1973 – Federal Endangered Species Act passed by Congress
1974 – First modern hunting seasons on antelope and turkey
1974 – Sandhills State Park authorized by Kansas Legislature
1975 – Clinton State Park, Eisenhower State Park (originally named Melvern State Park) authorized by Kansas Legislature
1975 – Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Act broadens agency responsibility to all vertebrate and non-vertebrate wildlife species
1979 – El Dorado State Park authorized by Kansas Legislature
1980 – Chickadee Checkoff program begins
1984 – Milford Fish Hatchery completed
1987 – Gov. Mike Hayden signs executive order merging State Parks and Resources Authority and Kansas Fish and Game Commission to form Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
1987 – Kansas Waterfowl Habitat stamp created
1988 – Hillsdale State Park authorized by Kansas Legislature
1994 – Prairie Spirit Rail Trail authorized by Kansas Legislature
1994 – First Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshop at Rock Springs 4-H Center
1995 – Trout program initiated
1995 – Walk-In Hunting Areas pilot program initiated
1996 – Walk-In Hunting Areas program implemented statewide.
1996 – Department website created
1999 – Department debuts online license sales system
2000 – Outdoor Kansas Kids program begins
2004 – State Park No. 24 authorized by Kansas Legislature

State Parks

Cedar Bluff SP................................ (785) 726-3212
Cheney SP................................ (316) 542-3664
Clinton SP................................. (785) 842-8562
Crawford SP................................ (620) 362-6295
Cross Timbers SP........................ (620) 637-2213
Eisenhower SP............................. (785) 528-4102
El Dorado SP............................... (316) 321-7180
Elk City SP................................ (620) 331-6295
Fall River SP............................... (620) 637-2213
Glen Elder SP.............................. (785) 545-3345
Hillsdale SP............................... (913) 783-4507
Kanopolis/Mushroom Rock SP.....(785) 546-2565
Kaw River SP............................. (785) 273-6740
Lovelock SP............................... (785) 753-4971
Meade SP.................................. (620) 873-2572
Milford SP................................ (785) 238-3014
Perry SP.................................. (785) 246-3449
Pomona SP................................ (785) 828-4933
Prairie Dog SP............................ (785) 877-2953
Prairie Spirit Trail....................... (785) 448-2627
Sand Hills SP............................. (620) 665-6248
Scott SP.................................. (620) 872-2061
Tuttle Creek SP........................... (785) 539-7941
Webster SP................................ (785) 425-6775
Wilson SP................................ (785) 658-2465

Contacts

Office of the Secretary ............... (785) 296-2281
Pratt Operations....................... (620) 672-5911
Region 1 Office........................ (785) 628-8614
Region 2 Office........................ (785) 273-6740
Region 3 Office........................ (316) 683-8069
Chanute District....................... (620) 431-0380
Dodge City District............... (620) 227-8609
Kansas City District............... (913) 422-1314

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

History Timeline

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, and military or veteran status.
Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1020 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327.

Department Website: www.ksoutdoors.com
1905 – Fish and game laws organized under Kansas Fish and Game Department. Implementation of state law requiring license to hunt in Kansas. Land donated to the state by Pratt County Commission, for construction of a fish hatchery, was formally deeded to the state.

1906 – Ring-necked pheasants stocked in Kansas

1911 – State Fish and Game Department placed under supervision of the University of Kansas Board of Regents

1924 – Bison herd started at Garden City, with assistance of American Bison Society

1925 – Fish and Game Department reorganized as Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, comprising three members appointed by Governor

1926 – First state fishing lakes built (Neosho and Meade)

1927 – Reorganization of Commission. Agency given approval to organize a warden service, and pay wardens up to $150 per month. Fishing licenses required of men 18 to 70.

1928 – Game farms established at Meade County State Park and Crawford County State Park

1933 – Civilian Conservation Corps begins building projects in Kansas

1934 – Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (duck stamp act) passed by Congress

1935 – Females from 18 to 70 first required to have a license to fish public waters

1937 – Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration law (Pittman-Robertson Act) enacted

1938 – Publication “Outdoors with the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission” (predecessor to “Kansas Wildlife & Parks” magazine) began

1939 – Bureau of Fisheries and Biological Survey are combined to create the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1939 – First land acquisition (Finney Game Refuge) using Pittman-Robertson federal aid funds

1942 – Acquisition of land for Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area begins

1943 – Legislature gives full authority to Commission to set seasons and bag limits

1948 – First federal reservoir in Kansas (Kanopolis) completed

1949 – First walleye stocking in Kansas waters (Clark State Fishing Lake)

1950 – Federal Aid in Sport Fisheries Restoration law (Dingell-Johnson Act) enacted

1954 – Construction begins on Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area

1955 – State Legislature and Gov. Fred Hall create the State Park and Resources Authority

1955 – First federal wildlife refuge created at Kiwin Reservoir

1956 – First deer crossing sign erected, U. S. 36 in Cheyenne County

1958 – Kanopolis State Park authorized by Kansas Legislature

1958 – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area dedicated

1960 – Fall River State Park, Cross Timbers State Park (originally named Toronto State Park) authorized by Kansas Legislature

1960 – First Kansas boating laws enacted

1961 – Tuttle Creek State Park authorized by Kansas Legislature

1962 – Cedar Bluff State Park, Meade State Park, Prairie Dog State Park authorized by Kansas Legislature

1963 – Pomona State Park authorized by Kansas Legislature

1964 – Cheney State Park authorized by Kansas Legislature

1965 – First archery and firearms deer season

1965 – Crawford State Park, Lovewell State Park, Milford State Park, Scott State Park, Webster State Park authorized by Kansas Legislature

1965 – U.S. Congress establishes Land and Water Conservation Fund

1966 – Wilson State Park authorized by Kansas Legislature

1967 – Elk City State Park, Perry State Park authorized by Kansas Legislature

1969 – Glen Elder State Park authorized by Kansas Legislature

1973 – Kansas Hunter Education Program started

1973 – SASNAK (Surging Ahead for Skippers, Nimrods and Anglers of Kansas) program launched, substantially enhancing department’s biologist staff and establishing goals of increasing statewide sportfish catch by 50 percent, as well as doubling upland game harvest on public lands

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**Seth Way, hatchery manager from 1926-67**