



Great Bend

VISITOR GUIDE

- Great Bend • Hoisington • Ellinwood
- Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway

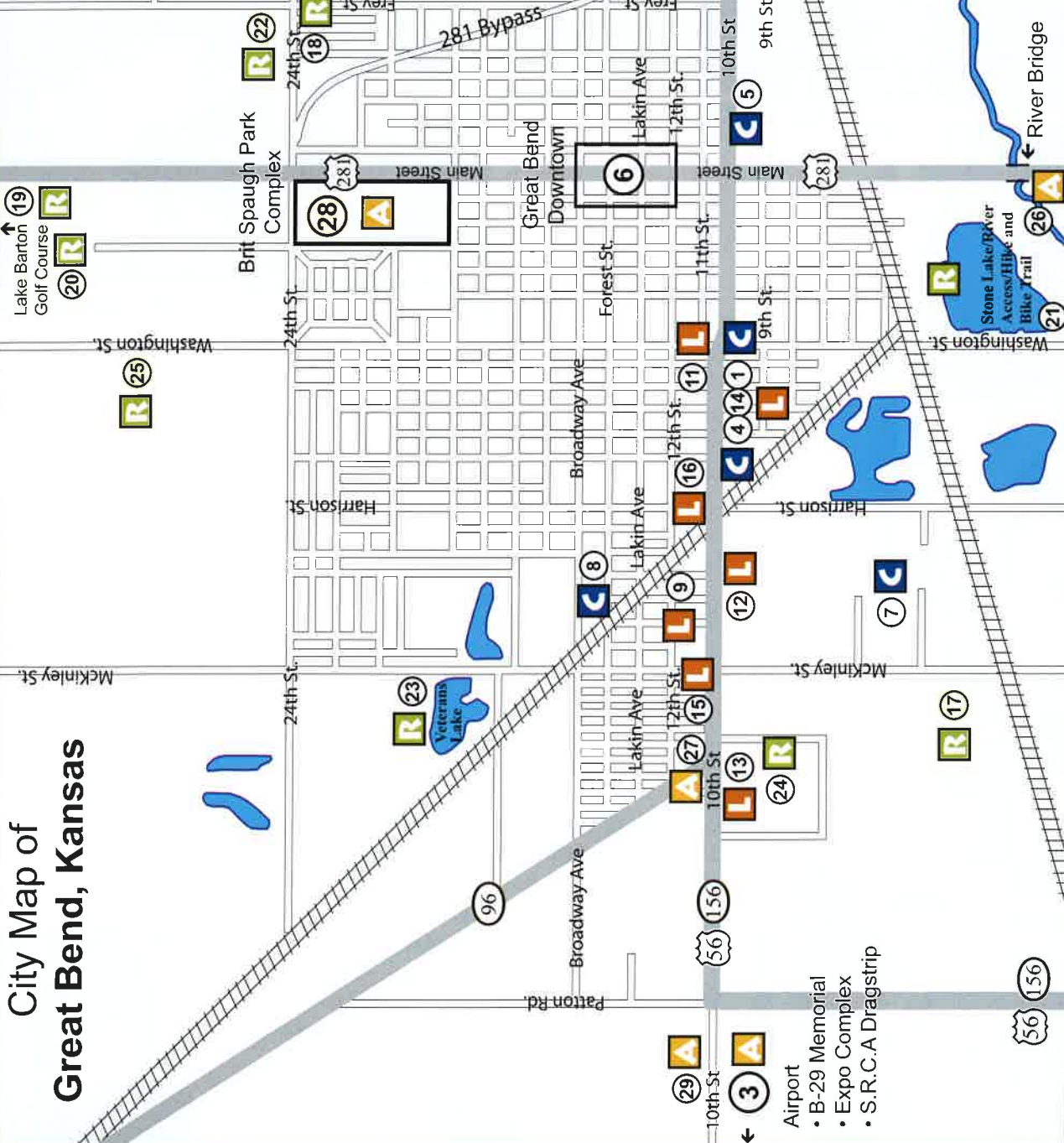
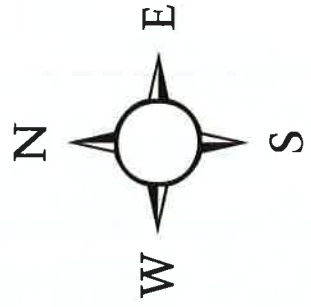


Kansas Sunflower

City Map of Great Bend, Kansas

Kansas Wetlands
Education Center
Cheyenne Bottoms
592 NE Hwy 156

NE 30th Rd (Juco Rd.)



Great Bend
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
3007 10th Street • Great Bend, Kansas 67530 • PH. 620-792-2750
www.visitgreatbend.com • email: information@visitgreatbend.com



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

LODGING

RECREATION

ATTRACTIONS

- Airport
- B-29 Memorial
- Expo Complex
- S.R.C.A Dragstrip



We Welcome You

Here's another surprise Great Bend holds—it's the perfect place for groups. There are plenty of comfortable hotel rooms, a full-service convention center, and many unique meeting places and group activities. Plan to bring your class or family reunion, meeting, convention, or tour group to Great Bend. Your group will thank you and the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau can help you with meeting planning, services, planning guides, and suggestions perfect for your group or event.




Great Bend Facts

Great Bend has a population of around 15,500. It's the county seat of Barton County (population 30,000.) Great Bend is the retail, service, and medical center for surrounding Kansas communities and counties. At an altitude of 1,849 feet above sea level, the climate here is surprisingly temperate. There is an average of 20 inches of snow each year and an average of 25 inches of other precipitation. High temperatures average 81 degrees Fahrenheit, low temperatures average 30 degrees Fahrenheit. The city was named by its founders for its location at the big bend in the Arkansas River.

Discover Great Bend

Be inspired and surprised by Great Bend. This guide will help you make your own discoveries and plan a wonderful visit, but if you need more help or want more information please contact the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau. We'll be happy to share our secret.



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 www.twitter.com/greatbendks
 www.youtube.com/visitgreatbend

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RAPTOR CENTER

It's in our *nature...*

to educate!

