

Mound City District Fisheries Newsletter Spring of 2019

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism: Fisheries Division

District impoundments include: Pomona Reservoir; La Cygne Reservoir; Bourbon State Fishing Lake; Richmond City Lake; Pleasanton Old, West and East City lakes; Parker City Lake; Prescott City Lake; Mound City Lake; Critzer Lake, Linn County; Blue Mound City Lake; Linn County Strip Pits; Elm Creek Lake; Cedar Creek Lake, Bourbon County; Ft Scott City Lake; Rock Creek Lake; Ft. Scott Community College – East and West lakes; Ft. Scott Gunn Park – Fern (East) and West Lakes. **Public Partially Accessible Rivers:** Marais des Cygnes River, Marmaton River.



Spring, 2019, I just can't believe it. What happened to 2018 or 2017 for that matter.

This time of year, anglers are looking for something to do. In between cold fronts, snow, and ice we can have reasonable warmer days. Those are the perfect times to try your hand at trout fishing. Fern Lake, the east lake, in Gunn Park at Ft. Scott has received trout stocking for more than 20 years. The trout are stocked from November through mid-March during the Kansas Trout Season, which runs from November 1 to April 15. Every two weeks during the season, 2,600 trout are stocked, maintaining an ample population for anglers to enjoy.

Anglers 16 and older can fish for trout and harvest five trout per day for the \$14.50 trout permit, plus their fishing license, unless exempt. Anglers 15 and younger may trout fish without a trout permit but they can only harvest two trout per day. Fern Lake is a Type 1 trout water and means all anglers fishing this lake during the trout season must have a trout permit.

Trout can be caught on many types of lures and bait, including Powerbait under a small float or spinners and jigs. There are several good spots to cast a flyrod and try your hand with this tool. Two of the favorite areas I see fly anglers include the south end and in the deeper water by the water destratification unit on the north end of the lake. The destratification unit at this lake keeps the water moving along the north end of the lake. This unit also keeps the lake from freezing, thus improving access and likelihood that trout anglers will be successful.



This photo of the Trout Pond, Ft. Scott, Gunn Park, Fern Lake (East) shows a nice gentle shoreline that is great for shoreline fishing.

Kayaks, Canoes, and Small Water Crafts Float Fishing

More and more people are considering purchasing canoes and kayaks for water-based recreation, healthy living and for fishing. We are lucky, because we have many places in this area to use kayaks and canoes. For people who like to explore, fish and float, the Marmaton River is open from Rock Creek Lake Dam

downstream to Gunn Park in Ft. Scott. The area behind the Rock Creek Lake Dam is a good spot to unload small watercraft and launch into the Marmaton River. The water along this part of the river is often slow, with little flow. But after heavy rains this river can be fast and furious and should be avoided by paddlers. Typically, this float may take about four to five hours and makes a perfect Saturday or Sunday float. Some anglers target the crappie right now as they usually hang out in the deeper pools and can be quite easy to locate and catch. There are many kinds of sport fish in the Marmaton River, including largemouth bass, spotted bass, black and white crappie, channel catfish, flathead catfish, bluegill, redear sunfish, white bass and even an occasional walleye.

Fishing or just enjoying a chance to get on a Kansas river and float can be inspiring. The wildlife along the river can be dazzling as many birds will soon exhibit their breeding colors. People floating quietly down the river may also see mammals such as mink, beaver, or even a family of otters. At the lower end of this river trail is Ft. Scott's Gunn Park where there is a concrete boat ramp and

small parking lot where exiting the river and unloading equipment is convenient.



This picture best describes the perfect place to be, to relax, to enjoy life – fishing in a kayak.

Spring Fishing Forecast

Spring is on its way and excellent crappie fishing is just around the corner. This crappie fishing guide is meant as a suggestion and is not written in stone. On any given day a good angler can have an excellent crappie day on just about any lake in this area. Here are some of the better crappie lakes in the Mound City District.

CRAPPIE FORECAST

Water	Density >8 inches	Preferred >10 inches	Lunker >12 inches	Biologist Rating	3-year Average
Pomona Res.	9.25	3.25	.69	G	7.65
La Cygne Res.	6.25	2.81	.10	G	5.77
Lakes					
Pleasanton West lake	19.50	1.50	.50	G	19.85
Pleasanton East Lake	5.0	3.0	.75	G	4.00
Bourbon SFL	4.5	4.00	0	G	3.28
Critzer Res.	1.75	1.50	0	G	1.38
Mound City Lake	1.20	1.00	0	F	1.26



CHANNEL CATFISH FORECAST

Lake	Density >16 inches	Preferred >24 inches	Lunker >28 inches	Biggest Fish	Biologist Rating	3-year Average
Pleasanton West Lake	14.00	2.00	0	8.72	E	12.11
Ft Scott West Lake	10.33	.67	0	6.51	E	10.3
Critzer Lake	5.17	.50	.17	7.65	E	5.72
Mound City Lake	5.17	1.67	0	7.35	E	6.67
Bourbon State F L	3.75	.25	0	4.45	G	3.92
Parker city Lake	3.67	.33	.33	8.64	G	2.33
Pleasanton East Lake	1.67	.17	.17	10.06	F	2.61
Reservoirs						
Pomona Res.	1.83	.08	0	5.03	G	2.71

La Cygne Res.	.92	0	0	3.57	G	.95
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Beautiful La Cygne Reservoir, in Linn County, provides fantastic largemouth bass fishing. Anglers have caught several bass over 10 pounds from La Cygne. Because of its warm water, it's a great place to fish in the colder months.

