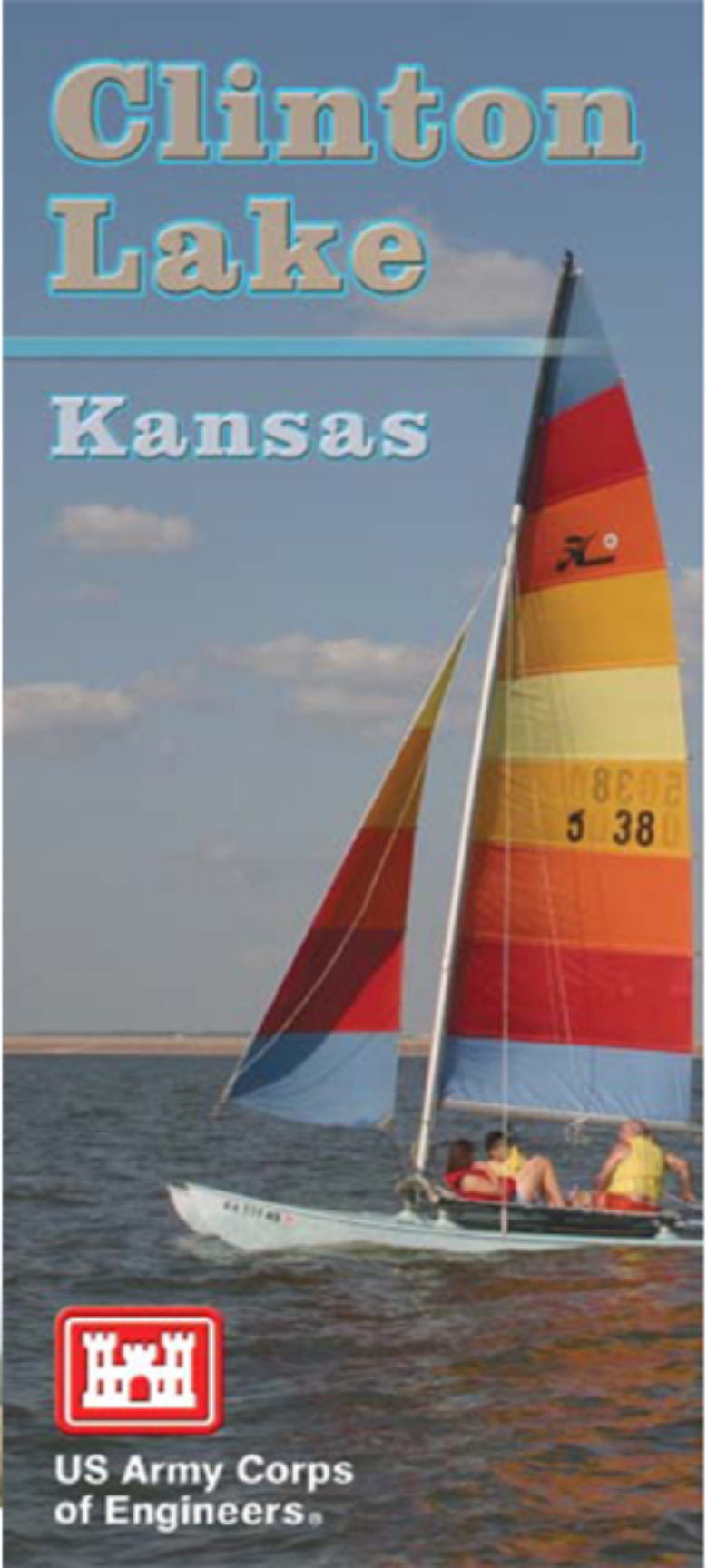
Clinton Lake

Kansas



US Army Corps of Engineers®

Corps Lake Gateway

www.CorpsLakes.us

Your Recreation Guide To Corps Lakes!