Birds have always intrigued our minds with wonder and have been the inspiration for our own aviation, with the way they defy gravity and fly free in the sky.

Great Bend's Raptor Center is dedicated to preserving that sense of wonder for future generations. Step through the doors and begin a fascinating journey into the natural world. Prepare yourself for an unexpected and pleasant experience. Right away you will be astonished by a vibrant gallery featuring



state-of-the-art exhibits, displays, interactive learning stations, and a colorful mural featuring birds of prey. Among the exhibits and displays you will find a depiction of an eagle's nest, a raptor's eye view of the zoo, and a wing span chart to see where you measure up to various raptors.

The Center's main goal is the medical rehabilitation of birds of all types, while specializing in eagles, hawks, owls, falcons, and vultures. Viewing windows look into the surgery facility of the center and present the opportunity for visitors to observe raptors being examined, x-rayed, and treated.



The Center is a temporary sanctuary for injured raptors and other birds.

Some problems the birds have encountered are highline wire injuries, gunshot wounds, poisonings, bacterial infections, and mammal-trap injuries. The goal is to return these "patients" to the wild after rehabilitation, medical treatment, recovery and preparation.

Healed birds have been banded and some radio-tagged in the past. Birds that have been helped in raptor projects have been tracked after release and many are doing well up

to 7 ½ years later. One encouraging report is the four endangered Peregrine Hawks who were released and have since had two clutches of offspring.

Located just a few miles away from Cheyenne Bottoms (a magnet for thousands of birds migrating along the Central Flyway,) bird watchers should make the Raptor Center an essential stop. Equipped with an e-Bird station, birders will be able to record sightings and find locations of other recent sightings.

There is also a gift shop available where you can find visitor information, cold drinks, event schedules, and souvenirs. The Raptor Center is the entrance to the Brit Spaugh Zoo, so after visiting the Center venture into the zoo where you can find many bird species fly free on the grounds.

Admission is always free. Raptor Center are from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. every day of the year except Thanksgiving and Christmas.

For more information call 620.793.4226. 🍀



DOWNTOWN

A History of Trading in Downtown

In 1821, Missouri trader William Becknell reached Santa Fe with a mule train of trade goods, successfully launching what would become known as the Santa Fe Trail. The trail cut through the heart of what is now Great Bend. Incorporated in 1872, the two square blocks that make up the home of the Barton County Courthouse became the epicenter of the town's life.

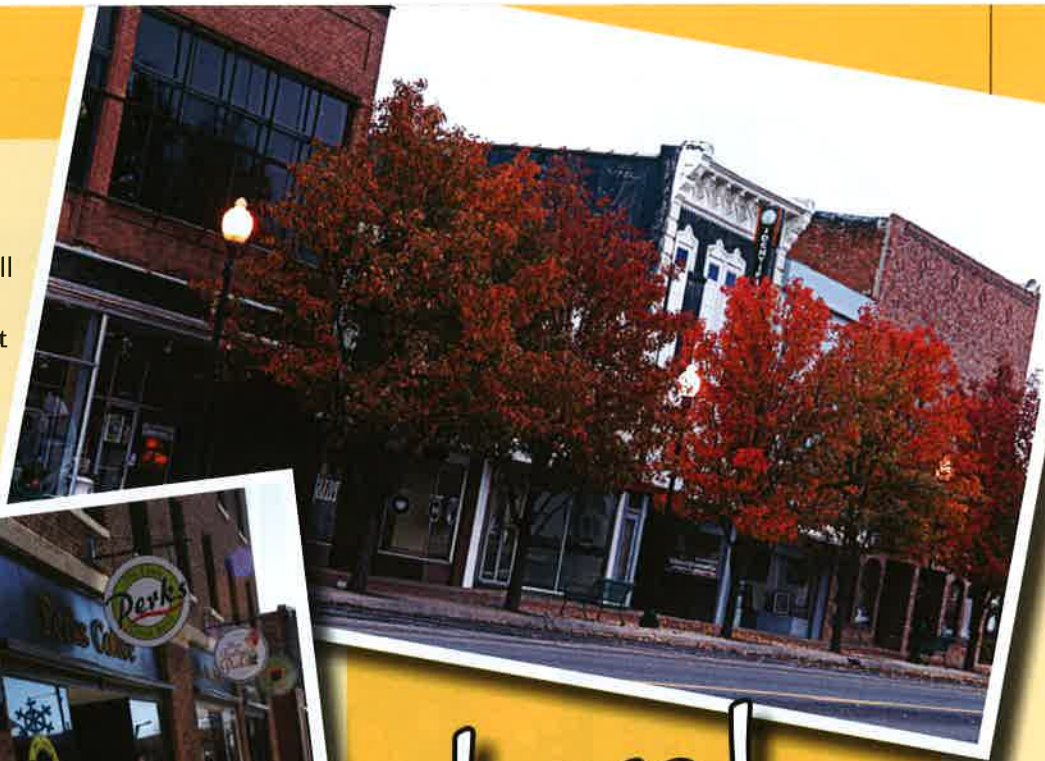
By 1876, brick and stone buildings had begun to replace the wooden structures that had sprung seemingly overnight to provide goods and services to cow punchers, farmers, and town folk alike. Through the almost 140 years of its development, Great Bend has grown to boast an eclectic mix of architectural styles that include Victorian, Edwardian, Art Deco, Federal, and Neo-Classic.

Plan to stop by the Great Bend Visitors Center located at 3007 10th Street to pick up a copy of the historic walking tour of the downtown area.



Birdhouse Tour

Walk along Great Bend's downtown sidewalks and you may notice a diversity of decorated birdhouses nestled in front of various local businesses. The birdhouses vary in size from 3, 4, and 5 feet tall. The decorated birdhouses are not only located in the downtown area, but also spread out across the city at various businesses. This project is designed to bring art and nature together in a community that values both. A guided brochure of the birdhouses is available at the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau 620.792.2750 or e-mail information@visitgreatbend.com.



shop!

