

# TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!

FREE!

AMANDA THOMAS/ODWC

## A Guide to Oklahoma's Public Shooting Ranges



A FREE PUBLICATION OF THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION





Elevated archery stands at any ODWC shooting range require shooters to use a harness for safety.



A young shooter enjoys practicing at the Kaw WMA pistol range.

## WHY BUILD SHOOTING RANGES?

Recreational shooters have become major contributors to wildlife conservation. When shooters buy sporting arms and ammunition, manufacturers pay an excise tax to the federal government that is required to be apportioned back to the states for wildlife conservation efforts.

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is a user-pay, public-benefit system, and recreational shooters along with hunters and anglers are the top payers ensuring conservation happens and that wildlife abounds for those who love the outdoors.

With recreational shooting on the rise during the past decade, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is working to help meet the greater demand for places to shoot. ODWC has more than 20 shooting ranges in various stages of construction, environmental, engineering, and/or planning phases.

ODWC is committed to a multiyear program to renovate or construct shooting ranges on Wildlife Management Areas statewide as well as partner with outside parties to encourage enhancement, expansion, and/or new development of public target ranges in the state.

ODWC is addressing the need for increased public shooting access in Oklahoma for new hunters, and recreational and competitive shooters,

while also encouraging existing hunters and shooters to enhance their skills by becoming more proficient with firearms, promoting safe and responsible hunting and shooting practices, and providing safe and environmentally responsible shooting areas.

This guide shows where public land shooting ranges can be found, and also details plans that ODWC has for future development of ranges.

Anyone who uses a Wildlife Department shooting range must possess a state of Oklahoma hunting or combination hunting/fishing license.

Detailed rules are posted at each range. For more information, contact the wildlife biologist for that area. 🏹

## SHOOTING RANGE RULES

On all Wildlife Department-owned or -managed lands, the discharge of firearms for purposes other than when hunting is restricted to the target/shooting ranges provided for public use.

1. Shooting ranges are open year-round, unless otherwise specified in the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations (public hunting lands special area regulations, controlled hunt closures) or signs at the range.
2. Shooting hours are official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset, daily.
3. Any person younger than 16 using the shooting range must be immediately supervised by an adult 18 or older.
4. All firearms shooting single projectiles or any pellets larger than conventional BB (0.18 of an inch in diameter) must be shot at approved berms and target areas only. Airborne clay targets may be shot using pellets no larger than conventional BB.
5. All rifle, pistol, shotgun, and muzzleloader targets will consist of paper or clay targets only.
6. All paper targets must be removed before leaving the shooting area.
7. Centerfire rifles and pistols .50-caliber and larger are prohibited.
8. Fully automatic firearms are prohibited.
9. Fireworks, explosive devices, exploding targets, tracer and incendiary rounds are prohibited.
10. Eye and ear protection shall be worn while shooting.
11. Shooters, and accompanying adult, must possess a valid State of Oklahoma hunting license or State of Oklahoma combination hunting/fishing license, unless exempt.
12. Shooting while another person is down range is prohibited.
13. No person shall possess, consume, or use any intoxicating beverage or beer, as defined in Title 37, at any shooting range or shooting range parking areas.

## ARCHERY RANGE RULES

For Department shooting ranges that include an archery area, the following shall apply:

1. Archery range is open year-round, unless specified otherwise in the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations (public hunting lands special area regulations, controlled hunt closures) or signs at the range.
2. Shooting hours are official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset, daily.
3. Any person younger than 16 using the shooting range must be immediately supervised by an adult 18 or older.
4. Archers using the elevated platform must wear a safety harness meeting the standards of the Treestand Manufacturers Association and be attached to the platform at all times.
5. Archers may only shoot at stationary targets.
6. Archers must draw and release arrows or bolts from the tower or directly below the tower ONLY.
7. All nocked arrows or bolts must point down range at all times.
8. The archery tower is limited to four shooters at a time; no spectators are allowed on the archery tower.
9. Shooting while another person is down range is prohibited.
10. Broadheads may only be used in designated lanes.
11. Shooters, and accompanying adult, must possess a valid State of Oklahoma hunting license or State of Oklahoma combination hunting/fishing license, unless exempt.
12. Archery targets designed specifically for archery are allowed on the archery range. Archery targets must be removed after use.
13. Only legal archery equipment is allowed on the archery range.
14. No person shall possess, consume, or use any intoxicating beverage or beer, as defined in Title 37, at any shooting range or shooting range parking areas.

