



Flint Hills - Fort Riley CONNECT

Connection Resource for Fort Riley + Flint Hills Region

This document was prepared by the Flint Hills Regional Council, with financial support from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. The content does not necessarily reflect the views of the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation or the U.S. Department of Defense.

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WHAT IS CONNECT?

The Purpose

Flint Hills - Fort Riley CONNECT is a public education and communication resource for residents, landowners, and other stakeholders within Fort Riley and the surrounding community. This document aims to facilitate EDUCATION and COMMUNICATION.

CONNECT highlights key topics that emerge in Fort Riley's relationship with its neighbors and facilitates *communication* by distributing important contacts and connection points within Fort Riley and the surrounding communities. FHRC will update the manual yearly, supported by Fort Riley, Clay, Geary, Pottawatomie, and Riley counties and the towns of Chapman, Grandview Plaza, Herington, Junction City, Manhattan, Milford, Ogden, Riley, and Wakefield.

The Vision

These resources bolster recommendations presented in the Flint Hills/Fort Riley Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). The JLUS is the outcome of collaborative planning among Fort Riley representatives and the local governments of: Clay, Geary and Riley Counties, and the towns of Grandview Plaza, Junction City, Manhattan, Milford, Ogden, Wakefield, and Riley. The Study was undertaken to increase awareness of relevant growth and development plans, highlight issues around Fort Riley, and ensure growth compatible with military operations.

The Support

Flint Hills - Fort Riley CONNECT was made possible by the United States Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC)'s Compatible Use and Installation Resilience Grant. Compatible use and installation resilience efforts are designed to establish or reinforce an ecosystem of self-sufficient, cooperative civilian and military relationships that

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WHO IS INVOLVED?

Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation

The U.S. Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) furthers the priorities of the National Defense Strategy by supporting the readiness and resiliency of military installations and defense communities across the country. OLDCC helps states and communities strengthen critical relationships with Department of Defense's assets and installations through grant-funded activities are eligibility-based, needs-based, and customer-driven.

Fort Riley

Fort Riley has been the heart of the Flint Hills region for more than 160 years. Established in 1853, the Fort was an outpost to protect westward travelers on the Oregon-California and Santa Fe trails. The 1st Infantry Division, the first permanent division in the U.S. Army and the oldest continuously serving division, known as "The Big Red One", was founded in 1917.

Today, the 100,000-acre facility employs innovative training to serve its approximately 15,000 active-duty serve members. An estimated 18,000 family members, 29,000 veterans and retirees, and 5,600 civilian employees live in the region. Thus, the Fort, as the largest employer in the region, is closely tied with the local community. Its full economic impact is estimated to be nearly \$3.5 billion.

Flint Hills Regional Council

The Flint Hills Regional Council (FHRC) is a non-profit, voluntary service association of local Kansas governments that provides services of mutual benefit to the region with the goal of enhancing economic vitality and improving quality of life throughout the Flint Hills. FHRC collaborates with local governments, agencies, and residents, including Fort Riley who is an exofficio member of the FHRC. The relationship between Fort Riley and FHRC has resulted in several JLUS implementation projects including a Military Installation Resiliency Study, Housing Assessment for Junction City, and more that can be found on FHRC's website.

EDUCATION

Education on unique concerns within military communities is desired for Fort Riley and its neighbors. Fort Riley has created various <u>educational publications</u> including regular economic impact summaries and a <u>2030 Strategic Plan</u>. In the JLUS, education on environmental impacts arose as an area of specific concern. The noise impact of military training and the natural environmental impacts of development in Fort Riley and the surrounding communities have both been explored within various Fort Riley and FHRC-created resources. There is, however, still opportunity for growth in environmental programs.



Noise Impact of Training

Fort Riley regularly trains over 30,000 soldiers. These activities predominately include live-fire exercises and vehicle maneuvering training. During live-fire training, every weapons system in a heavy artillery division's inventory may be fired. Such noise pollution may be a concern to surrounding community members and landowners. In response, several noise-related resources are offered by Fort Riley and FHRC:

- Fort Riley's <u>Noise and Training Information</u> webpage features dates and times in which when loud noise is expected
- Fort Riley Average Noise Levels Interactive Map and Fort Riley Noise Zones Map
 depict average and peak noise levels experienced by Fort Riley and the surrounding
 community
- FHRC worked with Henderson Engineers to create <u>Noise Attenuation Guidelines</u> which include the type of noise generated by Fort Riley and suggestions for building methods that could help reduce the interior noise impacts.



