

Kanopolis State Park

200 Horsethief Rd. Marquette, KS 67464
(785) 546-2565 | kanopolissp@ksoutdoors.com

2015 SPRING NEWSLETTER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Kansas State Park Passport	1
Open House	1
ORMS	2
Regulations Reminder	2
Park Permits	3
2015 Prices	3
Note in a Pickle Jar	4
Local Businesses	5
Outdoor Store	5
Park Enhancements	6
Pocket Ranger	6
2015 Fishing Forecast	7
National Recognition	8
Staff Calendar	9
The Eagle Has Landed	10
End of an Era Thank You	11

Kansas State Park Passport

Kansas State Park Passports are annual vehicle permits that allow Kansans access into any park throughout the state. Passports make visiting our state parks more affordable and much more convenient. With a passport, families can enjoy a year full of adventure and outdoor activities.

Kansas residents are able to purchase their passport during their motor vehicle registration process either in person, by mail or online. Be sure to check mark the box for the passport if you do your registration online or through the mail. When registering in person, remember to ask

the clerk for the passport. It is imperative to do this prior to your transaction being processed because it can't be changed once the transaction is submitted.



Passports cost \$15.50, which is \$9.50 less than purchasing your permits through a KDWP office or website. This will need to be renewed every year during

this process. By law, passports are non-transferable to another vehicle. Be sure to retain your original receipt from the treasurer's office in case you lose your passport. You have to present it to the park office in order to receive a duplicate permit for \$12.50.

Scan for Kansas State Parks Passport Information



Saturday, April 25th

Come help us kick off the season with our Open House!

Tour our Cabins | Buy Permits | Meet Our Staff

Our park office will be open 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for customers to purchase permits & licenses. We will also have a cabin open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for tours. Guided trail hikes will be leaving from the State Park Office located at 200 Horsethief Road. Two hikes have been scheduled to start at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

This is a free park entrance day; there are no vehicle permits required to enter the park. Events will be taking place at all state parks in Kansas.

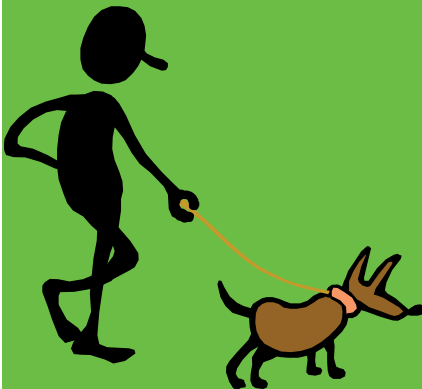


Reservations

Reserving a campsite ahead is **quick and easy** and ensures having a site for the duration of your stay.



Just go to www.reserveamerica.com!



Kansas State Parks are going into the fourth year of using the Outdoor Recreation Management System (ORMS) for reservations. Although it took some time to get used to the change, this system offers many benefits to campers, such as:

- Campsite Availability - website visitors can see which sites are available for any date.
- Campsite Features - size, cost, amenities, location and a picture accompany the listing.
- Reservations - visitors can make reservations at their own convenience. (not all sites are reservable)

Registration is free and reserving a site ahead of time will greatly speed up your check-in time.



Kanopolis has six utility campgrounds that are reservable through ORMS - Eagle Point, Rockin' K, Sandstone, Sumac, Switchgrass and Yucca. The sites are available to be reserved for the months of April-September, with the exception of Rockin' K, which is April-October. All other campgrounds are

available on a walk-in only basis.

We also have six cabins located in the South Shore area that are reservable year round. Reservations can be made up to 364 days in advance or as a walk-in when available.

Shelter reservations require a special event permit and seasonal campers must sign a 30-day agreement. Both must be done through the main office. All campsite & shelter reservations can only be made for the current calendar year.

Please visit the website at www.reserveamerica.com to make your cabin or campsite reservations today!

Regulation Reminders

Most of our state park regulations are not new, but warrant a reminder to all of our visitors as we begin looking forward to the new park season.

CAMPING UNITS— shall not be left unoccupied in a campground for more than 24 hours in Kansas State Parks, with the exception of designated Seasonal campsites. **GREY WATER DUMPING** — all waste water from camping units (GREY and BLACK tanks) must be disposed of at dump stations only.

