

# Mound City District

## Fisheries Report

### Spring of 2020

#### 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; 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; Rearing Pond; 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, 2020, I just can't believe it. What happened to 2019 or 2018 for that matter.

Hot Topics in this NEWSLETTER: Trout Fishing, Big Bass at La Cygne Reservoir Gets New Genetics Stocking, Blue Catfish and Paddlefish Stockings at Pomona and La Cygne Reservoirs, Great Places for Your Kayak and Canoe, The 2020 Fishing Forecast

Close to Home Trout Fishing

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 had trout stocked there for over twenty years. The trout are stocked from November to mid-March each year for the Kansas Trout Season which runs from November 1 to April 15. In cooperation with the City of Ft Scott, this trout program attracts many anglers, providing a winter fishing opportunity for anglers that would not exist otherwise. Every 2 weeks, 300 trout are stocked during the trout season, keeping a nice population in the lake for anglers to be successful.



*Here's a nice 14 inch trout caught at Fern Lake, Gunn Park, Ft Scott.*

Anglers 16 and older can fish for trout all day, and harvest five trout for the \$14.50 trout permit, plus their fishing license if needed. The trout permit is good for a year from day of purchase. Anglers age 15 or younger may trout fish without a trout permit but they may only harvest 2 trout per day. Fern Lake is a Type 1 trout water and means all anglers fishing this lake in trout season must have a trout permit.



*Watching the trout stocking at Fern Lake are Bourbon Economic Development Director, Jody Hoerner, Ft Scott City Commissioner, Pete Allen, and several interested trout anglers.*

Trout can be caught on many types of lures, artificial or natural. Many trout are caught on power baits under a small float and spinners or jigs. There are several good spots to uncurl the flyrod and try your hand with this tool. Two of the favorite areas where I see anglers are at 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 up along the north end of the lake. This unit also keeps the lake open and less likely to freeze over, improving the access and likelihood that trout anglers will be successful.



*Here I am assisting with the trout stocking at Fern Lake in Gunn Park. We use a plastic tube to “shoot” the trout into the water. This is less stressful and provides a better product for the anglers. Note the wooden fishing dock in the background, a great place for challenged anglers to park close by and use.*



*Here's a handful of nice 20 inch plus bass from La Cygne Reservoir.*

### **Largemouth Bass at La Cygne Reservoir.**

Many bass anglers know that La Cygne Reservoir is nationally recognized as an excellent place to catch a bucket list largemouth bass. And the odds for trophy opportunities will soon improve with the new stocking of Florida strain largemouth bass. Long known for their improved growth characteristics, 27,500 Florida strain fingerling size largemouth bass were first stocked into this warm water reservoir in 1979. I can testify to this stocking because I drove the hatchery

truck that went to Hot Springs, Arkansas, Lake Hamilton to pick up this first stocking. This genetic strain has developed very well and still provides a strong genetic fingerprint in this bass population. However, a goal for improving the largemouth bass population is to again bolster the genetic pool with additional bass of Florida strain genetics. The 2020 stocking of Florida strain largemouth bass has been approved and hopefully will be received this spring. Stay tuned and we will see how this new bass management strategy affects this bucket list trophy bass population.

### **New and Improved Opportunities for Anglers at Pomona Reservoir and La Cygne Reservoir...Blue catfish and Paddlefish.**

Both of these large reservoirs have had small populations of blue catfish in the past. La Cygne has produced many fish over 50 pounds and there are pictures of blue cats over 80 pounds. However, the density has always been very low and has not increased on its own. Following the plan to improve angling opportunities, blue catfish have been stocked into these two reservoirs. Since 2017 we have stocked Pomona Reservoir with 12,000 blue catfish fingerlings and La Cygne Reservoir with 15,150 blue catfish fingerling size fish. These stockings have been successful and have been found in sampling efforts. In La Cygne Reservoir some of these stocked fish have grown into the memorable size range. It is expected that this population will continue to improve and provide many angling opportunities.



