



# Clinton State Park

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Park News	1
Open House	1
OK Kids Day	2
Projects Around the Park	3
Pocket Ranger	3
Boating Safety	4
Park Regulations	4
Creature Corner	5
ORMS	5
Photo Contest	5
Events Calendar	6
Wildlifer Challenge	7
Friends Group Info.	7
AmeriCorps Corner	8
First Fish Award Program	9
Word Search	9
Fish Forecast	10-11

Scavenger  
Hunt  
Anyone?

2015 SPRING NEWSLETTER

## Park News: Kansas State Parks PASSPORT

Kansas State Park Passports are annual vehicle permits that allow Kansans access into any park in the state. Park Passports make enjoying our state parks more affordable AND more convenient. With a Park Passport, families can enjoy a year full of adventure and outdoor activities at a significant savings!

Kansans are able to purchase Park Passports during the motor vehicle registration process either in person, by mail or electronically. Over 60,000 Kansans purchased them the first year!

Passports are valid for one year, and are on the same cycle as each individual's license tags. Passports cost \$15.00 plus a \$0.50 transaction fee collected by the tag office.



Remember to ask the clerk at the tag office for a Park Passport when you get new tags or renew your tags.

Asking helps them ensure they include it with your transaction costs, saves time, money and ensures you receive your passport to a year of outdoor fun.

It is important to remember that you cannot purchase Passports at a later date and receive this savings. Park Passports can **only** be added when purchasing or renewing tags. So make a note and add it on!



## Open House: April 25th

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism announced that all state parks will hold an Open House on Saturday April 25th, 2015. There will be FREE vehicle entrance and many events for the whole family:

- The Park Office will be open extended hours of 9 a.m.—3 p.m. At the park office patrons can view animals native to the state park. Register for our upcoming OK Kids Day event (August 8, 2015).
- Participate in a Scavenger Hunt for prizes.
- Complete Wildlifer Challenges! (Details on page 7)
- Special Olympics Fish Tournament will be launching from Boat Ramp #2 near the Clinton Marina.
- Atlas Course Race will be held in our State Park.

# Join Us for OK Kids Day 2015!

## Saturday August 8th

Planning for our 12th Annual O.K. Kids Day is well under way! With events like our **Fishing Derby, Archery Instruction, and Animal Show-n-Tell**, kids of all ages will be able to enjoy the outdoors.

### FREE PARK ENTRY AUGUST 8TH! NO VEHICLE PERMIT REQUIRED!

#### Pre-Register Your Child

By calling the Park Office or emailing us with your child's name & date of birth. Extra Drawings at each event for those that pre-register.

### Fishing Derby at Lake Henry 9AM-11AM

Just south of the Park Office, let your child learn fish ID's, improve their casting skills and ability to bait their own hook from the KDWPT Fisheries Division. After the 20 minute demonstration, kids will be able to fish for a chance to win fabulous prizes!

#### Prizes will be awarded for:

- Biggest fish
- Smallest fish
- Most fish
- Weirdest thing caught!

#### Is it your first time fishing?

Be entered into a special First Time Anglers Award prize drawing!

#### Fishing Poles & Bait \*\*\*will be provided\*\*\*

(You can bring your own)

**Free Hotdog lunch for the first 200 people!**



### Archery Target Practice from 2PM—4PM

Come join us in trying out ARCHERY! Instructors will be on hand to give your child the knowledge and confidence to try out this exciting sport. All targets and equipment provided.



### Animal Show-N-Tell from 7PM-8PM at Shelter 6, Campground 3

Here is your chance to have a close up look of at our...

### LIVE ANIMALS ON DISPLAY!

Cages will be set up outside so you will have the chance to see our favorite snakes and turtles!

**Know about our state snakes? How about the turtles in this region?**

We'll talk about turtles and the three species of venomous snakes that are most common in our part of Kansas (Copperhead and Timber & Massasauga Rattlesnakes) and how to avoid them!

