**Marion Reservoir** is located in the Cottonwood River Valley of central Kansas, between Hillsboro and Marion. The reservoir was constructed in 1968 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a flood control structure. The dam impounds 6,160 surface acres at conservation pool. The wildlife area, managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), consists of 4,300 acres of land at the upper end of the reservoir.

**FACILITIES**

Boat launching facilities are available at all of the Corps of Engineers parks and public use areas (Cottonwood Point, Hillsboro, French Creek, and Marion Coves). KDWPT has a river access boat launching site at the Broken Bridge area near the upper end of the refuge and a launching site in Durham Cove. There is no marina on the reservoir, but bait and supplies are available at several bait shops near the lake.

**FISHING**

Marion Reservoir offers excellent fishing for wiper, walleye, white bass, and channel catfish. Other species include crappie, largemouth bass, bluegill, flathead catfish, bullhead catfish, and several species of rough fish.

The lake averages about 14 feet in depth and is characterized by a shallow sloping shoreline, open water, and relatively little variation in basin bottom. Water clarity is usually adequate for good fishing. When water is being released from the reservoir, good fishing occurs below the dam in the outlet channel. For up-to-date fishing information contact the local KDWPT office.

Marion Reservoir supports large populations of waterfowl, dove, deer, and turkey. Also popular at Marion are pheasant, quail, rabbit, and squirrel. During opening weekends, the wildlife area receives intense hunting pressure. Hunters, later in the season, often find good bird populations and less competition from other hunters.

Marion Wildlife Area supports large populations of waterfowl, dove, deer, and turkey. Also popular at Marion are pheasant, quail, rabbit, and squirrel. During opening weekends, the wildlife area receives intense hunting pressure. Hunters, later in the season, often find good bird populations and less competition from other hunters.

**HUNTING**

Marion Wildlife Area offers excellent hunting for wiper, walleye, white bass, and channel catfish. Other species include crappie, largemouth bass, bluegill, flathead catfish, bullhead catfish, and several species of rough fish.

The lake averages about 14 feet in depth and is characterized by a shallow sloping shoreline, open water, and relatively little variation in basin bottom. Water clarity is usually adequate for good fishing. When water is being released from the reservoir, good fishing occurs below the dam in the outlet channel. For up-to-date fishing information contact the local KDWPT office.

Marion Reservoir offers excellent fishing for wiper, walleye, white bass, and channel catfish. Other species include crappie, largemouth bass, bluegill, flathead catfish, bullhead catfish, and several species of rough fish.

The lake averages about 14 feet in depth and is characterized by a shallow sloping shoreline, open water, and relatively little variation in basin bottom. Water clarity is usually adequate for good fishing. When water is being released from the reservoir, good fishing occurs below the dam in the outlet channel. For up-to-date fishing information contact the local KDWPT office.

**OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

Marion Wildlife Area is managed primarily for hunting, but most of the area is open year-round for activities such as hiking and bird watching.

Approximately 3,800 acres are open for public use, as well as another 100 acres managed by the Corps for public hunting. An additional 500-acre waterfowl refuge has also been established. This refuge allows waterfowl to feed and roost without disturbance. This helps keep migratory birds on the area, providing more hunting and viewing opportunities.

The refuge is closed to all activities from Oct. 1 to March 1 and is closed to hunting at all times. The refuge is clearly marked with standard red and white “Stop—Refuge Area—No Hunting” signs.

The public hunting portion of the area is marked with “Public Hunting” signs around the boundary. Entrances are also marked with “Wildlife Area” entrance signs.

**THINGS TO REMEMBER**

Zebra mussels have been discovered in Marion Reservoir. Boaters and anglers are asked to take necessary precautions to prevent contaminating other bodies of water.

Vehicle access is limited to established maintained roads. Parking areas are provided. OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE IS PROHIBITED.

Individuals using the wildlife area must take their trash out with them. A NO TRASH POLICY is in effect for this area, so trash barrels are not provided.

Special length and creel limits may be in effect for some fish species. Check the Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary and all posted notices before fishing. Consult information signs posted on the area for all regulations that apply on Marion Wildlife Area.

**Marion Wildlife Area**

2613 N Jade
Hillsboro, KS 67063
(Regional Office)
(620) 732-3946

Marion Wildlife Area
6103 Metropolitan Drive
Hillsboro, KS 67063
(Area Office)
(316) 683-8069

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to gender, race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, and military or veteran status.

Complaints of discrimination should be directed to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1200 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1027.

www.ksoutdoors.com