

Milford Lake

Kansas

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers welcomes you to Milford Lake, the largest man-made lake in Kansas. We hope this cooperative brochure will answer your questions about the lake and help to make your visit an enjoyable one. The Corps works closely with other federal, state, county, and city agencies to meet the public's many recreational and water resource needs. The Project Office and Information Center is located at the south end of the dam on K-57 Hwy.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Kansas City District



Milford Lake Wetlands

The Milford Lake Wetlands Restoration Project began in 1991 as a local idea of what might be done to improve and restore wetlands along the Republican River in the upper portion of Milford Lake. After several years of proposals and concepts, actual fundraising started in 1997 when the Kansas Wildscape Foundation began raising matching funds in partnership with the Federal 1135 Program to make the \$5 million project a reality. Construction began in the summer of 2001 and with completion of the 2,300-acre project; it will be the third largest wetland area in Kansas.



Located on lands licensed to the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks, the wetland cells consist of earthen embankments, rock covered spillways, and stoplog water control structures. KDWP personnel use pumps when necessary to maintain a water depth of 12-24 inches. The new wetlands provide a consistent, quality habitat for migrating species and increase local populations of wildlife. Waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals make use of the areas for breeding, nesting, feeding, and resting. Bird watchers as well as naturalists, fishermen, and hunters who visit the wetlands will enjoy a unique opportunity to experience nature.

www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/milford
www.kansaswildscape.com

Milford State Park

Milford State Park is a diverse 1,084-acre area located on the southeast end of Milford Lake. The park is a multipurpose recreation area that provides services to campers, boaters, fishermen, hunters, water enthusiasts, wildlife viewers, picnickers, and trail goers.

Campers will find a variety of campsites to choose from including basic primitive to full utilities, group camping and cabins. Our campgrounds are serviced by three restrooms and shower buildings and two dump stations.

Boaters, fisherman, and water enthusiasts will find a full service marina, the Southwind Yacht Club, three boat ramps (offering ten lanes), four courtesy docks and a land based fish cleaning station.

The traditional day use or picnickers will find 32 picnic shelters and two large group shelters.

Milford State Park also hosts a variety of special events. The Park would not be able to offer many of its services and events without the help of the Milford Friends Group.



Milford Nature Center

The Milford Nature Center, operated by the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, is designed to give visitors an upclose look at Kansas wildlife. Spectacular dioramas of the prairies, marshes, woodlands, and underwater habitats of Kansas are not to be missed!

Live animal exhibits feature native animals including snakes, amphibians, prairie dogs, birds of prey, and a bobcat. The Tallgrass Trail and a seasonal butterfly house can be enjoyed on the center's grounds. And, check out the nature playground featuring slides, climbing walls, the "milksnake run" and a giant spider web.

Adjacent to the Nature Center is the state's only warm-water, intensive-culture fish hatchery. Visitors are welcome to walk around the outside raceways at any time. Guided tours of the hatchery are offered from April thru September on weekends at 1:00 pm (no appointment needed), or by appointment any time of the year.

HOURS

9:00 am to 4:30 pm Mon. - Fri. (Year around)

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm Sat. - Sun. (April thru September)

Closed - Thanksgiving, Christmas, & New Year'

Admission is FREE

NATURALIST PROGRAMS are available to schools, 4-H, scouts, and other interested groups.



Lake Partners and Attractions

Geary County, located in the scenic Flinthills adjacent to the Konza Prairie, is home to historic Fort Riley and the communities of Junction City, Milford and Grandview Plaza. There are easy to find accommodations, shopping and multicultural dining. Additional outdoor recreation can be found at Rolling Meadows and Custer Hill Golf courses. The Milford Lake Radio Control Club is located in Farnum Creek Park where members operate radio controlled planes, helicopters and racecars. Kansas State University leases an area for forestry research and the Kaw Valley Girl Scout camp hosts young scouts who want to experience the outdoor environment.

