

SAND HILLS

Sand Hills State Park, a 1,123-acre natural area, has been preserved for its sand dunes, grasslands, wetlands, and woodlands. Located north of Hutchinson, Kansas, this park can be accessed off of Highway K-61 at East 56th street or East 69th street.

For thousands of years the Arkansas River carried sediment from the Rocky Mountains into this area. Prevailing southwesterly winds blew the fine sand out of the river valley, forming a narrow band of unstable sand dunes. The sand shifted and changed shape until

vegetation established a foothold and stabilized the dunes. This line of sand dunes has created a diversity of unique habitats. The area is limited to walk-in access in order to help us protect the natural features of this area as well as to enhance your enjoyment.

FEES AND FACILITIES

Permits are available at self-pay stations, Sand Hills State Park, Cheney State Park, Regional Wildlife and Parks Offices, and the Pratt and Topeka Offices. State park vehicle permits are now required for entrance or use. Standard camping fees apply.

Visit www.ksoutdoors.com to reserve a site or con-

tact the park office.

A Trail Access Permit is no longer required.

Sand Hills State Park has a modern restroom and showerhouse with four family units in the campground. The trails also have four areas with vault toilets.

TRAIL SEASON AND ACCESS

The hiking, horse, and the multi-use trails are open year round. During rainy times of the year expect some muddy sections on the trails. Please be aware that the trails will be closed when controlled burns are taking place. Signs will be posted if a controlled burn is to occur.

Most trails start from one of four parking lots located on either 56th street or 69th street. The Prairie Trail may be reached via Dune Trail or Cottonwood Trail. Six horse gates on the multi-use trails allow more access points for both equestrians and hikers.

CAMPING

Camping is available at Sand Hills State Parks' new campground. There are a total of 64 utility sites with 50-amp service. 44 sites have water, sewer, and electric utilities. 20 sites have water and electric utilities. There are 14 pull-through sites with double horse pens measuring 12 foot by 12 foot. Now, pack in multiple days of hiking and riding while enjoying nature at its finest.

WILDFIRES

At Sand Hills State Park the primary habitat is tall-grass prairie. To maintain this habitat, controlled burns are necessary to decrease the woody invaders and the excess dead vegetative matter. Without fire the park would turn into solid woody thickets and trees thus losing the valuable prairie ecosystem which it now enjoys.

The Department of Wildlife and Parks performs the controlled burn during the months of March and April. Before the burn, signs will be posted at the park entrances notifying the public.

PUBLIC HUNTING

Archery deer and upland game hunting are available only by special permit. Permits are issued through a drawing. For current information, contact the Pratt office at (620) 672-5911 or Cheney State Park at (316) 542-3664.

RECREATION

The most popular activities at Sand Hills State Park are hiking and horseback riding. Other activities include archery deer and upland game hunting, bird watching, wildflower walks, and jogging. When participating in these activities please use caution, obey all regulations, and be courteous.

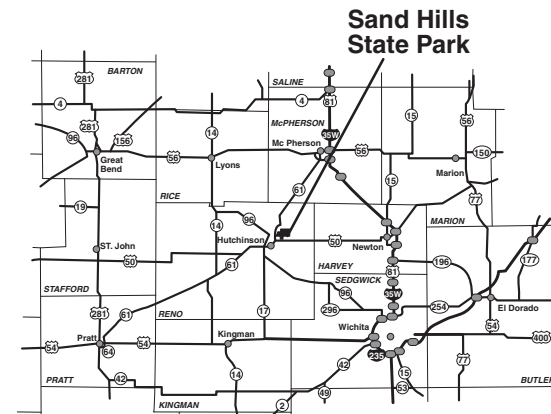
WILDLIFE OBSERVATION

Erected on the Pond Trail during the summer of 2000, two wildlife observation blinds allow visitors a close up peek at nature in action. From these blinds, ducks, geese, songbirds, deer, muskrats and many other creatures are frequently seen.

