

ELK CITY

The Elk City Reservoir dam is five 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 has many habitat types and 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.

HUNTING

Large numbers of ducks use wetlands and shallow flats in the reservoir's upper end, and goose hunters find excellent hunting on the wildlife area. 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 bobwhites, cottontail

rabbits, and fox and gray squirrels. Excellent squirrel hunting can be found in the numerous oak-hickory and pecan groves. Common furbearers include beavers, raccoons, bobcats, coyotes, gray foxes, and opossums.

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

CAMPING, PICNICKING AND BOATING

Elk City State Park features modern and primitive campsites, picnicking, modern restrooms and showers, drinking water, trailer sewage dump facilities, a group shelter, fishing piers, a three-lane boat launching ramp, and a swimming beach.

Camping is permitted in the state park campground and along Table Mound Hiking Trail south of the county road. Toilets are available at Memorial Overlook Trailhead near the

dam and at the state park trailhead.

Quiet hours are observed between 10 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.

FISHING

Elk City Reservoir offers great fishing opportunities for channel catfish, white bass, crappie, flathead catfish, and saugeye. Hook-and-line and trotline anglers experience good success for channel catfish and flatheads in the reservoir during all seasons of the year. Spring fishing for

spawning crappie occurs in the coves and associated streams. White bass runs also occur in the Elk River. The outlet area provides good to excellent fishing during moderate releases. A handicapped-accessible fishing dock is located in the state park area.

BACKPACKING AND HIKING

The Green Thumb Nature Trail is a one-mile loop trail that begins in the state park campground just northwest of the park office. It presents a moderately strenuous hike leading to the top of the hill. There, a beautiful lake panorama is framed by ash and oak trees.

The Kansas Trails Council designed and worked with

many volunteers to construct the park's Table Mound Hiking Trail and Post Oak Self-Guiding 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.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

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.

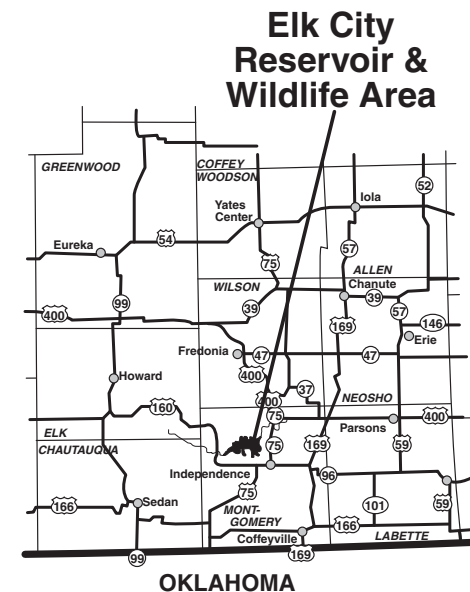
No hunting is permitted in the refuge area or state park at any time during the year. Angler and public access is permitted from April 1 thru August 31 on the refuge area. No holes or pits may be dug for blinds on the wildlife area. Check the current hunting regulations summary for additional hunting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

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

SIGHTSEEING

Bird watchers, photographers, and wildlife enthusiasts will enjoy the many species of birds and animals on the area. The huge pileated woodpecker is common among mature trees along the Elk River.

Waterfowl resting and feeding in the wildlife refuge, provide spectacular viewing along Hwy 160 in the spring and fall.



General Area Map

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 and Parks, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327. 04/09

