TUTTLE CREEK STATE PARK

Located near Manhattan in northeast Kansas, Tuttle Creek State Park offers a broad variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and plenty of room to roam.

Tuttle Creek Reservoir, the state’s second largest impoundment, offers 12,500 acres of water and about 100 miles of rugged, woods shoreline to explore.

Four areas - River Pond, Cedar Ridge, Fancy Creek and Randolph - make up the 1,200-acre park. Electric and water hookups, a swimming beach, boat ramps, courtesy docks, and dump stations are available. Campgrounds contain eight water/electric and sewer campsites, 150 water/electric campsites, 44 electric-only campsites, and 500 primitive campsites.

Numerous nature trails, a mountain biking trail, and a scenic equestrian trail offer a variety of routes to experience the aesthetic Flint Hills. Scenic picnic areas, an 18-hole disc golf course, volleyball courts, horse shoe pits, and conveniencesplaced washrooms and shower facilities accommodate park visitors. The state-of-the-art Fancy Creek Shooting Range is open the first and third weekends of each month and the fourth Thursday.

Excellent channel cat and flathead fishing is available in the lake, as well as in the river below. The 12,000-acre wildlife area adjacent to the park offers excellent hunting and wildlife viewing.

The river pond in the River Pond Park area is a fantastic place for novices to enjoy nature on a kayak or canoe.

ENJOYING THE TRAILS AND WATER FEATURES

Tuttle Creek State Park offers many facilities for the enjoyment of visitors. A major attraction is the extensive trail system for hiking, biking, and horseback riding.

The park also offers canoe, kayak, and paddle boards for rent so use on Tuttle Creek Reservoir and local river systems. The Kansas River has three access points located at Manhattan and St. George. The river pond in the River Pond Park area is a fantastic place for novices to enjoy nature on a kayak or canoe.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Park lands are for everyone. Please familiarize yourself with regulations to ensure that all visitors have a safe and enjoyable experience. You can help in developing, protecting, and maintaining the park’s trails, facilities, and natural wonders by becoming a volunteer or a member of the Friends Group.

COTTONWOOD NATURE TRAIL

Location: River Pond Area; West side of River Pond Campground.
Trailhead Coordinates (GPS): 39 14.972’ N, 096 35.409’ W
Terrain: wooded.
Length: 0.25 miles.
Details: This trail is located on the west side of the camping area by the fish flaming shelter house in the River Pond Campground. The area is an excellent spot for viewing wildlife as many species inhabit the pond.

WESTERN HERITAGE TRAIL

Location: South of the River Pond Area and along the Blue River.
Trailhead Coordinates (GPS): 39 14.622’ N, 096 35.291’ W
Terrain: concrete sidewalk, flat.
Length: 0.75 miles.
Details: This trail parallels the Blue River, through the scenic Rockey Rock Fishing Area, and ends at the bridge located on Dry Barnes Road. It is bordered by the river and big cottonwood trees on one side and an agricultural field on the other. Each side offers great opportunities to view wildlife on this easy-hiking trail. This trail also provides excellent fishing access along the river channel.

FAIRY CREEK MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

Location: Fancy Creek Area; just East of the town of Randolph on the west side of Tuttle Creek Reservoir.
Trailhead Coordinates (GPS): 39 26.219’ N, 096 43.509’ W
Terrain: Woods and creek valleys; bike; horse riders must yield to bikers on the trail.
Length: 8 miles; different road access allow for different lengths.
Details: This trail is the most challenging the park has to offer. The terrain tracks up and down the hills of the cedar forest and into native grassland. Bike overlooks and ridges allow overlook opportunities and are challenging for bikers and hikers. The trail crosses the road at marked areas. Notice mountain bikers should be aware that parts of this trail are very challenging.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Canoe/kayak/paddle board rentals.
- Fancy Creek Range - Open on limited dates only; supply own equipment Facebook:facebook.com/visittuttlecreek.
- Lake Nishat Family Archery Range - Open daylight hours, supply own archery equipment.
- Numerous programs throughout year in conjunction with VisitManhattan and Manhattan Parks and Recreation.
- Motorcycle Area - Open year round; no camping, no tent, no trailer, special events facebook.com/tuttlecreekblake.
- River Pond Area 18-hole disc golf course.
- Fancy Creek Area Whole disc golf course.

TUTTLE CREEK STATE PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

General Rules
- All vehicles entering the state park are required to have a valid park permit.
- *Motor vehicles are restricted to maintained roads and parking areas only, unless otherwise posted.
- *Quiet hours are enforced from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- *Possession or consumption of bags of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- *Fireworks are prohibited, except in designated areas.
- *All pets must be kept at all times on a leash no longer than 10 feet.
- *Gray water must be disposed of at the dump station.
- *A camper may stay on one campground up to 14 consecutive days and then must move to a different campsites in a different campground.
- *Fires are allowed in fire rings and cooking grills only.

Trail Rules
- *Carry out anything you carry in and leave the trail as you found it. All litter must be disposed of properly.
- *Stay on the established trails to lessen adverse environmental impact and injury. Respect private property.
- *Consult area information signs for additional rules and regulations. While campers are not allowed on the trails, these facilities are located within the parks.
- *Ground fires are strictly prohibited on trails.
- *Bikes and horses must stay on designated trails.
- *Motorized vehicles are prohibited on all trails.
- *Horses shall not be tied to buildings or trees.
- *Ride all trails within your ability.
- *Trails are open during daylight hours only. Know your limits and don’t hike alone. Be aware of your surroundings and weather conditions.
- *Downhill riders shall yield right-off-way to uphill riders.
- *Horse/horse riders must yield to bikers on the trail.
- *Be aware of poison ivy.
- *During high lake levels or wet enough for damage to occur. Portions of the state park may be open to archery hunting. Trails will remain open during this period. Road trailheads postings.

Please check with state park office for a complete list of rules and regulations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism