

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Kirwin

*National Wildlife
Refuge*



Welcome to Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge



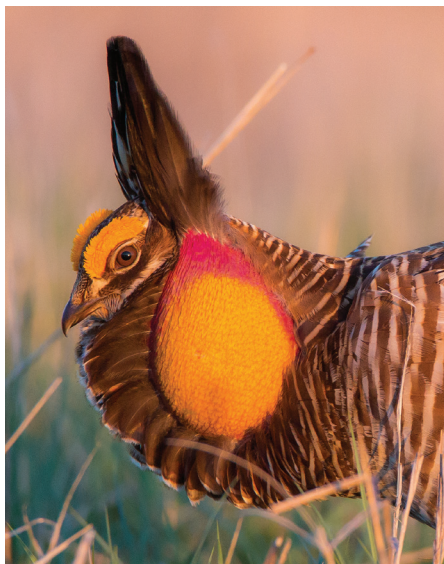
*This blue goose,
designed by J.N.
“Ding” Darling,
is the symbol
of the National
Wildlife Refuge
System.*

Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), the first refuge established in Kansas, is one of over 565 refuges and 38 wetland management districts in the National Wildlife Refuge System – a network of lands set aside and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service specifically for wildlife. The Refuge System is a living heritage, conserving wildlife for people today and for generations to come.

The 10,778-acre Refuge is located in north-central Kansas, among the rolling hills and narrow valley of the North Fork of the Solomon River. The eastern tall grass prairies meet the western short grass plains here, resulting in plants and wildlife common to both of these habitats.

Historically, this area was a sea of grass with wooded streams and rivers. Herds of bison and elk inhabited the area, along with prairie chickens, prairie dogs, wolves, mountain lions, bears, and other wildlife. Native Americans lived in this area, depending on bison herds and other wildlife for their subsistence.

*Prairie chicken
Tony Ifland /
USFWS*



Managing for Wildlife

Kirwin NWR has prairie grasslands, streams, and wetlands that provide habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. Refuge staff use a variety of management practices to maintain healthy habitat. These include planting native grasses and forbs, livestock grazing, prescribed burning, and haying.

Enjoying Your Visit

Location

Refuge headquarters is located 4 miles west of Kirwin, Kansas, on East Xavier Road.

Hours

The Refuge is open 24 hours per day and the headquarters office hours are 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Wildlife Observation and Photography

Just after sunrise and just before sunset are the best times to view wildlife. We invite you to observe and photograph wildlife on the Refuge. You can hike through the grasslands or drive or bike on Refuge roads open to vehicle travel.

Hunting and Fishing

The Refuge is a great place to enjoy hunting and fishing. Please see the Hunting and Fishing Regulations brochure for detailed information and a map.

Motor Vehicles

Vehicles may be driven on Refuge public roads (see map). The speed limit is 25 miles per hour.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Regulations

For the protection of wildlife, habitat, and other visitors, please observe all regulations.

Prohibited Activities

- Driving off-road or use of off-road utility vehicles
- Collecting plants, animals (including antlers), and historical artifacts
- Overnight camping or fires
- Recreational water activities unrelated to fishing
- Commercial use (including guiding)
- Free-roaming pets (pets must be on a leash except when hunting)
- Discharge of any firearm for any reason other than the legal taking of game animals
- Use or possession of air guns, spears, gigs, or other weapons
- Fireworks or explosives
- Littering
- Disorderly conduct and intoxication

