

# On T.R.A.C.K.S.

Teaching Resource Activities and Conservation to Kansas Students

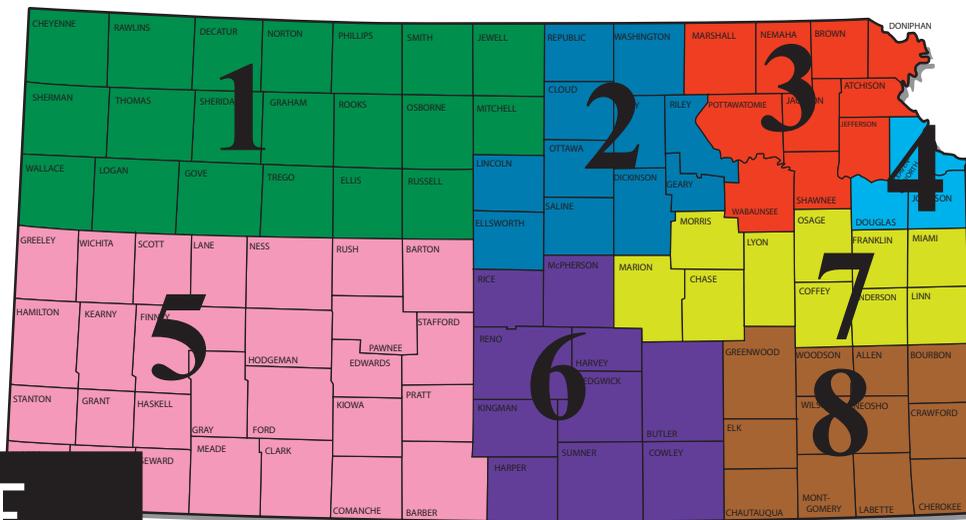


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## Environmental Interpretation Site Guide



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**Don't Miss  
Our Next  
Issue:**

**Going  
Green**

# On T.R.A.C.K.S. Special Issue

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In this special issue of your On T.R.A.C.K.S. newsletter, you'll find an updated guide to sites in Kansas that provide wildlife and environmental interpretation. There are many new entries since the last guide 10 years ago. Sites found in the guide include places with guided nature trails, museums and nature centers, farmsteads, wildlife rehabilitation facilities, and zoos both big and small.

Every attempt was made to include websites and email addresses for each location. Electronic communication is far more popular today than even just ten years ago and where would we be without the internet! Most of the information included in this guide is straight from the web pages.

We hope this updated guide will continue to provide Kansas educators with a sourcebook for outdoor and wildlife education experiences and other resources you might use in developing your lesson plans. Some sites may make good field trip destinations, but don't overlook a place just because it is far from your school's doors. Many can provide fascinating information, and some, such as the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center in Greenbush, can even provide IDL (Interactive Distance Learning) programs to your site. Several places, such as the KDWP's Wildlife Education Service, loan educational materials for only the cost of returning the materials. All of these sites can give you information which you can pass on to your students in a variety of creative lessons and activities.

The sites included in this guide range from the big to the very small, from free to admission charged, and from urban to very rural. Please note, however, that inclusion does not mean these organizations are endorsed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks. As always, research carefully before choosing to use the resources we offer here.

## *What is interpretation, anyway?*

**In•ter•pre•ta•tion (in-tur-pri-tey-shuhn) -noun.**

**1. the act of interpreting; elucidation; explication.**

According to the experts, environmental interpretation is a unique approach to teaching non-scientists about the natural world. The technical language and concepts scientists use are translated into everyday speech so people of all educational levels and skills can understand more about the world around them. Interpretation stresses ideas and their relationships through hands-on experiences and objects, instead of through dry lectures or texts.

Interpretation sites usually cater to visitors of parks, wildlife refuges, nature centers, zoos, museums, aquariums and other such places. The goal of Kansas interpretive sites is to help people better understand and appreciate the natural resources of our state.

based on information from Sam H. Ham, author of *Environmental Interpretation*, and Gary E. Machlis and Donald R. Field, authors of *On Interpretation*.





# 1 Sternberg Museum of Natural History

## Hays



The Sternberg Museum of Natural History ranks among the best natural history museums. It features a realistic Cretaceous diorama, along with many exhibits including the world famous fish-with-in-a-fish. The Discovery Room features real specimens (largely focusing on the Great Plains) and basic information which allows students to ask questions and find answers on their own.

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 7:00 pm Tues- Sat  
1:00 pm - 7:00 pm Sun  
Closed Mondays

**Fee:** \$6 for adults, \$4 ages 2-17, \$4 over 65

**Contact Info:** 3000 Sternberg Dr  
Hays, KS 67601  
(877) 332-1165 toll free

**email:** [bcbartels@fhsu.edu](mailto:bcbartels@fhsu.edu)

[www.fhsu.edu/Sternberg](http://www.fhsu.edu/Sternberg)

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# 1 Fick Fossil & History Museum

## Oakley



The Fick Museum features a collection of fossils found in the Oakley area, including a 15 foot long Cretaceous fish and over 11,000 shark teeth. The museum also focuses on rocks and minerals and has a “family friendly” policy. Guided tours are available and the site has a playground and picnic area. Advance notice for groups of 15 or more is requested.

**Summer Hours:** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm M- Sat  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Sun

**Winter Hours:** 9:00 am to noon M-Sat

**Fee:** None, donations appreciated

**Contact Info:** 700 W. 3rd Street  
Oakley, KS 67748  
(785) 672-4839

**email:** [fickmuseum@st-tel.net](mailto:fickmuseum@st-tel.net)

[www.discoveroakley.com](http://www.discoveroakley.com) then click on Fick Museum

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# 1 Cheyenne County Historical Museum

## St. Francis



Featuring exhibits on area wildlife, prehistoric animals and Ice Age mammals, and horses from all eras, this museum offers group tours. Schedule well in advance and custom treasure hunts can be prepared for class groups. Also available are guided tours (using your bus) of The Brakes (unique rock formations nearby) and the last Cheyenne Indian encampment. Tours take about an hour.

**Hours:** 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm M-F  
or by appointment  
Call ahead to schedule tours

**Fee:** None, donations appreciated

**Contact Info:** US Hwy 36  
St. Francis, KS 67756

Call Marge:(785)332-2392 or Tobe: (785)332-2809 for appointments

[www.stfrancisks.com](http://www.stfrancisks.com), click on St. Francis, then museum





## 2 Smoky Hill Bison Ranch

Assaria



We cater to your group needs with our program on the American bison and Kansas agriculture, and gear it to the age of the class or group. You have a choice for a two hour time slot on Tuesdays through Fridays (rain dates on Mondays), between 9 am to 2 pm for your tour and activities. Your students may bring sack lunches and use our picnic area, or we can make the meal for you (additional cost)

**Hours:** 10:00 am - 5:00 pm M-Sat (year around) **Contact Info:** 2660 E. Hobbs Creek Rd  
Afternoons on Sunday Assaria, KS 67416

1-800-790-2665

**Fee:** \$5.00/student

**email:** smoky@bisonfarm.com

[www.bisonfarm.com](http://www.bisonfarm.com)

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## 2 Milford Nature Center and Fish Hatchery

Junction City



Live animal exhibits feature native wildlife including snakes, amphibians, prairie dogs, birds of prey, and bobcats. Hands-on exhibits allow you to touch and feel animal furs, skulls, feathers, and much more. Seasonal exhibits include the Butterfly House. Playground and picnic shelter available. Naturalist programs and hatchery tours are available to groups but must be scheduled in advance. See website for programs.

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F (year around)  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Sat-Sun (Apr-Sep)

**Contact Info:** 3415 Hatchery Dr.  
Junction City, KS 66441  
(785)238-LEAF

**Fee:** None, donations appreciated

**email:** pats@wp.state.ks.us

[www.kdwp.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us) click on education

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## 2 Rock Springs 4-H Center

Junction City



This camp and conference center offers historical, educational, environmental and recreational programming, including overnights and 2-hour to 3-day environmental programs. There are several diverse habitat areas to observe. On-site programs and recreation facilities, as well as meals, are included in most programs. Features include cross-curricular programming, leadership training activities, and a low-ropes course.

**Hours:** 8:00 am - noon, 1:00pm to 5:00pm

**Contact Info:** 5405 W. Hwy K-157,  
Junction City, KS 66441  
(785)257-3221

**Fee:** Varies by length of stay

**email:** administration@rocksprings.net

[www.rocksprings.net](http://www.rocksprings.net)



## 2 Insect Zoo- Kansas State University Manhattan



The KSU Insect Zoo opened in 1999, and is housed in the old Dairy Barn by the gardens on the campus of Kansas State University. During guided tours, visitors are offered a chance to touch a variety of animals not usually offered in the petting zoo, including millipedes and walking sticks. Due to limited space, all groups of 15 or more must call in advance to schedule their visit.

