



# Webster State Park

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2013 SPRING NEWSLETTER

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## Park News ~ Kansas State Parks Passport

Kansas State Park Passports are annual vehicle permits that will allow Kansans access into any park throughout the state. Passports will make enjoying our state parks more affordable and much more convenient. With a passport, families can enjoy a year full of adventure and outdoor activities.

Kansans will be able to purchase their passport during their motor vehicle registration process. This will need to be renewed every year during this process. By law, passports are non-transferable to another vehicle.

If you purchase your annual park permit before you register your vehicle, a pro-rated refund may be requested after you have purchased your passport. Refund forms are available at any KDWPT state park office or through ksoutdoors.com.



Passports will cost \$15.00, with a possible \$.50 transaction fee. This is \$10.00

less than purchasing your permit through a KDWPT office or website.

For more information regarding park passports, contact:  
Pratt Operations Office  
(620) 672-5911

Scan for Kansas State Parks Passport Information



## Open House ~ March 9th!

### Free Park Entrance | Buy Permits | Meet Our Staff

Webster State Park will be hosting the annual Spring Open house on Saturday, March 9 from 8 am to 4 pm. Join us for homemade cookies, tea and coffee throughout the day. Vehicle permits will not be required on March 9th to enter the park.

This would also be a great opportunity for you to purchase your Annual Camping and 14-Day Camping permits. The price is currently \$152.50 and \$87.50. April 1 the prices increase to \$202.50 and \$101.50.

Additional activities for the day will be a boat show in the Old Marina Cove Boat Ramp area hosted by Plainville Boat Shop. The boat show will run from 10 am to 3 pm. On the way to the boat show you might want to check out the Barbeque displays and demonstrations. Crawford Supply will be representing Traeger Grills, TJ Toys representing Green Mountain Grills, and S & W Supply representing Ozark Mountain Grills. Their displays and demonstrations will be from 10 am to 1:30 pm at Lakeview shelter #5, Townsite shelter and Hill Top shelter.

Come drive around the park and view what we have to offer at Webster State Park. Don't forget to stop by the office to let Jana take care of all your license and permit needs.



A Program of the Corporation  
for National and Community  
Service

**DID  
YOU  
KNOW**

“Contact with nature re-  
sulted in significant improve-  
ment for children with atten-  
tion disorders and teens with  
behavioral disorders.”

*Source: American Planning Association, 2003*

American author Edward  
Bellamy said, “If bread is the  
first necessity of life, recrea-  
tion is a close second.”

The Kansas Outdoor Ameri-  
Corps 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 man-  
agement agencies at disaster sites in  
response and restoration efforts; to re-  
store, 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 educa-  
tion to schools, civic groups and local  
governments.

**Wanted**

**AmeriCorp Team Members**

**at Webster State Park**

**Contact Mark Billinger for  
requirements and benefits**

**785-425-6775**

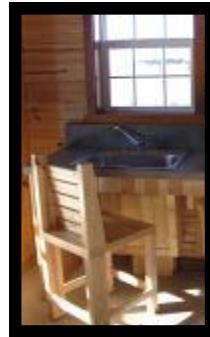
**Park Projects & Programs**

**Blue-wing Bungalow**

In 2012, Blue-wing Bungalow was installed by Deines Construction. This is the second modern rental cabin at Webster State Park. Blue-wing was built by inmates at the Norton Correctional Facility and moved to Webster by Chris Zeller. Blue-wing has most of the amenities of home with a view that most people wish they had out their front window.



Amenities include small stove and oven refrigerator/freezer, coffee maker, pots and pans, and outside a grill, fire ring and picnic table on the patio. Blue-wing is located



within walking distance just east of Pin-tail Place; the view of the lake is beautiful and will be a great place to relax with family and friends.

**CXT Pit Toilet in Lakeview**

Webster received motor boat access money to purchase and install a CXT pit toilet at Lake-view area. The contractor of the job was Shane Sucky, digging for the pit toilet was done by



Steve’s Electric and Roustabout, and crane service used to set the pit toilet in place was Reif Welding and construction.

