

# ELK CITY

The dam is approximately five miles northwest of the city of Independence. Elk City Wildlife Area is located in Montgomery County, and consists of approximately 12,446 acres. The wildlife area is managed for fish and wildlife. Authorized in 1967, Elk City State Park has 857 acres to provide camping, hiking, picnicking, swimming, fishing, mountain biking, frisbee golf and sight-seeing.

The area has many habitat types, which support a variety of wildlife. Dominant vegetation consists of big bluestem, little bluestem, Indian grass and switchgrass and other plants associated with the bluestem prairie. A prominent feature of the landscape is the precipitous rock bluff of limestone known as Table Mound. Wind and erosion have created many scenic vistas on the limestone bluffs along the northern border of the park. In addition, autumn brings an abundance of colors to the native trees along the bluff.

## Camping, Picnicking and Boating

Paved roads lead into the park with modern and primitive campsites, picnicking, modern restrooms and showers, drinking water, swimming beach, trailer sewage dump facilities, group shelter, fishing piers, and a three lane boat launching ramp as well as a handicapped floating fishing dock.

Camping is permitted in the state park campground and along designated camping areas only. Toilets are available at Memorial Overlook Trailhead near the dam and the state park trailhead.

## Backpack and Hiking

The Green Thumb Nature Trail is a one-mile loop trail that begins in the state park campground, northwest of the park office. It is a moderately strenuous hike, which will take you to the top of the hill. There you see a beautiful panorama of the lake framed by ash and oak trees.

The Kansas Trails Council designed and worked with many volunteers to contract Table Mound Hiking Trail and Post Oak Self-Guiding Nature Trail.

The Elk River Hiking Trail is a scenic 15 mile trail that starts at the west edge of the dam and ends near the Hwy 160 bridge on the Elk River.

Parking is available at the Memorial Overlook or state park trailheads.

## Fishing

Elk City Reservoir offers good to excellent fishing opportunities for channel catfish, white bass, crappie, flathead catfish, largemouth bass and saugeye. Hook and line and trot line fisherman experience good success for channel catfish and flatheads in the reservoir during all seasons of the year. Spring fishing for spawning crappie occurs in the coves and associated streams. White bass runs also occur in Elk River. The outlet area provides good to excellent fishing during moderate releases. A handicap access fishing dock is located in the state park area.

## Hunting

Large numbers of ducks use the many shallow flats in the upper end of the reservoir, and goose hunters find excellent hunting on the wildlife area. Area deer hunters will have excellent opportunities on the numerous tributaries and wooded borders of crop fields. Wild turkeys were reintroduced onto the area in 1983, and their numbers are increasing. Other game species include bobwhite quail, cottontail rabbits, fox and gray squirrels, and a few prairie chicken. Common furbearers include beaver, raccoon, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, opossum, mink and muskrat.

## Things to Remember

Please check posted notices for area rules and regulations governing fishing, hunting, and park and public land use. All motorized vehicles within the state park are required to display a current motor vehicle permit and in all areas are restricted to maintained roads and parking areas.

Group shelters may be reserved. Quiet hours are observed between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. in the state park. Only shatterproof containers are allowed at swimming beach. Pets must be on leash and not left unattended in the state park.