TRAIL RULES

To help maintain the beauty of the trails, please follow these rules:

1. State Park vehicle permits are now required for parking lots and campgrounds.
2. Park all vehicles in designated parking areas.
3. Dogs are welcome on a leash. No off lead training is allowed. Exceptions are made during hunting season if the dog is accompanying a hunter carrying a special hunting permit for Sand Hills State Park.
4. NO motorized vehicles allowed on trails.
5. Trail access is allowed only from designated trailheads.
6. Camping only allowed in campgrounds.
7. NO fires - this includes cigarettes, charcoal grills, propane stoves etc. Campfires allowed in campground fire rings only.
8. Pack it in, pack it out! Carry out all trash.
9. Hikers yield right of way to horseback riders. Please stay on trails when hiking.
10. Horseback riders must remain on marked trails. Horses are not to be ridden on "hiking only" trails, dunes, or erosion prone areas.
11. Collecting fruit, nuts, leaves, flowers or other plant parts is prohibited. Special permits for scientific collecting may be obtained through the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism..

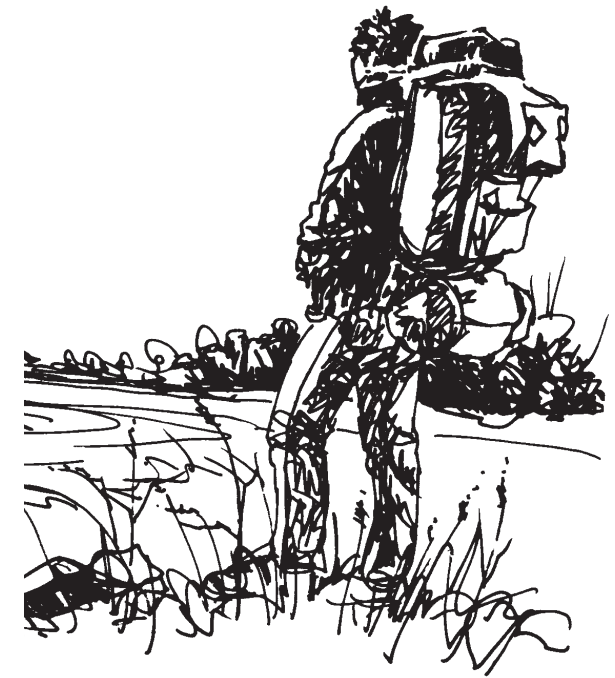


General Area Map

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. 07/16

Sand Hills

State Park



Cheney State Park
16000 NE 50th St.
Cheney, KS 67025-8487

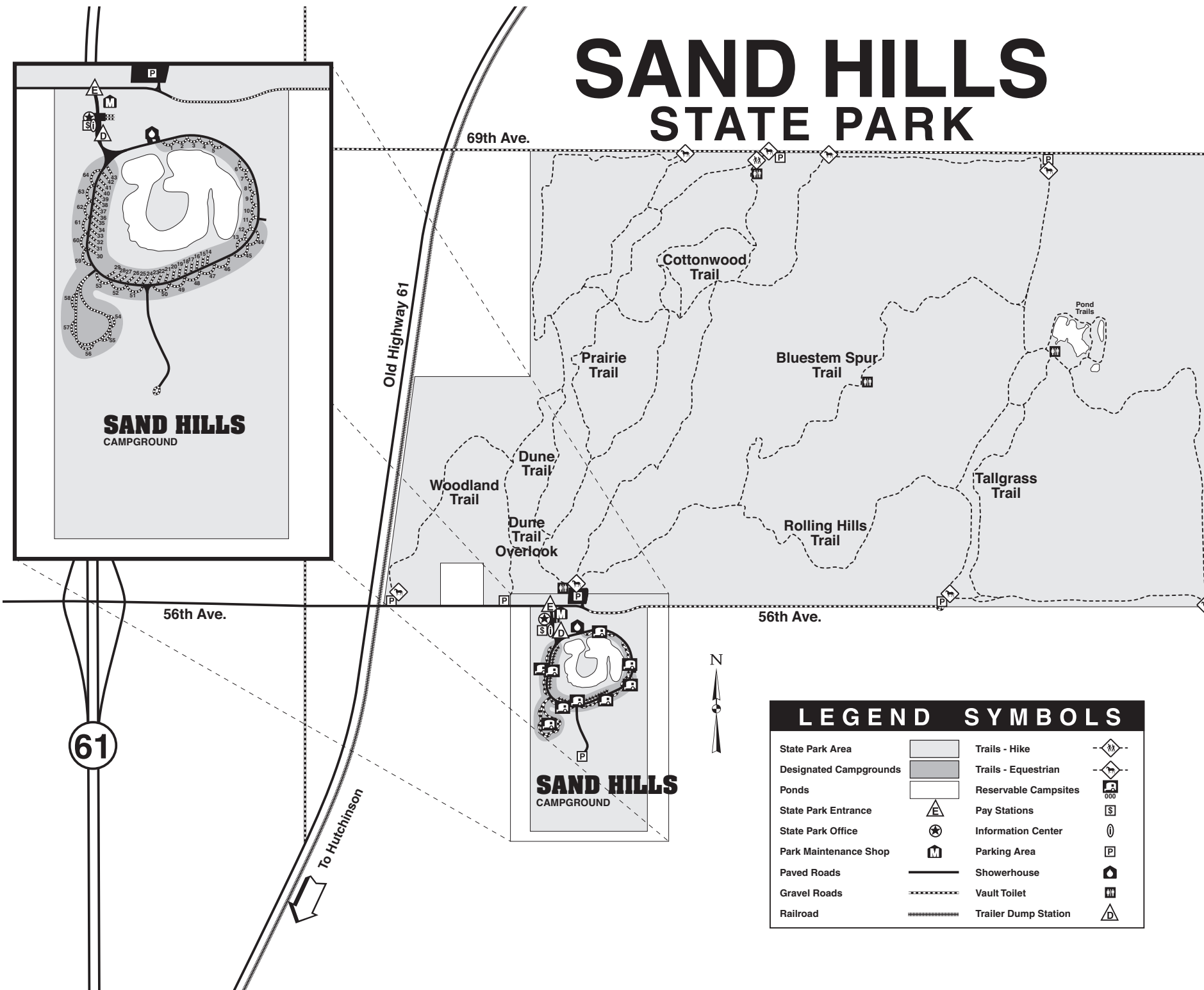
Area Office
(316) 542-3664

Regional Office
(316) 683-8069

cheneysp@ksoutdoors.com
www.ksoutdoors.com



SAND HILLS STATE PARK



HIKING TRAILS

DUNE TRAIL

At 1-mile, this loop trail will take you to the top of a 40-foot dune and then down through a wetland area. The Dune Trail and the Prairie Trail connect in a figure eight pattern creating the Prairie-Dune Trail, a 2.17-mile hike. These two trails are accessible from the parking lots located on E. 56th and E. 69th.

