Neosho Wildlife Area

HUNTING

During spring and fall migration, duck numbers can sometimes reach 100,000 birds. More than 60,000 ducks, primarily mallards, normally spend the entire winter on the area. Just prior to hunting seasons, hunting areas (Pool 1, 2A, 2B, 4A, 4B, 5, 6, 7, 8, and the South Unit) are flood-developed. All other pools are managed through a varying drawdown process to provide a place to rest and feed. The area is divided into 19 man-made pools, which cover 1,748 acres with water when full. 

Construction of marshes began in the fall of 1960, and by early 1961 three pools were completed. Waterfowl hunting was first permitted in 1962. Funding for the original construction came, in part, from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) program, which is derived from excise taxes on outdoor equipment and ammunition. WSFR funds are distributed to states at a cost-share rate of three to one. Lands used for production of agricultural crops as part of the management program remain on county tax rolls.

In the fall of 1988, 270 acres were added to the area through a cost-share agreement with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. In 2014, 10 acres were purchased along the South Unit to allow the construction of a permanent pump station, which was completed in 2015. That same year, a $3.5 million renovation project began, utilizing funding from both the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and WSFR. The NAWCA grant came through a partnership with Ducks Unlimited, Inc., as well as donations from other partners and allowed the construction of a modern and more efficient water-pumping delivery system.

Pits may be dug for any purpose. Waterfowl hunters may not shoot from dikes or roads. Boats (except air boats) may be used for hunting but must be operated daily and must operate at NO-WAKE speeds in boating canals.

On weekends and holidays, Pool 8 is restricted to waterfowl hunters accompanied by a youth hunter 16 or younger. Adults accompanying youth hunters may also hunt.

In addition to waterfowl, other game may be hunted in season, including deer, quail, rabbit, turkey, and squirrel. To ensure everyone has a high-quality experience on a public hunting area where crowded conditions can sometimes exist, it is essential that hunters practice good sportsmanship, handle guns safely and follow all rules and regulations.

All hunters must register and obtain a free daily iSportsman hunting permit available at kdwp.tisportsman.net.

FISHING

Fishing on the area is normally allowed from April 1 to August 31 and anglers are encouraged to try their luck. Fishing for flathead and channel catfish on the Neosho River, which forms the west boundary of the area, can be seasonally good to excellent. Bowfishing for carp on the mudflats in spring and summer can also be excellent.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Vehicles are permitted on maintained roads only.
- Primitive camping is allowed in designated areas only, but please take your trash with you.
- Consult area information signs for additional rules and regulations on the area.
- Non-toxic shot for all hunting.
- Daily iSportsman permits are free and required daily of ALL HUNTERS. All Hunters are required to Check-in prior to hunting and Check-out when finished hunting at the end of the day.

The 3,246-acre wildlife area in Neosho County is managed to provide public hunting opportunities. Approximately 250 marshes, ranging in size from 5 to 15 acres, offer a different type of hunting opportunity. Approximately 250 acres of corn, milo, and millet are planted in the pools as part of the annual water-level manipulation plan. Four green tree islands are managed in a moist-soil environment through an irrigation delivery system. Portions of all pools are flooded at the end of the day.

The area is divided into 19 man-made pools, which cover 1,748 acres with water when full. In the spring, portions of the pools are planted with approximately 2 feet of water. Pool 3, located in the refuge area, is managed to provide food, cover, and resting areas for migratory birds. All other pools are managed through a varying drawdown process to provide food for migrating waterfowl. Portions of all pools are flooded during the summer months to provide food for carp on the mudflats in spring and summer can also be excellent.

All hunters must register and obtain a free daily iSportsman hunting permit available at kdwp.tisportsman.net.

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, belief, or political affiliation. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1100 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327.
ALL HUNTERS are REQUIRED to Check-in/Check-out each day using iSportsman. kdwpt.isportsman.net

NON-TOXIC SHOT REQUIRED FOR ALL HUNTING

NEOSHO WILDLIFE AREA

Pool 3 REFUGE CLOSED TO ALL ACTIVITIES Sept. 1 - March 31

Legend:
- Office
- Information Station
- Public Use Area (Hunting Allowed)
- Wildlife Refuge (No Hunting)
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Dike/Levee
- Parking Area
- Primitive Camping Area
- Boat Ramp

6 Miles
South Unit
from Hwy 47

90th Rd.

80th Rd.

Wallace Rd.

80th Rd.

Wallace Rd.

30th Rd.

3rd Rd.

2nd Rd.

1st Rd.

0th Rd.

Neosho River

Murphy Creek

Brogan Creek

Flat Rock Creek

Downey Creek

Neosho River

SOUTH UNIT