The dam at Milford Reservoir is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The reservoir has a surface area of 16,020 acres and an average depth of about 25 feet.

Numerous camping and picnicking areas are maintained by the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, the Corps of Engineers, and the city of Wakefield. Two privately owned marinas are located on the lake, providing services for boaters and anglers.

Approximately 19,000 acres of public land surrounds Milford Reservoir on the west side and the upper end. This land is managed to maximize production of various wildlife species.

Numerous opportunities exist for those who wish to observe or photograph wildlife on the area. The abundant and diverse habitat supports many species of nongame birds, mammals, reptiles, and aquatic life.
Motors are prohibited in all other wetlands. Wetland. Motorized boats with either gas or electric motors are allowed only in the Mall Creek boat ramp will only accommodate small boats.

There are two boat ramps maintained by the Public Lands Division. The Gatesville Boat Ramp is located directly south of the Smith Bottom Wetlands. This boat ramp gives access to the Republican River and fill the wetlands. These wetland complexes provide manageable wetland habitat benefiting breeding and migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife species. They also increase habitat diversity in the upper portion of Milford Reservoir by providing a great view of the upper refuge area. Several species of shore birds and waterfowl may be viewed at various times during the year.

The Steve Lloyd Refuges are closed to all off road activities throughout the year. The Steve Lloyd Wetlands contains approximately 1,300 acres designated as a refuge area. There are two wetlands on this refuge area offering about 600 water surface acres when the pools are completely full. The refuge is closed to all off road activities throughout the year. The Steve Lloyd Outlook access road is open to vehicles year round. A KDWPT law enforcement officer must accompany any individual pursuing wounded or dead game onto the refuge area.

The Kansas City District Corps of Engineers and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism have created 10 wetland complexes with individual wetlands varying from 20 to 250 acres and totaling about 2,300 acres. These wetlands are regulated by water control structures, which allow for precise manipulation of the water surface and acreage.

There are three stationary pumps and six floating pump structures to pump water from the Republican River and fill the wetlands. These wetland complexes provide valuable habitat benefiting breeding and migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife species. They also increase habitat diversity in the upper portion of Milford Reservoir by providing habitat in the form of aquatic vegetation, shallow water, food, nesting, and resting sites.

There are numerous goose mounds within several of the wetlands, which are used primarily by Canada geese rearing their broods in the spring. Wood duck boxes that were washed away in floods of previous years are being replaced in an effort to increase the wood duck population.

Approximately 50 acres of food plots are planted each summer to further assist wildlife through the winter months. These food plots and standing crops offer both food and shelter for various wildlife species.

There are approximately 19,000 acres of public land surrounding Milford Reservoir. These acres comprise various habitat types such as timber, agricultural fields, wetlands, and native grass plantings. The native grass plantings serve as excellent nesting habitat for upland bird species. The native grass strips are typically burned every three to five years to prohibit invasive tree and shrub growth, and to aid in accessibility to these areas.

Approximately 5,000 acres are leased out for agricultural fields. Varying percentages of crops are left standing throughout the winter to aid wildlife. An additional 50 acres of food plots are planted each summer to further assist wildlife through the winter months. These food plots and standing crops offer both food and shelter for various wildlife species.

Milford Wildlife Area also provides thousands of acres for wildlife viewing for hikers and other wildlife area users.

The following is a list of shooting ranges located near the Milford Wildlife Area. Call for operational days and times.

Ft. Riley (785) 239-6211
Fancy Creek (785) 539-7941
Sportsman’s Acres (785) 238-8727