

## “Great Bend — It’s In Our Nature To Inspire!”

If your inspiration comes from photography, hiking, biking, paddling, or birding. . . then **Great Bend, KS** is your natural wonderland.

Fashioned from whole Kansas cloth and deeply held-Midwestern values and motivated by perseverance and resolve, Great Bend is a blend of 19th century pioneer spirit and 21st century vision. It is a city that has made peace with, and thrives by the environment in which they live, while embracing their role as the guardian of one of nature’s most inspiring habitats.

You will find rural charm, amazing natural resources, and true Midwestern hospitality combined with all the amenities travelers need and expect for an “inspiring” visitor experience.



## Great Bend Services

**Great Bend Population:** 15,652

### Lodging

- America’s Best Value Inn  
3500 10th Street - (620) 793-8486
- Baltzell Motel  
705 10th Street - (620) 792-4395
- Best Western Angus Inn  
2920 10th Street - (620) 792-3541
- Comfort Inn  
911 Grant Street - (620) 793-9000
- Days Inn  
4701 10th Street - (620) 792-8235
- Highland Hotel and Convention Center  
3017 10th Street - (620) 792-2431
- Travelers Budget Inn  
4200 10th Street - (620) 793-5448
- Travelodge  
3200 10th Street - (620) 792-7219

### Wireless Internet Access

- Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau office
- Great Bend Zoo - Raptor Center

### Library

Great Bend Public Library  
1409 Williams Street - (620) 792-2409

**Emergency**      **Road Conditions**  
911                      511

### Hospitals

- St. Rose Ambulatory and Surgical Hospital  
3515 Broadway - (620) 792-2511
- Great Bend Regional Hospital  
514 Cleveland Street - (620) 792-8833



3007 10th St., Great Bend, Kansas 67530  
[www.visitgreatbend.com](http://www.visitgreatbend.com)  
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# Photography Great Bend, KS



[www.VisitGreatBend.com](http://www.VisitGreatBend.com)

## Great Bend Wildlife Photography Opportunities

### • Arkansas River Paved Hike/Bike Trail

Stunning wildlife shots filled with agricultural lands, riparian woodlands (cottonwoods, red mulberry, sand plum, and blackberry trees), wildlife, wet meadows, and marshy areas are abundant through this seven mile trail along the Arkansas River. South Trail Entrance: South end of Washington Street and South side of Stone’s Lake. W38.3485 N-98.7739.

West Trail Entrance: West 10th Street. W38.3615 N-98.8314.

### • Arkansas River Unpaved Hike/Bike Trail Along Riverbed

This trail offers an unpaved, naturalistic hiking trail along the Riverbed that provides great nature viewing and photo opportunities of miscellaneous birds, deer, beavers, raccoons, and native grasses.

Entrance: South end of Washington Street. W38.3485 N-98.7739

### • The Raptor Center in Great Bend

The Raptor Center provides a one-of-a-kind facility in which the visitor is able to observe the medical procedures of zoo animals, as well as the rehabilitation of eagles, hawks, owls, falcons, and vultures through one-way mirrors. There are also various educational nature displays.

Location: 2123 Main Street. W38.3746 N-98.7652

### • Brit Spough Park and Zoo

Free roaming peacocks, ducks, various birds and raptors, a pond filled with catfish and turtles, along with migrating waterfowl make up this wondrous site for captivating pictures. Capture a bear twirling around in his pool splashing away with his toy ball, or enter into the Butterfly House to captivate the colorful Monarch wings fluttering among flowers and other native plants. With an abundance of creatures at the zoo, you will always have photo subjects that are entertaining and fun.

Location: 2123 Main Street. W38.3746 N-98.7652

### • Courthouse Square Songbird Habitat

Songbirds gather at the North side of the courthouse square to provide an amazing and attractive environment for its visitors.

Capture the fluttering of a bird atop a tree, or a flock settling in for rest.

Location: 1400 Main Street. W38.3654 N-98.7648

### • Veteran’s Park

What can’t you capture at this site? With a lake, walking path, playground, fishing bridges, trees, and a dog park, it’s hard not to find subject matter for a photo. Capture that moment when two pooches are tumbling through the grass during play, or a mother duck with her ducklings trailing behind her on their first adventure to the lake.