**Snake ID Booklet  
to all who attend!**  
(While supplies last)



**Gift Bags  
& Prize Drawings  
for all attendees!**

# Projects Around the Park

## New Shower House in Campground #1

Come check out our new shower house in Campground #1! The new building arrived this past fall in pre-constructed sections and was assembled on site. It features environmentally friendly water and electricity saving features and shower room privacy. Separate from the restroom facilities, the shower rooms are located at the back of the building. New ADA-compliant concrete sidewalks were poured and completed before the first hard freeze. Grass seed was also planted and we hope to be seeing shoots once the weather warms. The facility is open for use by our campground guests so swing on by!



## Cabin Landscaping and Cedar Removal

Park employees have been busy this past season removing invasive cedar from three acres of land around the Bluebird Restoration Area in preparation for prairie land restoration in the adjoining land. Some of the smaller cedars are being tagged for use in our Cabin Landscaping Project once the weather warms. As part of the landscaping project, cedars will be used to provide windbreaks and privacy between the cabins located in Campground #1. This project will also include the planting of lavender around cabin foundations. This lavender will not only deter pests naturally, but will provide erosion control as the flowers bloom nearly year-round once plants become established.

## Pocket Ranger® Smart Phone App

The Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger® mobile app by Parks by Nature Network serves as an interactive State Parks tour guide accessible through today's leading mobile devices. It is built with the most up-to-date visitor information, and designed for both the novice outdoorsmen and the more seasoned park goer.

The interactive guide along with the advanced GPS mapping technology provides park goers with valuable in-

formation for planning that perfect trip to any state park, making it easy for anyone to choose an adventure of their choice. The app allows users to keep abreast of weather conditions, view state-surveyed trails, and more—directly from their mobile devices!

Scan for Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger® mobile app!





# Personal Flotation Device Safety

Each summer when you come to the lake, it is important remember to check all safety equipment prior to launch. There were over 20 drowning incidents in the State of Kansas in the past year, and some of these could have been prevented if the victims had worn or had access to a Personal Flotation Device (PFD).

The best way to consider the PFD is that they are the seatbelts to your boat. Just like when a person gets into a car, they make sure the seatbelt fits properly and comfortably; the same should be applied to the PFD.

There are numerous styles of PFDs, from the standard orange Type III, to the less restrictive inflatable type III and Type V depending on your activity. When engaged in water sports such as skiing, tubing or riding PWC's, the use of a Type III vest style is the most comfortable and provides the best buoyancy to keep you afloat.

When purchasing PFDs for your boat, here are a few things to keep in mind:

Are there special regulations pertaining to your size boat? Will a Type IV (Throwable) or a Type III be more useful? What are the size and age of occupants that will be on the boat? (CHILDREN UNDER 13 ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A PFD AT ALL TIMES). How much do I want to spend?

**So remember**, when you hit the lake this summer, double check your PFDs to make sure they are in good serviceable condition (no cuts or imperfections), and you have the proper number and size for occupants on your boat. Lastly, make sure your PFDs are always within arm's reach of every occupant while on the water.

**Jon Entwistle.**

*Natural Resource Officer  
Kansas Department of Wildlife,  
Parks and Tourism*



## Park Regulation Reminders

As we look forward to the new park season, please review our State Park Regulations to ensure an enjoyable visit for all guests. Some of our most common are:

- **24 HOUR UNATTENDED CAMPING POLICY** — Regulations require camping units not to be unattended for more than 24 hours. When setting up your camping unit, please pay fees at that time. You can pay at the park office, campground host or self-pay station.
- **GREY WATER DUMPING** — All waste water from camping units (GREY and BLACK tanks) must be disposed of at dump stations only. These are located at the entrance to each campground.
- **SPEED LIMIT** — There is a 30 mph speed limit on main park roads. Speed should be reduced even further (15 mph) when entering and driving the individual campground roads. Please take extra care to watch for pedestrians and animals!
- **SWIM BEACH** — No pets allowed, no fishing, no alcohol, and no glass containers. Please refer to the sign at the beach for other beach-specific regulations.
- **PARKING** — Don't drive/park vehicles entirely on grass. Please keep at least two wheels on pavement or gravel when parking to help minimize property damage and roadside erosion.
- **PETS** — Are allowed at Clinton State Park; however, they must be controlled by a leash or chain no longer than 10 ft. in length. Pets are not allowed in any of the state park buildings. This includes all shower and restroom facilities, and the Park Office. This also includes all State Park Camping Cabins. Exceptions are made for service animals; however, you may be asked to provide documentation.

