

Benedictine Bottoms

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers purchased the area as a Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project in 1993 and 1994. This area was purchased under authorization of Congress through the Mitigation Project in Section 334(a) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986. The 2,112 acre Benedictine Bottoms was then leased to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for management in 1998 after development.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The area is a 2,112 acre wildlife area in the flood plain of the Missouri River just 2.5 miles northeast of Atchison Kansas on River Road. The river borders the area on the south and east. This site is managed for 3 habitat types that existed in the area before development, timber, native grass and wetlands. During construction more than 175,000 trees were planted, 550 acres of native grass were planted and 230 acres of wetlands were maintained.

Construction on the area started with tree planting consisted of a variety of hardwoods and shrubs. These varieties will provide mast as well as escape and winter cover for many species of wildlife. Though most of the hardwood trees are still small many Cottonwood trees are mixed in and are doing quite well.

WILDLIFE

The area has a great diversity of wildlife. Many species of song birds use the area and can be seen throughout the year. Many water birds also use the wetlands including shorebirds, wading birds, and waterfowl.

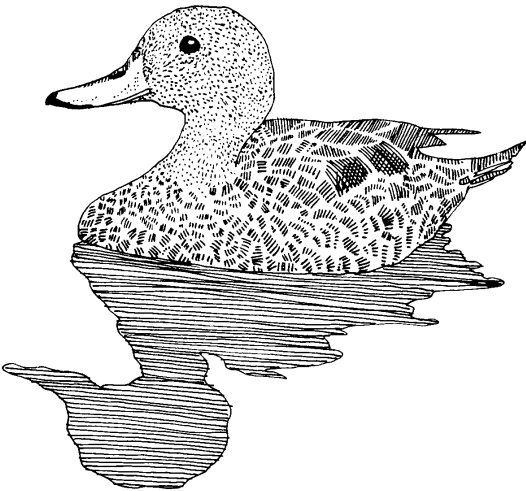
Many game species are common to the area. Good numbers of deer stay on the area with several large bucks seen every year. A fair to good population of pheasant is found on the area and is a favorite of the locals. Good numbers of quail and rabbits can also be found.

FISHING

Foot access is allowed for fishing. The Missouri River and the east side of Independence Creek provide opportunities for a variety of fish species.

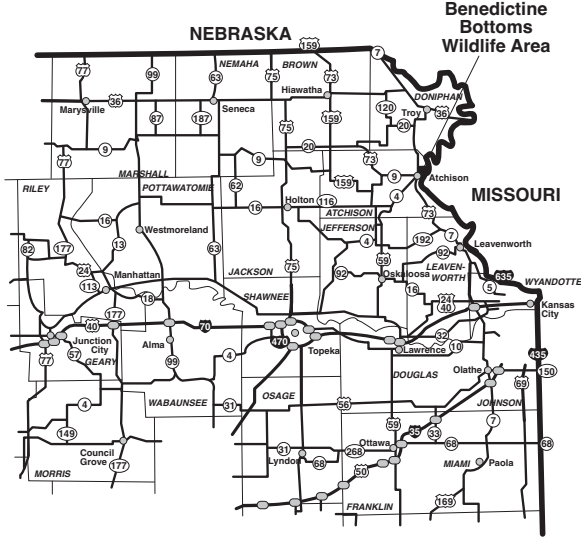
The grasslands were created from a mixture of big bluestem, Indian, eastern gamma and switch grasses along with wildflowers and legumes. Most of the grasslands have done very well and are providing valuable nesting and escape cover as well as a source of food.

Approximately 80 acres of wetlands were built using low-profile earthen berms and using the natural contour of the land. Three well and distribution pipe provide water to approximately 40 acres. Soils are porous and retention in wetlands is poor. Water control structures were placed on the wetlands to allow for control of water depth. An additional 190 acres of seasonal wetlands exist on the area.



SPECIAL REGULATIONS

- The area is open to the public from April 1 through September 30. From October 1 Through March 31 an access/hunting permit is required. These permits are by computer draw only and applications can be found on line at www.ksoutdoors.gov. Applications period is in late Summer.
- The area is open to hunting without special permit for dove and teal seasons in September only.
- The area has a dove field north of parking area and in the south central part of the area next to the river levee.
- Off road vehicle, bicycles, ATV and horse use is prohibited.
- No alcohol or cereal malt beverages of any kind are allowed on the area.
- Non-toxic shot required for all shotgun hunting.



