

# MILFORD

## FISHING

The following fishing tips should improve anglers success in catching the lake's more popular fish species. These suggestions are general, and fishing conditions can change rapidly due to weather and water conditions.

Walleye concentrate along the face of the dam during early April to spawn. Following the spawn, Farnum Creek flat, the mud points near School Creek, and the flats near the military marina are good areas. During the summer, walleye often are taken off the state park points in 25 to 40 feet of water.

Nearly all of the brushy and rocky coves contain crappie, but the coves around Rolling Hills and Curtis Creek are traditional hot spots. Autumn finds the crappie back in the same haunts as in the spring. Ice fishing in winter in the Curtis Creek area often yields sizable strings of crappie.

Milford usually produces a white bass run in the Republican River each spring, in late April or early May. In years when the river is high and turbid, a spawning run occurs off the face of the dam, rather than upriver. In summer, white bass can be taken while trolling deep-diving lures across underwater dropoffs. During the hot summer months, night fishing for white bass under lanterns or floating lights is popular. One of the best places for night fishing is Madison Point. In fall, bass congregate in the upper end on Madison Point and along both sides of the Wakefield Causeway.

The upper end of the lake above the Wakefield Causeway has traditionally offered the best catfishing, but catfish are common throughout the reservoir. Most of the large flatheads are caught along the Wakefield Causeway and in the standing timber in the upper end on setlines and live bait.

Nearly all the wooded coves that hold crappie also hold largemouth bass.

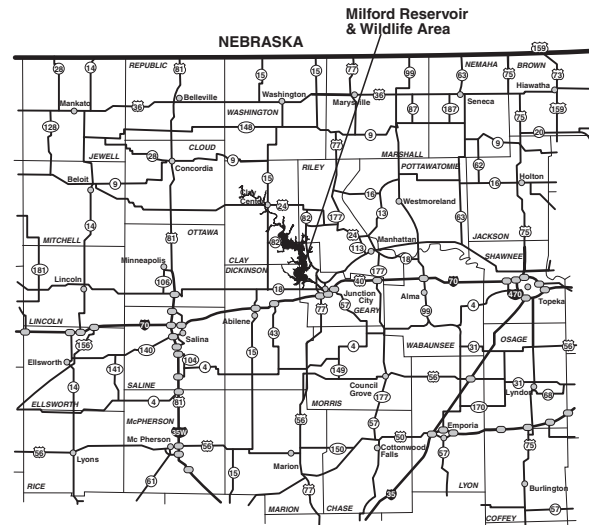
In general, any of the rocky points and banks in the lower half of the lake will harbor smallmouth bass, but the face of the dam has the highest density of this fish.

The dam at Milford Reservoir is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The reservoir has a surface area of 16,020 acres and an average depth of about 25 feet.

Numerous camping and picnicking areas are maintained by the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, the Corps of Engineers, and the city of Wakefield. Two privately owned marinas are located on the lake, providing services for boaters and anglers.

Approximately 19,000 acres of public land surrounds Milford Reservoir on the west side and the upper end. This land is managed to maximize production of various wildlife species.

Numerous opportunities exist for those who wish to observe or photograph wildlife on the area. The abundant and diverse habitat supports many species of nongame birds, mammals, reptiles, and aquatic life.



## 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, Parks and Tourism, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327. 02/20

# Milford

## Reservoir & Wildlife Area



Milford Wildlife Area  
PO Box 301  
Wakefield, KS 67487

(Area Office)  
(785) 461-5402

(Regional Office)  
(785) 273-6740

[www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com)



## GENERAL HUNTING

Many game species are present on Milford Wildlife Area. The area has huntable populations of pheasants, quail, turkey, deer, dove, squirrel, coyote, cottontail rabbits, ducks and geese. Though populations fluctuate from year to year, all of these species provide area hunters with a challenging outdoor experience.

There are approximately 19,000 acres of public land surrounding Milford Reservoir. These acres comprise various habitat types such as timber, agricultural fields, wetlands, and native grass plantings. The native grass plantings serve as excellent nesting habitat for upland bird species. The native grass strips are typically burned every three to five years to prohibit invasive tree and shrub growth, and to aid in accessibility to these areas.