We thank you for your assistance in providing a safe and family-oriented park for everyone!

# Creature Corner: The Elusive Softshell Turtle

*Two varieties of Softshell Turtles* are found in the state of Kansas. The Spiny and Smooth Soft Shell Turtles are from the Family Trionychidae. It is easy to differentiate between these and other state turtles because of their leathery, soft shell. This does make them a little more vulnerable than their native relatives so they have developed defensive traits that include a long neck, sharp jaws and an unpleasant disposition. They are also much more solitary and actively avoid other creatures. Come see our Spiny Soft Shell Turtle in the Park Office.



## Description:

Their almost round shell varies from light to dark brown in color with dark spots or circles scattered about it. Their feet are large and webbed for swimming since they are entirely aquatic. Their head can stretch out very far to grab food, and tapers into a distinctively pointed snout. They will often sink themselves into the mud of a river or stream, stretching their heads up so that only their nostrils are exposed to air. The spiny softshell is much more common and differentiated from its smooth-shelled cousin by a dark line around the rim of its bumpy shell, dark circles rather than spots and a hard projection of cartilage between its nostrils.

## Do you LOVE taking pictures of nature?

We would love to see them!  
Send us your photos for the  
chance to have them put in  
our newsletter, or on our Facebook page!

- Email images to: [ClintonSP@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:ClintonSP@ksoutdoors.com)
- Please include your name, date & location of photo.
- Participants of all ages are welcome!
- Remember, images MUST be taken in this park!

Share  
Your  
Photos!



## Habitat:

- Found mostly in rivers and streams, some lakes
- Active from April to October
- Entirely aquatic, except to lay eggs in sandy, muddy soil along river bank edges
- Eats crayfish, worms, insects, tadpoles, fish and vegetation

## ORMS: A Great Way to Reserve!

### Outdoor Recreation Management System:

In April of 2012, the state park system began using Reserve America to manage its campsite reservations. Frequent patrons of Federal parks may already be familiar with this website. Going into the fourth year, the benefits of the program have become very apparent.

- Campsite Availability— Website visitors can quickly see which sites are available and can be reserved for any date.
- Campsite Features— Size, cost, amenities, location and even a picture accompanying the site listing.
- Reservations— Visitors can make reservations at their convenience from their computers, laptops and smartphones.

Reserve a campsite **TODAY** at [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com)!

(To find us faster use zip code: 66049)

# 2015 Calendar of Events

<i><b>Date of Event</b></i>	<i><b>Event</b></i>	<i><b>Start Time</b></i>
2nd Sunday of Each Month	Monthly Trail Hike	1 p.m.
April 18&19	Free State Trail Marathon & 1/2 Marathon Run	7 a.m.
April 19	Free State Trail Run	7 a.m.
April 25	Clinton State Park Open House/ Free Vehicle Fee Day	8 a.m.
April 25	Special Olympics Fishing Tournament	5 a.m.
May 2	Backlashers Bass Club Tournament	5:30 a.m.
May 16&17, 23-25	Heartland Coursing Association Dog Straight Races	10 a.m.
May 17	Walleye Tournament	7 a.m.
May 28	Omega Phi Alpha Service Project/ Cookout	3 p.m.
June 6&7	Free Fishing Weekend	ALL DAY
June 6	Lil Legends Fun Run/ Animal Show-n-Tell	10 a.m. 7 p.m.
June 7	Legends Triathlon	10 a.m.
June 20	Governor's Fishing Tournament	ALL DAY
August 8	Free Vehicle Day / O.K. Kids	ALL DAY
August 8	Outdoor Kids Day Activities Fishing Derby/Archery Program & Animal Show-n-Tell	9 a.m./2 p.m./7 p.m.
August 15	KS Bass Nation High School Fishing Tournament	5 a.m.
Sept. 12-13	Lawrence Trail Hawks— Hawk 100 Trail Run	6 a.m.
Sept. 26	Bass Buddy Bass Tournament	5 a.m.