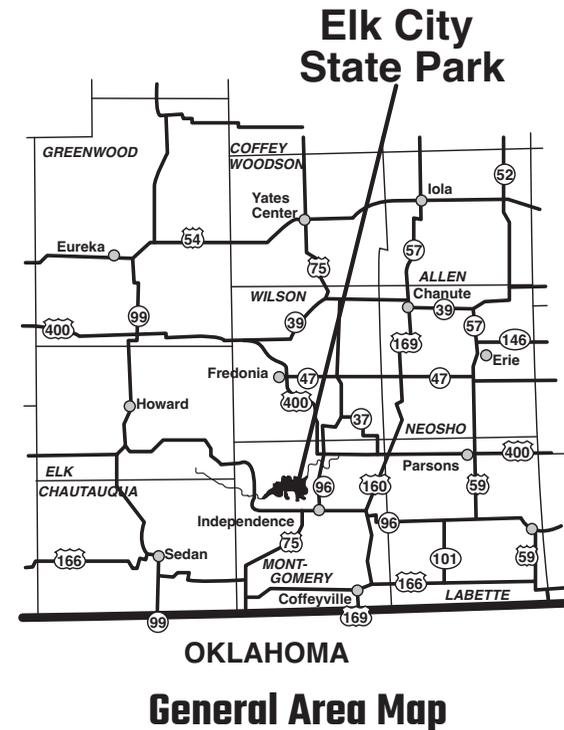
No hunting is permitted in the state park or refuge area at any time during the year. Angler access is permitted from April 1 thru August 31 on the refuge area. No holes or pits may be dug for blinds. Check current hunting regulations summary for additional hunting requirements.

## Sightseeing

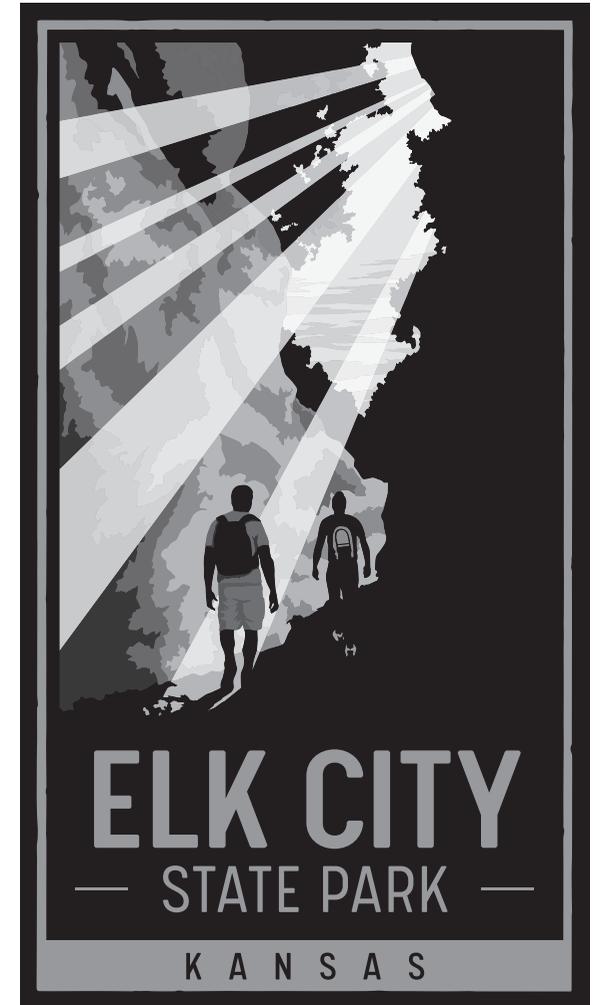
Bird watchers, photographers, and wildlife enthusiasts will enjoy the many different species of non-game birds and animals on the area. The huge pileated woodpecker is common among the mature trees along the Elk River.