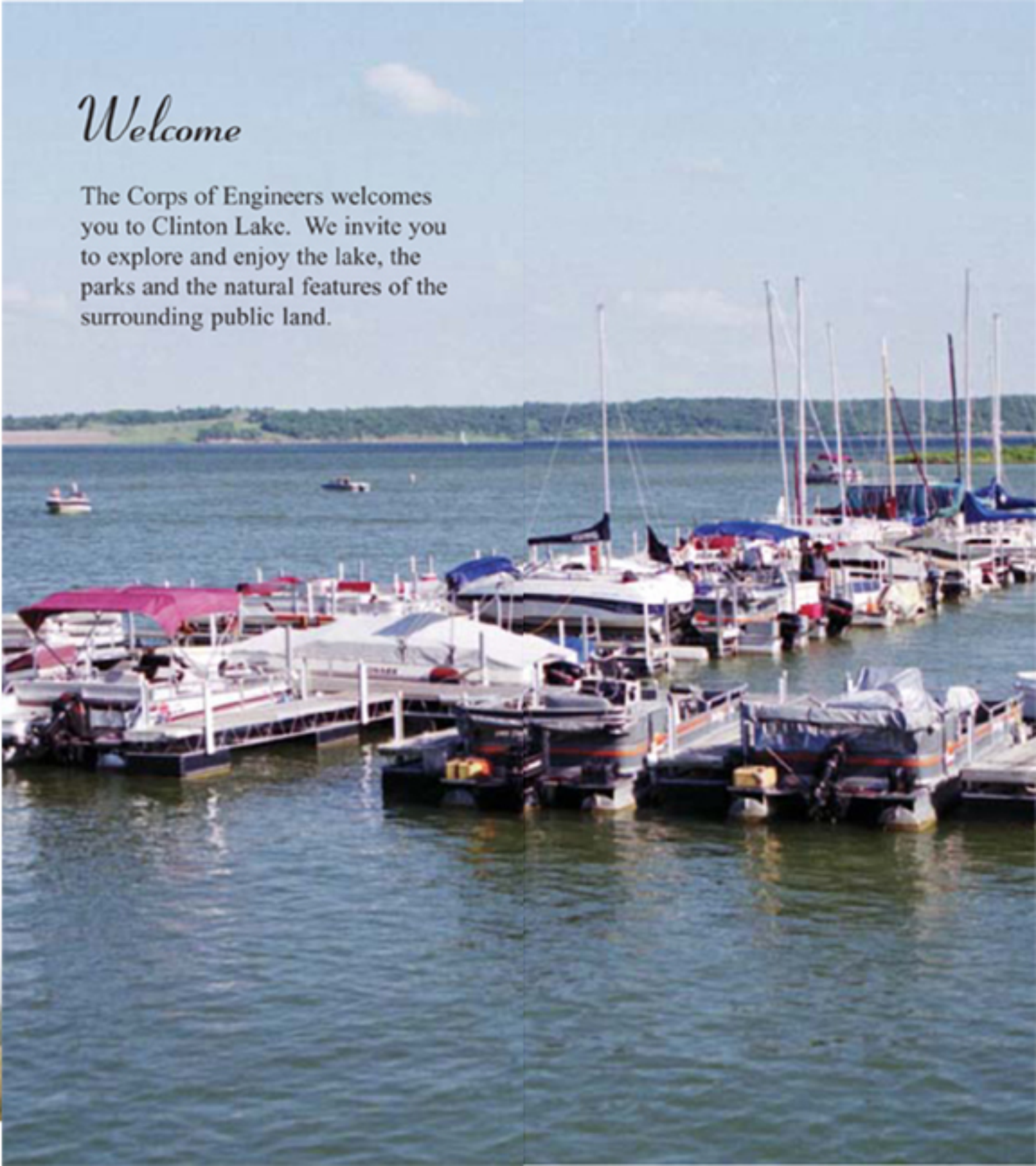
The Army Corps of Engineers is proud to oversee 12 million acres of lands and water across the Nation. These water resource projects provide 4,300 recreation areas at 456 lakes in 43 states. This site is your gateway to recreation opportunities at Corps Lakes!

Email: Clinton@Nwk02.usace.army.mil
Web: www.nwk.usace.army.mil/clinton/clinton-home.htm

For camping, fishing, or lake level information call: 785-843-7665. For additional information, contact: Project Manager, Clinton Lake Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 872 N. 1402 Rd., Lawrence, Kansas 66049-9048.

Welcome

The Corps of Engineers welcomes you to Clinton Lake. We invite you to explore and enjoy the lake, the parks and the natural features of the surrounding public land.