Sucky ran concrete for the steps and sidewalk, and leveled and placed gravel for the parking lot area.



**Hill Top Campground**

The last major improvement project of the year was the addition of Hill Top campground. Over the last three years utility sites have been in high demand. Sixteen 50 amp electric/water sites were



# Park Projects & Programs Cont'd

added at Hill Top to help meet this demand.

Webster used Title 28 funds from the Bureau of Reclamations to build Hill top campground. This campground was designed by Webster staff, and IET Consulting designed and inspected the electrical specifications of the project. Road and campsite pad work was done by Milden Keith construction. KDOT trenched all water and electric ditches, and Prairie Land Electric installed underground primary. Park staff ordered and installed water and electric lines, hydrants, pedestals, fire

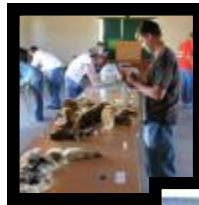


ring pads and rings. Cottonwood trees, that were growing along the

shoreline of the lake. were transplanted using the regional tree spade

### Eco-Meet

Webster State Park and Sternberg Museum hosted its 9th annual Eco-Meet at Sternberg Museum. The Eco-



Meet offer high school students a chance to show what they know about the environment and win

scholarships. Team efforts are recognized by giving college scholarships to the members of the top three teams.



### Upcoming Events

This year Webster State Park will be hosting several special events. The events include OK Kids Day, Northwest Kansas Cook-Off, Sternberg/Webster Eco-meet and Christmas Open house.

**OK Kids Day**— OK Kids Day will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with free entrance day. The OK Kids



program, is designed to give kids an alternative to TV, video games, and the Internet, and has the goals of using nature and the environment to start a lifestyle of outdoor interest. Activities that will be held are kids fishing derby, trap shoot, and other activities



**Northwest Kansas Outdoor Cook-off**— Northwest Kansas Outdoor Cook-off will be held on Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> at Hill Top campground.



The cook-off is still in the planning stages but two categories will be soups and meat dishes cooked on coals or campfires. If you would like more information on helping with the event, sponsoring, or have questions call George Wingfield at 785-216-0579.

**Christmas Open House**— Webster Staff will be hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Christmas Open House in December. Visitors will be treated to cookies, apple cider, and coffee.

Santa will make a visit in the morning so kids can remind him what they have on their wish list. Visitors will also be able to purchase 2014 licenses and permits for themselves or gifts for others.



## Pocket Ranger® Smart Phone App

The Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger® mobile app by ParksbyNature 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 information 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 device!

Scan for Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger® mobile app!







**Do you LOVE**  
taking pictures of nature?  
Enter our photo contest.

### New categories:

- Waterfowl
- Landscapes
- Sunrise/Sunset
- "The Catch"
- Animals
- Winter Scenes
- Water/Campsite Fun
- Youth
- Computer Enhanced

### Sponsors:

Webster State Park  
Stockton National Bank  
American Family Insurance  
Crawford Supply  
Stockton Pharmacy  
Pat Berkley Taylor  
Community Fund

photo quality paper at least 5" x 7" or larger. A label on the back must include the photographer's name. If entering in the youth category please add the age of the photographer.

You may enter as many photos in as many categories as you wish.

Webster State Park and KDWPT requests the right to use entered photos in printed and online publications. (Photographers will be given credit if photo is used)

### CATEGORIES:

**WATERFOWL**, features images of any waterfowl in the area. All must have been taken in Webster State Park and Wildlife Area.

**LANDSCAPES**, will feature gorgeous landscapes photographed anywhere and anytime in Webster State Park and Wildlife Area. Does not include sunset or sunrises

**SUNRISE/SUNSET** will feature images taken of the many gorgeous sunrise/sunset that you will see at the park. All must have been taken in Webster State Park and Wildlife Area.

**"THE CATCH"**, should features images that illustrates the joys of fishing. All must have been taken in Webster State Park and Wildlife Area.

