



Through a vigorous fisheries management program conducted by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, Melvern Lake enjoys a healthy population of game fish species for anglers. Walleye, crappie, bass and catfish comprise the bulk of the game fish present. A number of management efforts such as the stocking of game fish, more stringent regulations and better lake level management have combined to substantially improve the overall fishing quality in the lake.

## Fishing



## Hunting

Melvorn Lake offers access to more than 13,000 acres of public hunting managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. The Melvern Wildlife Area, managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, has approximately 10,000 acres located primarily in the upstream reaches of Melvern Lake. This unique area provides for a diversity of plant and animal life. Wildlife management goals seek to provide quality public hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities through habitat development and management. Habitat includes tallgrass prairie, riparian timber, wetlands and coplands. Habitat improvement efforts include controlled burns of native grass, tree and shrub planting, grass and legume planting and management of crop fields to provide winter food and cover. The Wildlife Area also offers a Youth Mentoring Area open to anyone under 16 or anyone hunting with someone under 16. Public hunting is allowed on the wildlife area except for the 1,100-acre wildlife refuge. The refuge is closed to all activities from October 1 to January 15.

- A free daily hunting permit is required when using the Melvern Wildlife Area.
- Contact the Melvern Wildlife Area at 620-699-3372 or visit them at: <http://kdwpt.state.ks.us/news/KDWP-Info/Locations/Wildlife-Areas/Region-5/Melvorn-Wildlife-Area>

## Trails

**Marais des Cygnes River Nature Trail**- a self-guided interpretive trail approximately 1 mile long located along the original Marais des Cygnes River channel within Outlet Park.

**River Bottom Nature Trail**-approximately ½ mile long located in a hardwood forested river bottom within Outlet Park.

**River Pond Trail**-approximately 1 ½ mile long trail surrounding the Outlet River Pond. The River Pond was created during initial construction of the dam from fill material of the embankment.

**Overlook Nature Trail**-approximately ½ mile long through forested areas located within Coeur d'Alene Park. This trail connects the Coeur d'Alene Day Use Park to the Overlook area.

**Breakwater Nature Trail**-over ½ mile long through timbered areas along the shoreline located on the east side of Coeur d'Alene Campground.

**Tallgrass Heritage Trail**-approximately 4 ½ miles long stretching through tallgrass prairie, ephemeral streams, timbered areas, as well as the shoreline of Melvern Lake. This trail stretches from Coeur d'Alene Campground to Arrow Rock Campground.

**Crooked Knee Horse Trail**- approximately 20 miles long located within Eisenhower State Park. This trail is open to hiking, biking, and horse riding. Named after a knee injury President Eisenhower received while at West Point. The section is set aside for archery. It consists of 20 targets set at various ranges and difficulties.

**Scooter Trail**-approximately 1 ½ mile long located within Eisenhower State Park and is open to hiking, biking, and motorized scooters 50 cc and under from 10 am to 6 pm.

## Recreation – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Melvorn Lake offers the outdoor enthusiast a wide variety of recreational opportunities. Camping and day use activities are permitted in the five Corps parks surrounding the lake. The day user can access the water from one of the five boat ramps or take advantage of the two developed swim beaches, four reservable group shelters or utilize the shoreline at one of the waterfront day use areas.

**Outlet Park** offers 150 campsites, a boat ramp, a youth group camp and numerous individual picnic sites. Other amenities include three shower buildings, a sanitary dump station, swim beach with change house and showers, reservable group picnic shelter, a stocked fishing pond, vault toilets and waterborne restrooms, a softball field, a handicapped accessible fishing dock, three miles of hiking trails, two playgrounds and a courtesy dock with fish cleaning station.

**Arrow Rock Park** offers 43 campsites, a small group picnic shelter, boat ramp and numerous individual picnic sites. Other amenities include a shower building, sanitary dump station, restrooms, a courtesy dock with fish cleaning station, playground and hiking trail.

**Coeur d'Alene Park** offers 56 campsites, two reservable group picnic shelters, a boat ramp, marina, swim amenities include a shower building, sanitary dump station, restrooms and a courtesy dock with fish cleaning station.

**Turkey Point Park** offers 47 campsites, two group camp areas with shelters, a boat ramp and numerous individual picnic sites. Other amenities include a shower building, two playgrounds, a sanitary dump station, restrooms, a courtesy dock with fish cleaning station and a day use area including a waterfront day use park which provides users access to the lake.

**Sun Dance Park** is located at the southwest corner of the lake and provides free camping to the public. The campground offers 25 basic campsites with gravel pads. In addition, vault toilets, and a boat ramp with a courtesy dock are available for lake users.



# Melvorn Lake Kansas



US Army Corps of Engineers  
Kansas City District



## Corps of Engineers User Fees

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates five parks and charges user fees for camping, boat launching, beach use and shelter reservations. Fees are seasonal and vary depending on the facilities and services provided. Discounts for recreation use fees are available through the America the Beautiful Passport program, for individuals 62 years of age or older and individuals with a permanent physical disability.