SPEED LIMIT — there is a 25 mph speed limit throughout the entire park. Speed should be reduced even further when entering and driving the individual campground roads. Please take extra care to watch for pedestrians!

PETS — are allowed at Kanopolis State Park, however, must be kept on a 10-ft. or shorter leash or chain AT ALL TIMES. Pets are not allowed in any of the state park buildings, unless for assistance purposes. This includes all shower/restroom facilities, office, group shelters, and the state park cabins. Pets belonging to cabin renters must be kept outside on a chain/leash, or in the kennels provided at each cabin.

With everyone abiding by park regulations, we can continue to provide a safe, family-oriented park and enjoyable visits for all!! Thank You!

Park Permits

Kanopolis State Park would like to remind all of our visitors that in addition to our park office, we will have the south shore office and gatehouse open this summer to purchase camping and vehicle permits. The park office will be open seven days a week, while the south shore office is open Thursday-Monday. Camping permits must be purchased at one of these two offices. Vehicle permits and hunting/fishing licenses may be purchased at the gatehouse from Friday-Sunday. No camping permits are sold at the gatehouse.

Self pay stations are available to pay for permits when the offices are closed. They are located at the park office, south shore office, Rockin’ K and Sumac campgrounds. During the prime season, self pay permits may only be used to pay for one night. If you plan to stay longer, please visit one of the offices by 10:00 am the following morning to pay for additional nights.

For answers to any questions, please call the Kanopolis State Park Office at 785-546-2565 or email us at kanopolissp@ksoutdoors.com.

2015 Prices

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Off Season</u> <u>Oct-Mar</u>	<u>Prime Season</u> <u>April-Sept</u>
Daily Camping	\$7.00	\$8.00
Prime Site	N/A	\$2.00
Annual Camp	\$152.50	\$202.50
14-Day Camp	\$87.50	\$101.50
Utilities (Daily)		
1 hookup (Electricity)	\$9.00	\$9.00
2 hookups (Elec/Water)	\$11.00	\$11.00
3 hookups (Elec/Wat/Sew)	\$12.00	\$12.00

Cabin Rates

Weekends - Friday/Saturday	\$85.00	\$95.00
Weekdays – Sunday-Thursday	\$75.00	\$75.00
Weekly rate	\$375.00	\$450.00
Cabin Reservation Fee	\$14.00	\$14.00

*A \$3.00 FEE WILL BE CHARGED PER TRANSACTION FOR CAMPSITES & CABIN WALK-INS

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Jan-Dec</u>
Daily Vehicle	\$5.00
Sr. Daily Vehicle	\$3.25
Annual Vehicle	\$25.00
Annual SR/Dis. Vehicle	\$13.75
Duplicate Permits	\$12.50

Note in a Pickle Jar

This story was relayed to me by Chuck Nicholson, who lives in a cabin at Kanopolis Reservoir. This story starts June 14, 1985 with a boy in Dorrance, Kansas. On June 14, 1985 David dropped a Vlasic pickle jar that contained some wheat, a wheat penny and a note into the Smoky Hill River. In the summer of 1995, Chuck's daughter, Stephanie, found the jar in the "Red Rim" canyon. The contents were intact, and the note could still be read. The note requested that the jar be returned to Dorrance, Kansas.

In 2009, Chuck ventured to Dorrance with the jar, intending to return it to David. Chuck thought the post office would be the place to start. He asked the postmaster if she knew David. She said he had moved away but his parents still lived just outside town on a farm but she couldn't give out any information. Chuck went outside and talked with his friend that had tagged along; they weren't sure what to do next. Chuck saw an elderly gentleman walk into the post office and decided to ask him about David as he was leaving. The gentleman knew David's parents and where they lived but advised "you can go there and knock but the Missus won't answer the door." He was right, she didn't answer. Chuck put a note in the jar and left it on the front porch. About a year later Chuck got the following letter:

Aug 27, 2010

Dear Mr. Nicholson,

First let me introduce myself and explain why I am writing to you this letter. My

name is David and I am formerly from a small Kansas town called Dorrance. This letter may see a bit odd, but it is the final segment of a sequence that started on June 14th 1985 when I apparently dropped a Vlasic pickle jar in the Smokey Hill River.

Last fall (2009) my mother phoned me with the strangest question. Her question was "do you remember putting a jar in the river that contained some wheat, a wheat penny and a note?" When I answered "no," she explained that the aforementioned jar was left by you at my parents' residence with a small note in it explaining how it came into your possession.