## Wildlifer Challenge!

Should you so choose, we invite you on a journey of 15 outdoor challenges for you to complete. Once you have completed these tasks, you will be recognized as an official Kansas "WildLifer"! The challenges you'll encounter are not hard to complete if you have an ounce of the "WildLifer" spirit inside you. Some challenges may only take you an hour to accomplish, while others may take an entire day, but you'll quickly realize that you are not like everyone else. No, you're busting the norm wide open and living life to the fullest!

**OUR MISSION: PROVE** to you that getting outside – beyond the playgrounds, ball fields and concrete sidewalks – is a blast and full of amazing things!

**YOUR MISSION: PROVE** to us that you're not the kind of kid who wastes all of your valuable free time laying around inside the house all day. That's not you. You like the thrill of adventure. The mystery of the unknown. Maybe even a little danger from time to time and that sense of freedom. You rock!

Exploring the outdoors will make you think for yourself. You have to be creative and inventive. You will find yourself successful, not because some video game congratulates you on completing another level, but because you **PROVE IT TO YOURSELF** with what you can do with a little determination and freedom in the wild outdoors!

**Here at Clinton State Park you can complete many of the suggested challenges while you visit us such as....**

<b>Take a Picture</b>	<b>Wet a Line</b>	<b>Pitch a Tent</b>
<b>Cover Yourself in Leaves</b>	<b>Reach for the Stars</b>	<b>Swim in a Lake</b>
<b>Catch a Frog</b>	<b>Catch a Firefly</b>	<b>Pack a Picnic</b>
<b>Light a Fire</b>	<b>Hike A Trail</b>	<b>For the Birds</b>
<b>Row, Row, Row Your Boat</b>		

Go to <http://www.kansaswildlifer.com> for more information.

### WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT FRIENDS GROUPS?

Friends Groups support the efforts of many of our state parks. At some parks, they run the camp store or marina, sell firewood, operate laundry facilities, and many other tasks that make stays at a park more convenient. Members of Friends Groups are simply people who enjoy their local state park and want to help. A Friends Group can be formed under the umbrella of our statewide Friends Group, Wildscape, and can then volunteer on special projects, conduct fund-raising and perform public relations efforts on behalf of the park. If you have an interest in Clinton State Park developing a Friends Group, please contact the park office at 785-842-8562.



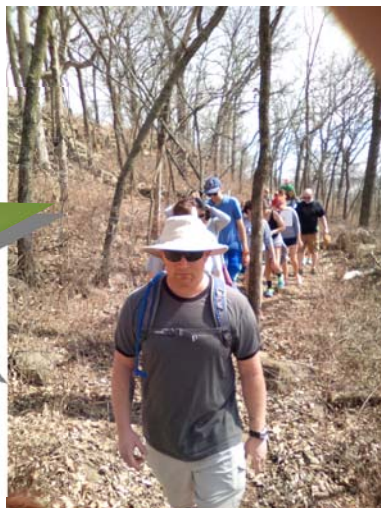
## AmeriCorps Corner



The Kansas Outdoor AmeriCorps Action Team serves the State of Kansas by performing environmental service projects in state parks and local communities. Our program focus is in three areas; to assist emergency management agencies at disaster sites in response and restoration efforts; to restore, develop and mitigate the loss of environmental resources within public managed lands; and finally to develop new partnerships in outdoor recreation and form outreach support groups through public presentations and education to schools, civic groups and local governments.

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 AmeriCorps Members Trudy Rubick and Karen Lewis hosted a First Day Hike at Clinton State Park. The First Day Hike is an event organized nationwide by America's State Parks on New Years Day and is aimed at promoting off-season hiking in state parks throughout the country. We hosted 30 brave souls on this brisk but sunny day at our park. Trudy and Karen led visitors on 2.5 mile walk starting near Land's End and traveling up the shoreline. Stops were made along the way to share information about invasive plant species, like Japanese Honeysuckle, and other trees found in the park. An eagle was also spotted early in the hike and stayed long enough for everyone to admire him. After a one and a half hour hike in the brisk January weather, visitors were greeted at the park office by visiting AmeriCorps Member, Anastasia, who had prepared hot chocolate from scratch and an assortment of cookies. They also got a complimentary First Day Hike T-shirt.