Natural Environment Impact

As Fort Riley trains thousands of soldiers, they desire to prioritize environmental protection for the longevity of their operations, health and safety of surrounding communities, and the preservation of valuable natural ecosystems. Fort Riley has established specific environmental protection policies within their Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan. They also promote environmental protection through their internal Environmental Division and external partnerships.

Fort Riley Environmental Division

Fort Riley's Environmental Division focuses on integrating environmental management with operations and realistic training conditions to enhance the installation's current mission while

creating opportunities for future training. The division specifically commits to conservation and pollution prevention through their two branches:

- <u>Conservation Branch</u> implements projects including environmental cleanup, natural resource protection, and cultural resource protection
- <u>Pollution Prevention Branch</u> oversees Fort Riley Waste Disposal Centers and pollution-related publications

Fort Riley External Partnerships

Fort Riley partners with various environmental organizations, governmental agencies, and academic groups, including:

- Kansas Department of Agriculture
- Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service
- <u>Department of Defense</u>
- Kansas Land Trust
- <u>iSportsman</u>



Opportunities for Growth

Fire Prevention Efforts

The Flint Hills' native tallgrass prairie is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world, making fire prevention crucial. Today, as the tallgrass prairie supports cattle ranching, prescribed burning provides fresh grass and prevents the growth of encroaching species. For this reason, measures like Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan have been implemented to quide prescribed burns and minimize the air impact in downwind communities.

Fort Riley must take special care to ensure their military operations do not create fire hazards. Thus, Fort Riley fire & emergency services as well as public education programs are in place.

Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services

Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services responds to natural or man-made disasters, provides emergency medical care, and reinforces education through prevention efforts and involvement in the Flint Hills Region. Fort Riley has five fire stations and a fire inspection department. The Fire and Emergency Services webpage contains publications regarding fire safety inspection, emergency contacts, fire warden responsibilities, and the current Fire Prevention Protection Program. The public can also stay up to date by following Fort Riley Fire & Emergency Services on Facebook.

Fire Chief: Building 1020, (785) 239-4553

The Fort Riley Podcast featured a <u>special fire prevention episode</u> for fire prevention week. The podcast is an example of how Fort Riley and the surrounding community can use various technological platforms to educate the public about fire risks and available services.



Dark Sky Program

With recent urban development, light intensity has significantly increased around Manhattan, Junction City, Grandview Plaza, and the cantonment area of Fort Riley. Design standards and dark sky lighting requirements can aid in standardizing practices for light pollution reduction.

These standards, such as a Vertical Obstructions MIA, and Dark Sky Lighting requirements can be adopted by Fort Riley and surrounding communities to minimize urban sky glow and light trespassing into adjacent properties. The Vertical Obstructions MIA prevents vertical obstructions in the areas underlying flight paths, flight training routes, and UAS flight corridors utilized by Fort Riley. Dark Sky lighting requirements can be incorporated into local zoning regulations and building codes of communities that fall within the flight paths of MAAF and helicopter training routes.

Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program

The REPI Program preserves military missions by limiting or alleviating encroachment threats (such as increasingly common and extreme natural disasters) that could affect Department of Defense (DoD) installations. Fort Riley has the only current REPI program in Kansas.

The REPI benefits Fort Riley by:

- protecting training that produces significant noise or light pollution such as live-fire artillery, ground vehicle maneuver, helicopter, and night flying
- preventing the loss of training days
- providing for mission growth

The REPI benefits the surrounding community by:

- protecting working lands and local character, thus benefiting the economy
- supporting existing regional planning efforts like the JLUS to better coordinate planning among government entities

As of September 2021, 15,962 acres were preserved through the REPI program. This positive trajectory can continue by regularly revisiting and implementing REPI recommendations for Fort Riley such as described in this project profile.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is key for a healthy relationship between Fort Riley and its neighbors. Therefore, Fort Riley contact information, social media, and visitor access information are provided. And, in response to the JLUS, FHRC has facilitated avenues in which the public can express questions and concerns about Fort Riley-related issues which are described below. The Fort Riley community must also know how to reach their neighbors. Therefore, local government contacts and community meeting details are provided.



Fort Riley Key Contacts

Public Affairs Office

The Fort Riley <u>Public Affairs Office (PAO)</u> is the primary point of contact between Fort Riley and the surrounding community. The PAO handles media relations, community relations, command information, and publishes the Fort Riley Post weekly newsletter.