**NOTICE:** Public use of any shooting or archery range during its renovation or construction is prohibited.



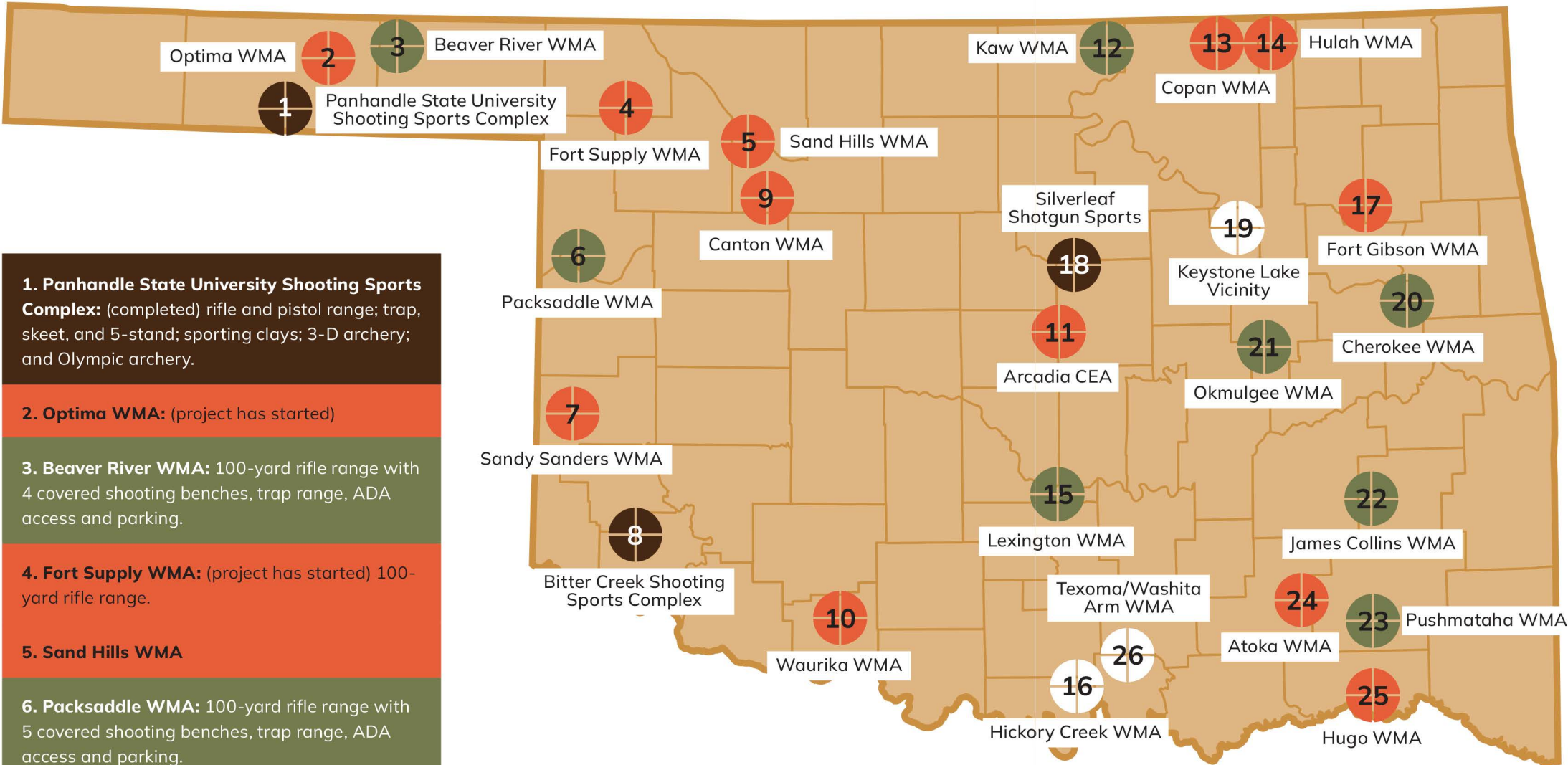
The newly opened rifle range at Packsaddle WMA is ready to welcome sport shooters.