Join us  
on our monthly  
HIKE!



The hike was so successful that Karen and Trudy decided to make it a monthly event every second Sunday. These Second Sunday Hikes will explore the extensive trail systems found at Clinton State Park throughout the entire year and allow opportunities to learn more about the ecosystem of the area.

Additionally, our members noted that Clinton State Park has a large diversity of trees. There are plans underway for an interpretive "tree walk" near Campground #1, and our members will be preparing the route and signage, as well as tree identification cards that can be used by local hikers, school and youth organizations in any season.



# First Fish Award Program

The First Fish Award program, sponsored by Clinton State Park, is designed to commemorate that special moment in every angler's career: the landing of the first fish. For that moment, the size and species has no meaning, only successful capture of that unique fish. The First Fish Award is an attempt to immortalize that moment by presenting budding anglers with a certificate that they can frame highlighting the details of that special moment.

**Get your First Fish Award by submitting the application with:**

- Angler's Name  
(as it will appear on certificate)
- Angler's Age
- Length of Fish Caught
- Weight of Fish Caught
- Date the Fish was Caught
- Where the Fish was Caught



If there is a picture of the angler and the catch, send it along and it will be copied to the certificate. All prints will be returned.

Mail to our address or email the information & attach a digital photo copy to [clintonsp@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:clintonsp@ksoutdoors.com).



**Get your  
First Fish  
Award!**

**Get a copy of the application by visiting our website or "Like" us on Facebook!**

**Mail completed form to:**

Clinton State Park  
First Fish Program  
798 N. 1415 Road  
Lawrence, KS 66049

A	A	S	H	Q	C	H	W	W	Z	B	K
P	M	C	M	L	E	Z	O	A	D	N	N
P	G	C	A	M	D	F	V	L	U	G	K
L	A	L	D	B	A	K	O	N	B	T	V
E	P	Q	U	D	R	P	Q	U	D	Q	F
W	P	B	L	J	W	S	L	T	E	O	K
T	I	F	M	M	U	L	B	E	R	R	Y
D	N	O	M	M	I	S	R	E	P	W	Q
C	O	S	A	G	E	O	R	A	N	G	E
B	A	F	B	E	R	O	M	A	C	Y	S
P	K	C	C	Q	Z	L	X	Y	X	V	Q
V	B	H	Y	Q	X	X	L	N	L	N	X



**Find the answers on our website!**

<http://www.kdwpt.state.ks.us/news/State-Parks/Locations/Clinton/Park-News>

## CLINTON PARK TREES

SYCAMORE  
PINOAK  
ELM  
PERSIMMON  
CEDAR  
MAPLE  
APPLE  
REDBUD  
MULBERRY  
ASH  
OSAGEORANGE  
WALNUT



## Biologist Notes

Drought that broke across much of Kansas this past year initially affected water levels at Clinton Lake, and the lake is still well below long term average levels. However, we did see above normal conservation pools mid-June which was sustained through much of the summer. This is significant because it caused water to cover terrestrial vegetation which provided needed habitat for young Large Mouth Bass and Blue Gill. We are cautiously optimistic this will support an increased survival rate of the young Large Mouth and help bump population numbers this coming year.

Zebra mussels are present in Clinton Lake and we continue to monitor their infestation levels. Zebra mussels, an invasive species to the U.S., were first found in Kansas at the El Dorado Reservoir in 2003. Since this time, the species has spread to eleven reservoirs and eleven small lakes in the state. Much of their spread can be traced to human activity; however, there are ways to reduce this. Cleaning, draining and drying any equipment that comes in contact with lake or stream water, especially infested waters, will help. This is important because Zebra mussels are filter feeders. They compete with fish that feed on plankton, like most juvenile sport fish and their prey, and affect the number of fish available to catch!

