Pillsbury Crossing Wildlife Area was donated to the Department of Wildlife and Parks in 1967 through Wildtrust from Dr. and Mrs. Edwin J. Frick of Manhattan. The 59 acres on Deep Creek provide public access to one of the most scenic areas of the northern Flint Hills region.

Located seven miles southeast of Manhattan, the natural flat rock crossing named for pioneer J.H. Pillsbury, who settled here in 1855, has provided a safe ford through the years.

To get to Pillsbury Crossing Wildlife Area from Manhattan, drive south on Highway 177 two miles to Deep Creek Road. Turn left and drive three miles east-southeast to Pillsbury Crossing Road. Follow Pillsbury Crossing Road to Pillsbury Crossing Lane. Turn right on Pillsbury Crossing Lane, which will take you to the crossing.

During normal stream flow, you may canoe, kayak, or take a small row boat upstream as far as 1/2 mile. Obey all boating laws and regulations.

There are some areas suitable for primitive camping by special permit only. Birdwatching is popular, and there is a small hiking trail provided in cooperation with a local conservation club in Manhattan. Although there are no trails marked, you may still enjoy a hike in the areas along either side of the stream also.

FISHING

There is good channel cat fishing both above and below the crossing. Common baits used for the channel cat are worms, chicken liver, crawdads, grasshoppers, and prepared baits.

Pillsbury Crossing is one of the areas in the state where spotted bass occur naturally. Largemouth bass also occupy this Flint Hills stream. Both species will readily take live and artificial baits.

The feisty little bullhead catfish and carp are available in this stream. They will willingly take earthworms and night crawlers when offered as bait.

ACTIVITIES

During normal stream flow, you may canoe, kayak, or take a small row boat upstream as far as 1/2 mile. Obey all boating laws and regulations.

There are some areas suitable for primitive camping by special permit only. Birdwatching is popular, and there is a small hiking trail provided in cooperation with a local conservation club in Manhattan. Although there are no trails marked, you may still enjoy a hike in the areas along either side of the stream also.

FISHING

There is good channel cat fishing both above and below the crossing. Common baits used for the channel cat are worms, chicken liver, crawdads, grasshoppers, and prepared baits.

Pillsbury Crossing is one of the areas in the state where spotted bass occur naturally. Largemouth bass also occupy this Flint Hills stream. Both species will readily take live and artificial baits.

The feisty little bullhead catfish and carp are available in this stream. They will willingly take earthworms and night crawlers when offered as bait.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Vehicles are permitted on maintained roads only.
- Please take your trash with you. This area has a no trash policy.
- Consult area information signs for additional rules and regulations on the area.
- Alcohol and cereal malt beverages are prohibited at Pillsbury Crossing.
- This area is closed to all activities from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
PILLSBURY CROSSING
WILDLIFE AREA

LEGEND

Property Boundaries
(No Hunting)
Gravel Road
Trail
Stream
Parking Area
Toilet (ADA accessible)
Picnic Tables

Pillsbury Crossing Road

Crossing Area

Pillsbury Crossing Lane

7 miles to Hwy 177 & Manhattan