Take time to indulge yourself after enjoying all the historic and artistic attractions downtown. The stores in the downtown area provide a mixture of various shopping opportunities within walking distance.

Feel the need for pampering?

Make an appointment with one of our fine establishments that offer relaxing massages, facials, hairstyling, and/or manicures/pedicures.

Unique Boutiques!

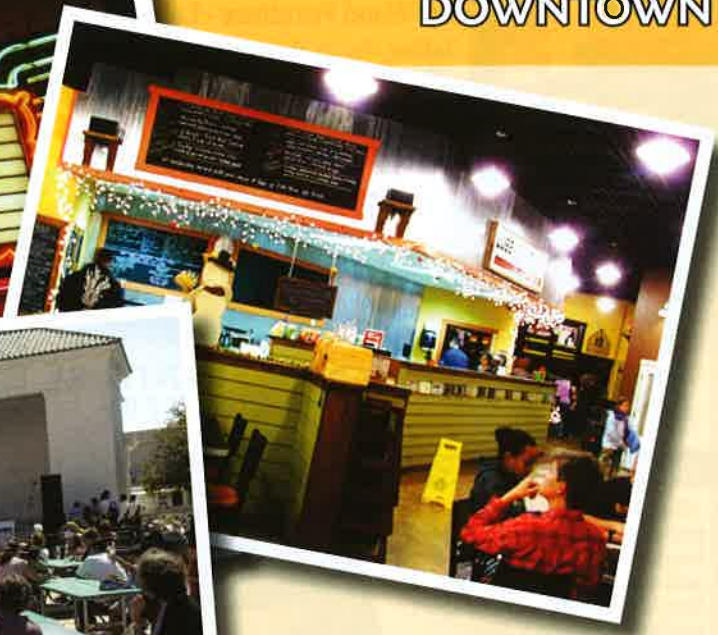
Shop our popular clothing and shoe stores where you can find the trendiest fashions for the seasons. There are also gift shops that provide the perfect accessories for that new outfit.

Plan a Home Makeover

Visit our home décor stores to discover new trends and purchase those perfect home accents.

Take a Break!

After shopping, nestle down in one of our fine coffee shops or restaurants and treat yourself to a tasty snack and a quenching beverage. 🍃



Barton County Courthouse

In 1872, a special election called for the erection of a courthouse and jail in the new county seat in Great Bend. In the early days the Courthouse was the center of the community, serving as town hall, church services, dance hall, lodge room, and opera house. In 1917 the Courthouse was reconstructed into the Moderne (Classical) Eclecticism style. During this time period it was also said to be one of the largest county buildings in the state. The Courthouse is surrounded by a large park and is located on the Santa Fe Trail.

Kansas Quilt Walk

Located on the sidewalks surrounding the Courthouse Square, this quilt walk tells the story of early settlers in a very interesting and unique way- through quilt patterns.

Songbird Habitat

The birds have been using the songbird habitat on Great Bend's courthouse square as a sanctuary. Through plantings and feeders the habitat is designed to provide shelter and food sources for a variety of songbirds right in the middle of downtown Great Bend. This site is perfect for watching birds and other wildlife that will be appreciated by its visitors while also providing a peaceful environment for both humans and birds.

"The Rifleman": Civil War Soldier

A monument located on the north side of the courthouse square by the Songbird Habitat.

Historic WPA Project Moses Memorial Band Shell

This historic WPA project is located on the south side of the courthouse square. The band shell is in continuous use for summer band concerts and other special events throughout the year.

Barton County Arts Center/The Back Room

The BCAC and back room are located at the corner of Forest & Main, in the oldest surviving stone and brick building in Great Bend.



Crest Theatre

Located just south of the courthouse square. As one of the most distinctive buildings in town, it is listed on the Kansas Historic Register.

"The Gift" Jack Kilby Memorial Plaza

Located on the west side of the Courthouse Square, the Plaza honors this Nobel Prize winner and Great Bend native.

Golden Belt Cinema 6

The new state-of-the-art movie theater in downtown Great Bend at the corner of Lakin and Kansas is slated to open in Spring 2013.

MUSEUMS AND MEMORIALS



Barton County Historical Village

The museum preserves the history of Barton County which includes its Native American roots, location on the Santa Fe Trail, tribute to the Post-Civil War Exodusters, World War II, and beyond. Group tours are available. Admission is charged. Call or visit www.bartoncountymuseum.org.
85 S. Highway 281 • 620.793.5125

Kansas Oil and Gas Museum

Learn the history of oil and gas production, geology, and products made from oil. Open by appointment only.
5944 W. 10th St. • 620.786.5666

The Gift

The memorial appropriately named "The Gift" symbolizes the transmission of knowledge from one generation to the next and how that transmission has been affected by the microchip, invented by Great Bend native, Jack Kilby. Located on the Courthouse Square in Downtown Great Bend.

B-29 Memorial

This memorial is located at the Great Bend City Airport and pays tribute to the B-29 bomber training base located in Great Bend during World War II.

Breaking the Prairie Sod Memorial

Located at the intersection of US 56 and K 96 Hwy, this memorial is a tribute to the early pioneer families who endured sparse accommodations and nature's harsh challenges.

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY

The Big Bend

When settlers came to this beautiful setting beside the Arkansas River, they immediately knew what to name their settlement. They nestled their little town in the big bend of the river and called it Great Bend. Before settlers came with their railroad, schools, and settlement, the big bend of the Arkansas River was home to a melting pot of Native American tribes who settled, camped or roamed through the area. The fabled Santa Fe Trail, first of America's great trade routes, ran right through Great Bend's present day Courthouse Square.

Kansas Quilt Walk

Quilts have traditionally allowed American women to express themselves through needlework and patterns. Great Bend's Kansas Quilt Walk, located in Downtown Great Bend on the sidewalks surrounding the Courthouse Square, is a tribute to those creations. A self-guided walking tour and free quilt patterns are available from the Great Bend Convention & Visitor's Bureau.