**Channel Catfish – Good.** Clinton continues to pump out high numbers of moderately sized Catfish. Most Channels sampled in 2014 have been 16-20" in length. Few channel catfish exceed 24 inches long. You won't find any trophies but they are plenty big to eat. They are also plentiful so if you want to catch numbers, Clinton has them.

**White Crappie – Fair.** The spawn was good in 2014, therefore many young fish are in the pipeline for the future however, adult numbers are down. The numbers are not where they need to be yet, but at least they are better. Despite this, size looks good, with about 35% exceeding 10 inches long.

**Black Bass – Fair.** Low to moderate numbers of largemouth and smallmouth bass are present at Clinton. Black bass angling can be very challenging at times at this reservoir, but May fishing can be good. Largemouth up to 5 lbs. and smallmouth up to 3.75 lbs. were observed in 2014. Some early spawned largemouth bass were stocked as well.

**White Bass – Good.** White Bass fishing at Clinton has been good for many years now and it appears the trend will continue. Higher numbers were observed in 2014 compared to the last couple of years. Quality of the species was good. Many fish are measured at 12"-16" which is acceptable for eating range.

# Fishing Forecast for 2015

We will be conducting an Angler Survey from March 1-October 31, 2015. Participation is voluntary, but we ask for and truly appreciate your support. This survey assesses the harvest and catch dynamics at Clinton so that we can better understand fisheries, population diversity, and fishing methods. With data gathered from this survey we decide the numbers and variety of stock coming to the lake.

Bass fishery population research continues in the Midwest, and for the third year early spawn large mouth bass fingerlings were brought to Clinton. Early spawn large-mouth bass fingerlings are raised at Meade Fish Hatchery by tricking adult largemouth bass into spawning ahead of when Clinton Reservoir bass would spawn naturally. As a result, early stocked spawned bass are larger than naturally produced bass and have a competitive advantage because they are not as limited in the size of prey they can consume. Not only does this increase size diversity of bass but overall lake species as well.

Based on current numbers, Clinton Lake Reservoir is ranked 6th of 24 reservoirs in the state for good Small Mouth density. We are also seeing improvement on Channel (3rd), White Bass (4th), White Crappie (5th), and Small Mouth(6th).

**Walleye/Sauger – Fair.** Walleye and Sanger are stocked routinely on an annual basis, but some years the return is low and no, or a weak year class is established. Lower numbers of Walleye and higher numbers of Sauger were captured in 2014 gill nets at Clinton. Size distribution of the species was significantly different with sampled species of Sauger up to 3.6 lbs. and Walleye of 7.4 lbs.

**Wiper – Fair.** Higher numbers of wiper will be available to anglers in 2015 based upon 2014 netting data. Almost 33% of Wiper sampled were 20-24 inches long and should give a thrill to anyone lucky enough to hook one! Fish stock continues to gain weight and although the biggest fish sampled was 5.5 lbs., some over 8 lbs. are present.

**Blue Catfish – Poor.** Stockings were done beginning in 2007 to create this fishery and have been completed as of October 2013. However they take 6-7 years to fully mature. To date, Blue Catfish have been established at low density but they need to mature more to produce a sufficient number of young. Anglers do catch these accidentally while fishing for channel catfish.



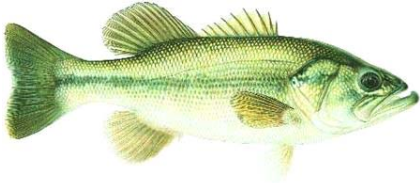
**Channel Catfish : Good**

The channel catfish is the bread and butter of Kansas fishing. Found in nearly all waters of the state, from large rivers and reservoirs to small prairie streams, good channel cat fishing is never far away. State lakes are also popular places to catch channel cats. Department hatcheries produce millions of channel cats each year.



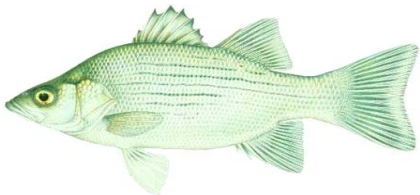
**White Crappie: Fair.**

The native white crappie is one of the most abundant and popular sportfish in Kansas. Vertical barring evident in the speckled coloration on white crappie distinguish them from black crappie. White crappie have six spines in the spiny dorsal fin, while black Crappie have seven or eight. White crappie are generally found in large schools. April and May are the best months to catch white crappie and best baits include Minnows, jigs and small spinners.



