

# Council Grove Wildlife Area News



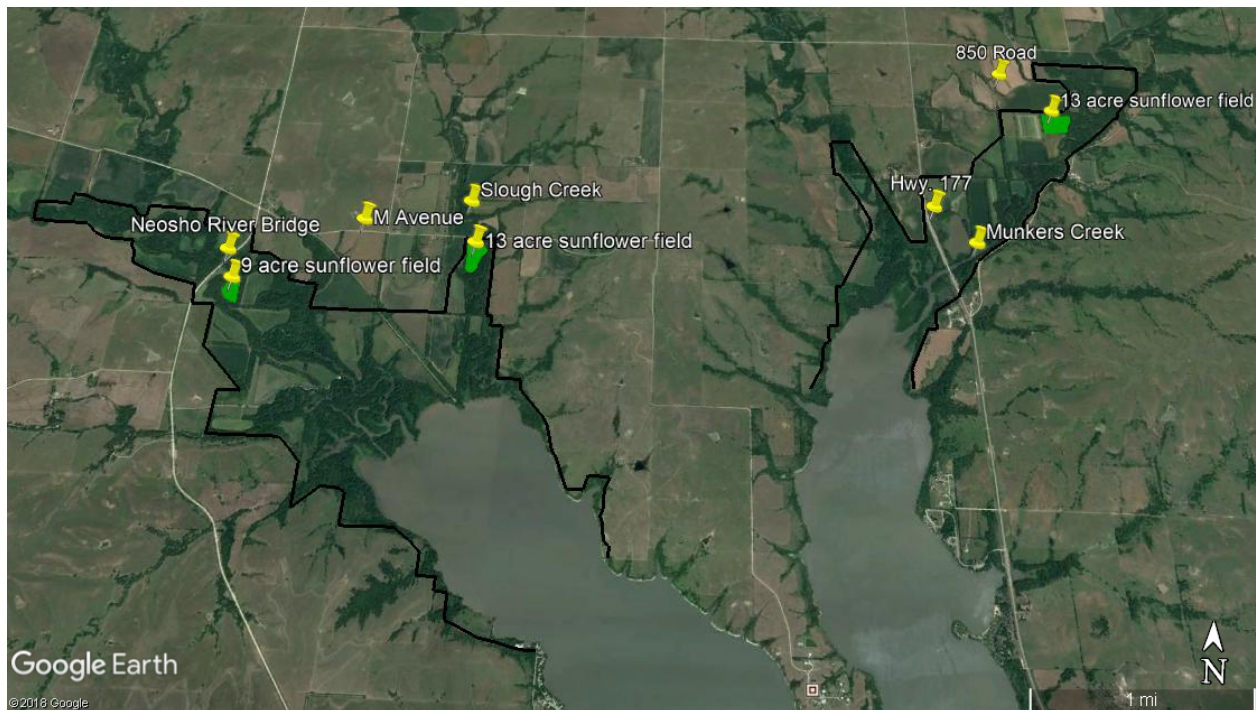
## Area News – Summer 2018

### 2018 Dove Hunting Outlook:

Three sunflower tracts (13, 9, 13 acres) should provide fair to good dove hunting opportunities at Council Grove Wildlife Area. Portions of these fields will be mowed (if conditions allow) to enhance dove use and hunter access. One 13-acre field is 0.25 miles east of the parking area at the end of 850 Road or 0.2 miles north of the eastern most parking area along the north side of Munkers Creek. The 9-acre field is 0.1 miles southeast of the bridge over the Neosho River. This field is east of the trees that can be viewed from the bridge. One 13-acre field is just east of the parking area and kiosk along M Avenue and west of Slough Creek.

Dove hunters may be asked to obtain a permit prior to hunting and report harvest at the end of their hunt. Please assist area staff with evaluating these opportunities by following instructions located at permit stations posted at each field. Hunters are also reminded to please be courteous and aware of other hunting parties while using these fields.

For a brochure and map of the entire wildlife area please visit the Council Grove Wildlife Area web page ([ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com)) and click on the brochure tab at the top of the page. For more information, please call the area manager at (620) 767-5900.



**Council Grove Wildlife Area – 2018 Managed Dove Hunting Locations**

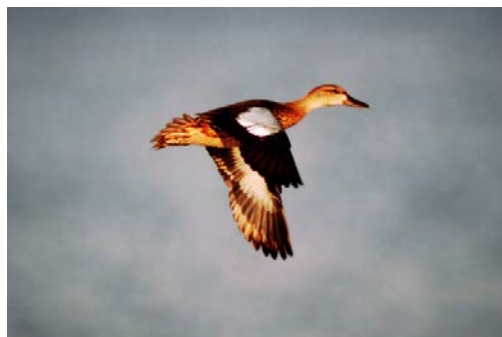
### **Early Teal Season Looks Promising:**

Recent changes in habitat conditions should enhance opportunities for waterfowl hunters early this year with the beginning of the teal season on September 8. Above average populations, liberal limits, and improved habitat conditions following recent rains, leave room for hunters to be optimistic about the upcoming season. The early teal season in the Low Plains Zone has been set from September 8 through September 23.



The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has reported that blue-winged and green-winged teal populations remain strong and are significantly above long-term averages. Although teal populations are estimated to be below those seen throughout the flyway in 2017, fall teal flights are still predicted to be good.

Perhaps most importantly, habitat conditions have improved with recent rains. During most years, lake habitats lack significant food resources. This year however may be different as many plants became established within dewatered zones at the upper ends of the lake following drought conditions that persisted until mid-August. Now that rains have returned, and lake levels have risen within these zones, many of those plants will provide food and cover for wetland wildlife species including waterfowl. In most years, lake habitats provide water only, but this year the lake has the potential to provide water, food, and cover and therefore should be more attractive to migrating waterfowl and have greater ability to hold waterfowl once they arrive. Weather will undoubtedly play a part (as it always does) in determining the extent of waterfowl use this year as well. Hunters are encouraged to visit the area website to view weekly waterfowl population and habitat condition updates.



Would you like more information about the Council Grove Wildlife Area?

Please contact:

Brent Konen – Area Manager  
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism  
1130 Lake Road  
Council Grove, KS 66846  
#620/767-5900  
brent.konen@ks.gov  
[www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com)

