

# ODWC'S SHOOTING RANGE PROJECTS LEAD NATION IN PROVIDING MORE PUBLIC ACCESS



DARRIN HILL/ODWC

*The new shooting range at Kaw WMA opened in 2023 with two rifle ranges, a pistol range, and an archery range.*

Since 2015, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) has undertaken significant efforts to enhance public shooting opportunities across the state. Through a combination of new range construction and extensive renovations and expansions on wildlife management areas (WMAs), ODWC is ensuring hunters and recreational and competitive shooters have safe, accessible places to enhance their skills.

With federal funding assistance through the Wildlife Restoration Program and its Public Target Range subaccount, ODWC has completed nine range projects since 2017, with more than a dozen additional sites set for upgrades or new development through 2029 and beyond.

Amanda Thomas, shooting range coordinator for ODWC, said all of the projects, both completed and planned, reflect ODWC's commitment to meeting a growing demand for public shooting access in Oklahoma and across the nation.

"These ranges play a vital role in supporting Oklahoma's hunters, as well as recreational and competitive shooters, and we're proud to be making these resources available to more Oklahomans than ever before."

Each new and renovated facility will include covered metal shooting stations with benches and tables, target stands, side berms, backstops, ADA access, fenc-

ing, gates, and parking areas. Depending on the site, additional features may include restrooms and ranges for long-distance rifle shooting beyond 100 yards, pistol, archery and/or shotgun shooting.

“Thanks to the Public Target Range program, we’re able to recover up to 90% of planning and construction costs. That allows us to stretch our dollars and make sure that whether you’re in the Panhandle, eastern Oklahoma, or anywhere in between, you have access to a quality public shooting facility.”

In the past two years, new shooting ranges have opened at Packsaddle, Kaw and Atoka WMAs. Another new range is set to open later in 2025 at Copan WMA.

“We’re aiming to wrap up construction at Copan WMA just in time to deliver a big Christmas present to the public,” Thomas said.

Also planned for completion in 2025 are renovations at Lexington and Optima WMAs.

Whether a range site is being renovated, expanded, or newly built, most projects must go through environmental assessment, engineering, then construction. 🏡



The rifle range at Atoka WMA offers targets at up to 100 yards.

## COMPLETED PROJECTS

Location	Type	Completion Year
Cherokee WMA	Renovation/Expansion	2017
Lexington WMA	Renovation/Expansion	2017
Pushmataha WMA	Renovation/Expansion	2019
Beaver WMA	Renovation/Expansion	2019
Okmulgee WMA	Renovation/Expansion	2021
James Collins WMA	Renovation/Expansion	2021
Packsaddle WMA	New Construction	2023
Kaw WMA	New Construction	2023
Atoka WMA	New Construction	2024

## FUTURE PROJECTS

Location	Type	Environmental Clearance	Engineering	Construction
		Year(s)	Year(s)	Year(s)
Pushmataha WMA	Expansion	N/A	2025	2025-2026
James Collins WMA	Expansion	N/A	N/A	2025-2026
Beaver WMA	Renovation/Expansion	N/A	2024-2025	2025-2026
Texoma-Washita WMA	Renovation/Expansion	2024-2025	2026	2026-2027
Hickory Creek WMA	Renovation/Expansion	2024-2025	2026	2026-2027
Optima WMA	Renovation	2022-2023	2024-2025	2025
Fort Supply WMA	Renovation/Expansion	2023-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Canton WMA	Renovation/Expansion	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Copan WMA	New	2019-2021	2024-2025	2025
Sandy Sanders WMA	New	2024-2025	2026	2026-2027
Fort Gibson WMA	New	2023-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Hulah WMA	New	2024-2025	2026	2027-2028
Keystone WMA	New	2025-2026	2027	2028-2029
Waurika WMA	New	2024-2025	2026	2027-2028
Lexington WMA	Renovation/Expansion	N/A	2024-2025	2025
Cherokee WMA	Renovation/Expansion	N/A	2025-2026	2026-2027