Located near Manhattan in northeast Kansas, Tuttle Creek State Park offers visitors 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, wooded shoreline to explore.

Four areas – River Pond, Cedar Ridge, Fancy Creek and Randolph – make up the 1,250-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, 159 water/electric campsites, 44 electric-only campsites, and 500 primitive campsites.

Numerous nature trails, a mountain biking trail, and a scenic equestrian trail offer explorers 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 conveniently-placed restroom 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 bluecat fishing is available in the lake and in the river above and below the lake. Fair numbers of bass and crappie are caught near standing timber and brush piles, and saugeye can be taken off the face of the dam, as well as in the river below. The 12,000-acre wildlife area adjacent to the park offers excellent hunting and wildlife viewing.

Download the Camplt KS mobile app today and reserve your Kansas State Park campsite from anywhere, on any mobile device! Available now in the Apple App and Google Play stores.
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 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.

Trails and Features

Cedar Ridge Trail
Location: Cedar Ridge Area; Southeast end of lake.
Trailhead Coordinates (GPS): 39 16.736' N, 096 35.473 W
Terrain: Limestone screening on path, wooded.
Length: 0.75 miles.
Details: This trail parallels the Blue River, through the scenic Rocky Ford Fishing Area, and ends at the bridge located on Dyer 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.

Randolph Area Trail
Location: Randolph Area; East side of lake on Highway 16.
Trailhead Coordinates (GPS): 39 25.553' N, 096 42.718 W
Terrain: Grassland, hills, wooded.
Length: 1.475 total miles; loops can be separated into shorter lengths.
Details: This trail takes the user along Willow Lake and offers an idea of the power of moving water and unique fossils that can be viewed. The terrain tracks up and down the hills of the cedar forest and into native grassland. Rock outcrops and ridges allow overlook opportunities and are challenging for hikers and bikers. The trail crosses the road at marked areas. Novice mountain bikers should be aware that parts of this trail are very challenging.

Canyon Trail
Location: River Pond Area below Tuttle Creek Reservoir Dam
Trailhead Coordinates (GPS): 39 15.162' N, 096 34.291 W
Terrain: Concrete and wood chipped trail
Length: 0.75 miles
Details: This short trail takes the visitor back to the canyons unearthed by the 1993 flood water releases from the overflow spillway. The trail will give the user an idea of the power of moving water and unique fossils can be viewed.

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: 1.25 miles.
Details: This trail parallels the Blue River, through the scenic Rocky Ford Fishing Area, and ends at the bridge located on Dyer 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.

Randolph Area Trail
Location: Randolph Area; East side of lake on Highway 16.
Trailhead Coordinates (GPS): 39 25.553' N, 096 42.718 W
Terrain: Grassland, hills, wooded.
Length: 1.475 total miles; loops can be separated into shorter lengths.
Details: This trail takes the user along Willow Lake and offers an idea of the power of moving water and unique fossils that can be viewed. The terrain tracks up and down the hills of the cedar forest and into native grassland. Rock outcrops and ridges allow overlook opportunities and are challenging for hikers and bikers. The trail crosses the road at marked areas. Novice mountain bikers should be aware that parts of this trail are very challenging.

Randolph Area Trail
Location: Randolph Area; East side of lake on Highway 16.
Trailhead Coordinates (GPS): 39 25.553' N, 096 42.718 W
Terrain: Grassland, hills, wooded.
Length: 1.475 total miles; loops can be separated into shorter lengths.
Details: This trail takes the user along Willow Lake and offers an idea of the power of moving water and unique fossils that can be viewed. The terrain tracks up and down the hills of the cedar forest and into native grassland. Rock outcrops and ridges allow overlook opportunities and are challenging for hikers and bikers. The trail crosses the road at marked areas. Novice mountain bikers should be aware that parts of this trail are very challenging.

Eagle Pass Trail
Location: River Pond Area below Tuttle Creek Reservoir Dam
Trailhead Coordinates (GPS): 39 15.162' N, 096 34.291 W
Terrain: Concrete and wood chipped trail
Length: 0.75 miles
Details: This trail takes the user along Willow Lake and River Pond areas. Bird watching opportunities are abundant on the trail. Bald Eagles can be regularly viewed during certain periods of the year.

Canyon Trail
Location: River Pond Area below Tuttle Creek Reservoir Dam
Trailhead Coordinates (GPS): 39 15.143' N, 096 34.245 W
Terrain: Concrete sidewalk, flat.
Length: 0.25 miles
Details: This short trail takes the visitor back to the canyons unearthed by the 1993 flood water releases from the overflow spillway. The trail will give the user an idea of the power of moving water and unique fossils can be viewed.

ORV Trail & Spillway Cycle Area
These two parks are operated by the Corps of Engineers. The off-road vehicle trail is located south of Randolph on the west side of the lake. This area is available to all vehicles, and it challenges both driver and vehicle. The Spillway Cycle Area is on the southeast side of the dam. It is open to ATVs, motorcycles, and mountain bikes. For more information, contact the Corps of Engineers at (785) 539-8511.

Other Trails in the Manhattan Area
The Wam-Sag-Man trail is under construction and will be designed to connect the town of Wamego, St. George, and Manhattan and connect up with the Linear Park Trail. It will allow access for walkers, joggers, and bicyclists. The Konza Prairie is located north of I-70 and south of Manhattan on K-177. This area has a short trail of 2.8 miles and a longer loop consisting of 6.1 miles providing a wonderful chance to view native prairie in its purest form. For more information, contact the Nature Conservancy at (785) 587-0381. The Linear Park Trail is 9.4 miles and follows the southern edge of the City of Manhattan. It offers nice views of the Kansas River. For more information, contact Manhattan Parks and Recreation at (785) 587-2757.