

# ELK CITY

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.

## HUNTING

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 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, 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 hunters' name and address or KDWP number. Portable blinds must be removed daily.

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. Toilets are available at Memorial Overlook Trailhead near the dam and at the state park trailhead.

## FISHING

Elk City Reservoir offers great fishing opportunities for channel catfish, white bass, crappie, flathead catfish, and blue catfish. Hook-and-line and trotline anglers experience good success for catfish in the reservoir year-round. Spring fishing for spawning crappie occurs in the coves and asso-

ciated 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.

## 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-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.

## 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.

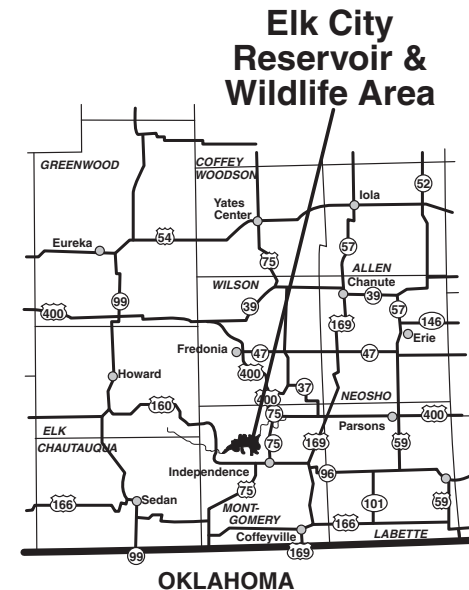
**No hunting is permitted in the refuge area or state park at any time during the year.** Angler and public access is permitted on the refuge area from April 1 thru August 31. No holes or pits may be dug for blinds on the wildlife area. Check the current hunting regulations summary for additional hunting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

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

## SIGHTSEEING

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

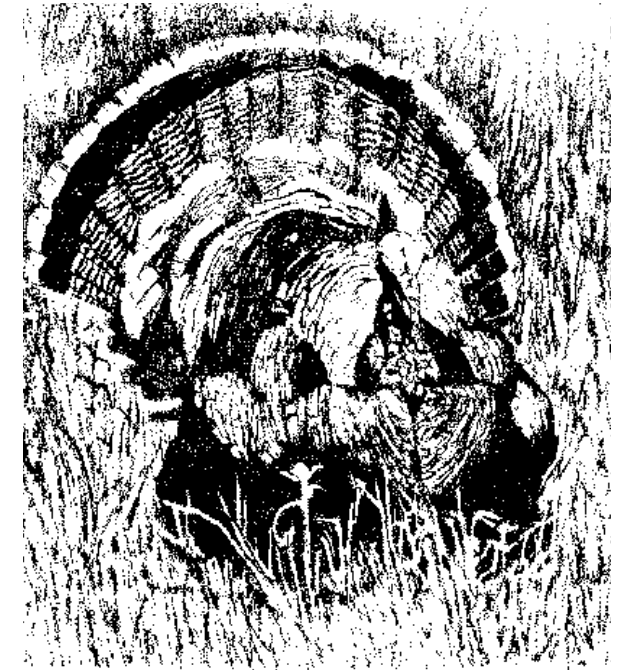


## General Area Map

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, Parks and Tourism, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327. 05/17

# Elk City

## Reservoir & Wildlife Area



Elk City Reservoir & WA  
5089 Co. Rd. 2925  
Independence, KS 67301

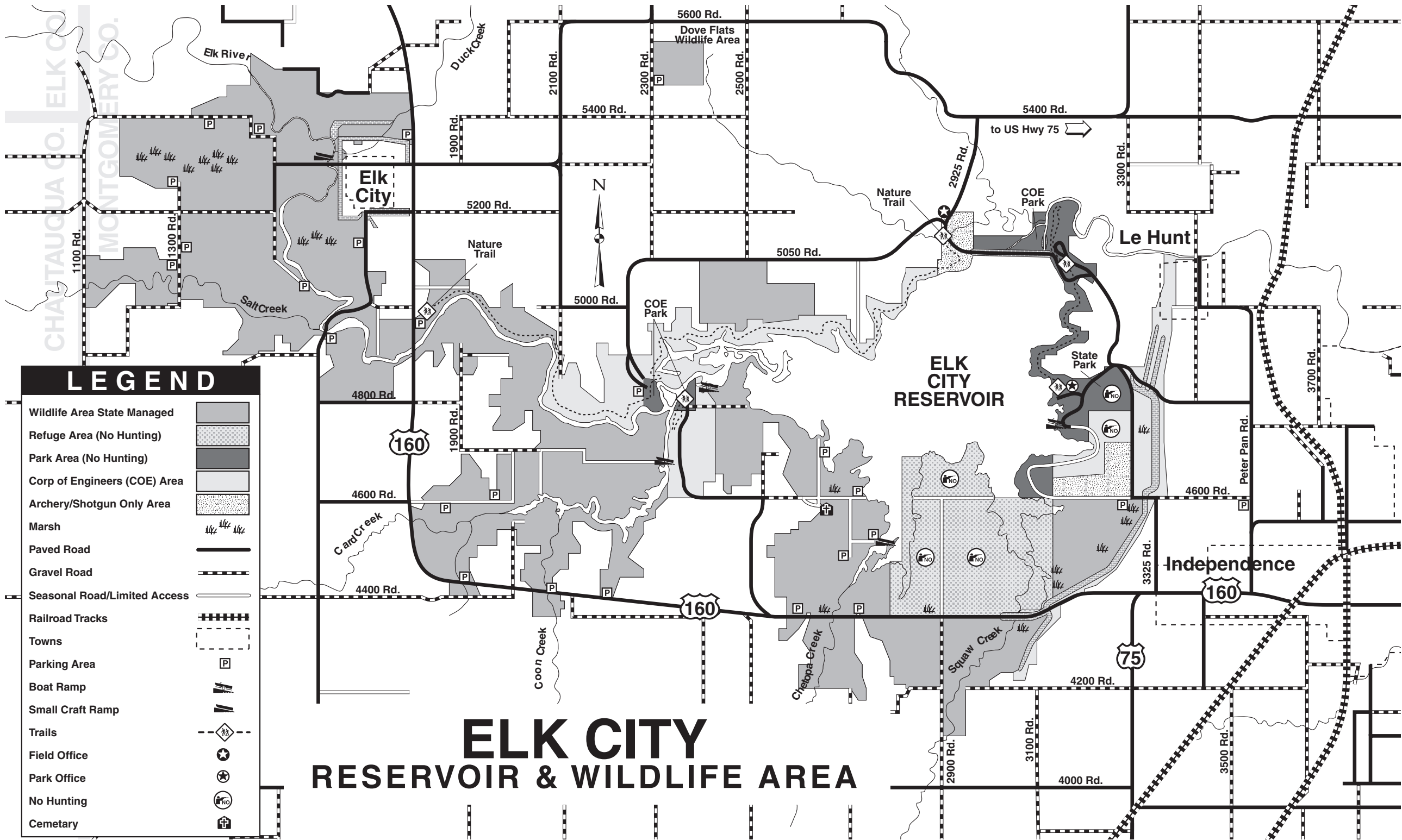
(Area Office)  
(620) 331-6820

(State Park)  
(620) 331-6295

(Regional Office)  
(620) 431-0380

www.ksoutdoors.com





### LEGEND

- Wildlife Area State Managed
- Refuge Area (No Hunting)
- Park Area (No Hunting)
- 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