**ANIMALS**, features native species, though we are hoping folks will concentrate on some of the harder to find species. This will include all birds **except** waterfowl. Please, **DO NOT** enter an image of your pets or farm animals! All must have been taken in Webster State Park and Wildlife Area.

### TOPIC: PARK LIFE

The Webster State Park Annual Photo Contest (the "Contest") is open to ALL photographers of all ages, including employees and their families of Webster State Park and Wildlife Area.

### WHAT TO ENTER:

We are looking for striking images of park life at Webster State Park. Your images may be taken anywhere in Webster State Park or Wildlife area. Your images may show animal behavior, portraits of wildlife in natural habitat, plant life, natural landscapes, weather or people interacting with nature, camping, etc.

All photographs should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization will be disqualified, unless they are entered in to the computer enhanced category. (Standard optimization includes removal of dust, cropping, reasonable adjustments to exposure, color and contrast, etc.)

Images that do not meet these requirements may or may not be judged at the judging panel's sole discretion.

Photographs should be printed on

# Photo Contest

**WINTER SCENES**, will include images that are taken during the winter months. All must have been taken in Webster State Park and Wildlife Area. **WATER/CAMPSITE FUN** calls for images that illustrate good clean fun times at Webster State Park. All must have been taken in Webster State Park and Wildlife Area.

**YOUTH** is one category open to ages 3 to 12 years old. Kids can submit any images pertaining to the above categories.

**COMPUTER ENHANCED**, allow the photographer to apply artistic, creative enhancements to an original photo taken at Webster State Park and Wildlife Area. **You must also turn in the original untouched photo.**

Webster State Park and KDWPT reserves the right to use all entered photos in their printed and online publications. (Photographers will be given credit when a photo is used)

### WINNING PHOTOS:

The judging panel will select approximately 2 photos from each category to be the contest's Finalists. The general public will select the Grand Prize Winner by popular vote from the pool of Finalists photos determined by the judging panel.

General public voting will take place from August 29 thru Sept. 9. Winners will be announced on Sept. 13.








Finalist and Grand Prize Winners will be awarded prizes. Grand Prize photo will be displayed in the park office until the conclusion of the next photo contest.

### DEADLINES:

Photographs should be in the Webster State Park office before closing on August 16, 2013. Entries may be dropped off at the park office during regular business hours, starting April 1, 2013, or mailed to: Webster State Park, 1140 10 RD, Stockton, KS 67669. **No emailed entries will be accepted.**

All photos may be picked up at the park office after Sept. 13, 2013. No entries will be mailed back to participants unless postage is prepaid.