I have no memory of dropping this jar and its contents in the Smokey Hill River, but apparently I did on June 14, 1985 (the note in the jar is still readable and it is clearly my handwriting) and you found the jar in Kanopolis Lake in the summer of 1995 in the Red Rim canyon. Now after 25 years, the journey of this jar and its contents is finally over. I apologize that it has taken me over one year to reply to the note you left in the jar. Life just has a way of pushing things to the side.

Even though I have no recollection of this event, my two brothers remember the incident well. I cannot fully express how amazed I am that not only did you find my jar, but you actually took the time to return it to me as my note requested. I will be holding onto the jar and its contents so that I can pass the tale of this event onto my children. Not often does a person have a story like this one to

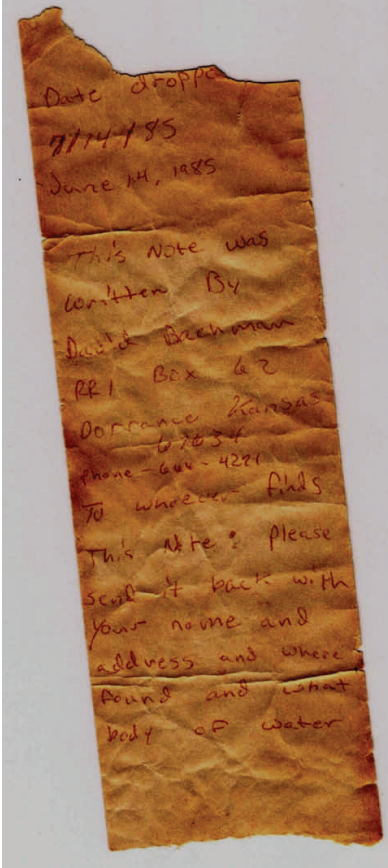
tell and it is all due to you and your willingness to fulfill the foolish wishes of a young farm boy.

Now I am almost 41 years old and have four children of my own. My two daughters are too old now to appreciate the sense of adventure I had as a young boy, but my two young sons (ages 3 and 1) will hopefully share that same sense of adventure after they are old enough to hear the tale of my Vlasic Pickle Jar.

If you so desire, you are more than welcome to write back and tell me a bit about yourself as well. It would be interesting to continue on with what a small note in 1985 started. Below my signature are my work and home email addresses. If you have access to email and would prefer to write that way, you are welcome to do so.

Stories like this warm the heart. Chuck is a kind man for fulfilling the wishes of this Kansas farm boy. Chuck is one of 12 kids born on a farm north of Maize, Kansas, on the Big Arkansas River. Chuck said he used to do the same thing when he was 10-15 years old but he never used a "Vlasic Pickle Jar"! Chuck really enjoyed going to Dorrance to find the young man, that part was an adventure for him. A 30-year story has now come full circle when I contacted David and he sent me a copy of the original.

Wendy Bowles, Conservation Worker, Kanopolis State Park



Support Your Local Businesses!

Kanopolis State Park has two local businesses open for park visitors, each offering a wide variety of merchandise. These businesses are also able to sell vehicle permits, hunting & fishing licenses.

The Smoky Hill Trading Post has storage available - both inside and outside, fuel, food, bait & many other items for sale. They have a restaurant/grill. It is located on the south side of the dam on Highway 141. Contact the Trading Post at 785-546-2444.

The Tower Harbor Marina is in the South Shore area of the state park. They offer fuel on both land and water, as well as boat supplies and repair. A variety of food is available, bait & tackle for fishing, as well as many household items you may have forgotten to bring with you. They even have pet supplies! Contact the Tower Harbor Marina at 785-546-2324.

We encourage all of our park patrons to visit at least one, if not all, of our local businesses to see what they have to offer!



Smoky Hill Trading Post

Kanopolis Lake

1954 Highway 141
Marquette, KS 67464
785-546-2444



Outdoor Store

Kansas State Parks offer a variety of items available for sale in our offices through our “Outdoor Store”. We have brought back some popular items and added a few new ones as well! A few examples of what you can find are t-shirts, hats, hoodies, mugs, koozies and a variety of different books. All of our merchandise is available at the main park office and a smaller selection is located at the south shore office.