Location: 1700 McKinley. W38.3691 N-98.7929

### • Dominican Sisters Convent

If seeking a calm and peaceful setting for your photos, this site offers just that. The convent has a sidewalk trail that connects to small bridges and leads to a rock monument that features statues of praying children. There are also an enormous amount of evergreen and pine trees that house an assortment of wildlife and birds, including Cedar Waxwings.

Location: 3600 Broadway Avenue. W38.3664 N-98.8011

### • Great Bend Cemetery

Rest assured that the Great Bend Cemetery is a peaceful and touching environment that also provides walking paths for exercising. These resting grounds contain trees and bushes that create habitats for squirrels, rabbits, and birds, including resident road runners, combined with historic head stones and monuments that make up the astonishing beauty of the cemetery.

Location: 4500 Broadway Avenue. W38.3664 N-98.7885

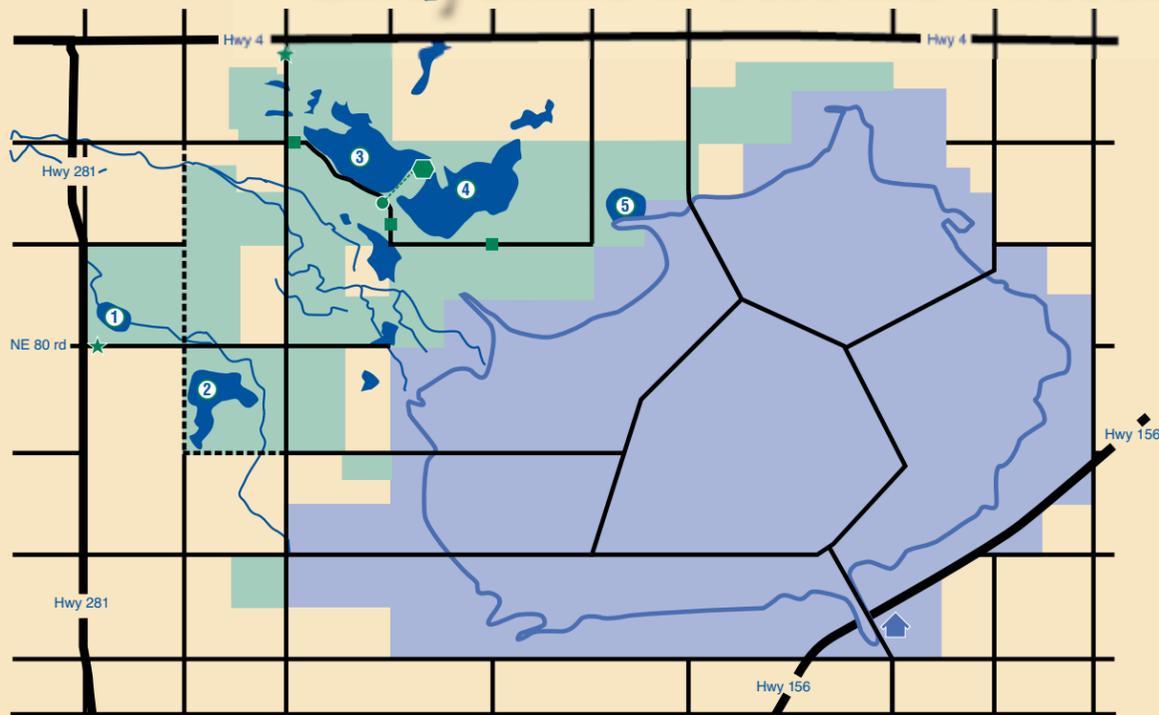


Photos provided by Wendell Hinkson, Eric Geising, and Dan Witt. Members of the Central Kansas Photography Club.