LARGEMOUTH BASS FORECAST

Reservoir	>12 inches Density	>15 inches Preferred	>20 inches Lunker	Biggest Fish	Biologist Rating	3-year Aveage
La Cygne Res.	50.59	39.41	7.06	9.31	E	68.49
Lake						
Pleasanton West Lake	46.08	31.37	3.92	6.39	G	45.03
Bourbon State F L	33.16	2.67	0	2.82	G	82.46
Mound City Lake	31.76	16.47	0	4.10	G	31.76
Parker City	23.53	4.20	1.68	4.43	F	47

Lake						
Pleasanton East Lake	14.71	1.18	.59	5.78	G	76

FISH STOCKINGS

Anglers often ask about stockings, specifically channel catfish stockings. All lakes in this region have channel catfish that spawn but few lakes can produce enough channel catfish to establish a good density to make great angling. Without supplemental stocking, many lakes here could not produce great channel catfish angling. And without stockings we wouldn't have wipers, striped bass, or trout to fish for.

Here are the stockings from 2018.

Lake	Species	Amount	Size
Linn County Strip Pit	Channel Catfish	756	Intermediates
Mound City Lake	C. Catfish	1,927	Intermediates
Pleasanton West Lake	C.Catfish	4,077	Intermediates
Pleasanton Old Lake	C. Catfish	1,300	Intermediates
Pleasanton East Lake	C. Catfish	5,802	Intermediates
Richmond City Lake	C. Catfish	1,501	Intermediates
Bourbon State Fishing Lake	C. Catfish	4,000	Intermediates
Parker City Lake	C. Catfish	1,725	Intermediates
Uniontown School Pond	C. Catfish	755	Intermediates
Ft. Scott City Lake	C. Catfish	1,000	Intermediates
Pomona Reservoir	Wipers	350,000	Fry
La Cygne Reservoir	C. Catfish	250,000	Fry
La Cygne Reservoir	Blue Catfish	5,187	Fingerlings
Pomona Reservoir	Blue Catfish	8,913	Fingerlings
Pleasanton East Lake	Wiper	635	Fingerlings
Ft Scott Fern Lake	Trout	2,600	Adults



"takemefishing"



Here is a picture of a stocking of 3,000 channel catfish into Cedar Creek Lake in Bourbon County. This size of channel catfish will grow fast and be beyond the 15-inch length limit in a year.

IMPROVING ACCESS and FISH HABITAT

Improving angler access and shallow water fish habitat is a continuing project. Anglers want easier access to good fishing. Because of this, a goal in this district is to improve shoreline habitat and docks. Recently, we have built new floating docks at Parker City Lake, Critzer Lake, Ft. Scott, Gunn Park West Lake, and now we have completed construction of a new and very nice boat and fishing dock on the Mound City Lake. This project was funded through the Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP). The City is enrolled in CFAP, which allows KDWPT to manage the city lake's fishery, including establishing creel and length limits,

stocking fish, and more. This program also provides the opportunity for cooperators (Mound City) to apply for grant funds. Cooperators must work through their fisheries biologists to approve and design the projects that will enhance angling. The project costs must be estimated, and a cost share must be established that indicates how much funding is being requested from KDWPT. These grant applications will be scored, and successful cooperators will be awarded funds to construct their applied project. I am very excited on the progress we are making on improving shoreline and boat angling.



The new Mound City Lake dock. At the time of the picture the final concrete pad had yet to be poured because of the cold weather. But the City crew did a great job on this and it is finished and ready for customers. Notice we used concrete fiber walk way that is very stable, and maintenance free.

Winter and early spring is a great time to add fish habitat to district lakes. Most of the cooperators in my district will save their Christmas trees for fish habitat projects. These trees are placed in the lakes either on the ice or by boat after the ice is thawed.

Most trees are placed in areas to enhance shallow or mid-depth areas. In the last couple of years Georgia cubes have also been placed in area lakes. La Cygne Reservoir and Bourbon State Fishing Lake each have received more than 100 of these habitat cubes.

Those of you who fish around the Georgia cubes will notice that they are designed to be snag proof.

Here's a large load of Georgia cubes in my boat at La Cygne Reservoir. I had such a boat load that I had to climb over all of those to get to the motor. Lots of fishy good times in this boat.



As always “CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY” your boat or equipment when leaving any water body. You and I don't want zebra mussels or any other aquatic nuisance species in our lakes hurting our fishing.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.