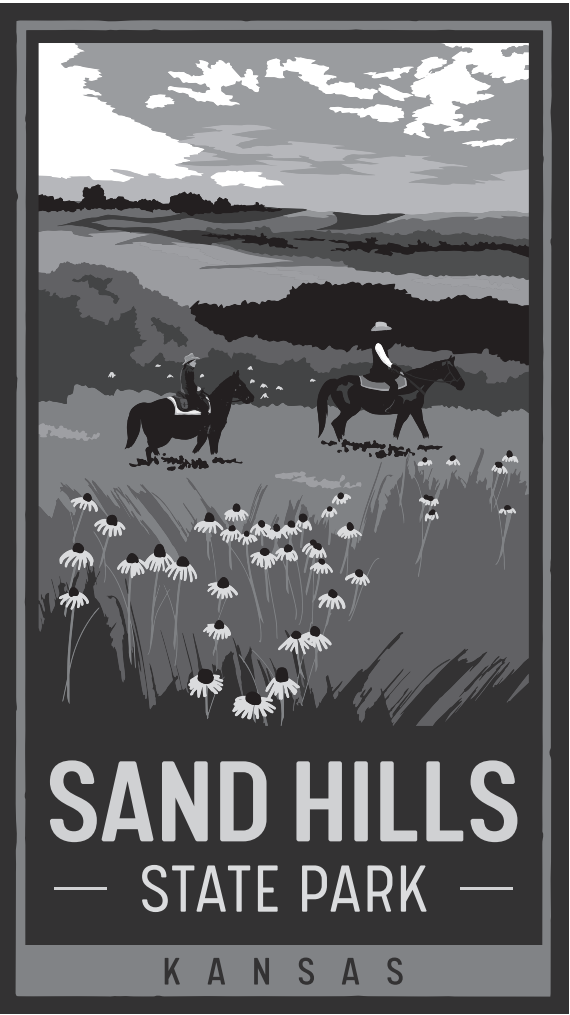


Download the **CampIt KS** mobile app today and reserve your Kansas State Park campsite from anywhere, on any mobile device! Available now in the Apple App and Google Play stores.