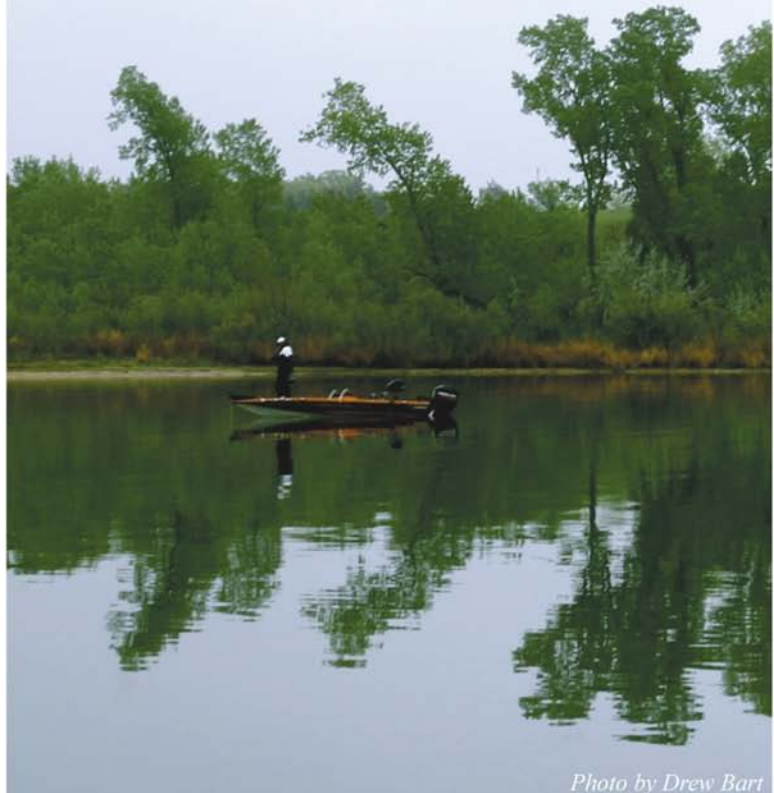


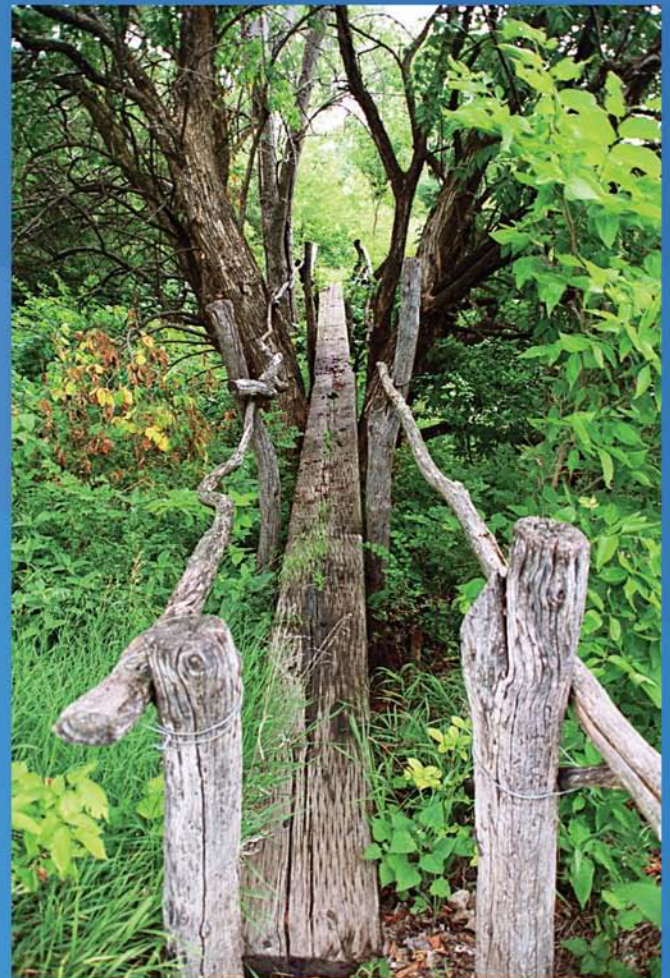
Photo by Drew Bart

The Geary County Fish and Game Association leases an area that provides trap shooting, sporting clay, archery range, hunter safety courses and sporting demonstrations. The Association hosts a variety of outdoor skill events and provides outdoor education programming for local schools.