Self-Guided Tours

Cemeteries tell the stories of our past. They are the stories of our people, art, and culture. Wander into almost any Kansas cemetery or historical site and the tombstones and structures tell us the stories of how generations before us lived and died. To receive a self-guided Great Bend area cemetery tour, post-civil war African American Exoduster tour, or historic downtown walking tour call the Great Bend Convention & Visitor's Bureau at 620.792.2750.



Hoisington • Claflin • Great Bend

4001 10th Street Great Bend, Kansas 67530 P.O. Box 247

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FDIC



www.facebook.com/greatbendks



ZOO AND WATERPARK It's in our nature...



to be wild!

Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo

When you step foot in the Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo you will find yourself embarking on a journey through wildlife in Africa, Asia, Australia, North America, and South America. There's even a special GPS scavenger hunt of the zoo available from the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau located at 3007 10th Street.

Founded in 1952, the zoo is one of Great Bend's favorites. It is home to over 100 mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects. From elegant tigers to regal lions, the zoo shelters animals and gives visitors a chance to observe and learn about the natural world. Other zoo residents include lemurs, peacocks, and a jaguar. You will be amazed by the roar of the lion which can be heard from five miles away, in the wild this is used to claim territory and warn off any intruders. You will be pleasantly entertained when you see the black bear splashing in its pool throwing a ball around for fun and play. Want to feed the fish and ducks? No problem! Get a fish food bag from the Raptor Center and head out to the pond where colossal catfish, turtles, geese, swans, and other pond critters dwell.

Before ending your journey through the Zoo, don't forget to gaze upon the wondrous murals that were designed and painted by children and teens from the Great Bend area. There's the Lions Mural, the North American Mural, and the Tiger Murals.

The Wetlands

When you're done with your Zoo tour why not just head over to the Wetlands at Great Bend Aquatic Facility? It's located at 2030 Main Street, right next to the Zoo in Brit Spaugh Park.

The Wetlands is the perfect place to spend a hot summer day. The water feature has zero depth entry so it's easy to get in and out for everyone. Those who dare (or those who are too hot to care) can stand under the 300 gallon tipping bucket for a good drenching. A little less intense, but just as much fun are the spray features. The swimming pool is big and inviting with a deep end divided from a shallow end complete with floatables.

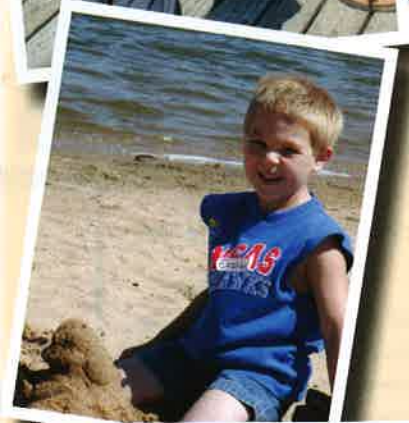
It's easy to spend the day floating and soaking at The Wetlands. There are even family nights and special events scheduled through the summer.

This is a great place to make summer memories with your friends and family.

Admission is charged. 🍃



PARKS



	Picnic Areas/Grills Shelter Houses	Restrooms	Swimming Pool	Walking Fitness Paths	Horseshoe Pits	Volleyball Pits	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Ball Fields	Play Equipment	Concession Stand	Fishing Lake	Limited Boating	Wind Surfing
Brit Spaugh Park N. on Main St.	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■				
Veteran's Park N. on McKinley St.	■	■		■		■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■
Stone Lake Railroad Ave.				■								■	■	
By-Pass Park 281 Bypass & Broadway	■									■				
Eisenhower Park Lakin and Garfield	■								■	■				
Harms Ballfield 281 By Pass		■							■		■			
Heizer Park 8th at Heizer	■					■			■	■				
Lafayette Park Main and Forest		■												
K-96 Park 10th & K-96	■													
Santa Fe Trail Park 10th & Frey				■										
Sports Complex 41 S. McKinley	■	■							■	■	■			



 www.youtube.com/visitgreatbend

RECREATION RESOURCES

AUTO RACING

S.R.C.A. Drag Strip
Expo Complex • 620.792.5079

BALL FIELDS

See pages 13-14 for details

*BIKING

Off-Road

Arkansas River
S. Washington • 620.793.4111
Cheyenne Bottoms
56 NE 40 Rd. • 620.793.3066
Lake Barton
673 N. Hwy 281 • 620.653.4255

Paved

River Hike & Bike Trail
S. Hwy 281, & W. Hwy 56
620.793.4111
Bike Routes around Great Bend
& the Byway
Map available at 3007 10th St.
620.792.2750

BOWLING

Walnut Bowl
3101 N. Washington • 620.793.9400

DOG PARK

Veteran's Park
17th St. Terrace • 620.793.4111

FISHING

Stone Lake
S. Washington & Railroad Ave.
620.793.4111
Veteran's Lake
17th & McKinley • 620.793.4111

GALLERIES

Barton County Arts Council
Forest & Main • 620.792.4221
Great Bend Public Library
1409 Williams St. • 620.792.2409
Shafer Art Gallery
BCC Campus 245 NE 30 Rd.
620.792.9342

GOLF

Lake Barton Golf Course
673 N Hwy 281 • 620.653.4255
The Club at StoneRidge
1438 24th St. • 620.792.4303
Walnut Mini-Golf
3101 N. Washington • 620.792.6545

*HIKING

Arkansas River
S. Washington • 620.793.4111
Cheyenne Bottoms
56 NE 40 Rd. • 620.793.3066
Lake Barton
673 N. Hwy 281 • 620.653.4255
River Hike & Bike Trail
S. Hwy 281, & W. Hwy 56 • 620.793.4111

*PADDLING

Arkansas River
S. Washington • 620.793.4111
Cheyenne Bottoms
56 NE 40 Rd. • 620.793.3066
Stone Lake
S. Washington & Railroad Ave.
620.793.4111
Veteran's Lake
17th & McKinley • 620.793.4111