**Hours:** Group tours by appointment  
All day Mon; Tue-Fri mornings  
**Fee:** \$3.00/person and must be scheduled  
one week in advance.

**Contact Info:** (785)532-2847 or 556-8179  
**E-mail:** [insect@ksu.edu](mailto:insect@ksu.edu)  
[www.k-state.edu/butterfly/index.htm](http://www.k-state.edu/butterfly/index.htm)

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## 2 Konza Prairie Biological Station Manhattan



Konza Prairie staff or docents lead walking and driving tours. Visitors may choose a guided hike from one- to six-miles, or a guided driving tour from your vehicle. Expect a total visit time of one- to five-hours, depending on your chosen activities. You may choose to spend the day at Konza Prairie and do both a hike and the driving tour. Education topics include: value of prairie research and ecology, local history of Native Americans and European settlers, Flint Hills geology, signs of animals and seeds of prairie plants, and plant and animal diversity of the prairie.

**Hours:** call ahead to schedule  
**Fee:** K-12 classes (excluding USD 383)  
\$25 per class (see website for details)

**Contact Info:** Dr. Valerie Wright  
(785)587-0381  
**E-mail:** [konzaed@ksu.edu](mailto:konzaed@ksu.edu)  
[www.k-state.edu/konza/keep](http://www.k-state.edu/konza/keep)

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## 2 Sunset Zoo Manhattan



This small zoo focuses on conservation of wild animals from around the world, offering educational programs, tours, live animal programs, teacher workshops and outreach programs. Animal Ambassador programs consist of a 45 minute program involving LIVE animals. Some current programs include: Kansas Native, Animals Around the World, and Animal "ABC's" or we can customize a new program just for your group.

**Hours:** 9:30 am - 5:00 pm daily (Mar-Nov)  
12:00 pm - 5:00pm weekdays (Dec-Feb)

**Contact Info:** 2333 Oak Street  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
(785)587-2737

**Fee:** On-site programs \$4/adult, \$2.00/child 4-12 **email:** [sunsetzoo@ci.manhattan.ks.us](mailto:sunsetzoo@ci.manhattan.ks.us)  
[www.sunsetzoo.com](http://www.sunsetzoo.com)



## 2 Lakewood Discovery Center

### Salina



The Discovery Center brings native Kansas to people with numerous interactive displays and opportunities to view local wildlife. The Natural Area offers a break from urban life with its winding trails through woods and prairie, quiet fishing at the lake, and chances to observe animals in their natural habitat. Lakewood is committed to providing new and ever-changing natural experiences and programming for all generations.

**Hours:** 8:30 am - 4:30 pm M-F  
Sat. alternates, call for hours.

**Fee:** no entrance fee  
fees for some programs

**Contact Info:** 250 Lakewood Dr.  
Salina, KS 67401  
(785) 826-7335

**email:** [bill.gaskill@salina.org](mailto:bill.gaskill@salina.org) or [brian.underwood@salina.org](mailto:brian.underwood@salina.org)  
[www.salina-ks.gov](http://www.salina-ks.gov)

## 2 Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure

### Salina



The Zoo consists of 65 acres of beautifully landscaped naturalistic exhibits, and is home to more than 100 species of animals. Many of these species are rare or endangered, including rhinoceroses, chimpanzees and Amur leopards. The world-class Wildlife Museum houses one of the largest collections of full-mount animals in the world. The mounts are displayed in naturalistic dioramas to better appreciate the cultures and creatures we share the earth with.

**Winter Hours:** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
**Summer Hours:** 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Fee:** Call for group rates

**Contact Info:** 625 N. Hedville Road  
Salina, KS 67401  
(785)827-9488

**email:** [vickee@rollinghillswildlife.com](mailto:vickee@rollinghillswildlife.com)  
[www.rollinghillswildlife.com](http://www.rollinghillswildlife.com)

## 2 Kansas Landscape Arboretum

### Wakefield



Over 1,000 species of native and exotic woody plants adapted to the Kansas environment are found here. There are four short trails on the Arboretum. At 1 mile, the Woodland Trail is the longest. The Bird Sanctuary Trail circles a small pond. The Meadow Willow Trail follows a riparian corridor and the Wild Acres Trail circles a prairie meadow. Tours can be scheduled.

**Hours:** dawn to dusk daily

**Fee:** none

**Contact Info:** PO Box 346  
Wakefield, KS 67487  
(785)461-5760

[www.naturalkansas.org/kansas.htm](http://www.naturalkansas.org/kansas.htm)



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# 3 Kansas History Center Nature Trail

## Topeka



The nature trail offers families and school children a field trip destination, a place for exercise, and a chance to gain an appreciation of a beautiful northeastern Kansas setting. The 2.5 mile trail (total length) winds throughout the Kansas Historical Society property with several loops to choose from. The trail is open sunrise to sunset year-round. We encourage our visitors to explore nature and explore Kansas history. An activity guide for the trail is available.

**Hours:** sunrise to sunset daily  
**Fee:** none for the trail. The History Museum has an entrance fee.

**Contact Info:** 6425 SW Sixth Ave  
Topeka, KS 66615  
(785) 272-8681, ext. 262  
**email:** [kansasmuseum@kshs.org](mailto:kansasmuseum@kshs.org)  
[www.kshs.org](http://www.kshs.org)

# 3 Topeka Zoological Park

## Topeka



Topeka's zoo offers organized educational opportunities that teach about nature and the zoo's role in its protection, through both on and off-site programs. Topics include endangered species, birds, reptiles, mammals, rainforests, baby animals and more. Programs must be scheduled well in advance.

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm daily, year-round  
Extended summer hours.  
**Fee:** \$5.25/adult; \$3.75 children 3-12;  
\$4.25 seniors

**Contact Info:** 635 SW Gage Blvd  
Topeka, KS 66606  
(785) 272-5821  
**email:** [mcoker@topeka.org](mailto:mcoker@topeka.org)  
[www.topeka.org/zoo](http://www.topeka.org/zoo)

# 3 W. Clement Stone Nature Center

## Topeka



This facility focuses on native Kansas habitats, through field trips, in-classroom programs, adventure-challenge programs, and wildlife rehabilitation. The Center features a 200-acre piece of tallgrass prairie, an adventure challenge course and a 3,500 year-old Indian burial mound. The programs emphasize nature study, wildlife study and rehabilitation, ecology and conservation.

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 4:00 pm M-F  
By appointment only  
**Fee:** \$2.50/student for field trips  
\$35.00/class for outreach programs (1 hr)

**Contact Info:** 7240 W. 10th St.  
Topeka, KS 66615  
(785) 273-5806  
**email:** [ddinwiddie@stonenaturecenter.org](mailto:ddinwiddie@stonenaturecenter.org)  
[www.thevillagesinc.org/natureprograms.html](http://www.thevillagesinc.org/natureprograms.html)





# 4 Kaw Valley Heritage Alliance Lawrence



Field trips are provided for 6th graders in the Lawrence area through the Wetland Learners Program. The trips are facilitated by community and partner volunteers as well as Wetland Learner Interns. This year we have 2 field trip projects happening during the 08/09 school year. One project is for the 6th grade and one is for the 2nd grade.

**Hours:** By appointment only

**Fee:** contact for information

**Contact Info:** 412 East 9th Street  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
(785) 840-0700

[www.kawvalleyheritagealliance.org](http://www.kawvalleyheritagealliance.org)

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# 4 Prairie Park Nature Center Lawrence



Located on the east side of town, Prairie Park features prairie, woodland and wetlands blended together in a 72 acre preserve. Prairie Park Nature Center offers a selection of nature programs to the public, schools and local groups on a wide variety of environmental topics. The education building has a display hall with a variety of live Kansas animals, including birds of prey, and dioramas.

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Tue-Sat  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Sun

**Fee:** Field trips: \$3.50 per student (\$60 min.)

Indoor Programs: \$45.00 at Nature Center  
\$60.00 at your school

**Contact Info:** 2730 SW Harper  
Lawrence, KS 66046  
(785) 832-7980

**email:** [mbirrell@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:mbirrell@ci.lawrence.ks.us)

[www.lprd.org/ppnc.shtml](http://www.lprd.org/ppnc.shtml)

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# 4 University of Kansas Natural History Museum Lawrence



This museum focuses on plants and animals of the Great Plains and offers a variety of programs for school groups. All exhibits are accessible for wheelchairs, and traveling kits are available for checkout. Special workshops on natural history subjects are available, along with tours of the four floors or exhibits. Those include a panorama of North American plants and animals, dinosaurs fossils and an active beehive.