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# WMA SHOOTING RANGE LOCATIONS AND PROJECT STATUS

Completed In Progress In Planning Collaborative



**1. Panhandle State University Shooting Sports Complex:** (completed) rifle and pistol range; trap, skeet, and 5-stand; sporting clays; 3-D archery; and Olympic archery.

**2. Optima WMA:** (project has started)

**3. Beaver River WMA:** 100-yard rifle range with 4 covered shooting benches, trap range, ADA access and parking.

**4. Fort Supply WMA:** (project has started) 100-yard rifle range.

**5. Sand Hills WMA**

**6. Packsaddle WMA:** 100-yard rifle range with 5 covered shooting benches, trap range, ADA access and parking.

**7. Sandy Sanders WMA:** (project has started)

**8. Bitter Creek Shooting Sports Complex:** (planned) new world-class facility (pass-through grant with City of Altus).

**9. Canton WMA:** (project has started) 100-yard and 200-yard rifle range with 2 covered shooting benches.

**10. Waurika WMA:** (project has started)

**11. Arcadia CEA:** (project has started) Archery range only.

**12. Kaw WMA:** two 100-yard rifle ranges with 12 covered shooting benches, 30-yard pistol range with 6 covered shooting benches, archery range with tower and 4 shooting lanes, ADA access and parking.

**13. Copan WMA:** (project has started)

**14. Hulah WMA:** (project has started)

**15. Lexington WMA:** 50-yard and 100-yard rifle ranges with 5 covered shooting benches, 25-yard pistol range with 4 covered shooting benches, ADA access and parking.

**16. Hickory Creek WMA:** 80-yard rifle range with 2 shooting benches.

**17. Fort Gibson WMA:** (project has started) 100-yard rifle range with 2 shooting benches.

**18. Silverleaf Shotgun Sports:** (completed) equipment update (pass-through grant).

**19. Keystone Lake vicinity**

**20. Cherokee WMA:** 100-yard and 200-yard rifle range with 4 covered shooting benches, 25-yard pistol range with 4 covered shooting benches, trap range, ADA access and parking.

**21. Okmulgee WMA:** 100-yard rifle range with 5 covered shooting benches, 30-yard pistol range with 4 covered shooting benches, trap range, ADA access and parking.

**22. James Collins WMA:** 100-yard rifle range with 5 covered shooting benches, 30-yard pistol range with 4 covered shooting benches, ADA access and parking.

**23. Pushmataha WMA:** 200-yard rifle range with 2 covered shooting benches, 25-yard pistol range, trap range, ADA access and parking.

**24. Atoka WMA:** (under construction) 100-yard rifle range with 4 covered shooting benches, 30-yard pistol range with 4 covered shooting benches, shotgun/trap range, archery range with archery tower including 4 shooting lanes, ADA access and parking.

**25. Hugo WMA**

**26. Texoma/Washita Arm WMA:** 100-yard shooting range with 1 shooting bench.

Scan this code for coordinates and driving directions to WMA shooting ranges.