# Webster Fishing Forecast for 2013

<p><b>Black Bass</b></p> 	<p>The largemouth bass population is dominated by 15 to 20 inch fish accounting for 49 percent of the sample. Largemouth bass in the 3 to 5 inch size range accounted for 9 percent of the sample, fish in the 8 to 11 inch size range accounted for 2 percent and fish 11 to 15 inches accounted for 40 percent. The biggest largemouth bass sampled this past year weighed 3.68 pounds. A remnant population of smallmouth bass also exists at Webster. An 11 inch smallmouth was collected during the spring bass sample and a couple others were observed. Spinner, crank and artificial bait's should work well in Rock Point and Old Marina coves, along the dam and bluff's, the coves between Rock Point and the outlet gates. <b>A 15 inch length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass is in effect.</b></p>
<p><b>Catfish</b></p> 	<p>Channel catfish fishing should be good this year. Channel catfish are scattered over a wide size range with the majority of fish being in the 16 to 24 inch size range. Young of the year fish in the 8 to 10 inch size range accounted for 7 percent of the fall sample. Fish in the 11 to 16 inch size range accounted for 40 percent, quality fish in the 16 to 24 inch size range (3 to 5 pounds) accounted for 53 percent. The biggest channel catfish sampled weighed 4.86 pounds. Flatheads are also present in a wide range of sizes with 5 to 20 pound fish being in the population. These catfish should congregate around the dam, north &amp; south shore breakwaters and along the bluffs. Also, with all the water coming in from the South Fork Solomon River these fish should be up to the West end by Bow City and Methodist Camp. They can be caught on rod and reel, setlines or trotlines using traditional bait's like shad and shad gizzards, shrimp, stink and dip bait's and night crawlers.</p>
<p><b>Crappie</b></p> 	<p>Another good crappie spawn was produced in 2012 with 69 percent of the fall sample consisting of 2 to 6 inch fish and 8 percent being 6 to 8 inches. Hopefully these fish will recruit on up to produce some good fishing in the next couple of years. There are still some bigger fish in the population with 23 percent being 8 to 15 inches in length. Webster's density rating for black crappie (8 inches and above) is 1st amongst all reservoirs in the state this year. The biggest crappie sampled was a black crappie weighing 1.28 pounds and white crappie weighing 1.75 pounds. Look for the crappie around the North and South shore fish attractors, the breakwater's on the North and South sides, along the dam and in Rock Point cove and Old Marina cove. Best bait's are jigs, jigs with minnows under a bobber or small slab spoons.</p>
<p><b>Rainbow Trout</b></p> 	<p>The Webster Stilling Basin, a 6-acre impoundment below the dam, is stocked five times (Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, &amp; Mar) each trout season. Each stocking consists of 2,100 trout averaging approximately ½ pound each with an occasional bigger fish thrown in to make it exciting. Projected stocking dates are usually around the 1st of the month.</p>
<p><b>Walleye</b></p> 	<p>There is going to be a lot of keeper fish caught this year with 85 percent of the fall sample being over 15 inches. Individuals in the 7 to 15 inch range accounted for 15 percent and 15 to 20 inch fish accounted for 75 percent. The potential for catching larger fish (20 inches plus) also exists this year accounting for 10 percent. Webster's density rating for walleye (15 inches and above) is 1st amongst all reservoirs in the state this year. The biggest walleye sampled in 2012 weighed 7.47 pounds. Look for the walleye to be up along the dam in March and April as they come into spawn and then move out onto the flat's in May. During the spawn the best bait's to use are jigs, road runners and crank bait's. When they move out to the flats, get those night crawlers out. <b>A 15 inch length limit is in effect.</b></p>
<p><b>White Bass</b></p> 	<p>This population is currently dominated by fish in the 12 to 15 inch size range which accounted for 53 percent of the fall sample. Individuals in the 9 to 12 inch size range accounted for 25 percent and fish over 15 inches accounted for 22 percent of the sample. The biggest fish sampled weighted 1.93 pounds. Webster's density rating (9 inches and above) is 10th amongst all reservoirs in the state this year. Surface action should provide some exciting opportunities throughout the reservoir during the summer as these fish chase the shad around. Trolling diving lures and casting road runners should also be productive.</p>
<p><b>Wipers</b></p> 	<p>The supply should be good again this year. Fish in the 6 to 15 inch size range accounted for 46 percent and fish in 15 to 20 inch size range accounted for 42 percent. Larger fish (20 inches +) accounted for 12 percent of the sample, so hang on to those fishing rods. Webster's density rating (12 inches and above) is 5th amongst all reservoirs in the state this year. The biggest fish sampled in 2012 weighed 8.79 pounds. Surface action should be pretty good as these fish feed on shad, as well as, casting bucktail jigs into the wind around the corners of the Dam and lower portion of the reservoir.</p>



Reserving a campsite ahead is quick and easy and ensures having a site for the duration of your stay.



just go to [www.reserveamerica.com!](http://www.reserveamerica.com)



*Try it;*

*We Think You'll Like It!*

# ORMS: A New Way to Reserve!

## Outdoor Recreation Management System:

Last spring, the Parks Division launched our Outdoor Recreation Management System (ORMS). Though often called a “reservation system,” ORMS is much more. It allows users to reserve campsites from the comfort of their home computers or look online to see a photo of each campsite and whether or not that site is rented. ORMS, in most cases, saves our customers time and money.