Public Affairs Office (PAO)

BLDG 500 Huebner Rd

Primary: 785-239-3033, Secondary: 785-239-3358

Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Riley Public Affairs - Building 500, Room 214

500 Huebner Ave USAG Fort Riley, Kansas

Desk: (785) 239-8135 DSN: (785) 856-8135 Public Affairs Specialist

Fort Riley Public Affairs - Building 500, Room 214

500 Huebner Ave USAG Fort Riley, Kansas

Desk: 785-239-3358

For targeted inquiries, the <u>Fort Riley Phone Directory</u> and <u>Morale, Welfare, and Recreation</u> (MWR) Directory are publicly available on the Fort Riley website.



Fort Riley Social Media

- Facebook <u>@FortRiley</u> and <u>@1stInfantryDivision</u> Follow for events, livestreams, construction updates, public service announcements, and more
- Twitter <u>@FortRiley</u> and <u>@FightFirst</u> Follow for events, livestreams, construction updates, public service announcements, and more
- Instagram @FortRileyPAO and @1stInfantryDivison Follow for events, livestreams, construction updates, public service announcements, and more
- YouTube @FortRiley and @1idbigredone Watch videos for an inside look at life, events, and people of Fort Riley
- Flickr <u>@firstinfantrydivison</u> Browse pictures for an inside look at the life, events, and people of the 1st Infantry Division

Fort Riley: Other Ways to Connect

- Fort Riley Official U.S. Army Page Discover Fort Riley history and upcoming events
- <u>Fort Riley Public Affairs Office</u> and the <u>1st Infantry Division</u> webpages Check for regular news articles, videos, and photos
- <u>Fort Riley and Surrounding Area Event Calendar</u> MWR events, Army Community Service Events, and Federal, Training, and Resiliency Days
- The 1st Infantry Division Post Subscribe to Fort Riley's weekly email newsletter
- <u>Digital Garrison App</u> Installation services and post information on your devices
- Fort Riley Podcast Weekly episodes available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and more



Fort Riley Real-Time Updates

- <u>Advisories</u> Heat, road conditions, emergency shelters, traffic closures and delays, weather effects, work force manning level
- For real-time road conditions, weather advisories, and closures, early releases, or late arrivals, call 785-239-3700 or 866-562-7319
- Noise and Training Information Dates and times when loud noise is expected
- Open Areas Updates and information regarding outdoor recreation including areas for hunting, mountain biking, bird watching, and more.

Fort Riley Visitor and Access Information

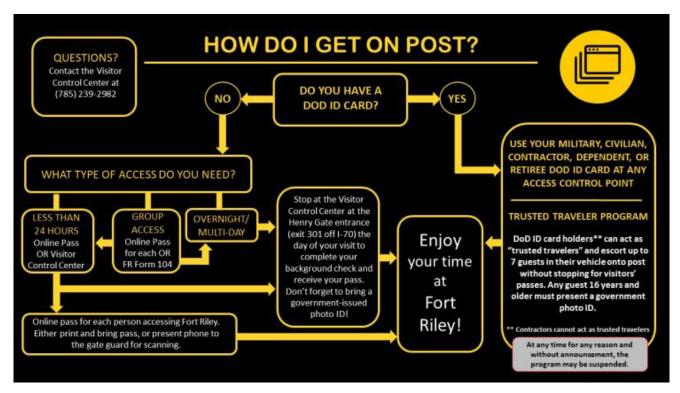
<u>The Fort Riley Visitor and Access Information webpage</u> contains specific gate locations and hours, driving directions, entry forms, and procedures to get on post.

Gates

Fort Riley has six operating access gates. Henry Gate, the main gate, located at Exit 301 off U.S. I-70, is open 24 hours daily and is the location of the Visitor Control Center (DES).

DOD ID

DOD ID card holders have access to any gate and can act as "trusted travelers" to escort up to seven guests, with government photo ID, without stopping for visitors' passes.



https://home.army.mil/riley/index.php/about/visitor-info

Visitor Passes

Visitors to Fort Riley can now apply for <u>single-day</u> or <u>group access</u> passes online. These passes are sent via email and may be requested by anyone with a valid driver's license. It is recommended that visitors submit pass applications 24 hours in advance of their visit.

Visitors to Fort Riley looking for overnight or multi-day passes must stop at the Visitor Control Center at the Henry Gate entrance to complete a background check before receiving a pass. Temporary closures or temporary gate locations may be put in place due to construction. For such information, follow Fort Riley and the Fort Riley PAO on social media.