Now available, a “Handy Map” for Kanopolis State Park. This is a 19”x22” micro fiber cloth/bandana that has our park map and many pictures of what you can expect to see while visiting our park! With the entire trail system on this map, it will be beneficial for visitors using the trails so they don’t have to carry a paper map. You can also use it to clean glasses, cameras, computer screens and much more. It also serves as a great souvenir!

Be sure to stop in to check out all of our merchandise and take some-



Park Enhancements

In the spring of 2013, Kanopolis State Park added frost-free water hydrants to all ten sites in the Switchgrass campground. It is located near the boat ramp in the South Shore area and previously had electric only hookups. Along with the utility addition, it has also been added as a reservable campground to our website! This campground enhancement has received positive feedback and has given our park patrons more camping opportunities utilizing water & electric sites.

Throughout the year, work was performed on our multi-use trail system consisting of mowing, trimming, trash removal, and also rerouting part of the trail.

Please don't forget that in January 2014 Kanopolis State Park received one of seven tornado sirens from the Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team. Our tornado siren is located in the South Shore area by the Yucca campground. It stands roughly 50 feet tall, rotates 360 degrees as it goes off and can be heard approximately a mile in each direction. Please keep in mind that there are no designated storm shelters in the Park. Plan accordingly for the event of severe weather.

Staff has also removed several dead trees and low hanging branches throughout the park.

Currently, staff is remodeling the corral shelter. Changes include updating the restrooms and adding a new cement picnic pad with large grill.

All campsites in Yucca, Sandstone & Switchgrass were re-leveled.

New trees were planted at the amphitheater. These trees will provide much needed shade and wind break, once they grow.

These park enhancements will offer new opportunities to visitors as well as keeping our park safe for everyone to enjoy!

Pocket Ranger® Smart Phone App



The Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger® mobile app by Parks By Nature Network serves as an interactive State Parks tour guide accessible through today's leading mobile devices. It is built with the most up-to-date visitor information, and designed for both the novice outdoorsmen and the more seasoned park-goer.

The interactive guide along with the advanced GPS mapping technology provides park goers with valuable information for planning that perfect trip to any state park, making it easy for anyone to choose an adventure of their choice. The app allows users to keep abreast of weather conditions, view state-surveyed trails, and more—directly from their mobile device!

Scan for Pocket Ranger Smart Phone App Information



2015 Fishing Forecast

Channel Catfish - Good

Variety Kanopolis has a good density of eating-size fish as 70% of the fall sample was in the 16"-24" range. They can be caught right away in the spring on wind-blown shorelines. Also look in the upper end during periods of inflow, around rocks during the spawn in June, as well as on the humps on the south side of the reservoir throughout the year. Chumming with fermented grain is a popular method for attracting catfish. Remember that floatline fishing (i.e., jugging) is allowed at Kanopolis from July 15 - September 15. See fishing regulations for more details.

Crappie - Fair

Variety - mostly 11 to 12 inches Similar to white bass, low water is not ideal for crappie populations. Decent numbers of good-sized (9"-12") crappie can still be caught around the brush piles and off the rocks during the spawn in late April. Try deeper areas near the tower, off of Loder Point, and around the Yankee Run area prior to and after the spawn. Small jigs and minnows are the best bets for crappie.

Trout - Excellent

Although trout season will be winding down once the weather warms up, don't forget the excellent angling opportunity in the Seep Stream. Monthly stockings from November to March keep high densities of trout in the stream below the dam. Remember, a trout permit is required from November 1st - April 15th.

Walleye/Saugeye - Good

Variety - up to 21 inches Kanopolis is one of the better Saugeye reservoirs in the state, both for density and size of fish. This will be one of the better years for larger fish, as nearly 40% of the saugeye in the fall sampling were over 18". A couple of weeks after the spawn is the best time to catch them, as they will be feeding on mudflats adjacent to drop-offs. Try dragging nightcrawlers or minnows on the southwest side of the reservoir beginning in mid to late April.

White Bass - Good

All sizes - up to 17 inches The 2013 fall sample for white bass was very disappointing, as densities are very low. Decreased inflows and low water are not ideal for the populations. Although numbers are down, the white bass that anglers catch in 2014 will be very good in size (15" or more). Anglers have good luck trolling crankbaits to find schools of white bass, and then vertically jigging or casting shad-imitation lures like rattletails. In the fall, they will concentrate on main lake points and drop-offs. Look for surfacing white bass chasing shad in the late summer and fall.

