

# Kanopolis Lake

Kansas

## *Welcome*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District and the Kanopolis staff welcome you to Kanopolis Lake. We invite you to enjoy the lake and its facilities. Additional information may be obtained at the Corps Information Center near the southeast end of the dam or from one of our park rangers.



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## History

The Kanopolis area is rich with history of the old west. The historic Smoky Hill Trail moved settlers to the west. Fort Ellsworth and Fort Harker held legendary fames of George Armstrong Custer, Buffalo Bill Cody, and Wild Bill Hickok. Longhorn cattle drives met the railroad in Ellsworth and rivaled the reputation of Dodge City. Travel the Legacy Trail and you will discover an 80 mile auto tour that highlights scenic vistas and historic locations around the lake area. Pick up a Legacy Trail map at the Information Center.

## Trails

### Loder Point Nature Trail

The Loder Point Nature Trail is approximately 2 miles in length inside Venango Park. The hiking trail guides you through several different ecosystems, including wetland, woodlands, and mid-grass prairie. Please remember to take only pictures and leave no trace.

### Legacy Trail Auto Tour

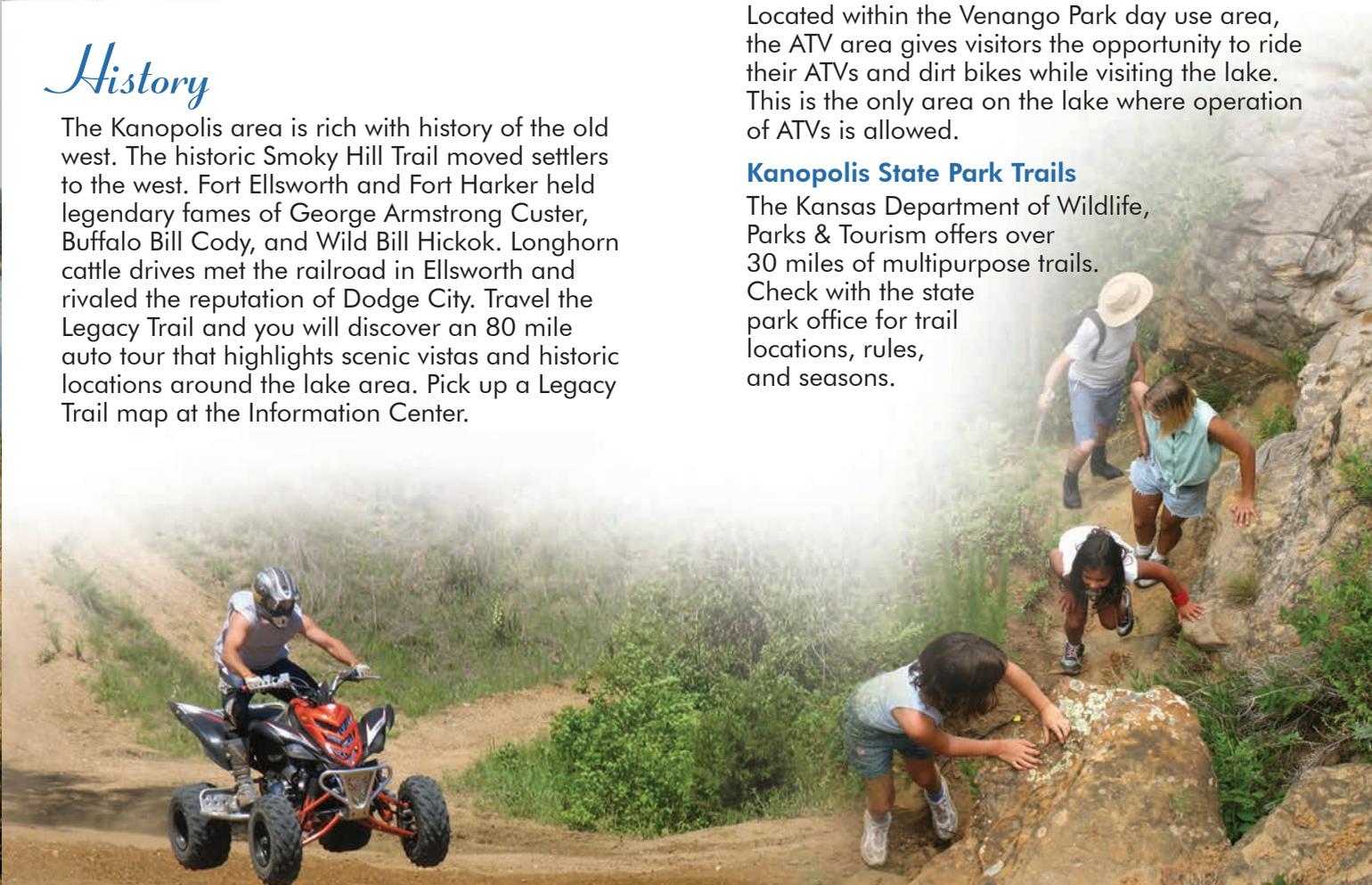
A unique recreational and educational experience opportunity awaits for those who travel the Legacy Trail. This self-guided auto tour highlights historical sites in and around the lake area. Trail Maps are available at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Information Center and at the state park office in the Horsethief area. Trail is also shown on map in this brochure.