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Tue-Sat  
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Sun

**Fee:** \$3.00/ child, \$5.00/adult  
suggested donation at the door

**Contact Info:** 1345 Jayhawk Blvd.  
Lawrence, KS 66045  
(785) 864-4450

**email:** [kunhm@ku.edu](mailto:kunhm@ku.edu)

[www.nhm.ku.edu](http://www.nhm.ku.edu)



# 4 Prairie Oak Nature Center

## Leawood



The Prairie Oak Nature Center offers fun environmental education programs for all ages. Stop by the Nature Center or look in the Leawood Parks and Recreation Guide to see programs that are currently scheduled. In addition to the scheduled programs, our on-site naturalist will work with teachers, youth leaders and other organizations to provide a program just for their group.

**Hours:** 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Wed-Sat  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Sun  
Closed Monday

**Fee:** Admission is free

**Contact Info:** 14701 Mission Road (At Ironwoods Park)  
Leawood, KS 66211  
(913) 681-0902

**email:** [parks@leawood.org](mailto:parks@leawood.org)

[www.leawood.org/parks/naturecenter.aspx](http://www.leawood.org/parks/naturecenter.aspx)

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# 4 Operation WildLife

## Linwood



Operation WildLife is the largest publicly funded wildlife clinic in Kansas. OWL presents programs that emphasize the special challenges faced by wild animals today and offer information on native species and habitats. Many of the programs include one or more of OWL's education animals as part of the instruction. Custom presentations are also available.

**Hours:** 8:30 am - 5:30 pm Mon-Sat

**Fee:** phone or email for fees

**Contact Info:** 23375 Guthrie Road  
Linwood, KS 66052  
(785)542-3625

**email:** [OpWildlife@aol.com](mailto:OpWildlife@aol.com)(Diane Johnson)

[www.owl-online.org](http://www.owl-online.org)

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# 4 Ernie Miller Nature Center

## Olathe



Ernie Miller Nature Center was the first Nature Center in Johnson County. It is the focal point of cultural, historical, and environmental education programming offered to all ages by the Johnson County Park and Recreation District. The Center contains displays, live animals, and Nature's Corner Gift Shop, along with a friendly, knowledgeable staff eager to share their knowledge of nature. New in 2002 is the TimberRidge Adventure Center offering challenge and adventure courses.

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 4:30 pm Mon-Sat (closed 12-1)  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Sun  
Closed Monday

**Fee:** varies according to program  
call for information

**Contact Info:** 909 N. Hwy 7  
Olathe, KS 66061  
(913) 764-7759

**email:** [bill.mcgowen@jocogov.org](mailto:bill.mcgowen@jocogov.org) (Bill McGowen)

[www.erniemiller.com](http://www.erniemiller.com)



# 4 Deanna Rose Children Farmstead

## Overland Park



The Farmstead is a 12-acre park. It has almost 200 farm animals and birds of prey, vegetable and flower gardens, a one-room country schoolhouse, a dairy barn, an old time fishing pond, horse drawn wagon rides, pony rides and more. Programs available.

**Hours:** 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Sun-Sat  
April 1-Oct 31 (closed Nov-Mar)

**Fee:** \$5.00/person

**Contact Info:** 138th and Switzer  
Overland Park, KS 66221  
(913) 897-2360

**email:** [farmsteadfriends@opkansas.org](mailto:farmsteadfriends@opkansas.org)  
[www.opkansas.org/\\_Vis/Farmstead/index.cfm](http://www.opkansas.org/_Vis/Farmstead/index.cfm)

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# 4 Overland Park Arboretum

## Overland Park



Come take a free guided tour of the gardens and trails at the Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. Tours should be scheduled three to four weeks in advance, if possible. Activities can take place along the trails and in the Children's Discovery Garden area. Wolf Creek offers quite a bit to see, if your group is prepared to get a little wet or muddy.

**Hours:** 8:00 am - 7:30 pm (Apr-Sep)  
8:00 am - 5:00pm (Oct-Apr)

**Fee:** none

**Contact Info:** 8909 W. 179th St.  
Overland Park, KS 66013  
(913)685-3604

[www.opkansas.org/\\_Vis/Arboretum/index.cfm](http://www.opkansas.org/_Vis/Arboretum/index.cfm)

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# 4 John Barkley Visitor Center

## Shawnee



Inside the Visitor Center, located at the entrance of beautiful Shawnee Mission Park, you can view exhibits on wildlife, archaeology, and solar energy. The park itself offers a 150 acre lake, hiking trails, and the largest TRIM orienteering course in Kansas.

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm M-F  
10:00 am -6:00 pm Sat-Sun  
**Fee:** none. There is a fee for fishing, archery, and boating.

**Contact Info:** 7900 Renner Road  
Shawnee, KS 66219  
(913) 888-4713

**email:** [info@jcprd.com](mailto:info@jcprd.com)  
[www.jcprd.com/parks\\_facilities/nature\\_visitor\\_centers.cfm](http://www.jcprd.com/parks_facilities/nature_visitor_centers.cfm)



# 4 Wonderscope Children's Museum

## Shawnee



WONDERSCOPE is the perfect field trip destination for your class! We invite you and your students to experience an environment specifically tailored to their learning and developmental needs. From simple cause and effect, to fine motor skills, to informational and procedural learning, to conceptual cause and effect, our exhibits and programs are designed to engage children in simple and complex forms of play that result in foundational learning.

**Hours:** 10:00 am - 5:00 pm M-Sat  
12:00 pm -5:00 pm Sun  
Closed Monday (Sep-Feb)

**Fee:** \$7.00 ages 3-63; \$6.00 over 64;  
\$4.00 ages 1-2; Free under 1

**Contact Info:** 5700 King  
Shawnee, KS 66203  
(913) 268-4176

**email:** [info@wonderscope.org](mailto:info@wonderscope.org)  
[www.wonderscope.org](http://www.wonderscope.org)



## Resource Library

Our goal is to provide Kansas residents with **free-loan** materials to aid in teaching wildlife education. These resources are available to public, private and home schools, clubs and organizations, and individuals who wish to expand their knowledge of the environment around them.

Available materials include:

- \* Videos
- \* Learning Kits
- \* Books
- \* Posters
- \* Computer Programs
- \* Skins and Skulls



Many subjects are covered, ranging from animals, plants and fish, to weather and environmental issues. **The only charge to you is the return postage.** If you have any questions about using the KDWP Education Resource Library, please contact us by email at [shelbys@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:shelbys@wp.state.ks.us) or call 620 - 672 - 5911.

[www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Other-Services/Education/Resource-Library](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Other-Services/Education/Resource-Library)





# 5 Kansas Heritage Center

## Dodge City



The Kansas Heritage Center is a nonprofit social studies resource center operated through Unified School District 443 in Dodge City, Kansas. They offer a significant collection of nature items for sale (posters, stickers, maps, books, and other products) and maintain a lending library. Orders can be shipped anywhere. Great selection of native animal puppets.

**Hours:** 8:00 am - 5:00 pm M-F

**Fee:** handling fee for lending library  
many Kansas items for sale

**Contact Info:** P.O. Box 1207  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
(620) 227-1616

**email:** [orders@ksheritage.org](mailto:orders@ksheritage.org)  
[www.ksheritage.org](http://www.ksheritage.org)

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# 5 Wright Park Zoo

## Dodge City



Wright Park Zoo is one of the smallest zoos in Kansas. There are 45 mammals and birds on display. Animals on display include Elvira, a Siberian tiger, longhorn cattle, buffalo, black bears, emu, cougar, various monkeys, and many other animals. There is a petting zoo. Tours are self-guided.

**Hours:** 8:00 am - 5:00 pm daily

**Fee:** none

**Contact Info:** South of Wyatt Earp Blvd on Second St.  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
(620) 225-8155

**email:** [dcpr@dodgecity.org](mailto:dcpr@dodgecity.org)  
[www.dodgecity.org/index.aspx?NID=106](http://www.dodgecity.org/index.aspx?NID=106)

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# 5 Lee Richardson Zoo

## Garden City



The Lee Richardson Zoo Education Department offers free educational programs on a variety of "Zoo-ey" topics. Programs can include walking tours of the zoo, which features more than 300 specimens from around the world. Programs and classroom visits are designed around teacher requests. Tours must be arranged at least two weeks in advance.

**Hours:** 8:00 am - 6:30 pm (Apr-Labor Day)  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm (Sep-Mar)

**Fee:** none for walk through traffic  
\$3.00/vehicle for drive through  
Mar-Nov. (Free Dec-Feb)

**Contact Info:** 312 E. Finnup Dr.  
Garden City, KS 67846  
(620) 276-1259

**email:** [zooeducation@garden-city.org](mailto:zooeducation@garden-city.org)  
[www.garden-city.org/zoo/zoolayout.html?home.html](http://www.garden-city.org/zoo/zoolayout.html?home.html)



## 5 Brit Spaugh Zoo Great Bend



This small zoo features a collection designed with environmental education as the focus. Snakes and birds of prey are some of the special shows available. Programs are available both on and off site. New in 2007 is the Central Kansas Raptor Rehabilitation Facility.