# Partnerships Growing at Ranges Across State

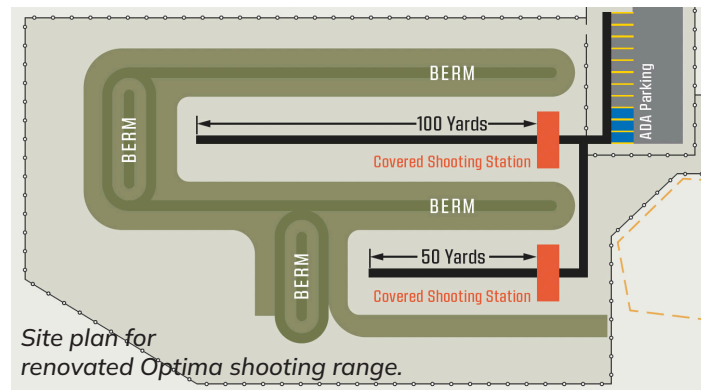
Partnerships are key. From one corner of the state to the next, partnerships have been and will be a critical piece of shooting range construction and renovations. While each project is different in scope and details, the one thing that they share is that the collaborative relationships lead to win-win-wins, for the Wildlife Department, for its partners, and most importantly for hunters and recreational shooters.



## US Army Corps of Engineers® Tulsa District

For example, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns the land where ODWC plans to renovate or build new shooting ranges. Without the Corps guidance and support, ODWC simply would not be able to move forward on those projects.

"The Tulsa District is proud to partner with ODWC on the construction of new shooting ranges and renovations to existing ranges across the state," said Jason Person, a biologist with the Corps. "ODWC is providing a much-needed recreational opportunity that will benefit



How the old Optima shooting range looked.



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sportsmen and women across the state. This relationship is a great example of what can be accomplished when state and federal agencies work together to further agency missions and goals for the benefit of the people of Oklahoma."

Other partnerships include Oklahoma Panhandle State University, home to a first-class shooting facility. Another facility is in the works with the City of Altus. In both cases, the partnering organizations provided match funds. The future archery range at Arcadia Conservation Education Area has received major support from the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation (OWCF). Silverleaf Shotgun Sports has been improving its facilities in partnership with ODWC.

The National Rifle Association provided key funding for the renovated range at Lexington WMA public range and grants totaling \$68,000 in donations toward new ranges or renovations, the latest being \$25,000 for Optima Shooting Range renovation.

OWCF is a great place to donate for upcoming projects that will soon begin construction. For more information, log on to <https://okwildlifefoundation.org>.

## NRA's Public Range Fund Donates \$25,000 to Optima Project

The National Rifle Association's Public Range Fund donated \$25,000 for matching federal grant funding.

Peter Churchbourne, director of NRA's Hunters' Leadership Forum, presented the donation to ODWC in February 2024. It will be used to help pay for additions and renovation at the public shooting ranges at Optima Wildlife Management Area.

"Huge thanks to the NRA," ODWC Interim Director Wade Free said. "We've been applying and receiving funds from the NRA Public Range Fund for about seven years, and we look forward to continuing to partner with them for many years to come as we



< From left, Chief Nels Rodefeld, ODWC Communication & Education Division; Amanda Thomas, ODWC shooting range coordinator; Peter Churchbourne, NRA; and ODWC Interim Director Wade Free.

build several shooting ranges and renovate others."

Leveraging this donation with matching federal funds could yield \$100,000 for shooting range improvements at Optima.

Plans include reconditioning berms and backstops, adding metal shooting stations with benches, installing pipe fences, upgrading the parking lot, and ensuring ADA accessibility.



# Shooting Sports Education Drives Participation

More than 725,000 Oklahoma residents participated in shooting sports in 2022, and that participation is continually rising. Numerous team and individual sport-shooting champions arise from Oklahoma nearly every year.

Oklahoma's recreational sport shooters contribute more than \$1.65 billion annually to the economy. And that's one huge reason the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has long supported shooting sports through education programs that involve school students across the state.

Nearly 6,000 Oklahoma students participate annually in the **Oklahoma Scholastic Shooting Sports Program (OKSSSP)**, which is ODWC's trapshooting curriculum for students in grades 7-12.

The **Oklahoma National Archery in the Schools Program (OKNASP)** and **Varsity Archery** program engage thousands of students in grades 4-12 to provide target archery training. ODWC also offers school programs for **Explore Bowhunting** and **Explore Bowfishing**.

Since 1995, ODWC has offered the



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**Nearly 6,000 students participate every year in ODWC's trapshooting programs.**

**Shotgun Training Education Program (STEP).** These programs provide wing-shooting opportunities to about 9,000 participants annually of all skill levels. STEP helps conduct the National FFA Organization's state shooting competitions each year.