Wiper - Fair

All sizes Wipers are relatively low density at Kanopolis. Anglers do occasionally catch large wipers, although low numbers make targeting them difficult. They generally associate with white bass and schools of gizzard shad. If you find one, you'll usually find the others.

KANSAS DEPT OF WILDLIFE, PARKS & TOURISM

GET THE LATEST WEEKLY FISHING REPORTS FOR ALL AREA RESERVOIRS AT

www.ksoutdoors.com/news/Fishing/Fishing-Reports

Kansas Resident Fishing \$20.50 Non-Resident Fishing \$42.50 24 Hour Fishing \$5.50

Kanopolis receives National Recognition



20 stunning state parks across the USA

Katie Rosenbrock and Diana Gerstacker, TheActiveTimes.com 6:07 p.m. EDT June 17, 2014

Kanopolis State Park, Kan.

This state park is situated amidst the striking Smoky Hills region of Kansas and is treasured for its many miles of hiking trails that meander through canyons, prairies and wooded creek bottoms. The sublime Dakota sandstone bluffs and craggy Horsethief Canyon decorate the park and its surrounding area presenting pristine views of what's considered some of Kansas' most stunning scenery. kdwpt.state.ks.us

Best Swimming Spot in Every State (PHOTOS)

<http://www.weather.com/travel/news/swimming-every-state>

Kansas: Kanopolis Lake

The best places to swim at Kanopolis Lake, located on the Smoky Hill River and one of the oldest lakes in Kansas, are the two designated swimming beaches. These beaches are buoyed each summer to delineate the usable portion and to exclude boats. They also have parking, change houses and restrooms. (Flickr/One Day Closer)



Jason Sunderland was hired as the new Park Manager in May 2014. Jason was the Acting Park Manager at Pomona State Park since March 2014. Before that Jason was the Park Ranger at Pomona State Park for 8 years. Jason enjoys camping, hunting, and teaching his son about the great opportunities the outdoors has to offer. Jason and his wife Rita are currently remodeling a farm house together that was homesteaded by Rita’s great grandparents.

Darryl Talbott was hired as the new Administrative Specialist in mid-September. Darryl recently retired as a teacher/administrator from Smoky Valley School District. He is a lifetime resident of Marquette. Darryl and his wife Diane enjoy camping, kayaking and entertaining family and friends.

Current staff include: Wendy Bowles, Public Service Administrator, has served Kanopolis State Park since 1990. Wyatt Wendelin, Facilities Specialist, has been with the Park since 2005. Rick Martin, Regional Supervisor, started with Kansas Park and Resource Authority in 1978.

Kanopolis 2015 Calendar

<i>Date of Event</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Start Time</i>
April 4th	KS Ultrarunners Society Rockin’ K Trail Run	7:00 AM
April 18th	Off Road Rage Adventure Race	6:00 AM –9:00 PM
April 25th	Open House Free Park Entrance Day	8:00 AM
June 6th-7th	Free Fishing Weekend Free Park Entrance Day (6th)	N/A
Aug. 27th-30th	Heartland Challenge Three Day Trail Ride	N/A
October 23rd-25th	Mountain Man Rendezvous Competition Shoot (25th)	8:00AM-3:00PM

The Eagle Has Landed

The Bald Eagle is the national bird for the United States. Kansas is known for its patriotism, so having our nation's bird rearing its young in our state is fitting. The number of active nests in Kansas continues to increase year after year.

In 2013, a large nest was spotted in the East Shore State Park at Kanopolis State Park. In the spring of 2014, two mature bald eagles stayed in the park after the winter birds migrated north. Those birds were spotted working on the nest and staying close to it. Further observation revealed that they were sitting on (incubating) eggs. After the eggs hatched and the eaglets got big enough to see, we discovered that there were two eaglets in the nest. The adults took turns caring for and feeding the eaglets for the next 70 to 80 days. The eaglets were then seen flying low and awkwardly around Eagle Point and Rockin'K Campgrounds most of the summer. The adults stayed all summer, too. Here we are in 2015, and the adults are back on the nest incubating. We look forward to more eaglets at Kanopolis State Park.