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. 10/25

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Wildlife Area

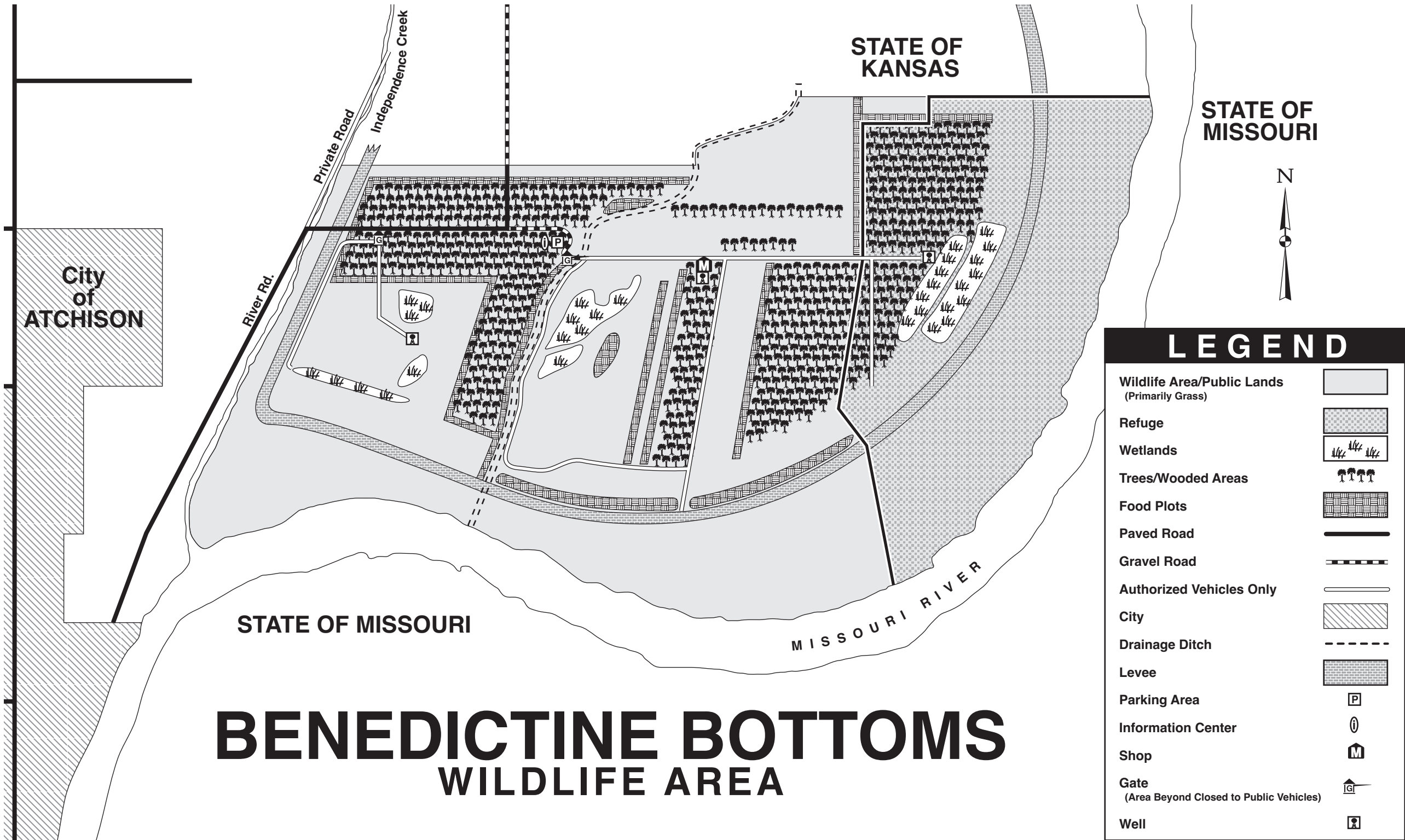


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STATE OF MISSOURI



STATE OF KANSAS

City of ATCHISON

STATE OF MISSOURI

MISSOURI RIVER

LEGEND

- Wildlife Area/Public Lands
(Primarily Grass)
- Refuge
- Wetlands
- Trees/Wooded Areas
- Food Plots
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Authorized Vehicles Only
- City
- Drainage Ditch
- Levee
- Parking Area
- Information Center
- Shop
- Gate
(Area Beyond Closed to Public Vehicles)
- Well

BENEDICTINE BOTTOMS WILDLIFE AREA