SKATING

Iceless Skating Rink (seasonal)
Courthouse Square • 620.793.4111

SWIMMING

Club 1 Fitness (indoor)
3806 Broadway • 620.792.1366
Club West (outdoor)
5201 Timbercreek • 620.793.8721
The Club at StoneRidge (outdoor)
1438 24th St. • 620.792.4303
The Wetlands Aquatic Park (outdoor)
2303 Main St. • 620.792.1516

TENNIS COURTS

Club 1 Fitness (outdoor/indoor)
3806 Broadway • 620.792.1366
Veteran's Park (outdoor)
17th St. Terrace • 620.793.4111

THEATERS

Great Bend
Community Theatre (live)
1905 Lakin
620.792.4228 • 620.786.5572
Village Cinemas (movies)
4805 10th St. • 620.792.5769

**Brochures including maps are available at the
Great Bend Visitor Center: 3007 10th St. Brochure
rack available 24/7.*

VISITOR RESOURCES

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Great Bend Municipal Airport
9047 Sixth St. • 620.793.4168
Centerline Aviation (Charter)
9047 Sixth St. • 620.796.2130

ANIMAL HOSPITAL/BOARDING

Animal Care Hospital
3400 10th St. • 620.792.7373
Animal Medical Center
622 McKinley, • 620.792.1265
Ark Valley
1205 Patton Rd. • 620.793.5457

Countryside Veterinary Associates
2900 Main St. • 620.792.2551

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Enterprise
4217 10th St. • 620.793.9992
The Cab & Mini-Bus Service
2005 Kansas Ave. • 620.792.3859

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Great Bend Regional Hospital
514 Cleveland St. • 620.792.8833
St. Rose Ambulatory & Surgery Center
(Urgent Care)
3515 Broadway Ave. • 620.792.2511
Heartland Cancer Center
204 Cleveland St. • 620.792.5511

LIBRARY

Great Bend Public Library
1409 Williams St. • 620.792.2409

WI-FI HOTSPOTS

Courthouse Square
1400 Main St.

Best Western Angus Inn
2920 10th St.

Comfort Inn
911 Grant St.

Days Inn
4701 10th St.

Great Bend Coffee Company
2015 Lakin Ave.

Great Bend CVB
3007 10th St.

Great Bend Expo Complex
West Barton County Rd.

Great Bend Public Library
1409 Williams St.

Great Bend Regional Hospital
514 Cleveland St.

Highland Hotel
3017 10th St.

Kansas Wetlands Education Center
592 NE K-156 Hwy.

McDonalds
3307 10th St.

Perkins Family Restaurant
2920 10th St.

Raptor Center
2123 Main St.

Treader's Deli
1309 Main St.

S.R.C.A. Dragstrip
West Barton County Rd.



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ARTS

It's in our *nature*... **to create!**

The arts are thriving in Great Bend. It's one more surprise for visitors who want to uncover some cultural gems. For more information on arts and culture events and activities, contact the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau. 620.792.2750 • information@visitgreatbend.com

Birdhouse Project

As part of a community-wide tourism campaign capitalizing on the community's theme of birds and wildlife, numerous decorative birdhouses now adorn the sidewalks of Great Bend. The themed art tour of birdhouses will help visitors "migrate" through our community as they seek to view and discover this delightful collection of over 50 birdhouses, ranging in size from 3 feet to 5 feet. Birdhouse tour brochure and map are available at the Great Bend Visitor Center located at 3007 10th or by calling the CVB office at 620.792.2750.

Barton County Arts Center & Gallery

This historic building will be easy to spot on Main Street. Just look for the three whimsically painted birdhouses in front of the building. The Gallery is a great place to buy a little gift or some serious art. But the Back Room at the Gallery is the real discovery. This tiny venue hosts well-known and emerging artists who are passing through town. It's a regular stop for blue grass superstars, folk singers and Irish bands. Call 620.792.4221 to see who's in town.

Great Bend Community Theatre (Crest Theatre)

The renovated Moderne-style Crest Theatre was built in 1950 and features live entertainment ranging from plays to concerts to special events. The theatre is also available for tours and rentals for any occasion, including the balcony, for an upcoming performance. An active and talented resident theatre group plans a full season of theatrical performances each year. Call 620.786.5572 to find out about upcoming performances.

Shafer Art Gallery

Known as the "Gem of the Campus," this architect-designed gallery features bronze sculptures created by its namesake, artist Gus Shafer. The gallery boasts an outstanding permanent collection and hosts traveling exhibits and artists' receptions throughout the year. It also demonstrates the perseverance of a dream and a strong commitment to culture and the arts. Located at Barton Community College. Call 620.792.9342 to learn about new exhibits.

Area Artists

Great Bend proudly confides to our visitors that the artwork in town is mostly that of local artists. Some examples of the local artwork you will find are the Jack Kilby Memorial statue, the Breaking the Prairie Sod Memorial, B-29 Memorial as well as the outstanding Birdhouses art tour displayed throughout the community. You can find out more about our local artists by visiting our website at www.visitgreatbend.com.





Plan Your Hunting Trip




Contact the Great Bend Convention & Visitor's Bureau for a special hunting publication which includes refuge maps, hunting resources and lodging information. We can also provide information about licenses and answer any questions you have about hunting in Central Kansas.
620.792.2750 • information@visitgreatbend.com

Public Hunting Areas

There are seven public hunting areas within a one-hour drive of Great Bend.

Wildlife Area	Acres	Distance from Great Bend
Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area	13,416	5 miles North, 2 miles East
Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	8,000	25 miles Southeast
Kanopolis Reservoir	13,000	45 miles Northeast
Texas Lake Wildlife Area	560	53 miles Southwest
Wilson Wildlife Area	8,039	57 miles Northeast
Pratt Sandhills Wildlife Area	4,757	59 miles Southwest
Hodgeman SFL & Wildlife Area	254	66 miles West







www.srcadragstrip.com . . . www.srcadragstrip.com . . . www.srcadragstrip.com . . .

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HIGH & MIGHT

NHRA
SUMMIT
League of Nations
Racing Series

NHRA
Jeep Drag Racing
LEAGUE
CHALLENGE

Mailing Address
Sunflower Rod &
Custom Association, GB
P.O. Box 1362
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-792-5079
(track phone)

Track Address
455 W. Barton County Rd
Great Bend, KS 67530

Drag on the strip, not on the street!




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www.countrysidevetgb.com

Terry N. Turner, D.V.M.
Jon Briel, D.V.M.




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Ark Valley Vet & Pet Supply

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Great Bend, Kansas 67530
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 8-12 a.m.
1-(800) 279-4779 • Fax 793-5499
(620) 793-5457
(Phone Answered 24 Hours)

DINING

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Seats	Buffet	Take Out	Cater	Bar	Credit Cards
Los Dos Potrillos	2020 Forest	620-793-7585	50		Y			Yes
Long John Silver's	3800 10th	620-792-2950	100		Y			Yes
Lumpy's Bar & Grill	2017 Forest	620-793-6420	70		Y			No
Mary's Burritos	2424 10th	620-792-2912	20		Y			No
McDonalds	3307 10th	620-792-1406	75		Y			Yes
Montana Mike's Steakhouse	906 McKinley	620-792-5930	268		Y			Yes
Mr Burger	E 10th/Hwy 281	620-793-3635	50		Y			Yes
Papa Murphy's Take'n'Bake Pizza	3809 10th	620-792-7222	0		Y			Yes
Perkins Family Restaurant	2920 10th	620-792-4386	180		Y			Yes
Perks Coffee Shoppe	1216 Main	620-786-2334	25		Y			Yes
Pizza Hut (1)	2006 Main	620-792-7161	135	Y	Y	Y		Yes
Pizza Hut (2)	4101 10th	620-792-8228	135	Y	Y	Y		Yes
Playa Azul Mexican Restaurant	4909 10th	620-793-6788	145		Y			Yes
Sonic Drive-In	3909 10th	620-792-2962	0		Y			Yes
Subway Deli (1)	2723 10th	620-792-2255	40		Y	Y		Yes
Subway Deli (2)	3503 10th	620-793-9550	40		Y	Y		Yes
Taco Bell	3706 10th	620-792-7449	100		Y			Yes
The Page	2920 10th	620-792-8700	95		Y		Y	Yes
The Rack Billiard Café	3220 Railroad	620-792-5851	255		Y		Y	Yes
Treader's Deli	1309 Main	620-786-2337	75		Y			Yes
Wendy's	3519 10th	620-793-5868	60		Y			Yes
Woodies Smokehouse BBQ	700 10th	620-792-3333	40		Y	Y		Yes

 Restaurant is unique to Great Bend



Kiowa Kitchen

214 E. Barton County Rd.
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-793-9855

Mexican Restaurant
"Best Mexican Food In the Country"



In Great Bend
Dine-In, Carryout
Delivery East of Harrison
2006 Main
792-7161
Dine-In, Carryout
Delivery West of Harrison
4101 10th Street
792-8228



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11-2 and 5-10 Weekends
Years In Business



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 43 Rooms • Rate: \$45 - \$60
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 172 Rooms (suites available)
 Rate: \$60+
 In-room coffee makers, microwaves, refrigerators, non-smoking rooms, handicap accessible rooms, airport transportation, cable TV, valet/laundry, wireless internet, indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, exercise room, cocktail lounge, restaurant on-site, meeting/banquet rooms, bus/truck parking, pets allowed.



Best Western Angus Inn
 2920 10th St. • 620.792.3541
 90 Rooms (suites available)
 Rate: \$60+
 In-room coffee makers, microwaves, refrigerators, non-smoking rooms, handicap accessible rooms, airport transportation, cable TV, valet/laundry, wireless internet, indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, exercise room, cocktail lounge, restaurant on-site, meeting/banquet rooms, bus/truck parking, pets allowed.



Traveler's Budget Inn
 4200 10th St. • 620.793.5448
 27 Rooms • Rate: \$30 - \$45
 In-room coffee makers, microwaves, refrigerators, non-smoking room, airport transportation, cable TV, bus/truck parking, pets allowed.



Comfort Inn
 911 Grant St. • 620.793.9000
 45 Rooms (suites available)
 Rate: \$60+
 Free continental breakfast, in-room coffee, microwaves, refrigerators, non-smoking rooms, handicap accessible rooms, cable TV, wireless internet, indoor pool, exercise room, bus/truck parking.



Travelodge
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Best Western Angus Inn Perkins Family Restaurant



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Centrally located in the heart of Kansas, Great Bend offers rural charm, amazing natural resources, and true Midwestern hospitality combined with all the amenities travelers need and expect. Great Bend is a discovery that will delight all ages, interests and activity levels. Great Bend is a Prairie Surprise!

Cities	Miles to Great Bend	Drive Time
Garden City	126	2.5 hours
Goodland	204	4 hours
Kansas City	251	4.5 hours
Pittsburg	271	5 hours
Salina	76	1.5 hours
Topeka	188	3.5 hours
Wichita	114	2 hours



TOURISM PROFESSIONALS

It's in our *nature*.. *to experience.*



Great Bend has a life unto itself, one that beckons to be shared.

Our Tourism Division is ready to assist: Travel Agents, Tour Operators & Wholesalers, Group Leaders, Receptive Operators, Other Travel and Event Planners. The CVB tourism division is active in organizing promotions and programs to increase awareness of Great Bend as a leisure travel destination:

Discover the lingering cornerstones of great American History as you explore the Santa Fe Trail, take in the walking tour of the historic downtown area, and visit the Barton County Historical Village.

Migrate to the Kansas Wetlands Education Center and Cheyenne Bottoms to embrace the spectacle of the largest inland marsh in the United States, that was designated a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention.

Watch in wonder as birds defy gravity at the Raptor Center located at the Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo. The Center specializes in the medical rehabilitation of eagles, hawks, owls, falcons and vultures. **Find yourself** by taking a GPS tour of the Byway, Cheyenne Bottoms, and the Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo.