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 4:30 pm daily

**Fee:** none for on-site programs  
\$125 for offsite programs within 1 hr  
\$125 plus mileage elsewhere

**Contact Info:** 2200 N. Main  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
(620) 793-4160

**email:** [mcargill@greatbendks.net](mailto:mcargill@greatbendks.net)  
**www.greatbendks.net/meetthestaff/parkdepart.htm**

## 5 Kansas Wetlands Education Center Great Bend



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY'S  
**KANSAS WETLANDS  
EDUCATION CENTER**

**Hours:** 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Closed Monday

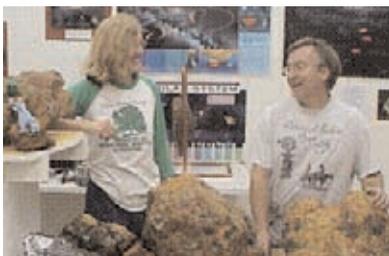
**Fee:** none

Through interpretive displays and programs the Wetlands Education Center educates visitors about the critical value of the wetlands to migratory shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, grassland birds, and numerous amphibians and reptiles. The Center also explains the reasons why these natural marshes, ephemeral wetlands, and adjoining grasslands need to be restored, protected, and properly managed. It also serves as a source for educational materials and current information of value to tourists, hunters, and wildlife watchers.

**Contact Info:** 592 NE 156 Hwy  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
(620)786-7456

**email:** [tlmannell@fhsu.edu](mailto:tlmannell@fhsu.edu)  
**www.fhsu.edu/wetlandscenter/**

## 5 Kansas Meteorite Museum and Nature Center Haviland



The Kansas Meteorite Museum and Nature Center is an entertaining and educational site for the whole family. This museum houses the largest display of Brenham Kansas meteorites in the world. Educational material about meteorites and meteorites from around the world are on display. The history of the Brenham meteorites and life on the plains of Kansas from the late 1800s and early 1900s is also included. The Nature Center with trails and displays is still in the planning process.

**Hours:** 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Fri-Sun  
or by appointment

**Fee:** none

**Contact Info:** 2 mi south of Hwy 54/400  
between Haviland and Greensburg  
(620) 723-2318

**www.kansasmeteorite.com**



# 5 Pratt Education Center and Aquarium



Located on the grounds of the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks headquarters, this site emphasizes the discovery of Kansas fish and wildlife through hands-on nature presentations for schools and other organizations. Features include live reptiles, twelve 400-gallon aquariums with native fish, and the Pratt Fish Hatchery next door. There are limited outreach programs offered and no nature trails at the facility, however, there are trails nearby in Lemon Park.

**Hours:** 8:00 am - 5:00 pm M-F

**Fee:** none

**Contact Info:** 512 SE 25th Ave  
Pratt, KS 67124  
(620) 672-0776

**email:** [chriss@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:chriss@wp.state.ks.us)  
**[www.kdwp.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us) then click on education**

## Do you have an OWLS for environmental education at your school?



OWLS is an acronym for **Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites**. It is a program sponsored by the **Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**. An OWLS is an outdoor environmental/wildlife laboratory, at or near a school, consisting of one or more native habitat features. It is designed to attract native wildlife and to facilitate multi-discipline learning opportunities for students. An OWLS grant provides \$2,000 for developing initial features. Other grants also available include certification, rejuvenation and window OWLS.

An OWLS can be as simple as a few demonstration plots of native grasses and wildflowers and a small frog pool along an edge of the schoolgrounds, or as complex as several acres of woodlands with ponds and a stream. Features may include butterfly/hummingbird gardens, wetlands, nature trails, bird and other animal feeding stations, native prairie grass demonstration and study plots, xeriscape demonstration sites and weather stations. Most OWLS will have some trees and shrubs specifically selected to attract certain wildlife species, such as songbirds.

**Visit [www.kdwp.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us) for more information**



# 5 Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Stafford



Quivira National Wildlife Refuge is home to over 300 species of birds as well as many different mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Guided tours and planned activities are available for schools and other groups by appointment only so call early to schedule yours. A field trip guide is available to educators. All equipment for activities in the guide are on hand at the Refuge to be checked out should you wish to conduct one or more of these activities on your own.

**Hours:** 7:30 am - 4:30 pm M-F (Visitor Ctr)  
Dawn to dusk daily (Refuge)

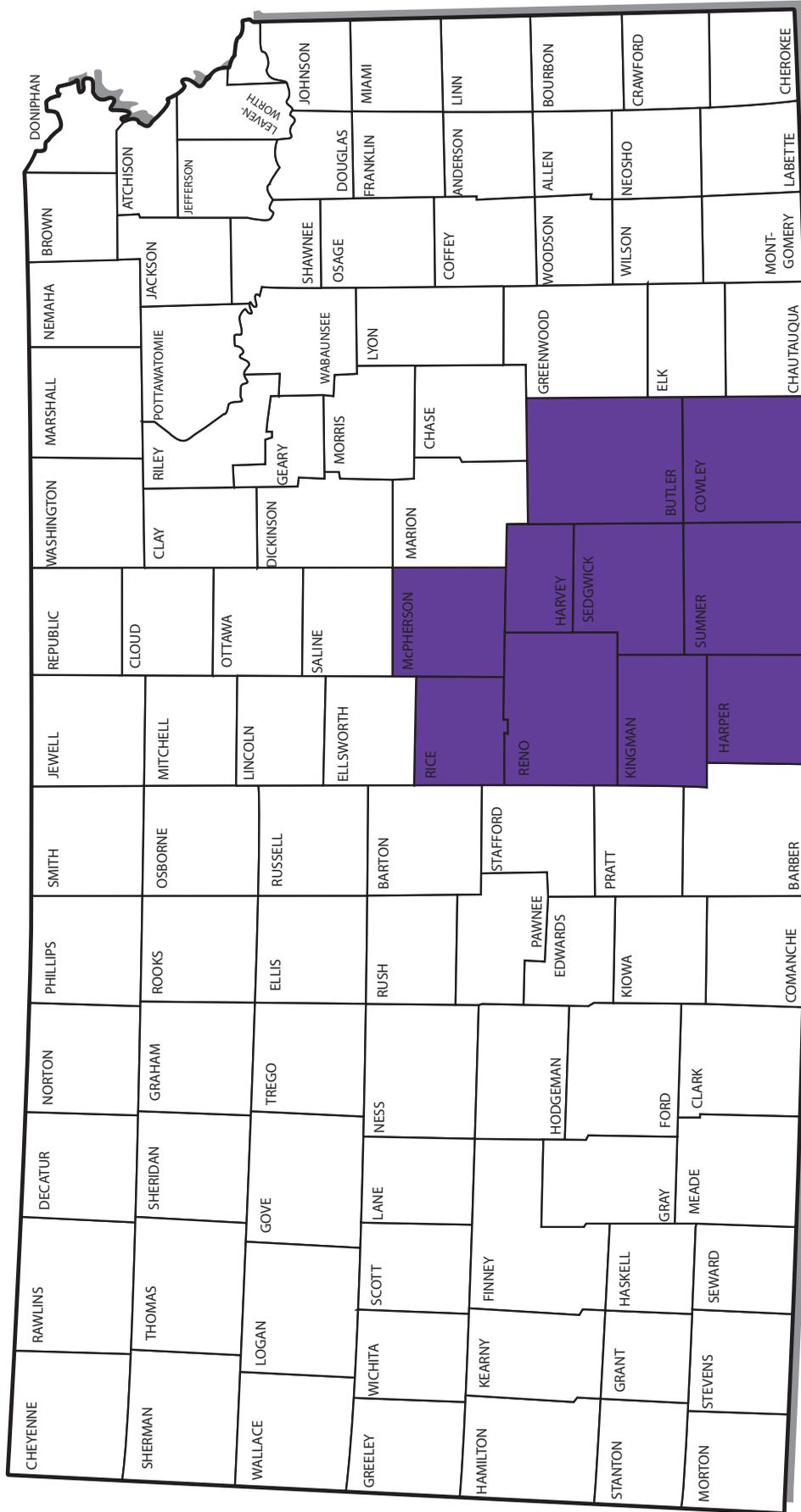
**Fee:** none

**Contact Info:** 1434 NE 80th Street  
Stafford, KS 67578  
(620) 486-2393

**email:** [Quivira@fws.gov](mailto:Quivira@fws.gov)  
**[www.fws.gov/quivira](http://www.fws.gov/quivira)**



# REGIONS



# 6 Chaplin Nature Center

## Arkansas City



Chaplin Nature Center is located on the inner edge of a bend in the Arkansas River. More than five miles of walking trails provide easy access to bottomland & prairies, upland prairies, a spring-fed creek, and the Arkansas River. The visitor center features wildlife displays, a nature library, a gift shop, and a bird observation area located on open deck bordered by tree canopy and serviced with bird feeders. Programs are available on and off site for children and adults.

