

The Visitor Center and State Park Office

The Corps of Engineers Visitor Center provides lake visitors with lake information, maps, interpretive exhibits, a nature trail, playground, and a group shelter house that can be reserved. Volunteers assist the Corps with the maintenance and operation of the Visitor Center. The State Park Office provides a full service, one stop location for information on camping, boating, hunting and fishing. The office sells state licenses, hunting permits and tags, boat registrations, duck stamps and other state required permits.



Be Healthy-Get Outdoors

Get outdoors, take your kids and enjoy our public lands. They will thank you for it.



Corps of Engineers
www.nwk.usace.army.mil/hillsdale/hillsdale_home.htm

Hillsdale State Park
www.kdwpt.state.ks.us/news/State-Parks/locations/Hillsdale

RC Barnstormers
www.RCBarnstormers.org

Jayhawk Marina
www.jayhawkmarina.com

State Park Reservations (Reserve America)
www.ReserveAmerica

Hillsdale Shooting Range
www.hillsdalerange.org

Corps Volunteer Clearinghouse
www.volunteer.gov



Hillsdale Lake

Kansas

Welcome To Hillsdale Lake

The US Army Corps of Engineers and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism are partners in managing and maintaining the lake facilities. We welcome you and your family to Hillsdale Lake. We encourage you to get outdoors and enjoy the park and public lands. Your observance of the rules and regulations will make your visit and the visit of others more enjoyable. Remember, only a safe visit is an enjoyable one – Whatever your activity –

Be Safe and return home safely.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Kansas City District



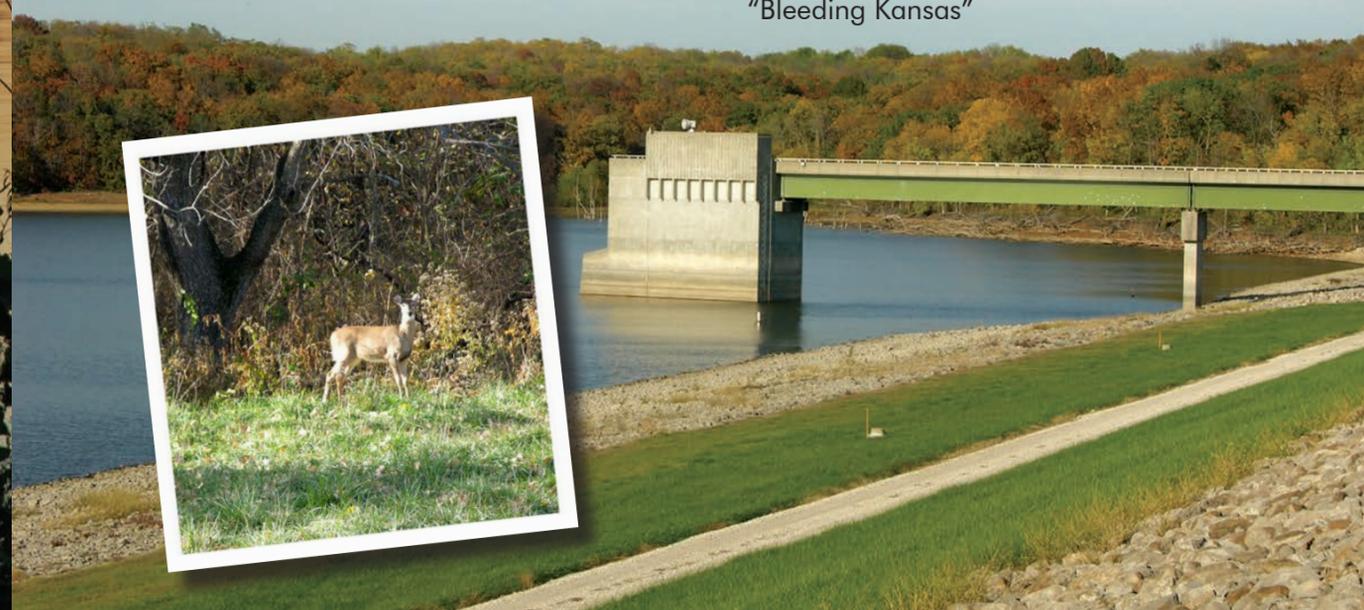
Project Development

Hillsdale Lake was authorized by Congress in 1954 as part of a comprehensive flood control plan for the Osage and Missouri River Basins. Actual construction began in 1976 and was completed in 1982 at a cost of \$61 million.

In 1989, 12,880 acres of land and water was leased to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for recreation and wildlife management purposes. Today, the Kansas Parks, Wildlife and Tourist Department operate Hillsdale Lake under the State Park System. There are no Corps of Engineer managed campgrounds.