The Milford Lake Association works in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for fish habitat construction, a special assisted (disabled) deer hunt, the Milford Lake cleanup, North Shore boat ramp facilities and a variety of other lake improvement and special events.

Clay County is home to the communities of Clay Center, Clifton, Green, Longford, Morganville, Oak Hill, Vining and Wakefield. The Milford Lake and Steve Lloyd wetlands attract birdwatchers and wildlife enthusiasts from around the state. The Kansas Landscape Arboretum is a place to hike, experience nature and see plants common to Kansas. Wakefield has restaurants and lodging and is home to Clay County Park, which offers camping and picnic facilities. Clay Center, the county seat, is a city with tree-lined streets, antique and gift shops. A variety of eateries, lodging, a county museum and zoo are also available. The USD 379 Clay County Outdoor Education Area provides an excellent setting for youth to learn and have fun in the outdoors.



Contacts:

Milford State Park

8811 State Park Road
Milford, KS 66514
(785) 238-3014
Fax (785) 238-1945
E-mail: MilfordSP@wp.state.ks.us
www.kdwp.state.ks.us



Milford Nature Center

3115 Hatchery Drive
Junction City, KS 66441
(785) 238 LEAF (5323)
Fax (785) 238-5775
E-mail: milfordnature@earthlink.net
www.kdwp.state.ks.us



Milford Wildlife Area

Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
P.O. Box 301; Wakefield, KS 67487
(785) 461-5402
E-mail: markm@wp.state.ks.us
www.kdwp.state.ks.us



Geary County Convention and Visitors Bureau

823 N. Washington St
Junction City, KS 66441
1-800-528-2489
(785) 238-2885
Fax (785) 238-2313
E-mail: gearycountycvb@junctioncity.org
www.junctioncity.org



Clay County Community Development

P. O. Box 98
Clay Center, KS 67432
785-632-6701
Email: juanita@cckansas.org
www.cckansas.org



Milford Lake Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 278
Wakefield, KS 67487



Milford Lake Project Office

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4020 W. K-57 Hwy.
Junction City, KS 66441-8382
(785) 238-5714
Fax (785) 238-8342
E-mail: Milford@Nwk02.usace.army.mil
www.nwk.usace.army.mil



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Benefits

Milford Lake was authorized by Congress in 1954 and constructed by the Corps of Engineers in the early 1960s. As a multipurpose project, the lake provides for flood control, navigation, water quality, water supply, recreation, plus fish and wildlife benefits. Since Milford Lake began operations in 1967, it has prevented over \$945 million in flood damages. Total cost of initial construction was just under \$50 million.

Working closely with the Kansas Water Office, the Corps of Engineers regulates water releases from the lake. Downstream water quality, water supply for municipal and industrial purposes, and navigation along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers are some of the many uses of Milford Lake waters.

On average over 1/2 million visitors come to Milford Lake each year for their recreational needs. Eleven parks offer camping, picnicking, swimming, boat ramps, and fishing access points. 15,709 surface acres of water include some of the best Walleye, Wiper, White bass, Catfish and Smallmouth Bass fishing in the state of Kansas. Over 23,000 acres are managed for public hunting opportunities of Quail, Pheasant, Turkey, Prairie Chicken, waterfowl, White-tailed deer and other species.

Photo by Drew Bart

Corps of Engineers User Fees

To determine what fees are charged in a given park, you must first identify the managing agency of that park. At Milford Lake there are separate fees charged in Federal, State, County, and City park facilities. These fee permits or passes are not interchangeable between agencies. State permits and passes are not valid in Federal parks; likewise Federal permits and passes are not valid in State, County, or City parks.

Reservations for a Corps campsite can be made through the National Recreation Reservation Service. To contact this service call toll free 1-877-444-6777 or for TDD 1-877-833-6777. Reservations may also be made via the Internet at www.reserveusa.com.

FROM MILFORD DAM

- To Kansas City - 131 miles
- To Wichita - 113 miles
- To Hays - 141 miles
- To Lincoln, NE - 147 miles