Community Feedback

FHRC facilitates public conversations about Fort Riley relations through Fort Riley JLUS related efforts including:

- JLUS Coordination Committee made up of representatives from supporting entities, organized by FHRC, that meets on a yearly basis to assist with coordination efforts within the study area
- JLUS discussion forum on the FHRC website to facilitate conversation about the relationship between Fort Riley and surrounding communities
- A designated email for public to ask questions about JLUS and public relations with Fort Riley



Local Government Contacts

CLAY COUNTY

Clay County

Kayla Wang, *County Clerk* cyclerk@claycountykansas.org 785-632-2552

Clay Center

Kerry Rozman, *City Clerk* <u>cityclerk@claycenterks.com</u> 785-632-5454

Green

Carla Wiedmer, City Clerk cjwiedmer@hotmail.com 785-944-3330

Longford

Judy Kobetich, *City Clerk* cityoflongford@yahoo.com 785-388-2124

Morganville

Pam Knitter, *City Clerk* <u>cityofmorg@yahoo.com</u> 785-926-3070

Wakefield

Julie Murphy, *City Clerk*cityofwakefield@twinvalley.net
785-461-5886

DICKINSON COUNTY

Dickinson County

Jeanne Livingston, *County Clerk* jlivingston@dkcoks.gov 785-263-3774

Chapman

Bill Flanery, *City Clerk* <u>clerk@chapmanks.com</u> 785-922-6582

Herington, City Clerk
Megan Lawrenz
megan@cityofherington.com
785-258-2271

GEARY COUNTY

Geary County

Rebecca Nordyke, *County Clerk* rebecca.nordyke@gearycounty.org 785-238-3912

Junction City

Tammy Melton, *City Clerk* tammy.melton@jcks.com 785-238-3103

Milford

Tim Himelick, *City Clerk* cmilford@twinvalley.net 785-463-5490

MORRIS COUNTY

Morris County

Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk morris@tctelco.net 620-767-5518

Council Grove

Nick Jones, City Clerk citycg@cgtelco.net 620-767-5417

Dwight

Heather Wallace, City Clerk cityofdwight@tctelco.net 785-432-3455

White City

Susan McKenzie, City Clerk whitecity@tctelco.net 785-349-2228

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

Pottawatomie County

Dawn Henry, County Clerk dhenry@pottcounty.org 785-457-3314

Olsburg

Jackie Cassel, *City Clerk* cityclerkofolsburg@hotmail.com 785-468-3209

Onaga

Sarah McKinsey, *City Clerk* onagaclerk@bluevalley.net 785-889-4456

St. George

Elizabeth Wagoner, City Clerk stgeorge@wtcks.net 785-494-2558

St. Mary's

Andrea Ronsee, City Clerk smccityclerk@gmail.com 785-437-2311

Wamego

Shanda Jahnke, City Clerk cityclerk@wamego.org 785-456-9119

Westmoreland

Julie Wren, *City Clerk* westycity@bluevalley.net 785-457-3361

RILEY COUNTY

Riley County

Rich Vargo, *County Clerk*Contact Form
785-537-6301

Leonardville

Deandra Anderson, *City Clerk* cityofleonardville@twinvalley.net 785- 293-5211

Ogden

David Ward, *City Clerk* davidward@ogden-ks.gov 785-539-0311

Randolph

Patricia Booth, *City Clerk* randolph@twinvalley.net 785-293-5390

Riley

Doris Fritz, *City Clerk* criley@cityofriley.com 785-485-2802

Manhattan

Brenda Wolf, *City Clerk* wolf@cityofmhk.com 785-587-2407

WABAUNSEE COUNTY

Wabaunsee County

Abby Amick, County Clerk clerk@wbcounty.org 785-765-2421

Alma

Sherry Smith, *City Clerk*ssmith@cityofalma-kansas.com
785-765-3922

Alta Vista

Pamela McDiffett, *City Clerk* avcityhall@yahoo.com
785-499-6620

Eskridge

Stephanie Graham, City Clerk clerk@eskridgeks.org 785-449-2621

Harveyville

Chris Tenbrick, *City Clerk*harveyvilleksclerk@gmail.com
785-367-4144

Paxico

Linda Flanary, *City Clerk* jdlannan@wamego.net 785-636-5532

Maple Hill

Lynn Hoobler, *City Clerk* maplehill@kans.com
785-256-4272

McFarland

Tanja Mills, *City Clerk* mcfarland.city.clerk@hotmail.com 785-765-2265

Local Government Council Meetings

CLAY COUNTY

Clay County

Monday 8:00 am

Clay County Government Office, 712 5th St, Clay Center, KS 67432

Clay Center

1st & 3rd Tuesday 5:30 pm Council Chambers, Clay Center City Hall, 427 Court St, Clay Center, KS 67432