History

When early French explorers first entered Kansas around the beginning of the 18th century, Kansas Indians dominated the northeastern section of what is now Kansas, and the Osage Indians controlled the western part of Missouri. Both tribes probably hunted in the Bull Creek region, but there are no historical references to Bull Creek until the 19th century. With development of the Sante Fe Trail in 1812, traffic to the area increased. Two branches of the trail crossed through the head waters of Bull Creek. The establishment of Indian Reservations in the area attracted settlers eager to trade with the native Americans. Squatters, speculators, and railroads competed for the reservation lands, forcing the Indians to move to Indian Territory in Oklahoma in 1868. As the Indians were being forced out, guerilla warfare began between the abolitionists and the pro-slavery forces. During the Civil War, William Quantrill, came to Miami County, he eventually led a historic raid on Lawrence, Kansas burning it to the ground. The Civil War brought many conflicts to the area and consequently it became known as "Bleeding Kansas"





Lake Benefits

Controlling a drainage area of more than 144 square miles, Hillsdale Lake provides flood protection along Bull Creek. It also assist with flood control along the Marais des Cygnes, Osage and Missouri Rivers.

The lake is the leading water supplier to the local area. It provides millions of gallons of water each day to residential and municipal users. The lake improves water quality downstream and provides recreation

Recreation

Hillsdale Lake offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities on more than 8000 acres of land and 4580 acres of water. Corps of Engineer lakes were constructed as multipurpose projects with activities such as Fishing, Boating, Hunting, Shooting Sports, Camping, Swimming, Hiking, Equestrian riding, picnicking, Archery, and flying model airplanes available to the public.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism leased the lake and has the responsibility to develop and maintain the recreation and wildlife areas. Modern and primitive campgrounds, boat ramps, beaches for swimming and wind surfing, shelter houses, and parking facilities are available within Hillsdale State Park. State Park Permits are required to use the facilities.

Over 70% percent of the standing timber was left in the lake to provide fisheries and wildlife benefits. As the lake ages, many of the standing trees are disappearing. Game fish include Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Walleye, White Bass, Bluegill and Catfish. Wildlife includes Whitetail Deer, Wild Turkey, Ducks and Geese, Bobwhite Quail, Cottontail Rabbits, Squirrels, Bald Eagles, Raccoons, Skunks and a wide variety of birds, snakes, turtles, and insects.



State Park Camping

Hillsdale State Park provides a family friendly camping experience with camping facilities to meet your needs. Reservations are available through ReserveAmerica.com.

Hillsdale Camping facilities are managed by the Kansas State Park System. State Park Vehicle permits and camping fees can be taken care of at Camp Host sites or at self pay stations located within the park.

Primitive sites and campsites with water and electricity are available in the Russell Crites Area. The Saddleridge Equestrian area provides campsites for people with their horses. The campgrounds have restrooms, shower buildings , playgrounds, beaches, hiking trails and shelterhouses for campers. A campground is also available to Scout groups and other organized groups. "Lets Go Camping and enjoy a night with your family and friends under the stars"

Campsite Reservations can be made on line at www.ReserveAmerica.com

Hillsdale Range and Training Facility

A place to learn and enjoy proper gun handling skills is here. A public shooting range is located below the dam. 50, 100 and 200 yard ranges are available for rifle and pistol shooting. Trap and skeet is available for shotgun shooters. The area is managed by a volunteer group and state park fees apply to this area. Daily and annual memberships are available. www.hillsdalerange.org



Waterfowl Refuge, Youth-Mentor Area , Wetlands , Physically Challenged Hunting Areas

On the north end of the lake is a Waterfowl Refuge. It is closed to the public October 1 thru January 15. This area provides migratory birds with a feeding and resting area during their migration south and again in the spring when they head to northern breeding grounds. A Youth Mentor Area has been set aside to give our future outdoorsmen and women a special place to enjoy the outdoors . The area is restricted to young hunters and their mentors and for people that are thinking about getting back into hunting. Wetlands have been constructed around the lake to provide wetland habitats for many species of wildlife and to provide hunting opportunities .

Contact the state park office for designated physically challenged hunting areas and special hunt opportunities.

Plant and Animal Life

Located in the transition zone between the prairie lands of the west and the mixed hardwood forests of the east, the project area has a great diversity of plant communities that support an abundance of wildlife. In centuries past, this zone has undergone changes as the climate changed, favoring either grassland or forest. Today, the prairie and forest are in competition in areas not being utilized for agriculture. These different habitats provide homes for many kinds of wildlife, including white-tailed deer, raccoon, beaver, squirrel, rabbit, coyote and bobcat.



Birdwatchers will delight in the many species of birds at the lake. The changing seasons bring the promise of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds that use Hillsdale Lake as a rest stop.