COTTONWOOD TRAIL

This half-mile trail is mostly through heavy timber made up of a variety of species.

PRAIRIE TRAIL

The Prairie Trail is 1.9 miles. This loop trail winds through woods, prairie, and dunes and offers a lengthy but moderate hike because of the level terrain.

HORSE & MULTI-USE TRAILS

POND TRAIL

This 1.5-mile trail starts on the north boundary and will lead hikers and horseback riders around several large ponds in the center of the park. The marsh-like ponds and surrounding areas provide excellent habitat for migrating waterfowl and other water-loving species. These species may be observed from wildlife observation blinds placed along the trail.

ROLLING HILLS TRAIL

Horseback riding has been very popular at Sand Hills ever since it became a state park in 1974. Rolling Hills Trail, at 3.8 miles, is the longest trail at Sand Hills and will lead hikers and horseback riders around numerous dunes. During spring, the show of wildflowers in this area is spectacular.

BLUESTEM SPUR TRAIL

The 1.2-mile Blustem Spur Trail breaks off from the Rolling Hills Trail to lead hikers and horseback riders through waves of blustem grass and over sand hill vistas.

TALLGRASS TRAIL

This 2.2-mile trail connects with the southeast horse gate and the Pond Trail. Both hikers and horseback riders are invited to use this grassland trail. Rolling Hills Trail and Tallgrass Trail connect to make a 6-mile long ride.

WOODLAND TRAIL

Cottonwood trees and dogwood bushes line the edge of this 2.2 mile trail. This trail may be accessed from both 56th street and 69th street.

LEGEND SYMBOLS			
State Park Area		Trails - Hike	
Designated Campgrounds		Trails - Equestrian	
Ponds		Reservable Campsites	
State Park Entrance		Pay Stations	
State Park Office		Information Center	
Park Maintenance Shop		Parking Area	
Paved Roads		Showerhouse	
Gravel Roads		Vault Toilet	
Railroad		Trailer Dump Station	