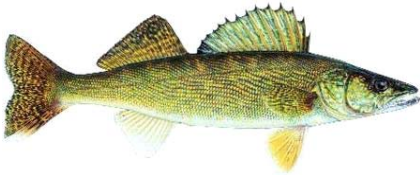
**Largemouth Bass: Fair.**

The largemouth bass is native to many streams in eastern Kansas and has been stocked in most reservoirs, lakes, and ponds throughout the state. Largemouths are usually found near aquatic vegetation or other structures. The largemouth's upper jaw extends beyond the eye. April and May are the best months to fish for largemouths. Best lures include spinnerbaits, jig-and-pig combinations, plastic worms, and crankbaits.



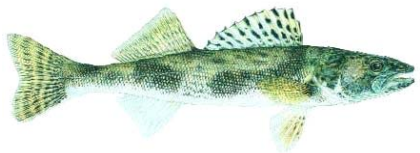
**White Bass: Good:**

Native to eastern Kansas rivers, white bass have been stocked in reservoirs throughout the state. White bass are deep-bodied: measurements from belly to back is generally more than one third their length. They generally do not have distinct horizontal stripes and seldom exceed 3 pounds. Spiny and soft dorsal fins are not connected; both fins do not pop-up when spiny dorsal manually erected. Back of tongue has ONE tooth patch. The spring spawning run is a great time to catch white bass in rivers and streams above reservoirs.



**Walleye: Fair**

Stocked in many Kansas reservoirs, the walleye and sauger are members of the perch family. The walleye is thick-bodied and brown/black and yellow in color with indistinct blotches on the sides not extending below lateral line. The spiny dorsal fin has indistinct streaks or blotches with a distinct dark blotch at its rear base. The cheek plate is smooth with few scales. April, May and early June are best months to catch them. Fishermen troll crankbaits or drift jigs with live bait.



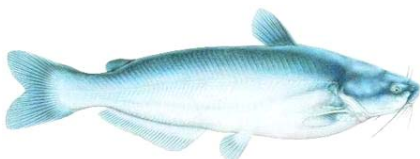
**Sauger: Good**

This close cousin to the walleye loves murky water and current. Sauger are being stocked in several northeastern Kansas reservoirs where walleye haven't done well because of high flowthrough and murky water conditions. Sauger are less likely than walleye to be flushed from a reservoir.



**Wiper: Fair.:**

Wipers are a hybrid of white bass and striped bass, and they grow fast and fight hard. Populations are maintained through stocking. Small wipers look like white bass and are deep-bodied: measurement from belly to back is generally more than one-third their length. They have distinct broken horizontal stripes and may exceed 10 pounds. Spiny and soft dorsal fins are not connected; both fins do not pop-up when spiny dorsal manually erected. Back of tongue has TWO tooth patches. Casting buck tail jigs or top water plugs in spring and early summer is the most exciting way to catch them.



**Blue Catfish: Poor.**

The blue catfish is native to rivers in northeast Kansas and is not as common as channel or flathead catfish. Blues are pale blue in color although white or dark blue and black are not uncommon. Head generally appears small with a distinct hump in younger fish. The lower jaw is even with upper jaw and weights of over 100 pounds have been reported. The anal fin is long containing 30-35 supporting rays with flat edge and tail is forked





## Help **STOP** the Zebra Mussel

### Lake Visitors

- **Clean** - Remove all plants, animals, mud and thoroughly wash everything, especially all crevices and other hidden areas.
- **Drain** - Eliminate all water before leaving the area, including wells, ballast, and engine cooling water.
- **Dry** - Allow sufficient time for your boat to completely dry before launching in other waters.

If your boat has been in infested waters for an extended period of time, or if you cannot perform the required steps above, you should have your boat professionally cleaned with high-pressure scalding hot water (>140°F) before transporting to any body of water.