Longford

1st Wednesday 7pm Longford Community Center, 207 Weda St, Longford, KS 67458

Morganville

1st Thursday 7pm

Wakefield

1st Monday 7 pm Wakefield City Building, 609 Grove St Wakefield, KS 67487

DICKINSON COUNTY

Dickinson County

Every Thursday Work Session 9:30am and Regular Meeting 11am
District Court of Dickinson County, 109 E
1st St Suite 205, Abilene, KS 67410

Chapman

2nd Wednesday 7pm Chapman City Hall, 446 N Marshall St, Chapman, KS 67431

Herington

1st & 3rd Tuesday 5:30 pm Herington City Office, 17 N Broadway, Herington, KS 67449

GEARY COUNTY

Geary County

Monday 10-4 pm

Commission Chambers Room 126 200 E 8th Street Junction City, KS 66441

Junction City

1st and 3rd Tuesday 7pm City Commission Room 701 N. Jefferson Street Junction City, KS 66441

Milford

2nd Thursday, 6pm Milford Kansas City Building, 201 12th St, Milford, KS 66514

MORRIS COUNTY

Morris County

Tuesdays 9am Morris County Building, 501 W Main St Suite 9, Council Grove, KS 66846

Council Grove

1st & 3rd Tuesday 5:30 pm Council Grove City Hall, N 205 Union St, Council Grove, KS 66846

Dwight

3rd Monday 7pm Dwight Library, 616 Main St, Dwight, KS 66849

White City

2nd Wednesday 7 pm White City City Building, 118 W Mackenzie St, White City, KS 66872

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

Pottawatomie County

Monday 8:30 a.m.

Sunflower Room 612 E Campbell St Westmoreland, KS 66549

Olsburg

1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday at 7 pm Olsburg City Hall, 317 2nd St, Olsburg, KS 66520

Onaga

1st Tuesday 7 pm Onaga City Hall, 319 Prospect, Onaga, KS 66521

Saint George

2nd Thursday 7pm City Hall, 220 1st St, St. George, KS 66535

Saint Mary's

2nd & 3rd Thursday 7 pm St. Mary's City Hall, 200 S 7th St, St. Mary's, KS 66536

Wamego

1st & 3rd Tuesday 6 pm City Commission Room, second floor of the Wamego City Office, 430 Lincoln Ave Wamego, KS 66547

Westmoreland

2nd Thursday 6:30pm Westmoreland Community Center, 201 Main St, Westmoreland, KS 66549

RILEY COUNTY

Riley County

Every Monday and Thursday 8:30 am Courthouse Plaza East Building, Commission Chambers, 115 N 4th St, Manhattan, KS 66502

Leonardville

1st Tuesday 7:30 pm

Leonardville Community Building, 118 N Erpelding Rd, Leonardville, KS 66449

Ogden

1st & 3rd Wednesday 7pm City Hall, 222 Riley Ave, Ogden, KS 66517

Randolph

2nd Wednesday 7pm VFW Building, 110 W Randolph St, Randolph, KS 66554

Riley

2nd & 4th Tuesday 7 pm Riley City Hall 222 S Broadway St, Riley, KS 66531

Manhattan

Legislative Sessions 1st & 3rd Tuesday 6 pm; Work Meetings 2nd & 4th Tuesday 6pm
City Commission Room, City Hall, 1101

WABAUNSEE COUNTY

Poyntz Avenue Manhattan, KS

Wabaunsee County

Monday 9 -11 a.m.

County Commission Room, second floor of the Wabaunsee County Courthouse, 215 Kansas Ave, Alma, KS 66401

Alma

1st Tuesday 6 pm Alma Community Center, 1050 Ohio St, Alma, KS 66401

Alta Vista

3rd Monday 7 pm Alta Vista City Hall, 521 Main St, Alta Vista, KS 66834

Eskridge

2nd & 4th Monday at 7pm

Eskridge City Hall, 110 S Main St, Eskridge, KS 66423

Harveyville

1st Monday, 7pm Harveyville Municipal Building, 274 West Oak, Harveyville, KS 66431

Paxico

3rd Tuesday, 7pm

Maple Hill

2nd Monday, 7pm Maple Hill City Building, 203 Main St, Maple Hill, KS 66507

McFarland

McFarland City Hall, 518 Rock Island Rd, McFarland, KS 66507

APPENDIX

Association of Defense Communities

JLUS Information from FHRC

JLUS Information from the City of Manhattan's Website

JLUS Information from Riley County

JLUS Maps

U.S. Army Fort Riley Profile