**Hours:** varies by season.  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm Tues-Sat  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Sun  
**Fee:** none

**Contact Info:** 27814 27th Dr.  
Arkansas City, KS 67005  
(620) 442-4133  
**email:** [cnc@wichitaudubon.org](mailto:cnc@wichitaudubon.org)  
[www.wichitaudubon.org/cnc.html](http://www.wichitaudubon.org/cnc.html)

# 6 Eagle Valley Raptor Center

## Cheney



EVRC offers both on and offsite Bird of Prey programs. Book us to come to your school and teach your students about how birds of prey affect the environment and how our lifestyles can affect them, or bring your class out for an exciting time in nature and visit all of our feathered friends. We also offer an exciting reading program for pre-school to 3rd grade.

**Hours:** variable. Must schedule in advance  
**Fee:** \$5.00/ person suggested donation for on-site tours.  
Contact EVRC for off-site program fees

**Contact Info:** 927 N. 343rd St. W  
Cheney, KS 67025  
(316) 540-0003  
**email:** [raptorcare@aol.com](mailto:raptorcare@aol.com)  
[www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org](http://www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org)

# 6 Tanganyika Wildlife Park

## Goddard



As you walk among the kangaroos, hand-feed the giraffes and ride atop a camel, there's a moment you realize you've crossed the usual boundaries of a typical zoo and entered a special place. You don't just observe animals at Tanganyika, you experience their world. With a strong commitment to education and preservation, we offer a variety educational programs for all levels, from early childhood through adult.

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm daily  
Closed in winter  
**Fee:** \$6.00/ person schools/daycares

**Contact Info:** 1000 S. Hawkins Lane  
Goddard, KS 67052  
(316) 794-8954  
**email:** [events@twpark.com](mailto:events@twpark.com)  
[www.tanganyikawildlife.org](http://www.tanganyikawildlife.org)



# 6 Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

## Hesston



Since 1981, Dyck Arboretum has fostered an appreciation of the native plants of Kansas through horticultural displays. The spring and fall FloraKansas public plant sales combine hard-to-find natives with expert advice. Teachers are invited to participate in annual training in the Earth Partnership for Schools program that establishes native plantings on school grounds and coordinates curriculum to Kansas education standards. The Visitor Center is available for rentals year-round.

**Hours:** dawn to dusk daily  
9:00 am - 4:00pm weekdays (Visitor Center)  
Tours by appointment M-Sat

**Contact Info:** 177 W. Hickory St.  
Hesston, KS 67062  
(620) 327-8127

**email:** arboretum@hesston.edu

**Fee:** \$2.00/ person suggested donation

[www.dyckarboretum.org](http://www.dyckarboretum.org)

# 6 Dillon Nature Center

## Hutchinson



Dillon Nature Center has provided quality outdoor education programs for school children for more than 30 years. Our trained guides will involve your students in an engaging environmental learning experience. All group visits need to be arranged in advance and in-class presentations are conducted only during December, January, February, and early March.

**Hours:** 8:00 am - 5:00pm Mon-Fri  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm Fri-Sat  
1:00pm - 5:00 pm Sun  
**Fee:** \$4.00/student (min \$40.00)  
mileage charged on outreach programs

**Contact Info:** 3002 E. 30th Street  
Hutchinson, KS 67502  
(620) 663-7411

**email:** dcnaturalist@hutchrec.com

[www.hutchrec.com/dnc/menu\\_page.php?id=34](http://www.hutchrec.com/dnc/menu_page.php?id=34)

# 6 Hutchinson Zoo

## Hutchinson



Live animal programs are offered free of charge to scheduled school groups of 10 or more during April and May. Programs are geared to Kdg - 6th grade level. Programs must be scheduled at least 2 weeks in advance. A fee is charged for off zoo site programming. With early notice, both on and off site programs can be adjusted to fit your classroom curriculum, or scout troop badge requirements. Live animal programs for the public are offered at 1:30 every Sat. during the summer months.

**Hours:** 10:00 am - 4:45pm daily

**Fee:** none

**Contact Info:** 6 Emerson Loop East  
Hutchinson, KS 67501  
(620) 694-2672

**email:** charlottep@hutchgov.com

[www.hutchgov.com/department/?fDD=18-0](http://www.hutchgov.com/department/?fDD=18-0)



# 6 Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center Hutchinson



From field trips to family outings, the Cosmosphere is proud to feature various education programs designed to stimulate the mind and stir the imagination. After all, it's one of our goals to challenge students and families with high-impact programming that's flexible, affordable and most of all ... fun!

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 5:00pm Mon-Thur  
9:00 am - 8:00 pm Fri-Sat  
12:00pm - 5:00 pm Sun  
**Fee:** varies by program  
\$2.00- \$10.50/ student

**Contact Info:** 1100 N. Plum  
Hutchinson, KS 67501  
(800) 397-0330 ext. 323  
**email:** [laurieg@cosmo.org](mailto:laurieg@cosmo.org)  
[www.cosmo.org](http://www.cosmo.org)

# 6 Kansas Underground Salt Museum Hutchinson



The Kansas Underground Salt Museum explores the story of salt in a subterranean environment. Voted as one of The 8 Wonders of Kansas it is the only museum of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. Visitors descend 650 feet below the Kansas prairie into a working salt mine to see features of an ancient salt deposit laid down 275 million years ago and mining equipment that has been used in this mine over the past 80+ years. Learn about the scientific and geological make up of the earth in this area of Kansas.

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 6:00pm Tues-Sat  
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Sun  
**Fee:** Regular admission  
\$13.50/ adult; \$8.50/ child (4-12)  
group discount available

**Contact Info:** 3504 E Avenue G  
Hutchinson, KS 67501  
1-866-755-3450  
**email:** [info@undergroundmuseum.org](mailto:info@undergroundmuseum.org)  
[www.undergroundmuseum.org](http://www.undergroundmuseum.org)

# 6 Maxwell Refuge Tour Center McPherson



Maxwell Refuge is the only location in Kansas where public herds of both bison and elk can be viewed in a native prairie environment. The Friends of Maxwell give guided tram tours that go out onto the prairie for a close view of the bison herd. The visitor center has displays about prairie wildlife. There is an observation tower located on the highest point of the refuge and offers a beautiful view of the Maxwell prairie. Drive through visitors welcome also.

**Hours:** by appointment.  
Refuge open dawn to dusk  
**Fee:** \$8.00/adult  
\$5.00/ child 4-12yrs  
Children under 4 are FREE

**Contact Info:** Friends of Maxwell  
2565 Pueblo Rd  
Canton, KS 67428  
(620) 628-4455  
**email:** [maxwell@kitusa.com](mailto:maxwell@kitusa.com)  
[www.cyberkraft.com/maxwell](http://www.cyberkraft.com/maxwell)



# 6 Kauffman Museum

## Newton



Kauffman Museum offers special thematic tours for school classes from K-6, based on school curriculum. An outstanding collection of mounted animals and birds and the prairie reconstruction allow close-up examination of an extensive range of species. Materials for check-out are also available. Reservations are required two weeks in advance.

**Hours:** 9:30 am - 4:30 pm Tues-Fri  
1:30 pm- 4:30 pm Sat-Sun  
Closed on Mondays

**Contact Info:** 27th and North Main  
Newton, KS 67117  
(316) 283-1612

**email:** [asa@bethelks.edu](mailto:asa@bethelks.edu) (Andi Schmidt Andres)

[www.bethelks.edu/kauffman](http://www.bethelks.edu/kauffman)

**Fee:** \$1.00/person for field trips

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# 6 Botanica, The Wichita Gardens

## Wichita



This botanical paradise on the plains is comprised of over nine acres of stunning gardenscaping that features more than 3600 species of plants both native and new to the region. Twenty-five themed display gardens such as the Butterfly Garden, Woodland Bird Garden, Shakespearean Garden, Sensory Garden and Wildflower Meadow combine with 20 sculptures and multiple flowing fountains to create a visually stunning atmosphere. Classroom, preschool, and adult presentation are given. Outreach programs available Jan.- Mar. and at Botanica in Apr.-May.

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm M-Sat (open til 8:00pm Tues)  
1:00 pm- 5:00 pm Sun

**Contact Info:** 701 Amidon  
Wichita, KS 67203  
(316) 264-0448

**Fee:** \$2.50/ person typical program.  
Fee may vary

**email:** [djones@botanica.org](mailto:djones@botanica.org) (Diana)

[www.botanica.org](http://www.botanica.org)

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# 6 Exploration Place

## Wichita



The goal of Exploration Place educational programming is to provide fun and exciting experiences while exploring science. Program selections have been developed to meet Kansas State Science Standards for each grade level. As a result, teachers have the freedom of tailoring visits to best meet their learning goals and objectives.

