On the shores of the 13,000-acre Waconda Lake Glen Elder State Park offers unmatched recreational opportunities. With its rural setting, Glen Elder is a perfect place to relax. Modern restroom/shower facilities are available in all campgrounds April–September. The park has two dump stations and a full service marina providing fuel, boat and slip rental, as well as boating, fishing and camping supplies. (Apr. 1 – Oct. 31).

New concrete camp pads with secure tie-downs, water, hydrants, trails, vault toilets, and the Hopewell Church. Cheyenne Campgrounds, primitive campgrounds, frost-free open year-round, including: utility hookups in Kanza and Osage Areas are open, beginning in April, to accommodate early season camping through the opening weekend of upland bird season, depending on the weather. A full service Marina provides fuel, boat and slip rental, as well as boating, fishing and camping supplies. (Apr. 1 – Oct. 31).

The new Waconda Visitor & Education Center is a must see. The Center’s highlights include Native American history, the Waconda Springs, history of the Solomon River Valley, and construction of the dam. The building is open seven days a week from Memorial Weekend to Labor Day Weekend and by appointment during the offseason.

The Osage Area has a reservable group shelter and a swimming beach. The Waconda Trail is currently being developed. The Pawnee Overlook provides shoreline fishing, wading, primitive camping, picnicking, and an excellent view. A modern, handicapped-accessible fish cleaning station (open Apr.–Oct.), is located at the east dump station. The Chautauqua Fishing Pond offers easy fishing access for individuals with disabilities and children and this pond is stocked with trout in the winter. (Special creel and length limits are in effect.) Kids should check out the new playground in Kanza with a large sandbox nearby. Cawker City Park offers a nine hole artificial green golf course with a second nine holes for the endurance golfer.

Camping

With three campgrounds providing 120 electrical hook-up sites, all with water, and more than 300 primitive sites, there’s plenty of room for both tents and RVs. Some areas receive minimal maintenance and service except during peak use times. Boat ramps in Kanza and Osage offer excellent lake access and ADA courtesy docks. For RVers, the park has two dump stations and a full service marina that is open April through October. Select facilities are open year-round, including: utility hookups in Kanza and Cheyenne Campgrounds, primitive campgrounds, frost-free hydrants, trails, vault toilets, and the Hopewell Church. New concrete camp pads with secure tie-downs, water, and 50 amp electricity are available in all campgrounds.

Wildlife

Pheasant, deer, waterfowl, and numerous nongame species (including eagles during the winter) can be seen throughout the park. Several limited special hunts are also offered. Special hunt drawings are conducted in late summer. Contact the area office for more information.

Day Use

For permits, visit either the area office or one of the self-pay stations at each park entrance. Vehicle, camping, and utility permits are required year-round.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday throughout the year. From Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend the office extends its hours and is open seven days a week. In an emergency, contact the area office or call the Mitchell County Sheriff at (785) 738-3523.

Things to Remember

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You Can Help Glen Elder

Help Glen Elder Shine! If you’re in a developed campground please put all of your trash in one of the centrally-located trash dumpsters. In other camp and day-use areas, please take all of your trash with you.

General Area Map

Glen Elder Reservoir & State Park

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, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, and military or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1000 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327. (785) 545-3345.