*“Nature is the art of God.” — Dante Alighieri*

# Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve

The Nature Conservancy   
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



LEGEND	
	Highway
	Gravel Roads
	Primitive Road (Drive with Caution)
	Foot Path
	Parking
	Nature Conservancy Kiosk
	Observation Area
	Cattle Guards
	Low Water Crossing (Drive with Caution)
	Kansas Wetlands Education Center

**The Nature Conservancy's Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve**      **Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Wildlife Area**

**Cheyenne Bottom Wildlife Area**  
About 45 percent of the North American shorebirds population stops here during spring and fall migrations. Of the area's 19,857 acres, about 12,000 are covered by shallow water. GPS: N38.52220 W-98.62353

**Quivira National Wildlife Refuge**  
More than 300 bird species have been observed in and around the 30 bodies of shallow water that cover about 7,000 of the refuge's 21,820 acres. GPS: N38.07097 W-98.49081



## Kansas Wildlife Photography

Photographers delight in capturing wildlife at Cheyenne Bottoms or Quivira. Framed and matted photographs taken in the Kansas Wetlands Complex hang in offices, homes, restaurants, and public lodging places. Magazines often feature impressive wildlife and landscape shots from the Bottoms and Quivira.

### Cameras and Lenses

- Use a traditional or digital camera to capture your impressions of the wetlands.
- One-touch cameras loaded with ASA 100 film will capture sky and landscape.
- 35mm single-lens-reflex cameras with a standard lens allow you to get a closer experience.
- Add a zoom lens (70-200mm) for flocks of mallards in flight.
- Wildlife photographers typically use a 400mm or 600mm for bird and animal portraits.
- Use the longest lens available — birds are small.

### Camcorders

A camcorder is the ultimate way to take home wild memories. Your camcorder can capture the sighing of the wind, the sound of bird calls, and the splashing of waves — everything but the fresh air.

### Auto Blinds

- The best way to take pictures in Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira is to use a vehicle as a photography blind. Birds and mammals, are somewhat tolerant of vehicles, but will flush at someone on foot. Drive slowly along dikes or roads looking for interesting wildlife. Park as close to the subject as possible (even to the left side of the road — other drivers are tolerant of serious photographers). Stop, cut engine (to avoid vibration), and ease camera into position. Compose, zoom, focus and shoot! Try not to photograph through your windshield. Window shots are soft, fuzzy, and often catch glare.

### Permanent Blinds

- Two blinds are provided at QNWR, one at the Little Salt Marsh and one on the Migrants Mile Nature Trail which is handicap accessible. Blinds are available on a first-come/first-service basis.
- A handicap accessible hunting blind at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area can be used for photography. Obtain a key at the CBWA office.

### Timing

- For the best light and most active wildlife, the first two and a half hours of sunlight and the last two and a half hours are ideal times to photograph.
- To check for optimum light, face sun and extend arm with fingertips upward, lining up the heel of the hand with the horizon. Ideally, the sun will be at or just above your fingertips.

### Tracks

- When photographing wildlife tracks, use a naturalist method and lay a beetle or dandelion in the composed shot for scale sizing.

**Be prepared, be patient, be alert and your photographs will be real trophies!**

### Best Practices

- Treat the birds with respect. The safety of the birds is a prime goal for all of us. Do not put any birds at risk or in danger for the sake of a photograph.
- Do not feed the birds trying for a better photograph, unless it is from a bird feeder in your own backyard.
- Use the Car — cars can be a very effective blind. Place a bean bag or a car-window clamp on the half opened window and rest your camera. Usually you can get closer to the birds with a SLOW moving car versus walking the same path.

### Tips for a Successful Photography Outing

- Be Patient — Nature has its own timetable.
- Nature rules — nature always wins because there will always be a photo opportunity for you each day. If you miss one — don't worry — look forward to the next opportunity.
- Photograph wildlife in normal behavior — it is more interesting since many people have never seen wildlife in normal behavior
- Try to photograph an unobstructed eye — our eyes always look straight to the eye of the wildlife similar to the same way we establish eye contact with people.
- Wildlife will continue — if not perceived threatened — to go about their normal ways. Learn to stop and remain still until wildlife consider you safe.

### Effect of Weather & Seasonal Changes

#### The Weather

- Wildlife tends to relate to the weather in the same way as humans. When it is cold, they tend to stay in a covered area to remain warm. In hot weather, wildlife tends to stay in a cool, shady area. During rain storms, wildlife tend to remain inactive. However, following a storm or temperature change, an abundance of wildlife activity can be seen.

#### The Wind

- Don't place yourself in a downwind position when trying to photograph wildlife. In other words, don't let the wind carry your scent toward wildlife since they will possibly move toward a safer area.