**Hours:** 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Sun-Mon  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm Tue-Sat (open til 8:00 pm Thur)

**Contact Info:** 300 N.McLean Blvd  
Wichita, KS 67203  
(316) 263-3373 ext 305  
1-877-904-1444

**Fee:** \$7.00/student  
Prices may vary by program

[www.exploration.org](http://www.exploration.org)



# 6 Great Plains Nature Center

## Wichita



The Great Plains Nature Center is a cooperative effort of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the KS Dept. of Wildlife & Parks, and the City of Wichita. The habitats of Kansas are featured in the exhibit hall. Outreach programs, on site programs, guided tours and wildlife presentations are offered. The Center is connected to Chisolm Creek Park and linked to two miles of handicapped accessible trails.

**Hours:** 9:00 pm - 5:00 pm M-Sat

**Fee:** none, some fees for programs

**Contact Info:** 6232 E 29th Street N.

Wichita, KS 67220

(316) 683-5499 ext 210 (Joyce)

email: [Joyce@gpnc.org](mailto:Joyce@gpnc.org)

[www.gpnc.org](http://www.gpnc.org)

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# 6 Kansas Wildlife Exhibit

## Wichita



Located in Central Riverside Park, the Kansas Wildlife Exhibit contains over 25 different species of native mammals, reptiles and birds in eight cages. There has been a zoo in one form or another on the site since 1901. Guided tours and programs are offered on site, as well as outreach programs by arrangement.

**Hours:** Sunrise to 10:00 pm  
open year around

**Fee:** none, donations appreciated

**Contact Info:** 700 Nims

mail c/o Wichita Wild

455 N. Main, 11th Floor

Wichita, KS 67202

(316) 337-9211

[www.gpnc.org](http://www.gpnc.org) then **Kansas Wildlife Exhibit**

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# 6 Lake Afton Public Observatory

## Wichita



Daytime or evening – there is a trip to the Observatory that is right for almost every class. Each Observatory program centers on a specific theme. During the day, the themes are the sun and/or a scale model of the solar system. During the evening, the theme can be the life of a star, the objects which make up our Milky Way galaxy, or the features of the planets and Moon. Classroom presentations, portable editions of exhibits, instructional astronomy games, video tapes, and astronomy activities for use in the classroom are also available.

**Hours:** School programs are offered on Tues. and Thurs.  
evenings and Wed. during the day.

**Fee:** \$2.00/ person (min. \$40.00)

Reservations needed two weeks in advance

**Contact Info:** LAPO/WSU

1845 Fairmount

Wichita, KS 67260

(316) 978-3191

email: [observatory@wichita.edu](mailto:observatory@wichita.edu)

[webs.wichita.edu/lapo](http://webs.wichita.edu/lapo)



On T.R.A.C.K.S. 25

# 6 Museum of World Treasures

## Wichita



Your students will experience a trip through time when they visit our unique and exciting Museum of World Treasures! This intriguing journey will allow them to explore real dinosaurs, including Ivan the Tyrannosaurus rex, Ancient Civilizations exhibits, Military History exhibits, an Early Frontier exhibit, artifacts of American Culture, Historic Authors, Historic Music Composers, and much more! The diversity of our exhibits cover curriculum in Kansas, United States, and world history.

**Hours:** 10:00 am - 5:00 pm M-Sat  
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Sun

**Fee:** \$6.00/ person (min. \$150.00)

**Contact Info:** 835 E 1st In Old Town  
Wichita, KS 67202  
1-888-700-1311

**email:** [education@worldtreasures.org](mailto:education@worldtreasures.org)  
[www.worldtreasures.org](http://www.worldtreasures.org)

# 6 Sedgwick County Zoo

## Wichita



Get out of the classroom and into the Zoo! Your elementary school age kids can learn more about animals from around the world through Activities and Learning Adventures designed for inquiring minds. Programs are also available for preschool, middle/high school, and home-schools. Zoo Reach brings a Zoo Education Specialist to you for up to one hour. These are great for any group: schools, adult lectures or retirement homes. Schedule at least two weeks prior to your preferred date.

**Hours:** 8:30 am - 5:30 pm daily  
10:00 pm - 5:00 pm (Nov-Feb)

**Fee:** \$4.00/ person for field trips  
Outreach varies from \$45.00-\$65.00 plus mileage

**Contact Info:** 5555 Zoo Blvd  
Wichita, KS 67212  
(316) 266-8213

**email:** [ask@scz.org](mailto:ask@scz.org)  
[www.scz.org](http://www.scz.org)

# 6 The Water Center

## Wichita



A one-of-a kind venture, the WATER Center offers a hands-on, interactive environmental center dedicated to the education and health issues caused by water and pollution. Cleaned water supports all kinds of aquatic wildlife that can be viewed through "windows" in the outdoor fish observatory. Our focus is on water and the science, art, language, history, and mathematics that are used to appreciate this incredible resource. Discovery Boxes are available which can travel to your classroom for up to two weeks. The trunks include curriculum guides, hand's-on materials, investigation tool, story books and more.

**Hours:** 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm M-W-F  
other times by appointment

**Fee:** none

**Contact Info:** 101 E. Pawnee  
Wichita, KS 67211  
(316) 337-9262

**email:** [KJohnson@wichita.gov](mailto:KJohnson@wichita.gov)  
[www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/WATERCenter/Programs](http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/WATERCenter/Programs)





# 7 Wolf Creek Environmental Education Area

## Burlington



Wolf Creek Environmental Education Area is a unique opportunity to learn about the nature of eastern Kansas. Visitors may tour the area on their own or schedule guided tours. The area contains numerous walking trails, bird watching blinds and picnic facilities. A fun observation tower is a silo with a 65-step spiral staircase inside. Restrooms, picnic tables and benches are available. Brochures located at the Eisenhower Learning Center provide information for self-guided tours.

**Hours:** Dawn to dusk

**Fee:** none

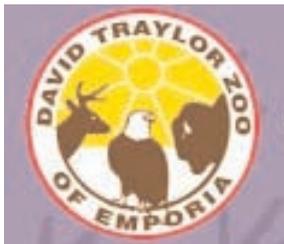
**Contact Info:** 1550 Oxen Lane NE  
PO Box 411  
Burlington, KS 66839  
(620) 364-4141

[www.wcnoc.com/enved.cfm](http://www.wcnoc.com/enved.cfm)

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# 7 David Traylor Zoo

## Emporia



The focus of the Emporia Zoo is to provide an opportunity for cultural enrichment for the community and surrounding area while fulfilling the zoo's obligations to conservation, education and recreation. Tours of the exhibits are offered, along with environmental education programs both on and off site. Many exhibits feature native wildlife, including badger, bobcat, and prairie dogs.

**Hours:** 10:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Extended summer hours to 8:00 pm  
on Wed and Sun

**Fee:** none, donations appreciated

**Contact Info:** 75 Sodens Rd  
Emporia, KS 66801  
(620) 341-4365

**email:** [emporiazooed@emporia.ws](mailto:emporiazooed@emporia.ws)

[www.emporia.ws/parkandzoo/ZooWeb.nsf](http://www.emporia.ws/parkandzoo/ZooWeb.nsf)

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# 7 Schmidt Museum of Natural History

## Emporia



This museum features an extensive collection of mounted native Kansas birds and mammals. Tours and walk throughs are available. Staff are available for presentations to groups on topics related to the wildlife of Kansas such as backyard bird feeding, songbirds of Kansas, owls of Kansas, and mammal skull identification. A collection of teaching specimens are also available for loan.

**Hours:** 8:00 am - 10:00 pm M-F  
8:00 am - noon Sat

**Fee:** none, donations appreciated

**Contact Info:** Emporia State University  
1200 Commercial  
Emporia, KS 66801  
(620) 341-5311

**email:** [wjensen1@emporia.edu](mailto:wjensen1@emporia.edu)

[www.emporia.edu/smnh/](http://www.emporia.edu/smnh/)



# 7 Wildwood Outdoor Education Center

## LaCygne



Wildwood Outdoor Education Center provides outdoor education, team building, and individual skill development to children and adults from the Kansas City metro area. Wildwood is unique, in almost every aspect of being an outdoor education center and a residential camp setting. On site programs are planned in conjunction with requests from each teacher. Whole day and overnight programming is available. Special features include a ropes course.