### Venango Park ATV Area

Located within the Venango Park day use area, the ATV area gives visitors the opportunity to ride their ATVs and dirt bikes while visiting the lake. This is the only area on the lake where operation of ATVs is allowed.

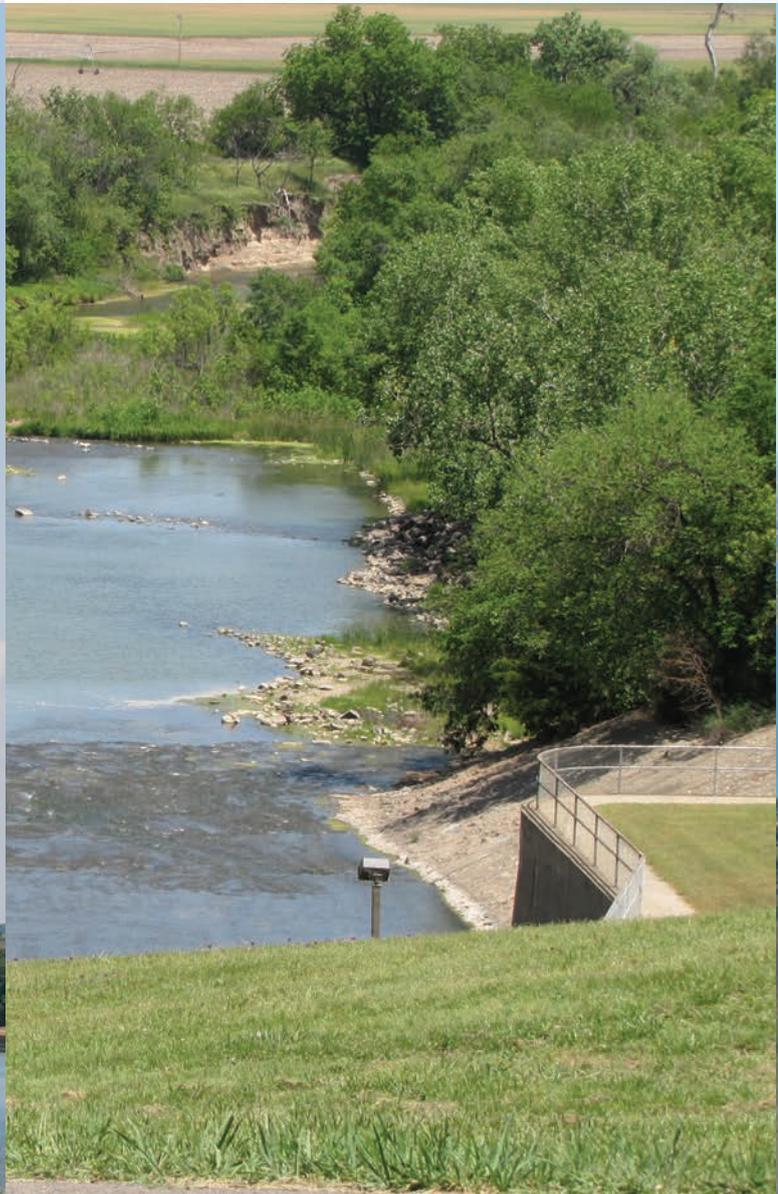
### Kanopolis State Park Trails

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism offers over 30 miles of multipurpose trails. Check with the state park office for trail locations, rules, and seasons.



## *The Lake*

Construction of Kanopolis Dam began in 1940 but was suspended for 3 ½ years during World War II. Construction was completed in 1948 at a cost of \$12.3 million. Kanopolis was the first of 18 lakes in the Kansas City District. It is one unit in a system of flood control lakes in the Kansas and Missouri River basins. The lake, with a normal pool surface of 3400 acres, attracts thousands of campers, hunters, fishermen and water sport enthusiasts each year.



### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

#### **Kanopolis Project Office**

105 Riverside Dr.

Marquette, KS 67464

785-546-2294

Visit us at:

[www.nwk.usace.army.mil](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil)

Email: [Kanopolis@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kanopolis@usace.army.mil)

### **Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism**

#### **Kanopolis State Park**

200 Horsethief Road

Marquette, KS 67464

785-546-2565

[www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com)

## Camping and Day Use

Four developed parks meet the needs of the visiting public by providing lake access, swimming beaches, boat ramps, camping, and picnicking facilities.



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### Managed Parks

**Riverside Park** is situated along the river outlet below Kanopolis Dam. Riverside Park provides recreational opportunities such as fishing and camping with both primitive and electric/water hookup campsites. Riverside contains amenities such as a shower house, restroom, basketball court, and Smoky Hill River access.

**Venango Park** is situated on the northwest side of Kanopolis Dam providing scenic lake views and shoreline access. Venango provides a full range of recreational facilities including primitive and electric/water hookup campsites, group camp, picnic shelters, swimming beach, interpretive trail, and ATV area.



### Managed State Parks

**Langley Point area**, located on the southwest side of Kanopolis Dam, offers a swim beach, camping, and cabin rentals. A marina offers boat slip rental, fuel, a general store and snack bar.

**Horsethief area**, located northwest of Venango Park, contains active prairie dog town and offers camping, boat ramp and hiking trails.

## User Fees

Corps Parks require permits for camping, boat launching and beach use. Day use permits may be obtained at the self-pay station and camping permits should be obtained from the park booth.

KDWPT charges entrance and camping fees at the state park. Rate information may be obtained at the state park entrances, state park office, or by calling 785-546-2565.

## Reservations

Reservations for Corps campsites and group picnic shelters may be made by calling 877-444-6777 or at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).



Recreation.gov  
EXPLORE YOUR AMERICA

Reservations for campsites and cabins at the state park may be made by calling 785-546-2565 or at [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com).





## Fishing

White bass, saugeye, and walleye fishing are well known, but catches of crappie, channel cat and hybrid wipers can be equally good. In the spring, white bass may be taken in the shallows near Bluff Creek or up-river during the spawn. Spring is also best for walleye spawning along the dam and as the water warms, walleye and saugeye prefer the flats around Boldt Bluff. Spring crappie fishing is popular around the dam, Tower Harbor and Yankee Run. Ice fishermen may find good angling for crappie, walleye, saugeye, and white bass. Sand Creek, below the dam, is a good place for trout fishing. Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism stock trout throughout the trout fishing season. Visit [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com) for trout season and permit information.



## Help STOP the Zebra Mussels



- **Clean** - Remove all plants, animals, mud and thoroughly wash everything, especially all crevices and other hidden areas.
- **Drain** - Eliminate all water before leaving the area, including wells, ballast, and engine cooling water.
- **Dry** - Allow sufficient time for your boat to completely dry before launching in other waters.



*If your boat has been in infested waters for an extended period of time, or if you cannot perform the required steps above, you should have your boat professionally cleaned with high-pressure scalding hot water (> 140 F) before transporting to any body of water.*



# Public Hunting

Nearly 16,000 acres of public land are available for hunting. Most of this acreage is located upstream and along the Smoky Hill River. All federal land is open to hunting except developed parks and the wildlife refuge. Lands below the dam are restricted to shotshell and archery hunting only.

Public hunting around Kanopolis boasts excellent whitetail deer and turkey hunting. Waterfowl frequent wetland areas and the lake during fall and spring migrations. Fur bearing species of coyote, fox, beaver, raccoon, and bobcat are prevalent along riparian corridors. Upland bird species of pheasant, quail and prairie chicken can be found in prairie areas.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism manage wildlife area lands for natural resources. Both agencies have active land management programs such as prescribed burning, tree and shrub planting, invasive species control, grain food plots and timber stand improvements for wildlife habitat. The Corps's most important wildlife management tool is the agricultural leasing program. Nearly 12,500 acres are leased to farmers and ranchers with specific wildlife management requirements. Access to public lands is restricted to walk-in only. Vehicle parking areas are provided along roadways.



# Play It Safe

With many people using the lake, it is important to know and follow the basic rules of water safety. The most important thing to remember is to always wear your life jacket whenever you are on or near the water. Your life depends upon it!

# While You Are Here

All visitors to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operated site should become familiar with the rules governing the use of the lake. You may obtain a copy of these rules (Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations) at the Kanopolis Lake Information Center or from a gate attendant or park ranger. Federal and state fishing and hunting regulations are also enforced. Please exercise good sportsmanship and safety at all times.