## 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. 08/25



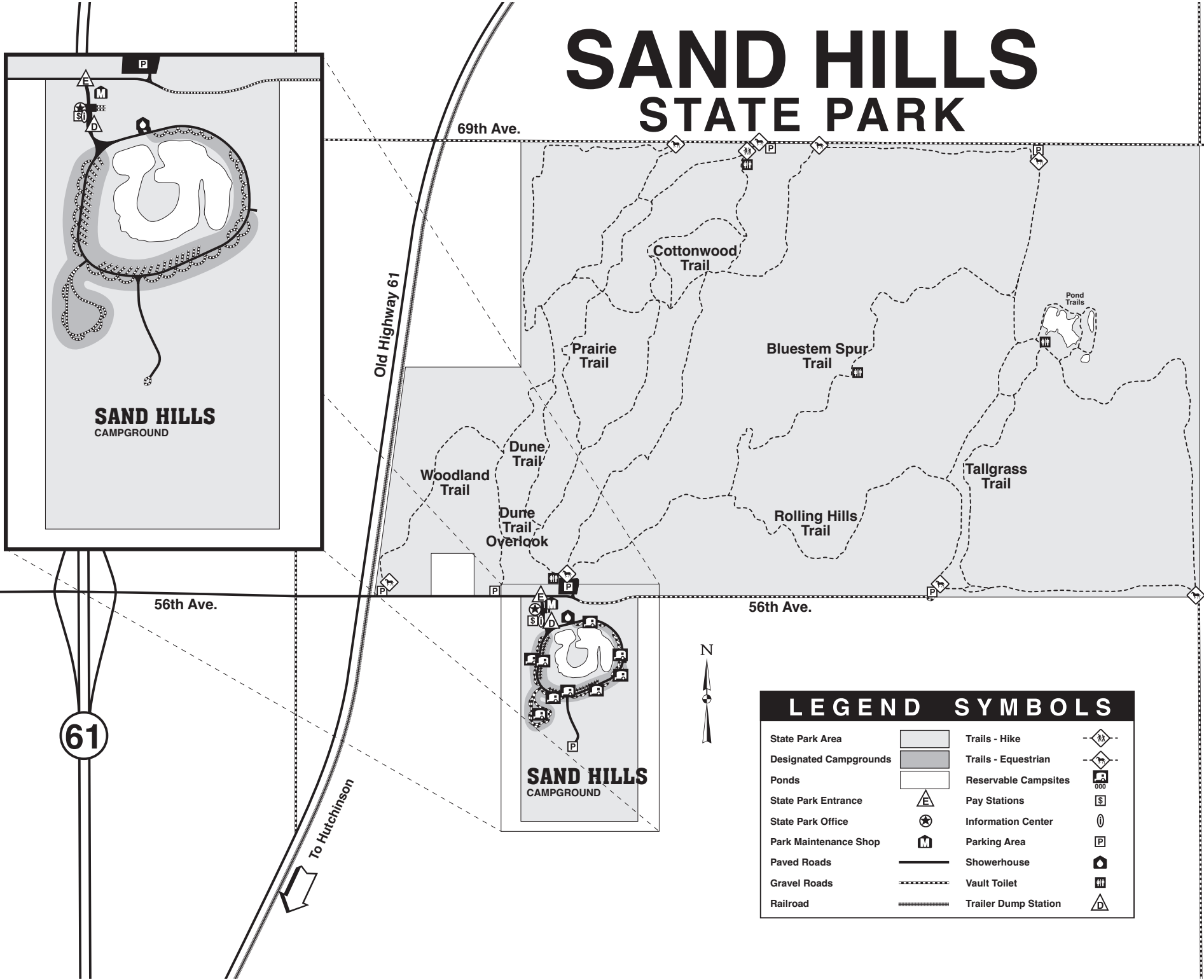
Sand Hills/Cheney State Park  
16000 NE 50th St.  
Cheney, KS 67025-8487

Area Office  
(316) 542-3664

Regional Office  
(316) 683-8069

KDWP.cheneysp@ks.gov  
[www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com)

# SAND HILLS STATE PARK



## Hiking Trails

### Dune Trail

At 1-mile, this loop trail will take you to the top of a 40-foot dune and then down through a wetland area. The Dune Trail and the Prairie Trail connect in a figure eight pattern creating the Prairie-Dune Trail, a 2.17-mile hike. These two trails are accessible from the parking lots located on E 56th and E 69th.

### Cottonwood Trail

This half-mile trail is mostly through heavy timber made up of a variety of species.

### Prairie Trail

The Prairie Trail is 1.9-miles. This loop trail winds through woods, prairie, and dunes and offers a lengthy but moderate hike because of the level terrain.

## Horse and Multi-use Trails

### Pond Trail

This 1.5-mile trail starts on the north boundary and will lead hikers and horseback riders around several large ponds in the center of the park. The marsh-like ponds and surrounding areas provide excellent habitat for migrating waterfowl and other water-loving species. These species may be observed from wildlife observation blinds placed along the trail.

### Rolling Hills Trail

Horseback riding has been very popular at Sand Hills ever since it became a state park in 1974. Rolling Hills Trail, at 3.8 miles, is the longest trail at Sand Hills and will lead hikers and horseback riders around numerous dunes. During spring, the show of wildflowers in this area is spectacular.

### Bluestem Spur Trail

The 1.2-mile Bluestem Spur Trail breaks off from the Rolling Hills Trail to lead hikers and horseback riders through waves of bluestem grass and over sand hill vistas.

### Tallgrass Trail

This 2.2-mile trail connects with the southeast horse gate and the Pond Trail. Both hikers and horseback riders are invited to use this grassland trail. Rolling Hills Trail and Tallgrass Trail connect to make a 6-mile long ride.

### Woodland Trail

Cottonwood trees and dogwood bushes line the edge of this 2.2 mile trail. This trail may be accessed from both 56th street and 69th street.