

Fort Riley, Kansas



Fort Riley is a 101,000+ acre Army installation in northeast Kansas.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Fort Riley Conservation Office (Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division, Conservation & Restoration Branch) is responsible for most aspects of the outdoor recreation program, including recreational access to the training areas and maintaining the hunter and creel check stations.

ACTIVITIES ALLOWED ON FORT RILEY

- Fishing
 - Hunting & Scouting
 - Trapping
 - Wildlife Viewing
 - Mushroom Harvesting
 - Hiking
 - Geocaching
 - 3D & Static Archery Range
 - Photography
 - Mountain Biking
 - Horseback Riding
 - Dog Training
 - Target Shooting (*Privately-Owned Firearms Range*)
 - Kayaking & Canoeing (*Kansas River*)
 - Fuelwood Cutting
 - Skeet & Trap Range (*Available 2008*)
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RECREATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Fort Riley is a well known destination for hunting a variety of game animals from small game to upland game to deer and elk. With up to 71,000 acres available at any given time, it is by far the largest, contiguous tract of public ground in Kansas. Fort Riley supports some of the best concentrations of upland game, an abundance of wild turkeys, and plenty of big game opportunities for military as well as civilians. Abundant fishing opportunities are also available with 29 regularly stocked lakes and ponds on the installation in addition to being located between the two largest lakes in Kansas. Stream fishing opportunities are also excellent with the Kansas and Republican Rivers on our southern boundary and Wildcat Creek on the north.

ACCESS & PERMITS

- All hunters and trappers (unless age exempt) are required to have a Fort Riley Hunting Access Permit (\$27.15), Hunter Education Course Completion Certificate, and a Kansas Hunting License to hunt on the installation. The Fort Riley Hunting Access Permit can be purchased at the Fort Riley Conservation Office, any Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks offices or vendors, or on-line at the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks web site. (Depending on open seasons-additional state and federal permits, licenses, stamps, or tags may also be required.)
 - All vehicles being used on Fort Riley for recreation must have a Natural Resource Vehicle Marker (FREE) in the dash of their vehicle. This marker can be picked up at the Conservation Office, Bldg 1020, or at any of the hunter check stations.
 - All hunters are required to physically sign-in and out at any hunter check station on Fort Riley each day that they hunt. (Special check in/out procedures are in effect for firearm deer hunters.)
 - A Fort Riley Fuelwood Permit (\$25.00) is required and must be carried at all times when cutting wood. Permits can be obtained during the hours and days of operation of the Outdoor Recreational Center, Bldg 9011.
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FISH & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Large scale prairie restoration project to improve declining tallgrass prairie habitat for several prairie wildlife species using manual cutting for woody plant species and prescribed burning (Approx. 15,000 acres/year).
 - Management of over 200 wildlife food plots for both game and non-game species.
 - Monitoring both game and non-game species using both ground and aerial surveys.
 - Prairie Chicken radio-telemetry project to determine reproductive rates, brood survival, range size, survival rate, and military training impact.
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FISHING REGULATIONS

Unless otherwise noted, all Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks fishing and boating regulations (lawful fishing methods, equipment, creel limits, boating requirements) are in force on Fort Riley. Installation anglers should refer to the Kansas regulations, which are available from the Conservation Office.

Fishing at a Fort Riley lake, pond or stream is allowed only when the area in which it is located is [open for fishing](#). To find out what areas are open, call 239-6669. Area designations are shown on the Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation and Fuel Wood Cutting Map, which is available for free at the Conservation Office. **All areas not listed as open are off limits.**

Fishing is permitted 24 hours per day south of Vinton School Road unless otherwise posted or restricted by military training activities. Fishing is closed from 1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise north of Vinton School Road.

Anglers between the ages of 16 and 65 must possess a valid Kansas Fishing License while fishing on Fort Riley. Anglers fishing for trout at Moon Lake or Cameron Springs during the state designated trout season (15 October - 15 April) must possess a state of Kansas Trout Stamp regardless of age. Any trout caught incidentally must be returned to the water immediately, if the angler does not possess this trout stamp during the trout season.