**Hours:** Must schedule in advance

**Fee:** call for more information

**Contact Info:** 7095 W. 399th St  
LaCygne, KS 66040  
(913) 757-4500

**email:** [wildwood@peoplestelecom.net](mailto:wildwood@peoplestelecom.net)

[www.wildwoodctr.org](http://www.wildwoodctr.org)

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# 7 Cedar Cove Feline Conservatory

## Louisburg



Cedar Cove is a non-profit organization devoted to the care and preservation of endangered large cats while educating the public on their behavior, physiology, habitats and the threats & dangers of extinction. The site has a 3-acre lake, a nice picnic area and a secluded 3-acre facility with its state-of-the-art animal enclosures, an exercise area the size of a football field and an education building. Group tours by appointment.

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Sat-Sun (Apr-Oct)  
11:00 am - 2:00 pm Sat-Sun (Nov-Mar)  
Other times by appointment

**Fee:** call for information

**Contact Info:** 3783 Highway K-68  
Louisburg, KS 66058  
(913) 837-5515

**email:** [info@saveoursiberians.org](mailto:info@saveoursiberians.org)

[www.saveoursiberians.org](http://www.saveoursiberians.org)

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# 7 Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

## Strong City



A two-hour guided tour of the ranch headquarters and schoolhouse areas are offered. Groups are divided and rotated through the house, barn, school, and trail, while learning about the natural and cultural features of the preserve. Also available is a two-hour curriculum-based field trip exploring the principles of science and their application in a prairie environment. Students will conduct a miniature scientific experiment and learn about prairie ecosystems through games and activities. Bus tours of the prairie are available. Schedule your visit two weeks in advance.

**Hours:** 9:00 am - 4:30 pm year round

**Fee:** None for entrance  
Programs are \$1.00/student, teacher free

**Contact Info:** Rt 1, Box 14, Hwy 177  
Strong City, KS 66869  
(620) 273-8494

[www.nps.gov/tapr](http://www.nps.gov/tapr)





# 8 Safari Zoological Park

## Caney

# SAFARI ZOOLOGICAL PARK

This zoological park has over 100 animal species, including white tigers and native species such as bobcats, grizzly bears, and black bears. They offer programs in addition to their propagation and preservation efforts. A large petting area allows close-up viewing and interaction with animals. An off-site program called, *Struggle for Survival*, focuses on conservation and preservation of our world and the animals that inhabit it. No animals are taken off site.

**Hours:** By appointment 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
during the week

**Fee:** school rates are \$5.50/student  
Groups of 25 or more

**Contact Info:** 1751A CR 1425  
Caney, KS 67333  
(620) 879-2885

**email:** safaripark@terraworld.net  
[www.safaripark.org](http://www.safaripark.org)

# 8 Southeast Kansas Nature Center

## Galena



The historic scout cabin in Schermerhorn Park has been transformed into a wonderful nature center. Animal and plant exhibits native to the area are displayed throughout the center. Exploration drawers are filled with hands-on materials to give visitors an opportunity to learn about nature up close. Environmental education classes and workshops are offered. The adjoining park grounds, trails, and creek make a perfect setting for science and nature studies.

**Hours:** 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Tues-Sat  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Sun  
Closed Mondays

**Fee:** none

**Contact Info:** 7693 SE 77th Terrace  
Galena, KS 66739  
(620) 783-5207

**email:** seknaturecenter@yahoo.com  
[www.apexcorp.com/~rmangile/Sgas/GalenaNC.html](http://www.apexcorp.com/~rmangile/Sgas/GalenaNC.html)

# 8 Southeast Kansas Education Service Center

## Greenbush



The main Greenbush campus is the site for unique learning facilities such as the Wm. L. Abernathy Science Center and rain forest, Mission Space Station, PSU/Greenbush Astrophysical Observatory, and Greenbush Archeological Dig. New are the biotechnology labs and a MediaGlobe Digital Planetarium especially designed to increase student achievement in math and science. Seminars, outreach programs, IDL programs, ropes courses, and more are available.

**Hours:** 8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F  
and by appointment

**Fee:** Fees for some programs: call for  
more information

**Contact Info:** 947 W. Hwy 57  
Girard, KS 66743  
(620) 724-6281

**email:** lisa.blair@greenbush.org  
[www.greenbush.org](http://www.greenbush.org) then click on student instruction  
then science education center



# 8 Ralph Mitchell Zoo

## Independence



The zoo today is over 50 acres. Although the size is large, the number of animal specimens is limited to roughly 200, taking advantage of the spacious design of the hoofed animal areas. The zoo features a great variety of animals, though many are small and most are grazers. Live animals are not taken off-site for programming, but school groups are welcome to tour the facility. Some off-site programming is available.

**Hours:** By appointment during the week  
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm M-Sat  
1:00 pm - 5:30 pm Sun

**Contact Info:** Riverside Park  
Independence, KS 67301  
(620) 332-2513

[www.forpaz.com/zoo.htm](http://www.forpaz.com/zoo.htm)

**Fee:** none

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# 8 Pittsburg State University Nature Reach

## Pittsburg



Nature Reach offers both on-campus and off-campus programs. We utilize many hands-on items, including live and preserved specimens, to help illustrate key points of the topic. Looking closely and touching is highly encouraged! Nature Reach programs can be scheduled in conjunction with the **Planetarium** or **Chemistry** programs. We are also offering an on-campus auditorium Bird of Prey program that can accommodate up to 100 students.

**Hours:** By appointment

**Fee:** \$3.00/person on-campus tour  
\$90.00/program + transportation

**Contact Info:** Heckert-Wells Bldg  
PSU campus  
Pittsburg, KS 66762  
(620) 235-4727

**email:** [naturereach@pittstate.edu](mailto:naturereach@pittstate.edu)

[www.pittstate.edu/department/naturereach/index.dot](http://www.pittstate.edu/department/naturereach/index.dot)



# Bearded Dragon

from PSU Nature Reach brochure





# Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Many employees of KDWP, even those not directly involved in education, are willing to spend time working with children and teachers. Americorps members, found at many state parks, are also available for programs. Additional information regarding each site can be accessed through the [www.kdwp.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us) website or by contacting each site by phone or email.

## Region 1

Cedar Bluff State Park  
(785) 726-3212  
[cedarbluffsp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:cedarbluffsp@wp.state.ks.us)

Glen Elder State Park  
(785) 545-3345  
[gleneldersp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:gleneldersp@wp.state.ks.us)

Lovewell State Park  
(785) 753-4971  
[lovewellsp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:lovewellsp@wp.state.ks.us)

Prairie Dog State Park  
(785) 877-2953  
[prairiedogsp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:prairiedogsp@wp.state.ks.us)

Webster State Park  
(785) 425-6775  
[webstersp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:webstersp@wp.state.ks.us)

## Region 2

Kanopolis State Park  
(785) 546-2565  
[kanopolissp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:kanopolissp@wp.state.ks.us)

Milford State Park  
(785) 238-3014  
[milford@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:milford@wp.state.ks.us)

Tuttle Creek State Park  
(785) 539-7941  
[tuttlecreeksp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:tuttlecreeksp@wp.state.ks.us)

Wilson State Park  
(785) 658-2465  
[wilsonsp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:wilsonsp@wp.state.ks.us)

## Region 3

Perry State Park  
(785) 246-3449  
[perrysp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:perrysp@wp.state.ks.us)

## Region 4

Clinton State Park  
(785) 842-8562  
[clintonsp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:clintonsp@wp.state.ks.us)

The Prairie Center  
(913) 856-7669  
[alaine@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:alaine@wp.state.ks.us)

## Region 5

Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area  
(620) 793-3066  
[cheybott@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:cheybott@wp.state.ks.us)

Meade State Park  
(620) 873-2572  
[meadesp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:meadesp@wp.state.ks.us)

Scott State Park  
(620) 872-2061  
[scottsp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:scottsp@wp.state.ks.us)

## Region 6

Cheney State Park  
(316) 542-3664  
[cheneysp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:cheneysp@wp.state.ks.us)

## Region 7

Eisenhower State Park  
(785) 528-4102  
[eisenhowersp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:eisenhowersp@wp.state.ks.us)

Emporia Research Office  
(620) 342-0658  
[empoff@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:empoff@wp.state.ks.us)

Hillsdale State Park  
(913) 783-4507  
[hillsdalesp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:hillsdalesp@wp.state.ks.us)

Marais Des Cygnes Wildlife Area  
(913) 352-8941  
[karlk@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:karlk@wp.state.ks.us)

Pomona State Park  
(785) 828-4933  
[pomonasp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:pomonasp@wp.state.ks.us)

## Region 8

Crawford State Park  
(620) 362-3671  
[crawfordsp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:crawfordsp@wp.state.ks.us)

El Dorado State Park  
(316) 321-7180  
[eldoradosp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:eldoradosp@wp.state.ks.us)

Elk City State Park  
(620) 331-6295  
[elkcitysp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:elkcitysp@wp.state.ks.us)

Fall River State Park  
(620) 637-2213  
[fallriversp@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:fallriversp@wp.state.ks.us)



# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Several federal offices may be able to help with environmental education. The services at each site will vary, so call or email for more information. Federal reservoirs are managed by the Army Corps of Engineers and National Wildlife Refuges are managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

## Region 1

### Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge

702 E. Xavier Rd  
Kirwin, KS 67644  
**(785) 543-6673**  
[www.kirwin.fws.gov](http://www.kirwin.fws.gov)  
[kirwin@fws.gov](mailto:kirwin@fws.gov)

## Region 2

### Kanopolis Lake

105 Riverside Dr.  
Marquette, KS 67464  
**(785) 546-2294**  
[www.nwk.usace.army.mil/ka/](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/ka/)  
[Kanopolis@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kanopolis@usace.army.mil)

### Milford Lake

4020 W K-57 Highway  
Junction City, KS 66441  
**(785) 238-5714**  
[www.nwk.usace.army.mil/mi/](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/mi/)  
[Milford@usace.army.mil](mailto:Milford@usace.army.mil)

### Tuttle Creek Lake

5020 B Tuttle Creek Blvd  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
**(785) 539-8511**  
[www.nwk.usace.army.mil/tc/](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/tc/)  
[Tuttle.creek@usace.army.mil](mailto:Tuttle.creek@usace.army.mil)

### Wilson Lake

4860 Outlet Blvd  
Sylvan Grove, KS 67481  
**(785) 658-2551**  
[www.nwk.usace.army.mil/wi/](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/wi/)  
[wilson.lake@usace.army.mil](mailto:wilson.lake@usace.army.mil)

## Region 3

### Perry Lake

10409 Perry Park Dr.  
Perry, KS 66073  
**(785) 597-5144**  
[www.nwk.usace.army.mil/pe/](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/pe/)  
[perry.lake@usace.army.mil](mailto:perry.lake@usace.army.mil)

## Region 4

### Clinton Lake

872 N. 1402 Rd  
Lawrence, KS 66049  
**(785) 843-7665**  
[www.nwk.usace.army.mil/cl/](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/cl/)  
[Clinton@usace.army.mil](mailto:Clinton@usace.army.mil)

## Region 5

### Cimarron National Grasslands

242 Hwy 56E  
Elkhart, KS 67950  
**(620) 697-4621**  
[www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/cim/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/cim/)

## Region 7

### Council Grove Lake

945 Lake Rd  
Council Grove, KS 66846  
**(620) 767-5195**

### Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge

530 W. Maple  
Hartford, KS 66854  
**(620) 392-5553**  
[www.flinthills.fws.gov](http://www.flinthills.fws.gov)  
[flinthills@fws.gov](mailto:flinthills@fws.gov)

### Hillsdale Lake

26000 W. 255 St  
Paola, KS 66071  
**(913) 783-4366**  
[www.nwk.usace.army.mil/hi/](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/hi/)  
[Hillsdale@usace.army.mil](mailto:Hillsdale@usace.army.mil)

### John Redmond Lake

1565 Embankment Rd SW  
Burlington, KS 66839  
**(620) 364-8614**

### Marais Des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge

24141 Kansas Hwy 52  
Pleasanton, KS 66075  
**(913) 352-8956**  
[www.mariasdescyignes.fws.gov](http://www.mariasdescyignes.fws.gov)  
[mariasdescyignes@fws.gov](mailto:mariasdescyignes@fws.gov)

### Marion Lake

2105 N. Pawnee Rd  
Marion, KS 66861  
**(620) 382-2101**

### Melvern Lake

31051 Melvern Lake Prkwy  
Melvern, KS 66510  
**(785) 549-3318**  
[www.nwk.usace.army.mil/me/](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/me/)  
[Melvern@usace.army.mil](mailto:Melvern@usace.army.mil)

### Pomona Lake

5260 Pomona Dam Rd  
Vassar, KS 66543  
**(785) 453-2201**  
[www.nwk.usace.army.mil/po/](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/po/)  
[Pomona@usace.army.mil](mailto:Pomona@usace.army.mil)

## Region 8

### Big Hill Lake

PO Box 426  
Cherryvale, KS 67335  
**(620) 336-2741**

### El Dorado Lake

2710 NE Shady Creek Access Rd  
El Dorado, KS 67042  
**(316) 321-9974**

### Elk City Lake

PO Box 426  
Cherryvale, KS 67335  
**(620) 336-2741**

### Fall River Lake

PO Box 37  
Fall River, KS 67047  
**(620) 658-4445**





KACEE is a statewide non-profit association of many public and private agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals that promotes and provides effective, non-biased, science-based conservation and environmental education to all Kansans. Check out [www.kacee.org](http://www.kacee.org) to get the latest. Here are some of the services you can find through KACEE.



#### Project

**WILD** is an environmental education resource program that helps participants develop an awareness, appreciation and understanding of wildlife. Some of the exciting activities include: "Quick Frozen Critters", "Oh Deer", and "Muskox Maneuvers". The importance of water to all forms of life inspired Project WILD Aquatic. It invites us to explore and understand the fascinating world of water and the life it supports. Your students will participate in fun activities like: "Migration Headache", "Turtle Hurdles", and "Marsh Munchers".



#### Project

**WET** is an exciting water education program which focuses on water related topics such as atmospheric, surface, and ground water; water history; chemistry; watersheds; water economics; and water stewardship. Some of the exciting Project WET activities are "The Rainstick", "H2O Olympics", and "Geyser Guts".



#### PLT

uses the forest and trees as "windows" into the natural and built environments, helping students gain awareness of the world around them and their place in it. Activity guides include PreK-8 as well as secondary modules (for middle and high school as well as post-secondary audiences) in such areas as Exploring Environmental Issues, Solid Waste and Risk. A sample of activities includes: "Adopt a Tree", "Tale of the Sun", "Tree Cookies".

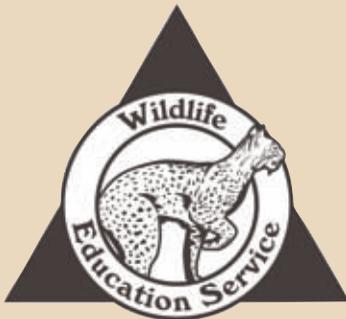


#### The goal of the Statewide Water Celebrations Project is to

gather information about water celebrations from the state's innovative water celebration organizers, and develop a resource sharing network to help recruit and assist new water celebration organizers to serve all 105 counties in Kansas with a water celebration event.

The **Leopold Education Project (LEP)** is an innovative, interdisciplinary, critical thinking, conservation and environmental education curriculum based on the classic writings of the renowned conservationist, Aldo Leopold.

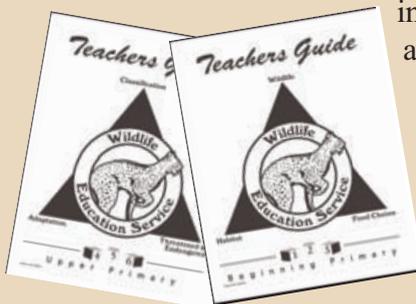
## FREE MATERIALS



The Wildlife Education Service provides educational materials for preschoolers through adults to promote an understanding and appreciation for Kansas wildlife, wetlands, and other natural resources. These materials are very adaptable to an integrated, interdisciplinary, whole language approach to learning.



These educational materials stress ecological concepts and illustrate how the usage of our natural resources affects wildlife. The goal is to develop an environmentally responsible citizenry that will involve itself in the decision-making process and work to ensure and maintain the quality of our natural resources.



Copies of these materials are available either in hard copy or on CD upon request from the Wildlife Education Service section at **(620) 672-0751** or [shelbys@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:shelbys@wp.state.ks.us) or visit the website at [www.kdwp.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us).



On TRACKS is published by the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks several times during the school year.

The purpose of On TRACKS is to disseminate information and educational resources pertaining to the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the prairie, emphasizing Kansas ecology. Information is presented from the perspective of current scientific theory.

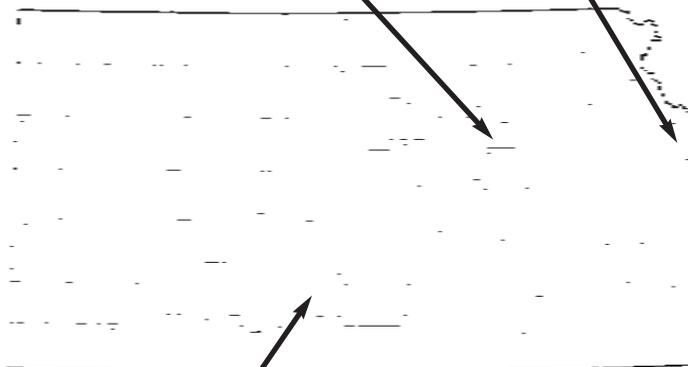
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