Reservations for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers campsites can be made through the National Recreation Reservation Service:

- by phone toll free (877)444-6777
- via the internet at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

To reserve group picnic shelters, the Outlet Park Pavilion or the youth group camping area contact the Melvern Lake Project Office at (785)549-3318.



## Benefits

Melvorn Lake and Dam were constructed from 1967 to 1972 at a cost of \$37,436,530 for the primary purpose of providing flood control on the lower Marais Des Cygnes River. As of October 2012, Melvern Lake has prevented approximately \$220,637,000 in downstream flood damages.

Melvorn Dam is a rolled earthfill embankment with an impervious clay core making the dam nearly watertight. The dam extends 9,650 feet and rises nearly 118 feet above the river valley. The lake elevation is maintained via a series of hydraulically operated gates located at the bottom of the control tower. The lake water passes through an 11.5-foot conduit for approximately 754 feet before entering the Marais Des Cygnes River.



Other authorized purposes include water supply, recreation and fish and wildlife management. The 349 square miles of drainage basin above Melvern Lake is composed primarily of warm-season grasses intermixed with agriculture and hardwood forests. The presence of an upstream prairie ecosystem provides a better than average water quality and clarity for Melvern Lake.

- ### Campsite Utilities
- Outlet Park**  
A Loop- Sites 1-61  
Water, 30 Amp Elec.  
B Loop- Sites 62-112  
Water, Sewer, 50 Amp Elec.  
C Loop- Sites 113-150  
Water, Sewer, 50 Amp Elec.  
**Arrow Rock Park**  
Sites 1-5- Water, No Utilities  
Sites 6-20- No Utilities  
Sites 21-34- Water, 30 Amp Elec.  
Sites 35-45- No Utilities  
**Coeur d'Alene Park**  
Site 1- Water, Sewer, 50 Amp Elec.  
Sites 2-8- 30 Amp Elec.  
Sites 9-32- No Utilities  
Sites 34-60- 30 Amp Elec.  
**Turkey Point Park**  
Sites 1-8- Water, 30 Amp Elec.  
Sites 9-22- No Hookups  
Sites 23-30- Water, 30 Amp Elec.  
Sites 31-50- Water, 50 Amp Elec.  
Lakewood Group Camp  
12 Sites- Water, 50 Amp Elec.  
Turkey Point Group Camp  
No Utilities

# Melvern Lake

## Kansas



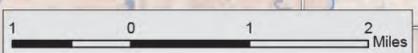
PARKS	Swimming Beach	Picnic Area	Group Picnic Shelter	Water Supply	Toilets	Showers	Cabin Rentals	Campgrounds	Group Camp Area	Walking Trail	Bicycle Trail	Equestrian Trail	Boat Ramp	Marina	Electric Hookups	Water Hookups	Sewer Hookups	Playground	Softball Field
Outlet	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Coeur D' Alene	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Arrow Rock	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sun Dance	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Turkey Point	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Eisenhower State Park	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Handicap Accessible Facility Available = • Maps of individual parks are available at Corps of Engineers Office



### LAKE NAVIGATION AID and MARKER SYSTEM

KNOW AND HEED BOYS AND MARKERS FOR SAFETY  
United States Aids to Navigation System (USATONS)



### Legend

Corps of Engineers Visitor Center	Scenic Overlook	Corps of Engineers Park No Hunting
State Park Office	Trailer Dump Station	State Park No Hunting
Boat Ramp	Playground	Corps of Engineers Public Land Hunting Allowed
Swimming Beach	Toilets	KDWP* Wildlife Area Hunting Allowed
Marina	Fee Booth	KDWP* Wildlife Refuge Restricted Hunting
Fishing Pier	Cemetery	Administrative Area No Hunting
Campground	Trail	Wetland
Picnic Shelter	Paved Road	
Shower	Gravel Road	
	Dirt Road	

\* Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

### Turkey Point Park

### Eisenhower State Park

### Outlet Park

### A Life Jacket

### Wear It!

**WARNING**  
Due to fluctuations in lake elevations, partially submerged and submerged hazards may be encountered. Boat operators should exercise extreme caution at all times while underway on the lake.

### For All Emergencies Call 911

#### Non-Emergency Phone Numbers

Osage County Sheriff	785-828-3121
Lyon County Sheriff	620-342-5545
Operation Game Thief	877-426-3843
Corps of Engineers Melvern Lake	785-549-3318
Eisenhower State Park	785-528-4102
Melvern Wildlife Area	620-699-3372
Melvern Lake Marina	620-256-6566

### Lake Information

Elevation, feet above mean sea level:	
Multipurpose Pool:	1036.0
Flood Control Pool:	1057.0
Surface area, acres:	
Top multipurpose pool:	6,930
Top flood control pool:	13,950

### Sun Dance Park

### Arrow Rock Park

### Coeur D' Alene Park