

Marsh of the Swans Wetlands

Expansion Project

Melvern Lake, KS

Kansas City District

In April 2008, the Corps of Engineers was approached by the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) group to discuss the creation of new wetland cells in a previously disturbed area below Melvern Lake Dam. This area, located between two highway systems, served as a borrow pit on two separate occasions and was nearly void of quality soil. The Corps agreed to pursue the project and began seeking partners.

Six local and regional partners were recruited to participate in the wetland cells addition. Each partner provided funding or in-kind services. The large number of partners provided a wealth of knowledge for wetlands creation and the project was completed in late fall 2009. Approximately 15 total acres of man made wetlands were added to the project's overall total wetlands acreage.



Above: Area selected for wetland creation project. The three new cells, approximately 5 acres each, are located on a tract of land approximately 65 acres in size.



Below: South two cells shown. Third cell is located just to the north of top cell, but is not visible in the photo.

In 2013, project staff will try for another Handshake Grant to establish a system of hiking trails, interpretive signage and a wildlife viewing blind in this area. Staff will also work with area school districts to establish the Marsh of the Swans as an outdoor education facility. Vehicle access to this site is superb and the planned trail design and viewing blind will offer outstanding opportunities for the school kids to view shorebirds and waterfowl in their natural habitat.