Park staff can look within the system to see what sites are full and who is on that site. This makes emergency notifications much faster. Staff can mark sites that have issues as unavailable, such as off-line breakers or broken hydrants, and put them back online as they are repaired. For the first time, we will have data at our fingertips that tells us what sites are rented most often and which ones see little use, enabling us to make management decisions about how many sites need upgrades or which campgrounds need a change in use.

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



*Photo by Rich Bouchey, 2012 photo contest entry.*

# 2013 State Park Fees

	Jan. 1-Mar 31	April 1-Sep 30	Oct. 1-Dec 31
Annual Vehicle	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
KS SR/Disabled Annual	\$13.75	\$13.75	\$13.75
Daily Vehicle	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
KS SR/Disabled Daily	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.25
Annual Camp	\$152.50	\$202.50	\$152.50
14 Day Camp	\$87.50	\$101.50	\$87.50
Daily Camp	\$7.00	\$8.00	\$7.00
Prime Site	NA	\$2.00	NA
Electricity	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50
Electric/Water	\$9.50	\$9.50	\$9.50
Electric/Water/Sewer	\$10.50	\$10.50	\$10.50
Long Term Campsite Electric/Water	\$301.00	\$301.00	\$301.00
Long Term Campsite Electric/Water/Sewer	\$361.00	\$361.00	\$361.00
Transaction Fees with each campsite	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00

**OFFICE HOURS THRU APRIL 30 ARE 8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM  
MONDAY—FRIDAY**

## Regulation Reminders

Most of our state park regulations are not new, but warrant a reminder to all of our visitors as we begin looking forward to the new park season. **24 HOUR VISITATION** — is required for all campsites in Kansas State Parks, with the exception of designated Long-Term campsites. **GREY WATER DUMPING** — all waste water from camping units (GREY and BLACK tanks) must be disposed of at dump stations only. **SPEED LIMIT** — there is a 35 mph speed limit on main roads in the park. Speed limits are reduced even further when entering and driving the individual campground roads. Please take extra care to watch for pedestrians! **PETS** — are allowed at Webster State Park, however must be kept on a 10-ft. or shorter leash or chain **AT ALL TIMES**. Pets are not allowed in any of the state park buildings, unless for assistance purposes. This includes all shower and restroom facilities, office, and group shelters. This also includes the state park camping cabins. Pets belonging to cabin renters must be kept outside on a chain/leash, or in a kennel.

With everyone abiding by park regulations, we can continue to provide a safe and family-oriented park and enjoyable visits for all! Thank You!

## MARCH 9 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8– 4 Park office open
- 10—1:30 B-B-Que  
Demonstrations  
Lakeview Shetler #5  
Traeger Grills
- Townsite Shelter  
Green Mountain  
Grills
- Hill Top Shelter  
Ozark Mountain  
Grills
- 10—3 Boat Show  
Old Marina Cove  
Area





Anyone born on or after July 1, 1957 must be certified by an approved course in hunter education before they can hunt in Kansas **EXCEPT** that anyone 15 years old and under may hunt without hunter education certification **PROVIDED** that they are under the direct supervision of an adult 18 years old or older.

Stockton class will be held in the early part of August 2013, contact Baxter's Bait and Tackle [\(785\) 425-6321](tel:7854256321) in July for registration, or stop in at Webster State Park or watch for Hunter Education class dates on KDWPT website in late June or early July

Hill City class will be held in late August 2013, contact Graham County Sheriff's office at [\(785\) 421-2107](tel:7854212107) in late July for registration, or stop in at Webster State Park or watch for Hunter Education class dates on KDWPT website in

## History of Resident Canada Geese in Kansas

The giant Canada goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*) once occurred and nested over a large portion of the Great Plains, from the Great Lakes west to the continental divide, and from the prairie pothole region of south central Canada south to Kansas, Arkansas and Tennessee.