Benefits

Clinton Dam is a flood control structure that protects 156 square miles of the Wakarusa Valley below the dam. More than 9 million cubic yards of earth were moved to build the 1¼-mile-long dam. The dam rises 85 feet above the valley and is part of a system of dams designed to reduce flood crests on the Kansas, Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. Clinton Lake provides two additional benefits – water supply and recreation. The city of Lawrence pumps up to 10 million gallons of water per day to a treatment facility. Additionally, nearly one million people visit Clinton Lake each year to camp, boat, fish, swim, picnic, hunt, hike, bike or just relax.

Water Safety

Boating

- -Drinking and boating do not mix.
- -Watch for underwater obstructions.
- -Be alert for changing weather conditions.
- -Always wear an approved life jacket.
- -Do not overload your boat.
- -Obey all state boating laws.

Swimming

- -Swim and wade only where you are familiar with water depth and bottom.
- -Do not swim alone.
- -Watch children closely.
- -Swimming is not permitted around boat launching docks or ramps.

Skiing

- -Stay out of the "No Ski" areas west of the main body of the lake.
- -Watch for swimmers and other boats.
- -Always wear an approved life jacket.

Corps of Engineers User Fees

To determine what fees are charged in a given park, you must first identify the managing agency of that park. At Clinton Lake there are separate fees charged in Federal, State, and city park facilities. These fee permits or passes **are not interchangeable** between agencies. State permits and passes are not valid in Federal parks; likewise Federal permits and passes are not valid in State, or city parks.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers charge user fees (not entrance fees) for camping, shelter reservations, boat launching, and beach use. Federal Recreation Passport Program passes are available to those who qualify. These passes, the Golden Age and Golden Access, allow holders to receive a 50% discount on most Federal park fees.

Reservations for a Corps campsite or group camp area may be made through the National Recreation Reservation Service. To contact this service call toll-free 1-877-444-6777 or for TDD 1-877-833-6777. Reservations may also be made via the internet at www.reserveusa.com.

Please Remember

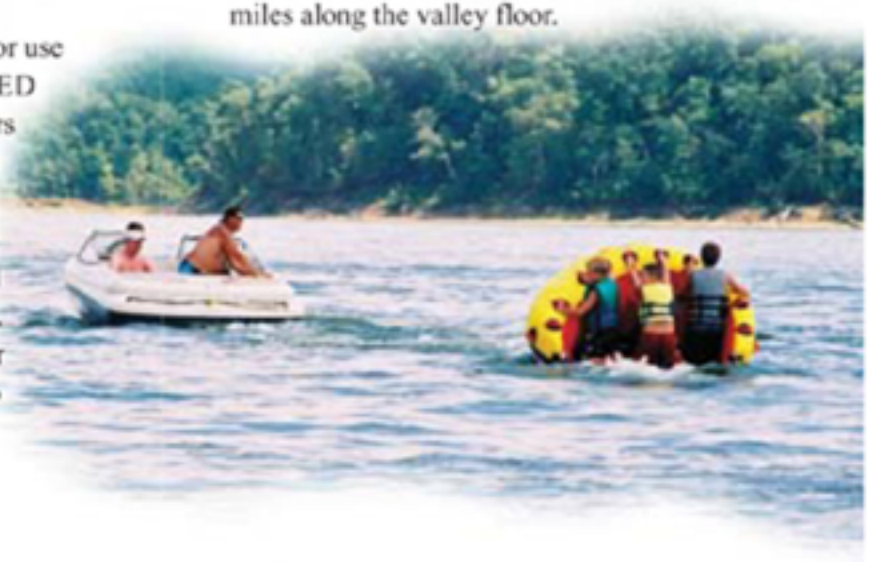
Clinton Lake's land and water resources are for use by all. PLEASE OBSERVE ALL POSTED REGULATIONS to ensure that future visitors may enjoy the same recreation opportunities and scenery that you are now enjoying. A copy of the rules and regulations governing park use (Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations) is available at the Visitor's Center. Clinton Lake visitors should become familiar with our standards of park use. We would also like to remind you that visitors to Clinton Lake are subject to Kansas law pertaining to public conduct.

The Lake

Clinton Lake's bluffs, wooded shoreline, and clear water, is unequaled among Kansas lakes for the beauty of its setting. Shoreline development has been limited in an effort to preserve as much of the natural setting as possible.