The nest can be seen from the blacktop road with binoculars or a spotting scope. A good camera with a zoom works well, too. PLEASE DO NOT WALK OUT TO THE NEST. Eagles are very protective of their nest and young; they could potentially hurt you. Also they are very afraid of humans, and if disturbed too much they might abandon the nest. Enjoy this great event from a distance. The nest is being monitored by park staff.

Bald eagles nest in the spring, usually incubating eggs in February and March, and incubation time is 35 to 38 days. The adults take turns incubating, so it might be the male or female on the nest at any time. After the eggs hatch, the eaglets stay in the nest and are fed by both parents for 70 to 80 days before they leave the nest (fledge) to learn to fly. The eaglets will return to the nest for about the next two months to roost. In 4-5 years after they mature, they should return to the area to nest. Generally eagles return to the area where they learned to fly to nest. Currently there are five active nests along the Smoky Hill River between Blackwolf and Marquette.



END OF AN ERA

We say good-bye to The Goverland Stage Stop, the only horse outfitter in Kansas State Parks. The Goverland Stage Stop opened for business in 2004 and has offered guided trail rides at Kanopolis State Park for the past 10 years. We would like to thank Walt and Doje for their many years of service at Kanopolis. Walt passed away in 2013; his "old cowboy" ways have been missed. Doje is still in the area and remains a friend to the park.

The trails are still open to ride if you have your own horse; we hope you will come experience the outer reaches of Kanopolis State park.

Thank You

The biggest THANK YOU must go to our park patrons, swimmers, boaters, and campers, those who have a picnic, hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, fishermen, and hunters! Without you we would have no reason to have a wonderful park. In the past few years we have gained more users but less trash and less vandalism than ever! We would like to thank you for caring for our park and making it your park, too. Keep up the good work!

Volunteer Camp Hosts provide customer service in the campgrounds. Camp Hosts are at times the only employee some customers interact with. Having a familiar face in the campground puts people at ease and gives them a "go to" person if they have questions or needs. In 2014 our Camp Hosts were: Sumac Campground - Mel and Lorraine, Yucca Campground - Sheryl, Sandstone Campground - John and Connie, Eagle Point and Rockin' K Campground - Sheri and Ed, Cabin Hosts - Mark and Amanda. It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Ed, he passed away unexpectedly on March 26, 2015. Ed always had a smile and offered a helping hand; he will be missed! Sheri will still be at Eagle Point to greet you with her little dog Sophie, please stop in and say hi. These giving people will be back in 2015 to greet customers and lend a helping hand. Every year the efforts of these people are amazing. They give their time and energy to this park and park patrons with smiles on their faces. Thank these people when you see them; they help make this park a much better place.

Trails require many hours of maintenance, Erin Glassman and other members of the North American Trail Ride Conference and members of the Back Country Horseman have provided many hours of labor doing trail maintenance

The Ellsworth Correctional Facility provides an inmate crew for the State Park. This crew is invaluable! The members of the detail provide the extra manpower that is necessary to keep up with the everyday chores and make it possible to do special projects. We were without a crew for a few years and it was difficult to even maintain the park not to mention doing anything extra. Special thanks to the crew members that work so hard to make the park a better place.

The Kansas Ultra Runners Society (KUS) holds two special events in the park each year. One run is a short "fun run" in the fall, then a marathon/ultra marathon in the spring. Stewart Ray of Andover, Elden Galano of Wichita, Phil Sheridan from Ellsworth and an assortment of their running buddies dedicate themselves to making sure the trails are ready for those runs. By dedication I don't mean they call and check to see if "someone" has gotten the trails ready. I do mean they come to the park, pick up man-killer gas powered weed eaters and hit the trails. They mow 8-10 miles of trail every year. Not only do they do this back-breaking work but their club donates the money to buy the equipment. These folks have been working with us for 14 years and have donated enough funds to buy 4 weed eaters, a walk-behind self-propelled trimmer, chainsaw and an enclosed trailer to put it in. The trailer also houses all of the other trail equipment. KUS rocks, thank you for all you do!

Scout Groups provide enumerable hours of clean up in the park. Scout groups often grab trash bags and hit the trails, campgrounds and shorelines, and plant trees.

If you would like to volunteer at Kanopolis State Park or any other State Park call 785-546-2565.