Located in Bourbon County approximately eight miles southwest of Fort Scott, Hollister Wildlife Area was purchased by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) in 1979. Most of the funds for the purchase were made available through the Pittman-Robertson Act, which taxes sportsmen on hunting and shooting equipment. The remainder of the funds were supplied by license dollars from Kansas sportsmen.

The wildlife area includes 2,432 acres of rolling range and pastureland, interspersed with native woodlands. It was named for the old townsite of Hollister, located on the railroad near the center of the area. Bluestem prairie dominates the open country, which contains all the true native grasses and forbs common to this region of Kansas. The historical use of these range-lands has been for grazing, first by buffalo and elk and now by cattle.

MANAGEMENT

Presently, prescribed burning is used to assist in maintaining a good prairie community. Several food plots have been developed in cool-season pastures to provide habitat variety and a source of emergency winter food for many species, including quail, deer, turkey, and prairie chicken. Up to three crop fields on the area are annually planted to sunflowers. These fields provide the dove hunter with an excellent hunting opportunity.

Future plans call for a moderate grazing system on those rangelands in excellent condition. This will help keep vegetation from becoming too thick and unusable by many species. Occasional burning on a rotational basis will increase grass vigor, stimulate prairie forbs, attract insects, and open ground cover to ease movement of young wildlife.

Because cool season pastures offer little wildlife value, these are being converted to patches of native grasses, legumes, forbs, food plots, and woody cover. Such a mixture offers a variety of habitats for many species, both game and nongame.

WILDLIFE

The prairie and associated woodlands support many forms of wildlife. Several small flocks of prairie chicken use the area occasionally. Quail, rabbits, fox squirrels, turkey, and deer are common. Furbearers, including coyote, raccoon, opossum, striped skunk, and bobcat, make use of the variety of habitat types. Mourning doves nest in the hedgerows and brushy pastures while other migratory birds, such as ducks and geese, use the area during spring and fall migrations. The habitat is good for a host of other small birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

Pawnee Creek, a perennial stream, flows for more than two miles through Hollister and offers a limited fishery for several native species, including bass, bluegill, green sunfish, and channel catfish.

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OTHER ACTIVITIES

The entire Hollister wildlife area is open for hunting, trapping, and fishing. Other activities allowed include hiking and birdwatching.

County roads supply close access to all points on Hollister. No vehicles are permitted on the area. Boundaries are marked with black-on-yellow “public hunting” signs and major corners are marked by black-on-white signs stating “Public Wildlife Area.”

Hollister Wildlife Area is subject to all state laws and regulations regarding hunting, fishing, and public use of Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism managed lands.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

• Vehicles are permitted on maintained roads only.
• Primitive camping is permitted, but please take your trash with you.
• Consult area information signs for additional rules and regulations on the area. Special regulations may be in effect.

SHOOTING RANGE

Hollister Wildlife Area Shooting Range is available by a joint effort between KDWPT, the Old Fort Sharpshooters, Kansas Wildscape, and the Kansas National Guard.

Target shooting will only be allowed on designated days and under approved supervision by KDWPT.

The Old Fort Sharpshooters operate the shooting range through an agreement with KDWPT. Annual memberships fees are $20 per individual $30 family. A $10.00 daily use fee will be charged to all non-members using the range to cover cost of targets and target stands.

A trap range is also open to the public during the same hours as the rifle range. Cost of the trap range is $5 per 25 clay targets for members and non-members. Targets are available at the range.
From Ft. Scott, travel south on 69 Hwy. to “Lake Road,” then 5.5 miles west, one mile south, and one mile west.

**LEGEND**

- Hunting Allowed
- Woodland
- Rangeland (Prairie)
- Cropland
- Gravel Road
- Railroad
- Intermittent Stream
- Parking Area
- Camping Area
- Shooting Range

**RANGE PROVISIONS**

- Restrooms
- Rifle/Handgun Range (15, 25, 50, 75, 100 yard)
- Trap Range (variable elevation and direction)
- Provided EAR and EYE Protection
- Provided Paper Targets and Frames
- Provided Chamber Indicators

**RANGE RULES**

- A range officer will control all activity on the range.
- No firing until instructed to do so.
- All firing will stop immediately at the “cease fire” command.
- All firing must be done from specified firing lines or stations.
- The only targets that may be used are those for which the range is designed.
- All shooters will wear eye and ear protection.
- All actions of uncased firearms must be kept open except when on the firing line and ready to fire.
- Do not disturb shooters on adjacent stations.
- Loud or abusive language will not be permitted.
- Anyone not following posted rules will be removed from the facility.
- No alcoholic beverages allowed.
- The Old Fort Sharpshooters reserve the right to refuse anyone the right to utilize the range when the safety of others may be jeopardized.
- No .50 caliber BMG rifles allowed

Information regarding the use of the shooting range may be obtained by calling Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism at (620) 449-2539. The Old Fort Sharpshooters holds a monthly meeting the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the rural fire station on Hwy US 54 west of Fort Scott.