Ford State Fishing Lake is located in Ford County, approximately three miles north and five miles east of Dodge City. The property consists of 260 acres of uplands, 10 acres of wetlands, and a 45-acre lake. The uplands and wetlands are made up of heavily timbered riparian areas along the creek, native grass on the side slopes, and old crop fields on the flatter upland terrain. An old 4-H camp is located on the east side and is presently maintained as a Boy Scout area.

The dam was originally built in 1936. In 1990, the area was donated to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in order to renovate the lake for fishing. At the same time, Ford County assumed management of the area for public use. In 1991-92, the lake was renovated and soon filled due to above-normal rainfall. The lake was stocked soon after filling.

Two large picnic shelters and numerous picnic tables have been installed in the public access area on the northwest portion of the lake. Pit-type restrooms have also been installed on both the east and west sides of the lake and in the camping area. Hiking is allowed throughout the area; many unimproved trails exist around the upper end of the lake. A boat ramp is available on the northwest corner of the lake, but boats may only be used for fishing. Vehicles must stay on established roadways. No off-road travel is allowed.

Fishing is allowed on Ford State Fishing Lake. It is stocked with largemouth bass, channel catfish, and bluegill. Although not stocked by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, crappie have also found their way into the lake. Fishing here should be excellent for years to come. Please check printed regulations and information signs to obtain current length and creel limits.

At present, by county ordinance, no hunting is allowed on the area. Hunting is allowed on Ford State Fishing Lake. It is stocked with largemouth bass, channel catfish, and bluegill. Although not stocked by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, crappie have also found their way into the lake. Fishing here should be excellent for years to come. Please check printed regulations and information signs to obtain current length and creel limits.

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