ODWC has also reached out to other entities in promoting shooting sports. Pass-through grant funding allowed ODWC to provide partial funding to create a shooting complex at Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, and to upgrade trapshooting equipment at the Silverleaf Shooting Sports facility near Guthrie.

In the works currently is pass-through grant funding to help the City of Altus build the Bitter Creek Shooting Sports Complex.

*"WE have made significant progress with planning, renovating and constructing shooting ranges on our wildlife management areas, and we are excited to continue to increase public shooting access across the state."*

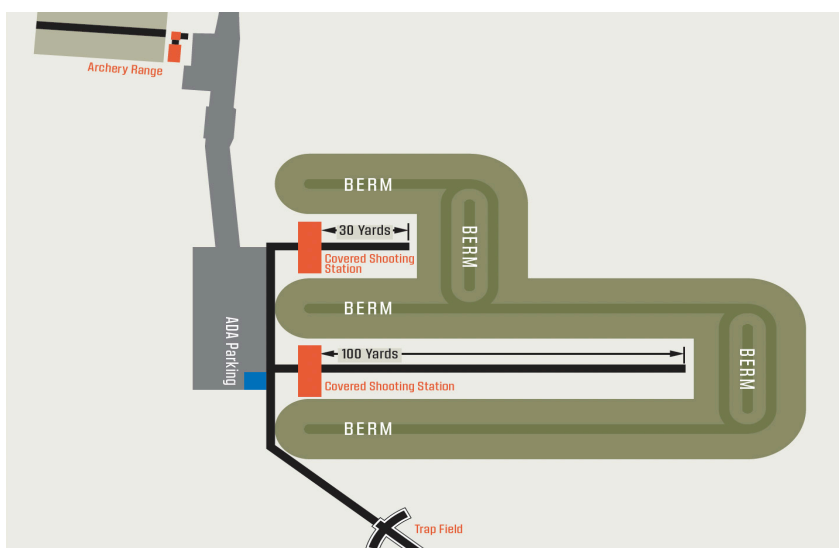
— Amanda Thomas, shooting range coordinator, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

## NEW ATOKA SHOOTING RANGE TO OPEN FALL 2024

A new shooting range is nearing completion at Atoka Wildlife Management Area.

It will feature a 100-yard rifle range, a 30-yard pistol range, a trap/shotgun range, and an archery range to include an elevated platform.

It will also include a parking lot, two covered shooting stations, and amenities to meet Americans with Disabilities Act access standards throughout the range.





DARRIN HILL/ODWC

Kaw WMA gun range.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“Shooting ranges have been one of my passions for many years, and recreational shooters are contributing about seven out of every 10 dollars into the conservation machine. Being a hometown Newkirk boy, I am excited to see a shooting range on Kaw WMA. The shooting range isn’t even 300 yards from where I harvested my first deer as a kid, which led to me being hooked on hunting, shooting, conservation, and ultimately having a career with ODWC. I’m certain the range will hook many more kids into hunting, shooting, and conservation. With the hiring of a full-time shooting range coordinator, ODWC is headed down the tracks with steam!” 🍷

— Wade Free, Interim Director,  
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife  
Conservation



WADE FREE/ODWC

Ready Free, nephew of ODWC Interim Director Wade Free, helps break in the new rifle range at Kaw Wildlife Management Area on opening day.



Funding is provided through federal assistance for state wildlife conservation agencies via the Wildlife Restoration and subaccount Public Target Range programs. The source of these funds are federal excise taxes on sporting arms and ammunitions (firearms, ammunitions, pistols, handguns, revolvers, bows, archery, and arrow components). These funds are governed by the Wildlife Restoration Act (1937), as amended by the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (2019) and are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Conservation Investment. Annually, the funds are apportioned to qualifying state wildlife agencies based on the number of hunting license holders and each state’s size in relation to the other states.



### THE INFORMATION IN THIS PUBLICATION WAS CURRENT AS OF MAY 2024.

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