During the late 1800's and early 1900's their numbers were reduced as the settlement of that region took place. Excessive hunting and robbing of eggs were the main factors contributing to this decline. For a period of time many thought the giant Canada goose to be extinct.

Information on the early distribution of nesting Canada geese in Kansas is limited. It is believed that they nested on some of the major marshes such as Cheyenne Bottoms and the McPherson Wetlands as well as along some river systems. The last nesting Canada geese in Kansas were probably eliminated sometime in the early 1900's.

The earliest documented efforts to restore resident Canada geese in Kansas occurred at the Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms in the late 50's and early 60's. In both instances, the geese were able to nest and produce young. However, the lack of an effective refuge with a food source at Cheyenne Bottoms resulted in an excessive harvest rate of those resident birds. The flock eventually declined to a remnant level where it remains today. At the Kirwin NWR, declining reservoir levels resulted in a reduction of available nest habitat on the reservoir itself. Some of the Kirwin birds began nesting on nearby privately owned stock ponds, returning to the refuge during late summer and early fall. As with the Cheyenne Bottoms geese, excessive harvest during the early portion of the season, prior to the arrival of large numbers of migrants, has resulted in only a remnant population remaining in and around the Kirwin NWR.

During the early to mid 70's, several Canada goose restoration projects were initiated by private individuals or groups. One, located on the Plumthicket Ranch in Barber County, was successful in establishing a flock which appears to have stabilized at about 100 birds. Another effort of greater magnitude was begun by individuals near Sylvia and Plevna in Reno County, and was very successful, with an estimated fall population of 700 in 1989.

In 1980, a project to restore resident Canada geese to Kansas was initiated by the Kansas Fish and Game Commission. This project has involved a number of approaches and techniques, including the release of geese relocated from other states, the release of goslings produced at several department facilities, and the relocation of unwanted birds from areas within our state.

From 1980 through 1989, approximately 10,000 Canada geese (6,000 goslings and 4,000 adults) were released in Kansas. In recent years nesting Canada geese have become a common sight on wetlands across our state. The primary problem at this time is maintaining a desired distribution, with fewer located in urban areas where they create nuisance situations, and more located in a dispersed fashion across the rural areas of our state.

Information provided by  
 Marc Gray, Wildlife Biologist.

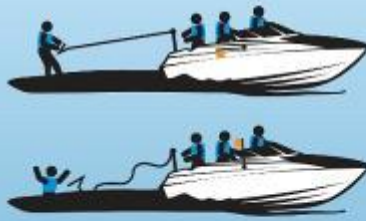


Photo by Jeanie Rolf, 2012 photo contest entry.



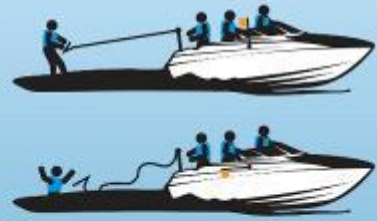
# SKIER DOWN FLAG

Applies to skis, tubes, and any other device pulled behind a vessel.



**CORRECT**

Flag goes up when person is in the water, either waiting to be towed or after falling. Flag is down while person is being towed.



**INCORRECT**



## GOOD



Life jackets only work if you wear them.

## BAD



Boating under the influence  
1st offense  
\$500 fine & up to 1 year in jail

## UGLY



Know the rules on the water  
Use navigation lights  
Keep a proper lookout

# Are You Over Capacity?



**MAXIMUM CAPACITIES**  
5 PERSONS OR 750 LBS.  
1100 LBS. PERSONS, MOTOR, GEAR  
75 H.P. MOTOR  
THIS BOAT COMPLIES WITH U.S. COAST GUARD SAFETY STANDARDS IN EFFECT ON THE DATE OF CERTIFICATION  
MANUFACTURERS NAME  
MANUFACTURERS ADDRESS  
FORM NAME, VERSION, OR CODE



**3+3=6 X**



**2+3=5 ✓**

Persons being towed behind your boat or PWC are included in your total capacity.