Approximately 5,000 acres are leased out for agricultural fields. Varying percentages of crops are left standing throughout the winter to aid wildlife. An additional 50 acres of food plots are planted each summer to further assist wildlife through the winter months. These food plots and standing crops offer both food and shelter for various wildlife species.

Milford Wildlife Area also provides thousands of acres for wildlife viewing for hikers and other wildlife area users.

## iSPORTSMAN PERMIT REQUIRED

iSportsman electronic daily hunt permits will replace paper daily hunt permits used on the area. Hunters will need to complete a one-time registration with iSportsman either online at <https://kdwpt.isportsman.net> or by contacting your nearest KDWPT office. Once registered, hunters need to “check-in” and “check-out” each time the area is used for hunting by calling 1-844-500-0825 or through the online link above.

## BOATING

There are two boat ramps maintained by the Public Lands Division. The Gatesville Boat Ramp is located directly south of the Smith Bottom Wetlands. This boat ramp gives access to the Republican River only. There is also access at the Mall Creek Parking Area. This gravel boat ramp will only accommodate small boats. Motorized boats are allowed only in the Mall Creek Wetland. Motorized boats with either gas or electric motors are prohibited in all other wetlands.

## YOUTH /MENTOR AREA

The West Broughton Youth/Mentor area has been designated as an area requiring a mentor, age 18 or older, to be accompanied by a youth, 17 years old or younger, to participate in any and all uses of this area in accordance with state and federal regulations.

## REFUGE/NO HUNTING AREAS

The Steve Lloyd Wetlands contains approximately 1,300 acres designated entirely as a refuge area. There are two wetlands on this refuge area offering about 600 water surface acres when the pools are completely full. The refuge is closed to all off road activities throughout the year. The Steve Lloyd Outlook access road is open to vehicles year round. A KDWPT law enforcement officer must accompany any individual pursuing wounded or dead game onto the refuge area.

## WETLANDS

The Kansas City District Corps of Engineers and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism have created 10 wetland complexes with individual wetlands varying from 20 to 250 acres and totaling about 2,300 acres. These wetlands are regulated by water control structures, which allow for precise manipulation of the water surface and acreage.

There are three stationary pumps and six floating pump structures to pump water from the Republican River and fill the wetlands. These wetland complexes provide manageable wetland habitat benefiting breeding and migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife species. They also increase habitat diversity in the upper portion of Milford Reservoir by providing habitat in the form on aquatic vegetation, shallow water, food, nesting, and resting sites.

There are numerous goose mounds within several of the wetlands, which are used primarily by Canada geese rearing their broods in the spring. Wood duck boxes that were washed away in floods of previous years are being replaced in an effort to increase the wood duck population.

Approximately 650 acres of the 2,300-wetland acres are flooded cropland that serves as an excellent food source for waterfowl. The remaining wetland acres are comprised of native vegetation and open water pools. Six portable pumps and three stationary pumps are used to fill the wetlands.

## WILDLIFE VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES

The Steve Lloyd Refuge has an outlook area that provides a great view of the upper refuge area. Several species of shore birds and waterfowl may be viewed at various times during the year.

## FIREWOOD PERMITS

A firewood permit is required to harvest dead and downed firewood along maintained roads. This free permit may be obtained by calling (785) 461-5402 .

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

**Vehicles are restricted to maintained roads and parking areas. Off-road vehicle use is prohibited.**

Individuals using the wildlife area must take their trash out with them. A no-trash policy is in effect for this area, so no trash barrels are provided.

Special length and creel limits may be in effect for some fish species. Please check the *Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary* and all posted notices prior to fishing. Consult information signs posted in the area for all regulations that apply at Milford.

**No camping on the wildlife area.**

Entrance fees are required at all state parks.

**Target shooting is prohibited on all public lands.**

## HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE AREAS

Annual permits will be issued at the Milford Wildlife Area office for motorized handicapped access on two designated areas for all species and all seasons in accordance with state and federal regulations. These areas are still open to public hunting. Call (785) 461-5402 for more information. A state issued handicapped ID card is required.

## SHOOTING RANGES

The following is a list of shooting ranges located near the Milford Wildlife Area. Call for operational days and times.

**Ft. Riley (785) 239-6211**

**Fancy Creek (785) 539-7941**

**Sportsman's Acres (785) 238-8727**

