The Elk City Reservoir dam is 5 miles northwest of Independence in Montgomery County. The Elk City wildlife area consists of about 12,500 acres and is managed for fishing and hunting. The 4,440-acre flood control reservoir is open to fishing, waterfowl hunting, and boating. Elk City state park is 624 acres, providing camping, hiking, picnicking, swimming, fishing, and sightseeing opportunities. The area supports a variety of wildlife. Vegetation consists of big and little bluestem, Indiangrass, switchgrass, and other native warm season grasses, intermixed with successional woodlands and riparian corridors. Cropland, and scattered wetlands. A prominent feature of the landscape is the precipitous limestone bluff known as Table Mound. Wind and erosion have created many scenic vistas on the limestone bluffs along the northern border of the park. In addition, autumn brings an abundance of color to the native trees along the bluff.

The Green Thumb Nature Trail is a one-mile loop trail located in the state park. Three-volunteers to construct the park’s Table Mound Hiking Trail and Post Oak Self-Guided Nature Trail. The Elk River Hiking Trail is a scenic 15-mile trail starting at the west edge of the dam and ending near the Highway 160 bridge on the Elk River. Parking is available at the trailheads.

Large numbers of ducks and geese are attracted to the area wetlands and shallow flats in the reservoir’s upper end. Area deer hunters have excellent opportunities on the numerous tributaries and wooded borders of crop fields. Wild turkeys are found on the area. Other game species include beavers, raccoons, bobcats, coyotes, and opossums. Common furbearers include bobwhites, cottontail rabbits, and fox and gray squirrels. Excellent squirrel hunting can be found in the numerous oak-hickory and pecan groves. Common farbearers include beavers, raccoons, bobcats, coyotes, and opossums.

Non-toxic shot is required when hunting managed dove fields. No baiting is allowed on state and federal portions of Elk City Reservoir. Each hunter is allowed two treestands or portable blinds. They must be marked with the hunter’s name and address or KDWPT number. Portable blinds must be removed daily.

Some interior roads are closed seasonally to improve wildlife habitat utilization and hunting quality.

Quiet hours are observed between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. in the state park. Group shelters may be reserved. Only shatterproof containers are allowed at the swimming beach. Pets must be contained and may not be left unattended in the state park

Bird watchers, photographers, and wildlife enthusiasts will enjoy the many species of birds and animals on the area. Huge pileated woodpeckers are common among mature trees along the Elk River. Waterfowl nesting and feeding in the wildlife refuge, provide spectacular viewing along Hwy 160 in the spring and fall.

Please check posted notices for area rules and regulations on fishing, hunting, and park and public land use. All motorized vehicles must remain on maintained roads and parking areas. All motorized vehicles in the state park are required to display a current motor vehicle permit.

No hunting is permitted in the refuge area or state park at any time during the year. Angler and public access is permitted on the refuge area from April 1 thru August 31. No holes or pits may be dug for blinds on the wildlife area. Check the current hunting regulations summary for additional hunting requirements.

Camping is permitted in designated areas only. Please take all your trash with you when you leave.

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