

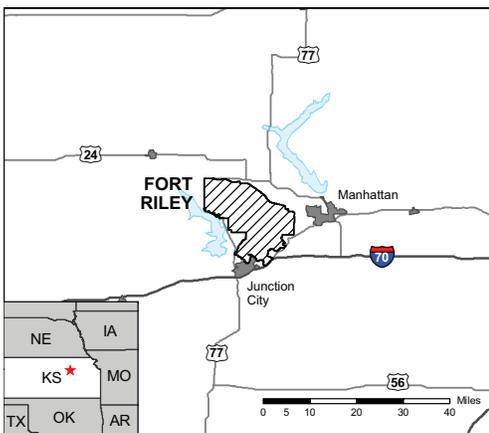


U.S. ARMY :  
**FORT RILEY : KANSAS**



**W**orking lands owned by ranchers near Fort Riley provide a situation that is conducive to maintaining ideal training conditions on-post.

Located in northeastern Kansas, Fort Riley trains over 30,000 soldiers predominantly in live-fire exercises and vehicle maneuver training in which every weapons system in a heavy artillery division’s inventory may be fired. Such training generates significant amounts of noise, so for Fort Riley’s mission to continue, development around the post must remain compatible with this requirement.



Building on an early partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Department of Defense, the post is sustaining the military mission and providing far-reaching benefits to the community’s way of life. Together with the Kansas Land Trust, the partners are protecting family-owned ranches consisting

of prime soils and the largest remaining tracts of native tallgrass prairie in Kansas. Preserving the most altered ecological community in North America helps buffer important high-noise activities such as Howitzer and demolition training.

Also of note at Fort Riley was an effort that prevented the incompatible siting of a 100-turbine wind farm project that would have interfered with the operation of a Digital Airport Surveillance Radar station at Marshall Army Air Field. All told, the post’s efforts help allow combined air and ground operations to continue and to protect the disappearing tallgrass prairie rangelands.

**BENEFIT SUMMARY**

**COMMUNITY**

- Protects working lands and local character that benefit the economy
- Supports existing regional planning efforts, including the development of a Joint Use Land Study to better coordinate planning efforts among various government entities

**MILITARY**

- Protects live-fire artillery, ground vehicle maneuver, helicopter, and night flying training that produces significant amounts of noise or requires minimal light pollution
- Prevents the loss of training days and less-realistic workarounds
- Provides for future mission growth and multi-Service efforts



Open space (bottom) preserved near Fort Riley preserves local character and allows ground vehicle maneuver training (top) to continue.

**KEY PARTNERS**

- Kansas Land Trust
- U.S. Department of Agriculture–Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Kansas Department of Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy

**FAST FACTS** AS OF 30 SEP 12

- » Acres preserved:  
**10,902**
- » Transactions conducted:  
**15**
- » Partner cost share:  
**31%**
- » Project status:  
**In Progress**

**CONTACT**

**Public Affairs Office**  
(785) 239-3410