*Here's a nice blue catfish caught recently at La Cygne Reservoir. Looks like a great place to go fishing.*

In 2019, there were Paddlefish stocked into Pomona Reservoir. This stocking at Pomona and in other nearby reservoirs will increase the downstream angling opportunities and maybe even in the main reservoir.



*Here's a young paddlefish, fresh off the truck at Pomona Reservoir.*

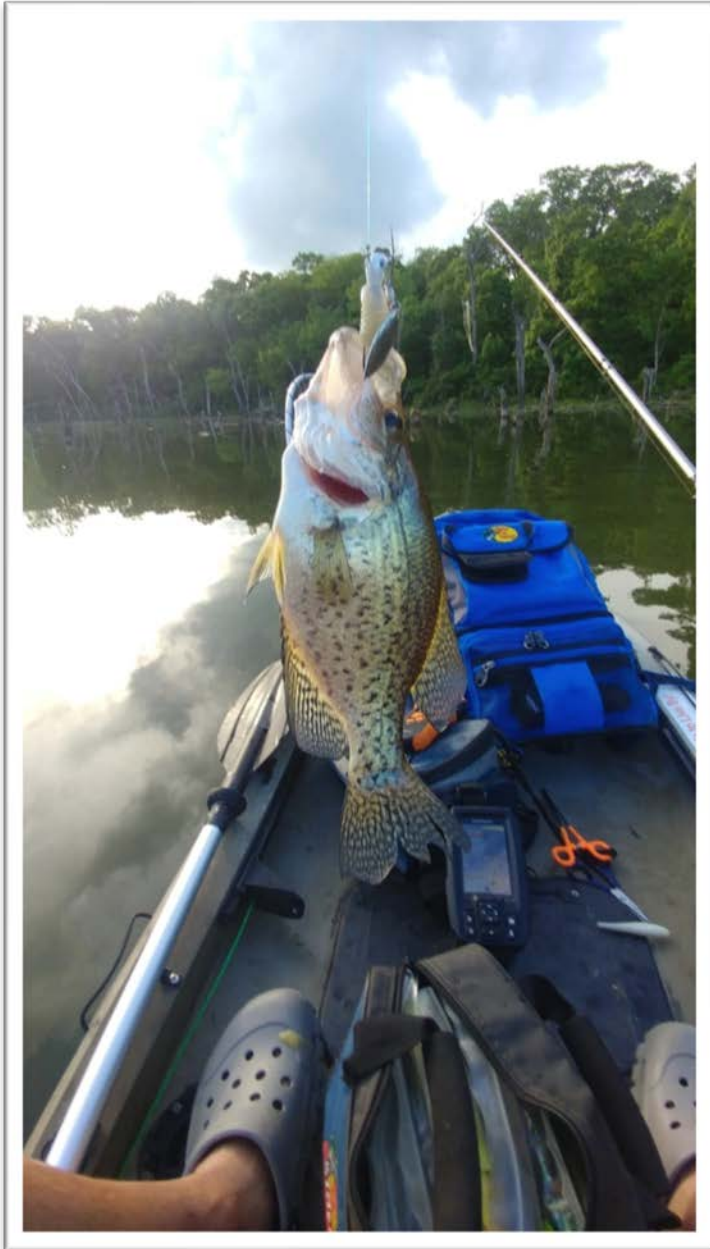
### **Kayaks, Canoes and Small Watercraft, Float Fishing.**

More and more people are looking towards canoes and kayaks for water-based recreation, healthy living, and for fishing. We are lucky, because we have many places here to use kayaks and canoes. For people who like to explore, fish and float, the Marmaton River is open to this use 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 water craft 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, so use common sense. Typically, this float may take about 4 to 5 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 fish in the Marmaton River, such as 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 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 to enhance exiting the river and unloading your equipment.