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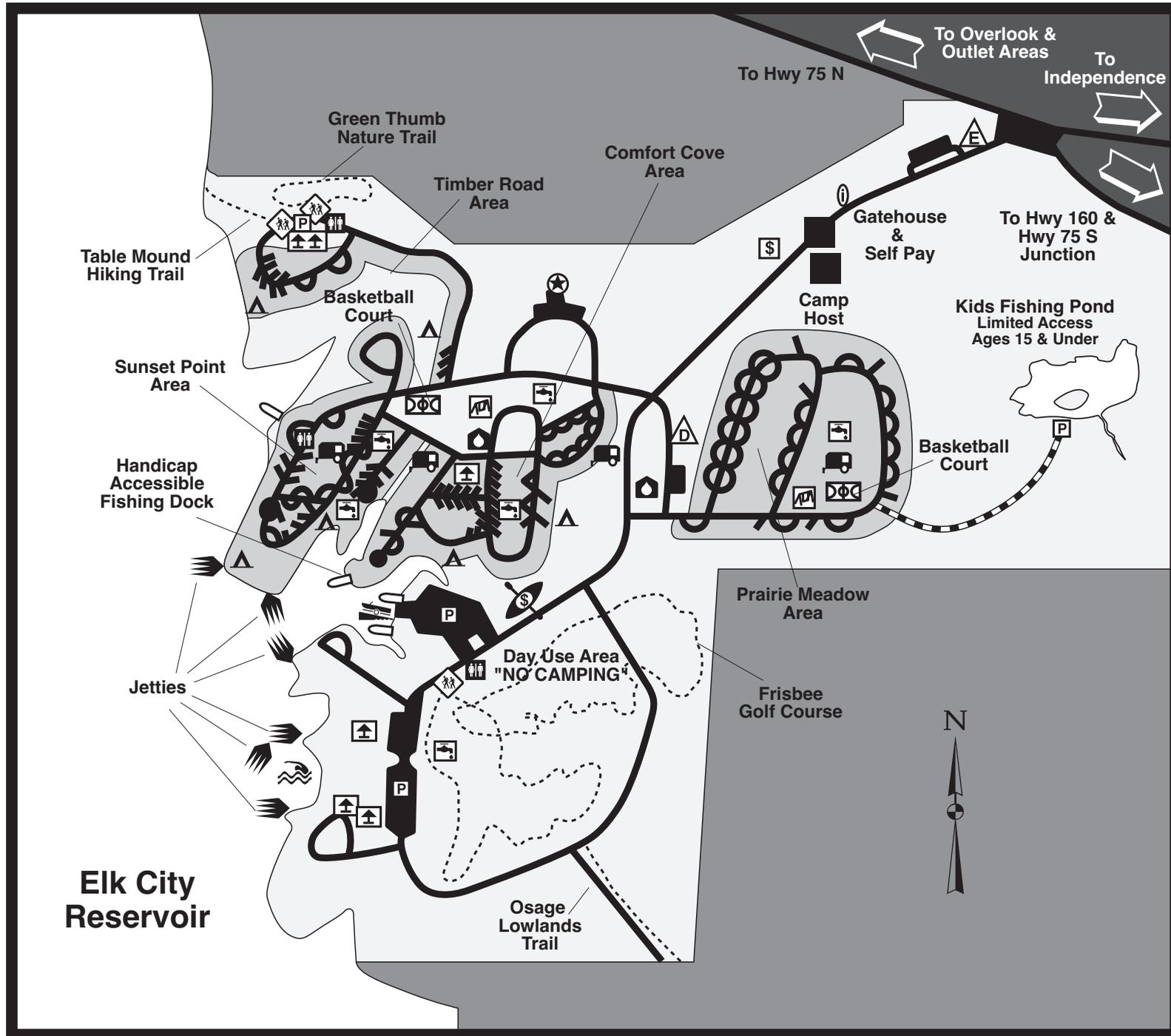
Elk City State Park  
4825 State Park Rd.  
Independence, KS 67301

Park Office  
(620) 331-6295

Regional Office  
(785) 273-6740

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# ELK CITY STATE PARK



## LEGEND

Park Area		Modern Toilet	
Camping Area		Vault Toilet	
Other Public Lands		Trailer Dump Station	
Private Lands		Boat Ramps	
Paved Roads		Dock/Pier	
Gravel Roads		Swimming Area	
Park Entrance		Kayak Rental	
Park Office		Playground	
Parking Area		Shelter	
Information Center		Shelter Group	
Pay Stations		Camping Improved	
Potable Water		Camping Primitive	
Shower/Toilet		Trail/Trailhead Hike	