Discover Heartland Farm's solar greenhouses and Alpacas. **Enjoy** a Birdhouse Walking Art Tour to view the combination of art and nature. **Identify** inspirational eras of art at the Shafer Gallery and Barton Art Center. 🍃




Tour 3- East

Begin with an Ellinwood Underground World tour. Learn about the Quivira Indian culture with a stop at the Coronado-Quivira Museum in Lyons. Immerse yourself in nature with stops at Kanopolis Reservoir, Mushroom State Park, and Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area.




Tour 4- South

Start at the Barton County Historical Village for a bit of area history. Learn about the Post-Civil War African American "Exoduster" story of the region with visits to the historic African American "Martin Cemetery" in St. John and viewing their history through a collection of glass negatives at the Stafford County Museum in Stafford. Embrace nature with a peaceful drive through Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

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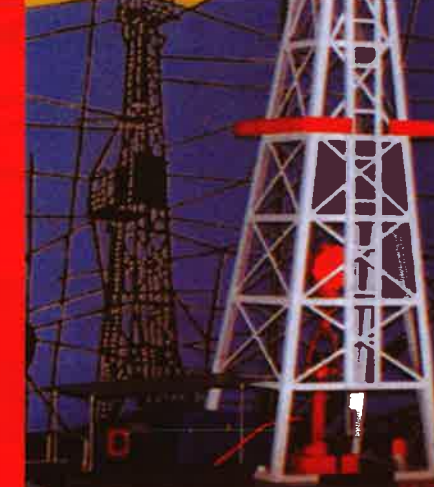


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Ellinwood offers several outdoor sporting choices. Grove Park Golf Course is located along Highways 56/96 and offers a great golfing experience. Wolf Pond, also located on the highway, is a hot fishing spot with RV hook-ups. Ellinwood is also located perfectly between Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms. You can cool off in the summer at the city pool or play in the city park.

Year-round activities

The Ellinwood Chamber of Commerce hosts many activities throughout the year. If you love a bargain, there are city-wide garage sales in April and September that will knock your socks off! A Ladies Night Out shopping event takes place in March with store specials and prizes. The After Harvest Festival in July is a long-standing community tradition. This three-day festival includes a carnival, barbeque, ice cream social, concerts, shows, reunions, a big parade and much more! A Hometown Christmas celebration wraps up the year.

We think you'll enjoy Ellinwood as much as those of us who live here. Wherever you've come from, welcome to our community! 🍃

Go underground in Ellinwood

Ellinwood's most unique attraction is the Ellinwood Underground World. This is a must-see, along with a great history lesson. At one time, the Ellinwood tunnels ran through the entire business district.



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Hoisington High School is one of the few schools nominated by the Kansas Historical Society to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The school, football stadium, and city auditorium were built in the 1930s under the Work Progress Administration project. The beautiful limestone used to construct the football stadium was quarried about five miles north of Hoisington.

Hoisington Activity Center

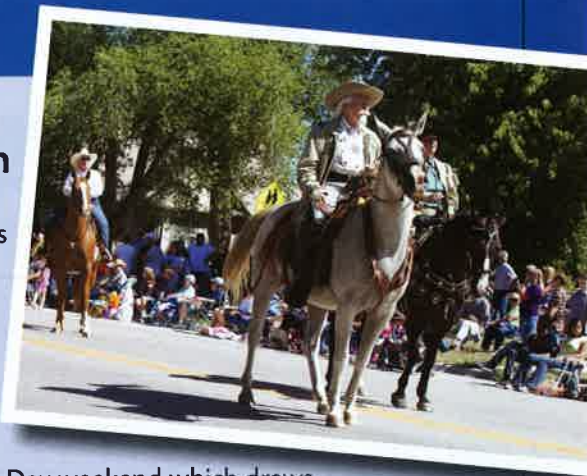
This state-of-the-art facility provides year-round recreational activities. It is open to the public and visitors will find a wide variety of things to do there. The center is the perfect place for meetings, conventions, family reunions, and other events. Facilities include conference rooms and a fully-equipped kitchen.

Bi-Centennial Park

Bi-Centennial Park in northwest Hoisington provides outdoor activities for all ages. Walk on the walking trail, go for a swim in the city swimming pool, pitch a game of horseshoes or enjoy a round of disc golf on the park's nine-hole course. The park has a new playground, picnic shelters, and excellent tennis courts and ball fields.


Labor Day Celebration

Hoisington welcomes visitors to join its Labor Day Weekend Celebration. For more than 100 years, the community has celebrated Labor Day weekend which draws 25,000 people annually.



Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area

For outdoor and wildlife enthusiasts, Cheyenne Bottoms is located right at Hoisington's southeastern border. The Bottoms is the largest interior marsh in the United States and offers endless opportunities for bird watchers, nature photographers, hunters, and everyone who loves the outdoors.

After you've enjoyed a day in Hoisington, grab a bite to eat at our local restaurants. Lodging is also available. Celebrate with Hoisington and enjoy a crossroads of history, art, amenities, activities, attractions and recreation. 