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

## 2020 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	>8" Density	>10" Preferred	>12" Lunker	Biologist Rating	3 yr. Average
Pomona Res.	28.56	18.56	3.38	E	15.81
La Cygne Res.	5.56	1.94	.13	G	4.58
Lakes					
Bourbon County, Elm Creek Lake	8.0	1.0	.33	G	8.00
Pleasanton Old Lake	1.67	.33	.33	F	1.67
Richmond City Lake	1.00	1.00	0	F	1.00
Ft Scott City Lake	.75	.50	0	G	2.75

Bourbon State Fishing Lake	.50	.50	.25	F	2.33
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### CHANNEL CATFISH FORECAST

Reservoir	Density >16"	Preferred > 24"	Lunker >28"	Biggest Fish	Biologist Rating	3 yr. Ave
Pomona Res.	2.88	.13	0.00	5.67	G	2.65
La Cygne Res.	1.25	.13	0.00	4.52	G	1.39
Lakes						
Bourbon County, Creek Lake	7.67	6.33	2.67	15.92	G	7.67
Pleasanton Old Lake	5.25	.50	0.50	10.52	G	5.25
Bourbon State Fishing Lake	4.75	.25	.25	7.76	G	4.00
Richmond City Lake	2.67	0.00	0.00	3.89	G	2.67



*Beautiful La Cygne Reservoir, in Linn County, and fantastic Largemouth Bass fishing. Anglers have caught several bass over 10 pounds here at La Cygne. Because of its warm water it's a great place to fish in the colder months.*

**LARGEMOUTH BASS FORECAST**

Reservoir	>12 “ Density	>15” Preferred	>20” Lunker	Biggest Fish	Biologist Rating	3 yr. Aveage.
La Cygne Res. Lake	48.0	30.86	2.86	6.70	E	62.56
Bourbon State Fishing Lake	55.86	8.28	.69	4.71	G	60.34
Pleasanton West Lake	45.61	29.82	1.75	5.11	G	74.09
Ft Scott City Lake	36.47	14.12	0.00	3.68	G	36.47

## FISH STOCKINGS

Anglers often ask about stockings, usually about 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. Without stockings we wouldn't have wipers, striped bass, or trout to fish for either.

