



**US Army Corps
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Kansas City District

Information Paper

Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project Benedictine Bottoms, KS



Springtime view of wetland area between native grass prairie habitat, Benedictine Bottoms

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Location

Two miles northwest of Atchison, Kansas, river miles 428 to 424 at the Rushville Bend of the Missouri River.

Description

This mitigation site is 2,112 acres in size. The site was purchased from willing sellers in 1993 and 1994. Design of the mitigation features at this site were coordinated with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the Kansas State Extension and Forestry and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The project features 550 acres of native upland habitat, 750 acres of native grassland habitat, and 450 acres of wetland habitat.

Construction of the project was completed in 1998. The native upland habitat was created by planting more than 175,000 tree and shrub seedlings. The shrubs were planted at the edges of the trees to provide a transition zone between the woodland and

wetland prairie habitats. The combination of bottomland hardwoods and shrubs will provide mast as well as escape and winter cover.

The grasslands were created from a mixture of big bluestem, Indian, eastern gama and switch grasses along with wildflowers and legumes. The wetland prairie habitat will provide valuable nesting and escape cover as well as a source of food.

The wetlands were built using low-profile earthen berms, three wells and distribution piping, and water-level control structures. The wetland cells are operated as seasonal marshes which contain shallow water for migratory waterfowl.

Current Status

The Benedictine Bottoms mitigation site is currently managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The site is available to the public for a variety of outdoor activities including bird watching and hunting by special permit when in season.



Wintertime view of wetland prairie habitat, Benedictine Bottoms mitigation site