Lawful fishing methods and equipment comply with Kansas regulations except as follows:

- Only one pole and line may be used at Cameron Springs.
 - Trotlines, limb lines, bank lines, and any other type of set line may be used only on the following waters: Kansas River, Republican River, Smoky Hill River, Wildcat Creek, Madison Creek, Timber Creek. Set lines must be put out in accordance with state regulations.
 - Bow fishing is permitted on Fort Riley in the Kansas, Smokey Hill and Republican Rivers and in Funston Lake. It is also permitted at Marshall Lake when full and in the Whitside oxbow of the Kansas River. See Kansas regulations for species which may be legally taken by bow fishing.
 - White amur or grass carp have been stocked in several Fort Riley impoundments to control aquatic vegetation. Any white amur caught must be returned to the water immediately.
 - Bullfrogs may be taken provided a valid Kansas fishing license is in possession. The use of bow and arrow for taking bullfrogs is prohibited at Breakneck Lake, Moon Lake, and Cameron Springs.
 - Ice fishing is prohibited at Cameron Springs.
 - Gasoline powered motors are permitted on Marshall and Funston Lakes only. Speed limit is five miles per hour (no wake) at all times. Electric motors may be used on all waters except Cameron Springs. Boats are not allowed on Cameron Springs.
 - While boating on Fort Riley, a vest-type personal flotation device (PFD) will be worn by all persons unable to swim and by all children under the age of 12 years. Other persons shall have PFDs immediately available for use. A PFD shall be provided for each person aboard the boat.
 - Vehicles being used by anglers shall have displayed inside the front window a completed 'Fort Riley Recreation Motor Vehicle Permit' which are available through the Conservation Office. Vehicles may not be driven in Outdoor Recreation Areas A through Q from sunset to sunrise.
 - Swimming is prohibited in all lakes, ponds, and streams.
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HUNTING REGULATIONS

In addition to the information provided here, hunters are reminded that Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' hunting regulations are in effect on Fort Riley (lawful hunting methods, equipment, bag limits, hunting hours, season lengths). **The following special regulations are also in effect on Fort Riley:**

- Fort Riley Military Reservation or portions of it may be closed at anytime, without prior notice, due to military activities or impassable roads. The military mission has precedence over the announced hunting and fishing season.
- All firearms must be registered before they are brought onto Fort Riley.
 - a. Military personnel stationed at Fort Riley must register their firearms with their unit commander.
 - b. Military personnel not stationed at Fort Riley and all Civilians must register their firearms with the Provost Marshal Office, Bldg 221, 239-6767.
- All privately-owned firearms transported in a vehicle on Fort Riley must be transported in such a way as to not be readily accessible to the vehicle's occupants.
- Transporting a loaded firearm is prohibited. A firearm shall be considered loaded when it is configured with its ammunition attached or contained so as to be immediately ready to discharge its ammunition or when the ammunition is contained in a magazine, cylinder, or similar container, which is attached to, or otherwise integral with the firearm.
- Handguns are allowed for hunting purposes on Fort Riley in areas that are open for rifle hunting and as allowed in FR 210-15 and in accordance with Kansas hunting regulations.
- Vehicles being used to transport hunters on post shall have placed inside the front window a completed copy of the Fort Riley Vehicle Marker. Vehicle Markers are available at any Hunter Check Station and at the Conservation Office (Bldg. 1020).
- Firearms shall not be fired within 200 meters of any building, body of troops, or restricted area, from or across any improved road.
- Firearms with ammunition larger than 2 shot shall not be fired within 100 meters of any road designated on the Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation and Fuelwood Map.
- Firearms with No. 2 shot or smaller ammunition may not be discharged in the direction of any trail marked on the Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation and Fuelwood Map within 100 meters of that trail.
- The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 meters of any improved road.
- Firearms and bows shall not be fired from a vehicle of any type (permanently disabled persons holding an approved special permit are exempted from this prohibition.).
- The discharge of firearms into, at or from buildings or other structures maintained by Fort Riley is prohibited. Road signs and other official signs are considered structures maintained by Fort Riley.
- Firearms, except shotguns using steel shot, shall not be fired from, across, or into any reservoir.
- During the Fort Riley firearms deer season, it is prohibited for hunters to have slugs in their possession unless they also have a valid Fort Riley Deer or Elk Permit.
- During the Fort Riley firearms deer season, rifles will be a legal firearm only for licensed deer and elk hunters. It shall be illegal for any hunter who does not possess a valid deer or elk permit to carry a muzzleloading, rimfire or centerfire rifle or shotgun with rifled slugs during daylight hours during the Fort Riley firearms deer season.
- All areas north of Vinton School Road will be closed to recreational activities from 1 hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise the following morning except during the firearms deer season and by approval of the DPW Conservation and Restoration Branch Chief.
- All deer, elk, and spring turkey hunters must complete a mandatory safety briefing prior to hunting on Fort Riley.

CONTACT INFO

The Fort Riley Conservation Office can be contacted:

- Phone: 785-239-6211
 - Fax: 785-239-0996
 - Web site: <http://www.riley.army.mil/Recreation/Outdoor/>
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