Congress authorized Clinton Lake in 1962 and funds were first appropriated for construction in 1971. Nearly $55 million was needed to complete the project. Initial filling of Clinton Lake began in 1977. To improve fishing potential, the lake was filled slowly over a three-year period and multipurpose pool level was reached in 1980.

Clinton Lake spans 8 miles up the Wakarusa Valley and covers 7,000 surface acres. If the lake ever approaches the top of its flood pool, an additional 5,800 acres will be covered and the lake will then extend 13 miles along the valley floor.



History

Archeological sites investigated in the Clinton Lake area indicate that prehistoric Indian activity in the region began as early as 8000 BC with transient hunting groups. Later (0-1000 AD) residents lived in seasonal hunting and gathering camps, adding to their food supply by gardening. Groups living in the Clinton Lake area from 1000 to 1500 AD used more intensive farming was practices.

The Kansa Indians inhabited northeastern Kansas at the time of initial European contact by the French traders and remained in control of the area until 1824 when they sold portions of the land to the U.S. Government. From 1824 to 1854, the Wakarusa River basin was used as a reservation for Shawnee Indians relocated from Ohio and Missouri. The area was opened for settlement in the unincorporated community of Kanwaka about one mile north of the present lake location.

Lawrence, the largest city in the Clinton Lake vicinity, was founded in 1854 by abolitionists. Lawrence was a major factional headquarters in the slave state versus free-state conflict, which raged through eastern Kansas for 5 years. Clinton Lake was named after the town of Clinton, located on the west side of the lake, between the Rock Creek and Wakarusa River arms. Former Bloomington town site residents, who moved three-quarters of a mile east in 1857, founded the town of Clinton. By 1865, Bloomington had ceased to prosper as a town and was officially declared vacant in 1876. Clinton, while enjoying an initial advantage, never grew very large, nor did it develop any industry.

Public Hunting and Fishing

Over 9,000 acres of public hunting lands are available at Clinton Lake. Kansas regulations pertaining to limits, hours, and hunting methods apply on federal property. Game species such as mourning dove, quail, turkey, squirrel; rabbit, deer and raccoon are plentiful around the lake. Waterfowl, such as Canada and snow geese, mallards, and teal are usually numerous on the lake late in the year.

Small lakeshore coves offer protected fishing spots. Crappie, walleye, white bass, channel catfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass and bluegill are abundant in the lake. Populations of some fish species have been enhanced by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks stocking program.

Recreation

Clinton Lake is unique among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes in Kansas because of the variety of recreational opportunities. During the early stages of park development at Clinton Lake, public input played an important role, to ensure that a wide variety of recreational opportunities were provided. The Corps' recreation plan is to provide meaningful outdoor opportunities while preserving the quality of the local environment.

Bloomington Park

Bloomington Park is the Corps' largest and most developed park with over 400 campsites conveniently located near the swimming beach, picnic area with reservable picnic shelters, boat ramps, playgrounds and the Clinton Museum.

Rockhaven Park

Rockhaven Park offers 50 campsites and access to over 30 miles of bridle and hiking trails. Drinking water and vault toilets are centrally located in this park

Woodridge Park

Woodridge Park has 450 acres for hiking and primitive, walk-in camping. Tent camping is allowed in the mowed area or along the 4.5 mile George Latham hiking trail. Drinking water and a vault toilet are available in this park.

Overlook Park

The Overlook Park is the Corps' day use area located near the north end of the dam. Open 9:00am to 10:00 pm daily, this park offers a picnic area with two reservable picnic shelters. The recently renovated Observation Point provides a beautiful view of the dam and Clinton Lake. The Overlook Park's accessible playground is located between the picnic shelters. The trailhead for the Northshore trail, located in the Overlook Park, provides access to over 20 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails. Drinking water, flush toilets and vault toilets are available in this park.

Outlet Park

The City of Lawrence manages the Outlet Park, below Clinton Lake's dam. The Outlet Park contains scenic picnic sites with two reservable shelters, YSI/Lawrence adult and youth sports complexes, the Eagle Bend 18-hole golf course, Model Masters radio controlled airfield, and the Mutt Run Off-Leash dog area. The City of Lawrence plans to develop an area called the Sesquicentennial Point, which will have an amphitheatre and Lawrence commemorative area.

Clinton State Park

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks manages the Clinton State Park with campgrounds, picnic areas, boat ramps, hiking/mountain biking trails, a beach and the Clinton Marina.