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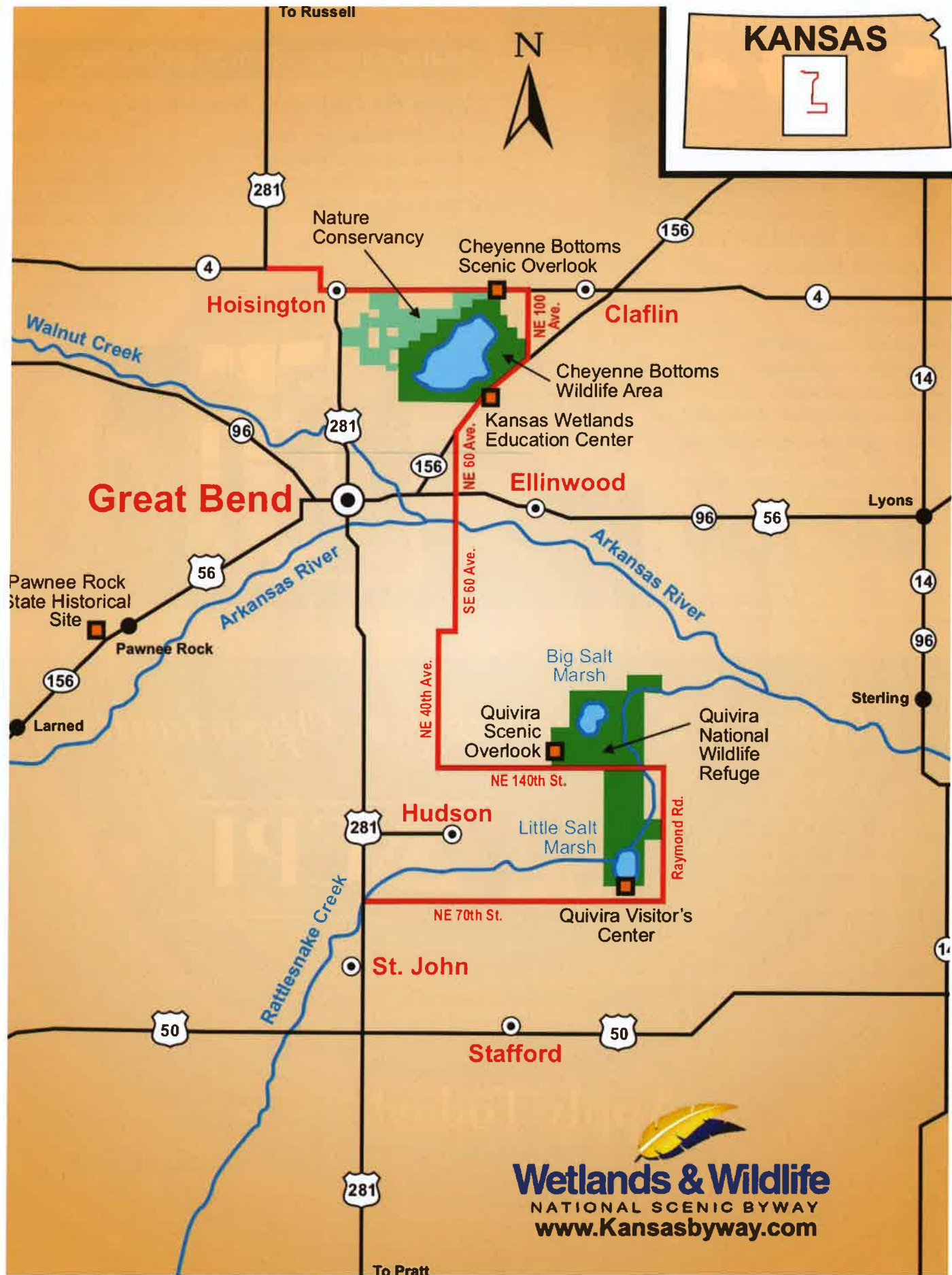
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Wetlands & Wildlife
NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY
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Wetlands & Wildlife

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

The Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway takes visitors through Barton, Stafford, & Reno counties in central Kansas. The marshes that anchor this drive, **Cheyenne Bottoms** and **Quivira National Wildlife Refuge**, are international treasures nestled in the heart of America and the Central Flyway. The road moves through radiant wetlands exploding with wildlife; prairie vistas with immense blue skies; and seven rural communities shaped by nature and the entrepreneurial spirit.

We invite you to take time to linger among the seven corridor communities and discover each town's authenticity, from quirky artwork to WPA historic projects. Each community has its own distinctive characteristic that provides unique shopping, dining, and discoveries that everyone will enjoy.

Clafin

- Visit WPA Post Rock Bridges - *National Historic Register*
- Read the Message Barrel - *Low-Tech Facebook*
- Perch on a Pew - *Limestone Dubuque Church*

Ellinwood

- Tour the Ellinwood Tunnels - *Cowboys & Soiled Dove*
- Visit Historic St. Peter & Paul Church
- Antique Until You Drop! - *Six Shops on Main Street*

Great Bend

- Watch treatment of an injured raptor - *The Raptor Center at the Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo*
- Drive a GPS Video Tour of Cheyenne Bottoms & the Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway
- Zoom Down a Water Slide - *The Wetlands Aquatic Center*
- Pet an Alpaca/Walk a Labyrinth - *Heartland Farm*
- Stroll Great Bend's Courthouse Square & Downtown Area - *Santa Fe Trail, Jack Kilby Memorial, Songbird Habitat, Kansas Quilt Walk, & Birdhouse Art Tour*

Hoisington

- Stroll Main Street - *Metal banners installed on 62 poles*
- Check the time on the sun dial - *City Building*
- Appreciate work of Depression-Era craftsmen
WPA High School & City Building/Post Office Mural

Hudson

- Tour Stafford Co. Flour Mill - *Hudson Cream Flour*
- Visit an Artist - *Rebecca Drach- Painter, Carol Long-Potter*

Stafford

- Watch a movie at the Ritz - *Restored 1945 theater*
- Enjoy Historic Architecture - *Six buildings on the National Historic Register*
- Learn the History of the Exodusters through 29,000 Glass Negatives - *Stafford County Historical Museum*

St. John

- Stroll Town Square - *Opera House/Courthouse*
- Uncover history at the Martin Cemetery

Cheyenne Bottoms

- Visit the Kansas Wetlands Education Center

Cheyenne Bottoms

Nature Conservancy Preserve

- Climb the Observation Tower. *Take your Binoculars!*

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

- Look for Eagles & other wildlife

Events

- After Harvest Festival • Ellinwood (*Third week in July*)
- National Wildlife Refuge Week • Quivira (*Month of October*)
- Wings 'n Wetlands Birding Festival • Cheyenne Bottoms & Quivira (*Last weekend in April of odd-number years.*)
- Labor Day Celebration • Hoisington (*Labor Day Weekend*)
- St. John Jubilee • St. John (*Memorial Day Weekend*)
- Octoberfest • Stafford (*first week in October*)
- Holiday Trail of Lights/Santa World • Great Bend (*November & December*)

www.kansasbyway.com


Great Bend
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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