

Jamestown

Jamestown Wildlife Area is located 1.5 miles north of Jamestown in north-central Kansas. The area encompasses 5,124 acres around the shallow salt marshes of Marsh Creek. Approximately 2,000 acres are wetlands and the remaining 3,000 upland acres are grasslands, cropland, scattered woodlands and tree windbreaks. The five primary marshes located on the area are Gamekeeper (780 acres); Gun Club (543 acres); Marsh Creek (300

ac); Buffalo Creek (197 acres) and Pintail (120 acres). Puddler Marsh and Ringneck Marsh are medium-sized wetlands a few miles from the main area. Numerous smaller wetlands are scattered across the property. A water level management plan for individual wetlands is developed each year. Managers conduct spring draw downs on some of the marshes in order to maximize seed production from native moist-soil plants while other marshes are left full to

provide deeper water for a host of wetland fish and wildlife species. These management practices produce a variety of wetland habitats and large amounts of highly nutritional seeds and invertebrates for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. This moist-soil management is more natural and keeps the costs and risks of cultivated crops in frequently flooded areas to a minimum.

ELECTRONIC DAILY HUNT CHECK-IN / CHECK-OUT

Hunters are required to Check-in/Check-out before/after each hunt and is required on this property.

Check-in or check-out can be done through the GoOutdoorsKansas app or at ksoutdoors.gov/checkin (use qr-code below). Instructions will be available through the app or website. To learn more about Check-in/Check-out call (620) 672-5911 and ask for Public Lands.



UPLAND GAME

Pheasant production fluctuates with habitat and weather patterns. The majority of the birds are harvested early in the season with heavy hunting pressure; however, hunters concentrating on heavy cover areas away from roads and parking areas will find a few birds to provide opportunity throughout the season. Bobwhite quail are less abundant but scattered throughout the area.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Mourning doves are usually abundant in early September. Early teal seasons in mid-September are the most popular on the area. The Jamestown area lies in the Low Plains Early Zone to maximize hunting opportunities in the shallow marshes before freeze-up. When area marshes freeze, most waterfowl leave. The early zone allows significant hunting opportunities early in the season.

Peak duck use occurs in late October through November. Several thousand geese, mostly Canada geese, spend a good portion of the ice-free winter on the area. Good numbers of light and white-fronted geese frequently stop over during migration. Light goose numbers are good during the spring Light Goose Conservation Order.

OTHER GAME

White-tailed deer and wild turkey populations provide limited archery and firearms hunting although the opportunity to have a quality experience exists. Cottontail rabbits are common on the entire area, while fox squirrels frequent the wooded areas. Numerous furbearers, primarily raccoon, muskrats and beaver inhabit the area and fur harvesting and running is allowed in areas open to public hunting. **Trapping is by special permit only.**

SPECIAL HUNTS

Special Hunts for waterfowl, upland birds and big game are available through an application and draw process. These hunts are conducted in portions of the refuge to provide a high-quality hunting experience with good chances for success. Special Hunt applications are due in August and available through the KDWP website. www.ksoutdoors.gov.

YOUTH/MENTOR OPPORTUNITIES

Hunting on Puddler and Ringneck Marshes is reserved for youth and their mentors. Each mentor hunter must be accompanied by at least one youth 18 years of age or younger. Statewide youth seasons have been established for waterfowl, pheasants, quail, deer and turkey. Hunting on the area during the youth seasons is an excellent time to start young hunters while hunting pressure is low. **PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES.**



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

REFUGE

An 960-acre refuge is located at the north end of Gamekeeper Marsh and is closed to all activity from October 1 through January 31, except for the SPECIAL HUNTS. The refuge provides an area of minimal disturbance to hold waterfowl longer and create better hunting opportunities. The refuge also provides a feeding and resting place during migration for many species of birds.

BOAT ACCESS

Motorized boats are only allowed in the large Gun Club, Gamekeeper and Marsh Creek marshes and must use the ramps provided for launching. **Operation of gasoline motors is prohibited in Marsh Creek Marsh.** Two ramps are located on the Gamekeeper Marsh, three on Gun Club Marsh, and one on Marsh Creek Marsh, as shown on the map. Non-motorized boats may be used in all wetlands and are increasing in popularity on the area. **Buffalo Creek, Pintail marshes, plus the several smaller marshes are Non-motorized Boat ONLY areas.** Be sure boats have the proper registration and required equipment. Use extra caution when boating in cold water.

WADE/WALK-IN ACCESS

Hunters will find the best access by walking in from numerous parking lots and access points into the small marshes and close to the shorelines. Many hunters do not have boats and access points away from boating disturbance are important for their success. The marsh bottom can become very difficult to walk far from the shoreline. **DEEP WATER is present in the creek channels**, (especially on Marsh Creek Marsh) and drainage channels in Gun Club, Gamekeeper and Buffalo Creek Marshes are not wadable. The area map show approximately where these areas are but waders should be cautious at all times.

Jamestown

Wildlife Area



Jamestown Area Office
299 Marsh Trail
Jamestown, KS 66948

Area Office
(785) 439-6243

Lovewell Office
(785) 753-4971

Regional Office
(785) 628-8614

www.ksoutdoors.gov



FISHING

The area is managed primarily as a waterfowl area, which means the annual draining and re-flooding events prevent good fish populations; however bowfishing is good in late-May through September and fishing below the dams can be good for catfish and carp, particularly when water is being released.

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

The area offers excellent opportunities to view and photograph wildlife. White-tailed deer, bald eagles, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese, shorebirds and other wetland wildlife are all visible during most of the year from all-weather roads. Florell Hill Wildlife Viewing Area, Marsh Creek Marsh, Muskrat Landing and Gun Club Marsh are among the best areas for viewing wildlife. During early spring through the summer months, shorebirds can be observed foraging on mudflats and Canada geese nesting on top of muskrat houses and constructed habitat islands.

CAMPING

Primitive camping is available at no charge only in the designated BS Campground area on Gamekeeper Marsh, directly west of the dam. Camping is only allowed from September 1 through May 1. A pit toilet is available at the Muskrat Landing Area south of the camping area. Drinking water and electricity are not available on the area. **NO TRASH RECEPTALS ARE PROVIDED.**

THINGS TO REMEMBER

NON-TOXIC SHOT IS REQUIRED FOR ALL SHOT-GUN HUNTING.

The information obtained from the daily iSportsman permits is important to the future management of the area.

NO TRASH RECEPTACLES ARE PROVIDED ON THE AREA. TAKE YOUR TRASH WITH YOU.

ALL MOTORIZED VEHICLES MUST REMAIN ON MAINTAINED ROADWAYS OR PARKING AREAS.

JAMESTOWN WILDLIFE AREA

