Tuttle Creek Reservoir is the key unit in the system of flood control projects within the Kansas River Basin and is the second largest lake in Kansas. Built primarily to prevent downstream flooding, water from Tuttle Creek Reservoir can also be released during periods of extreme drought to improve water quality in the Kansas River Basin. Construction was started in 1952 and completed in 1962.

FISHING

Excellent channel and flathead catfish can be found in the lake and in the river above and below Tuttle Creek. Worms, minnows, shad, and crawdads are preferred baits.

Good populations of crappie can be found in the wooded coves and submerged brush-piles using jigs and live minnows.

Fair numbers of bass are caught near standing timber and brush piles using worms, crank baits, and spinner baits.

In early spring, fair numbers of walleye can be taken off the face of the dam as well as in the river below, and Rocky Ford fishing area. Jigs, minnows, and imitation lures work well.

Good numbers of white bass can be taken from late spring through early fall, depending on lake clarity. Jigs and shad imitation lures work well.

Rainbow trout are stocked in the seep stream in the river pond area.

HUNTING

The Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism manages more than 12,000 acres in the upper reaches of the project. Burned-off wheat stubble and sunflower fields attract doves in early fall. Deer and turkey hunting is good in the woody draws and river bottoms. Semi-open grasslands and weed strips along timber stands harbor bob-white quail and pheasant.

Several marshes, built with sportsmen’s dollars, provide food and shelter for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Two of the larger marshes on the east side of the wildlife area, Olsburg and Black Vermillion, are great duck hunting spots.

Watch boundary lines that separate public hunting lands from private property. Much of Tuttle’s public hunting area is separated from the road by private land. Respect landowner’s property. Don’t drive across crops. To hunt private property, you must have permission. Public land managed by the Department is posted with black and yellow “Public Hunting” signs. All major roads entering the area are marked with large white signs with black letters stating “Public Wildlife Area.” All state regulations pertaining to limits and hunting and fishing methods apply at Tuttle. Blinds for waterfowl hunting must be made from natural materials found at the blind’s site. All blinds must be portable and removed at season’s end.

STATE PARK

Four areas – River Pond, Cedar Ridge, Fancy Creek, and Randolph – make up the 1,200-acre state park. Electrical and water hook-ups, swimming beach, boat ramps, courtesy docks, and dump stations are available. Trails provide excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation, in addition to, picnicking, softball, water skiing, wind surfing, hiking, bicycling, disc golf, and jogging. Canoes and paddle boats are also available for rent. Motor vehicle and camping fees are required at all state park areas.

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Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327. (785) 556-8260

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