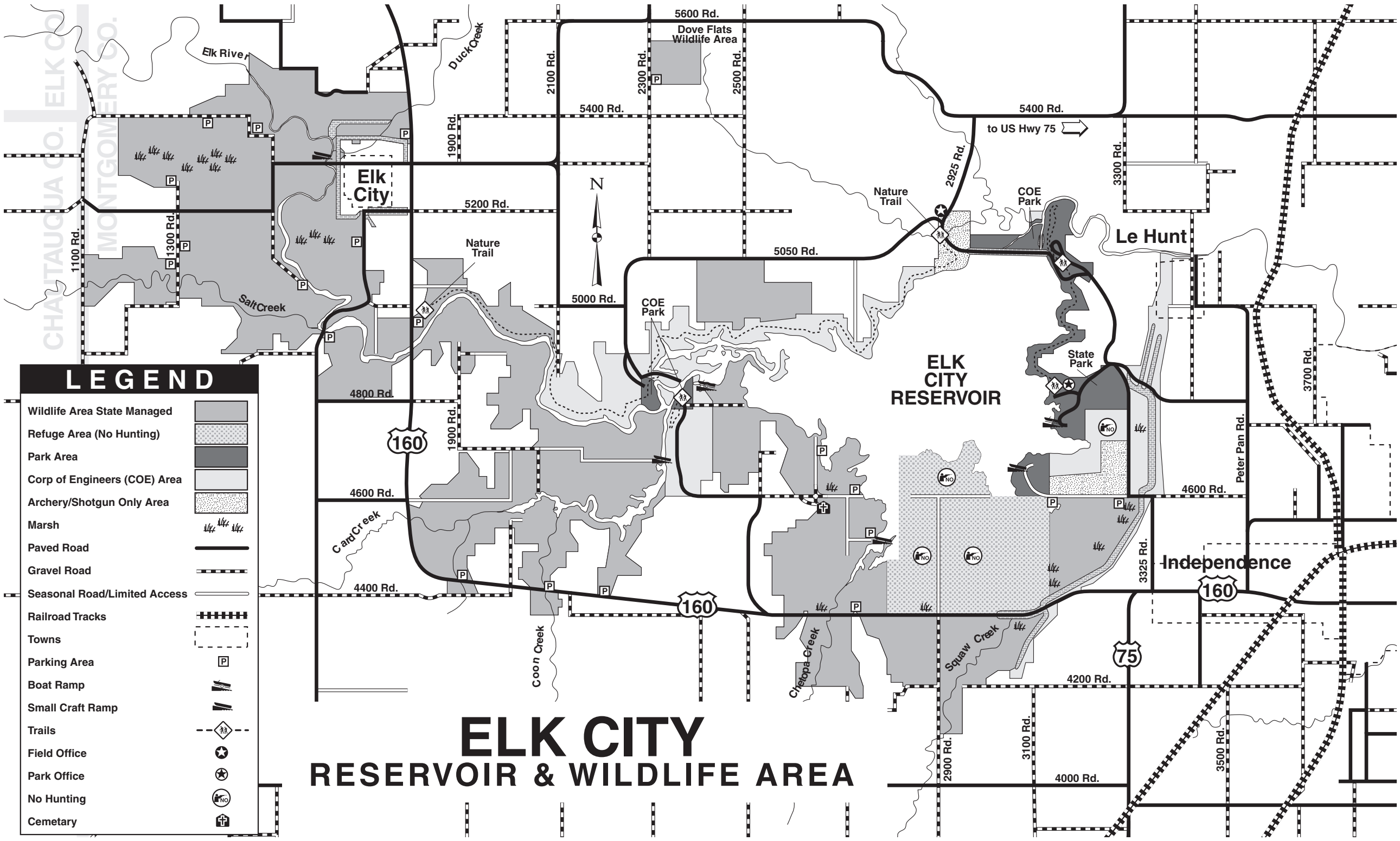
Elk City

Reservoir & Wildlife Area



Elk City Reservoir & WA
5089 Co. Rd. 2925
Independence, KS 67301
(620) 331-6820 (Wildlife Office)
(620) 331-6295 (Park Office)
(620) 431-0380 (Regional Office)

Department Website:
kdwp.state.ks.us



CHATTAUGUA CO. ELK CO.
 MONTGOMERY CO.

LEGEND	
Wildlife Area State Managed	
Refuge Area (No Hunting)	
Park Area	
Corp of Engineers (COE) Area	
Archery/Shotgun Only Area	
Marsh	
Paved Road	
Gravel Road	
Seasonal Road/Limited Access	
Railroad Tracks	
Towns	
Parking Area	
Boat Ramp	
Small Craft Ramp	
Trails	
Field Office	
Park Office	
No Hunting	
Cemetery	

ELK CITY RESERVOIR & WILDLIFE AREA