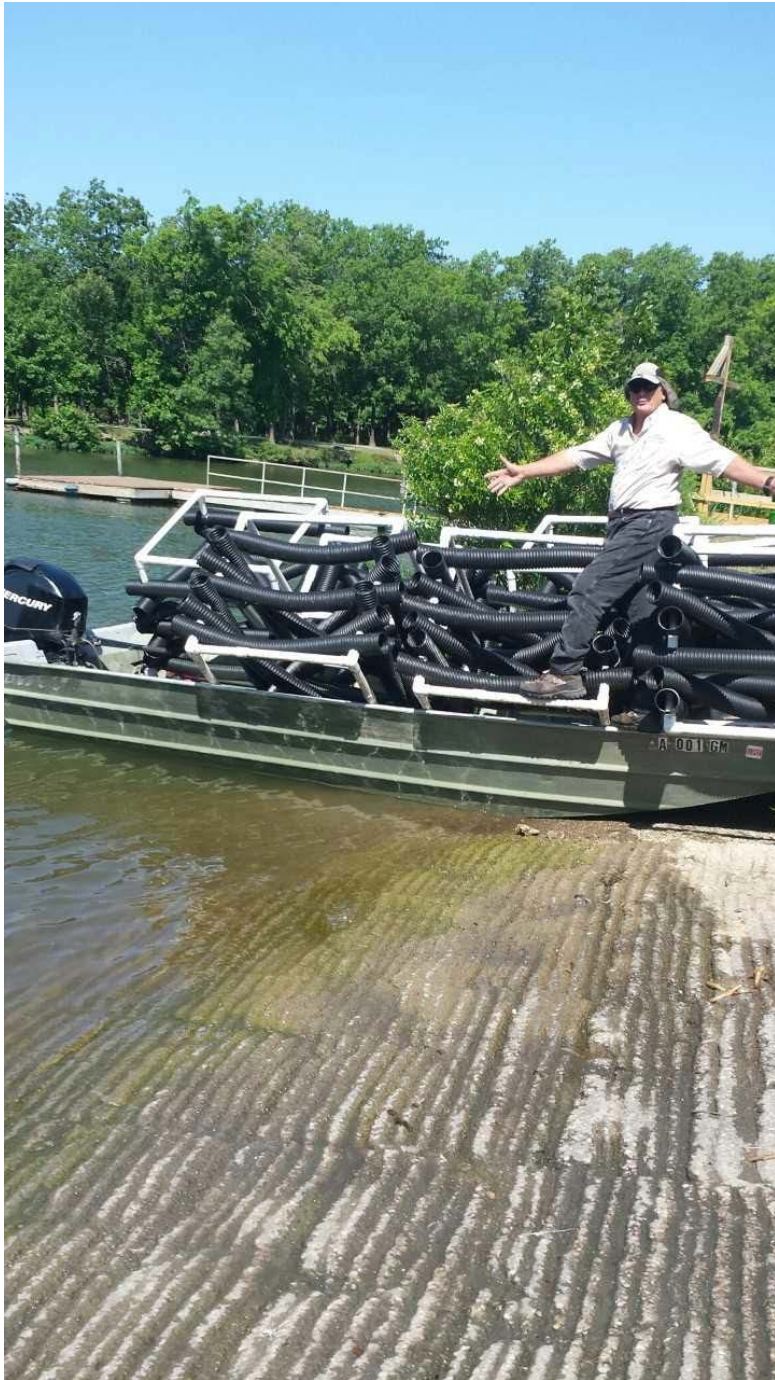
**Here are the stockings from 2019.**

Lake	Species	Amount	Size
Blue Mound City Lake	Channel catfish	801	Intermediates
Blue Mound City Lake	Grass Carp triploid	50	Intermediates
BB County Lake	Channel catfish	1000	Inter.
BB State Fishing Lake	Channel catfish	2800	Inter.
BB State Fishing Lake	Saugeye	20600	Fry
Critzler Lake	Channel catfish	1502	Inter.
Critzler Lake	Saugeye	44000	Fry
Ft Scott City Lake	Saugeye	72000	Fry
Ft Scott City Lake	Channel catfish	2415	Inter. RP
Ft Scott Rearing Pond	Channel catfish	6100	Fing.
Ft Scott Fern Lake	Rainbow trout	2575	3/lb.
Ft Scott Fern Lake	Channel catfish	2009	Inter.
Ft Scott Fern Lake	Channel catfish	837	2/lb.
Ft Scott West Lake	Channel catfish	1687	3/lb.
La Cygne Res.	Wiper	12219	Fing.
La Cygne Res.	Blue Catfish	2712	Fing.
LN County Strip Pit	Channel Catfish	550	Int.
Mound City Lake	Channel Catfish	2000	Int.
Mound City Lake	Grass Carp Triploid	50	Int.
Parker City Lake	Channel Catfish	1000	Int.
Pleasanton Old Lake	Channel Catfish	600	Int.
Pleasanton East Lake	Channel Catfish	2036	Int.
Pleasanton East Lake	Wiper	2715	Fing.
Pleasanton East Lake	Saugeye	26000	Fry
Pleasanton West Lake	Channel Catfish	2874	Int.
Pomona Res.	Wiper	40000	Fing.
Pomona Res.	Blue Catfish	4066	Fing.

Pomona Res.	Walleye	1000000	Fry
Pomona Res.	Paddlefish	1412	Intermediate
Richmond City Lake	Channel Catfish	1502	Inter.
Uniontown School Pond	Channel Catfish	761	Inter.



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 or hurting our fishing.







## **STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://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.