Accessibility Information

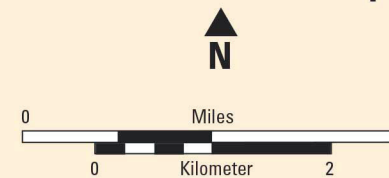
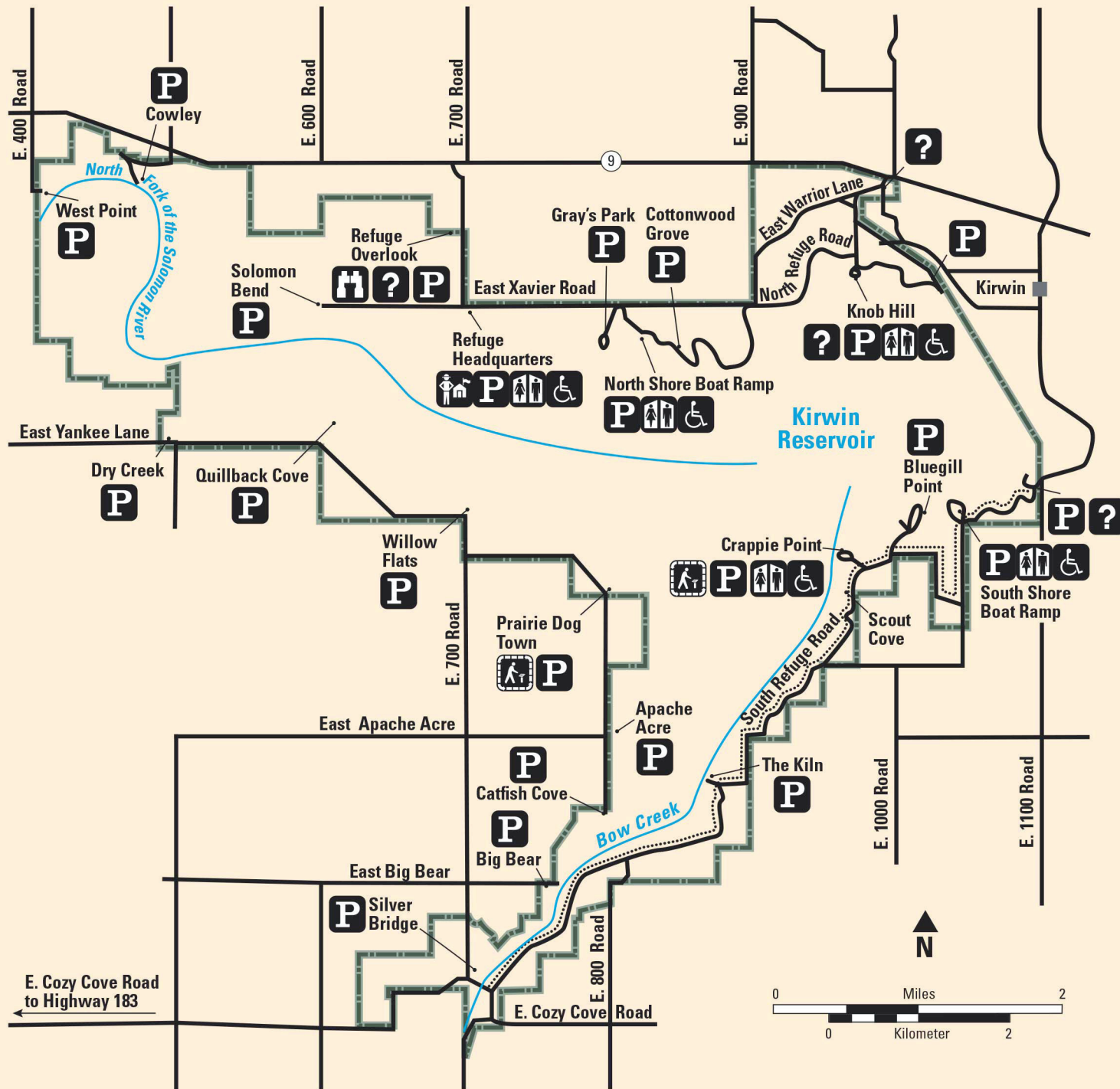
Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 711 for a free connection to the State relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from people with hearing and speech disabilities. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 785 / 543 6673, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Kirwin

National Wildlife Refuge

-  Refuge boundary
-  State highway
-  Refuge road
-  Auto tour route
-  Linked symbols designate accessible features
-  Refuge headquarters
-  Restroom
-  Parking
-  Information
-  Interpretive walking trail
-  Refuge overlook

Some Refuge roads subject to limited or restricted access.



Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge
702 East Xavier Road
Kirwin, KS 67644
785 / 543 6673
kirwin@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/kirwin>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<https://www.fws.gov>

For State relay service
TTY / Voice: 711

For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

August 2019



Michael Nelson / USFWS