

# KANOPOLIS

Kansas' oldest recreation area includes more than 15,000 acres of rolling hills, bluffs, and woods. Kanopolis Reservoir at normal pool covers 3,000 acres and is located just off Highway K-141, 33 miles south-west of Salina.

Construction of the reservoir's dam began in 1940 but was halted in 1942 due to World War II. Construction resumed in 1946, and the project was completed in 1948. The Kansas Park Authority dedicated two areas on May 30, 1959 Langley Point (also known as "the South Shore") and Horsethief (also known as "the East Shore" or "Horsethief Canyon"). The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks continues to operate these areas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates two parks as well – Venango and Riverside. The Corps also maintains the Yankee Run and Bolt Bluff access areas.

## Day-Use

Water skiing, boating, jet skiing, and swimming are the most popular water sports at Kanopolis Reservoir. When participating in these sports, please use caution, obey all regulations, and be courteous to other park users.

Kanopolis State Park has complete facilities, including a full service marina, deluxe cabin rentals, beaches, picnic areas, and trails for horseback riding, mountain bikes, and hiking.

Mushroom Rock State Park is a geological formation of sandstone spheres balanced on softer pedestals of sandstone. The power of erosion weathered away the softer portions of the sandy rock. The spheres of the naturally cemented portions of the sandstone are what we see today. The Smoky Hill wagon train trail crossed in this vicinity, and travelers would venture off the trail to visit the rocks. Many interesting displays of artwork from days past are recorded. Please do not add any of your own.

Within the Horsethief Area of Kanopolis State Park, there is an active prairie dog town. The best time to see the "dogs" is on warm, sunny days.

To the west are the historic Faris Caves, hand dug into the sandstone cliff. They were once used as a school and living quarters.

A unique recreational and educational experience is in store for those who travel the Legacy Trail, which highlights historical sites in the lake area. Trail maps are available at the Corps Information Center and the Kanopolis State Park Office.

## Things to Remember

Interpretive programs, guest speakers, films, nature hikes, live animal displays, and more are presented May-September on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Check with the office, self-pay stations, marina, or bulletin boards for more information.

When in a campground, please put your trash in the centrally-located dumpsters provided. In day-use areas, please take your trash with you.



Download the **CampIt 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.



**General Area Map**

Equal opportunity to benefit from programs described herein is available to all persons without regard to race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, military or veteran status, disability status, marital or family status, genetic information or political affiliation. Concerns of discrimination should be sent to KDWP, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612. 11/23



Kanopolis State Park  
200 Horsethief Rd.  
Marquette, KS 67464

Park Office  
(785) 546-2565

Regional Office  
(316) 683-8069

KDWPT.kanopolissp@ks.gov  
www.ksoutdoors.com

## Park Trails

### Buffalo Track Canyon Nature Trail

Enjoy a walk on this trail and observe native plants, wildlife, Indian history, and the geology of the canyons. The 1.5-mile trail follows Bison Creek. Numbered yellow markers along the trail correspond to the brochure "Buffalo Track Canyon Nature Trail" available at gatehouses, information centers, the marina, and the state park office. THIS TRAIL IS FOR HIKERS ONLY.

### Multi-use Trail System

Kanopolis offers 27.38 miles of trails open to hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders, 15.3 of which are on the Smoky Hill Wildlife Area. This series of trails is comprised of the Rockin' K trails that go to and from the Rockin' K campground. The Horsethief trails loop through canyons and trees. Farther north and west, trails traverse the Smoky Hill Wildlife Area, the Prairie trails take you through high prairie and Red Rock Canyon, a sandstone canyon that will take your breath away. North of the Prairie trails are the Alum Creek trails, which cross the vast prairie and water crossings. Experience all they have to offer, but be aware, it can take more than a day to complete some trails on foot, and you won't be able to camp along the way.

### Split Boulder Trail

The Split Boulder Trail is a beginner mountain bike trail. It starts at trailhead E. This 1.63-mile trail loops through interesting boulder formations, near the shore line, through trees and meadows back to the trailhead. Hikers are welcome to use this scenic trail.

### Wildlife Viewing Area Trail

The 40-acre Wildlife Viewing Area has a .6-mile ADA accessible trail circling through a marsh and around two ponds, five photo blinds, and an observation deck that offer opportunities for birders, photographers, and outdoor enthusiasts of all ages. Contributions from generous donors helped restore this area from an unused motorcycle racetrack into a natural sanctuary.

### Kid's Pond ADA Fishing Access and Trail

This new trail will provide 1/2-mile of hardened surface trail around the Kid's Fishing Pond, elevated walkways over the incoming creeks, interpretive signs, and fishing access points. This will offer excellent access for people of limited mobility to fish, view wildlife, and enjoy being outside.

### Trail Season

The Prairie trails and Alum Creek trails are closed to horseback riding and mountain bikes from Nov. 1 through Jan. 31. This is a safety precaution during hunting season. Trails inside the park are open year-round. Portions of the trails may be closed during high water because low water crossings become hazardous or impassable at times. Always approach crossings with caution.

### Trail Access

All trails start in Kanopolis State Park. Camping equestrians use the campground (trailhead A). Equestrians visiting for the day use Horsethief Canyon (trailhead B). Hikers and mountain bikers use Buffalo Track Canyon (trailhead C). Stay on trails and do not trespass onto private land. Camping hikers and advanced mountain bikers can easily access trails through Rockwall campground (trailhead D). Beginning mountain bikers might consider the Split Boulder Trail (trailhead E).

### General Trail Rules

To help maintain the beauty of the trails, please follow these rules:

1. Park all vehicles in designated parking areas with a vehicle permit properly displayed.
2. NO motorized vehicles allowed on trails.
3. Trail access is allowed only from designated trailheads – A,B,C,D, and E within the Horsethief area.
4. Camp only in designated areas and display all permits.
5. NO camping or fires along the trails.
6. Pack it in, pack it out! Carry out all trash.
7. Hikers yield right of way to horseback riders.
8. Mountain bikers yield right of way to horseback riders and hikers.
9. Mountain bikers must remain on marked trails or maintained roads.
10. Horseback riders must remain on marked trails.
11. Horses are allowed on paved surfaces only where the trail crosses a road.
12. Buffalo Track Canyon Nature Trail is for hiking only.
13. Wildlife Viewing Area Trail is for hiking only.
14. Use proper trailheads to alleviate congestion and conflicts.

## Equestrian Facilities

### Camping at the Rockin' K Campground

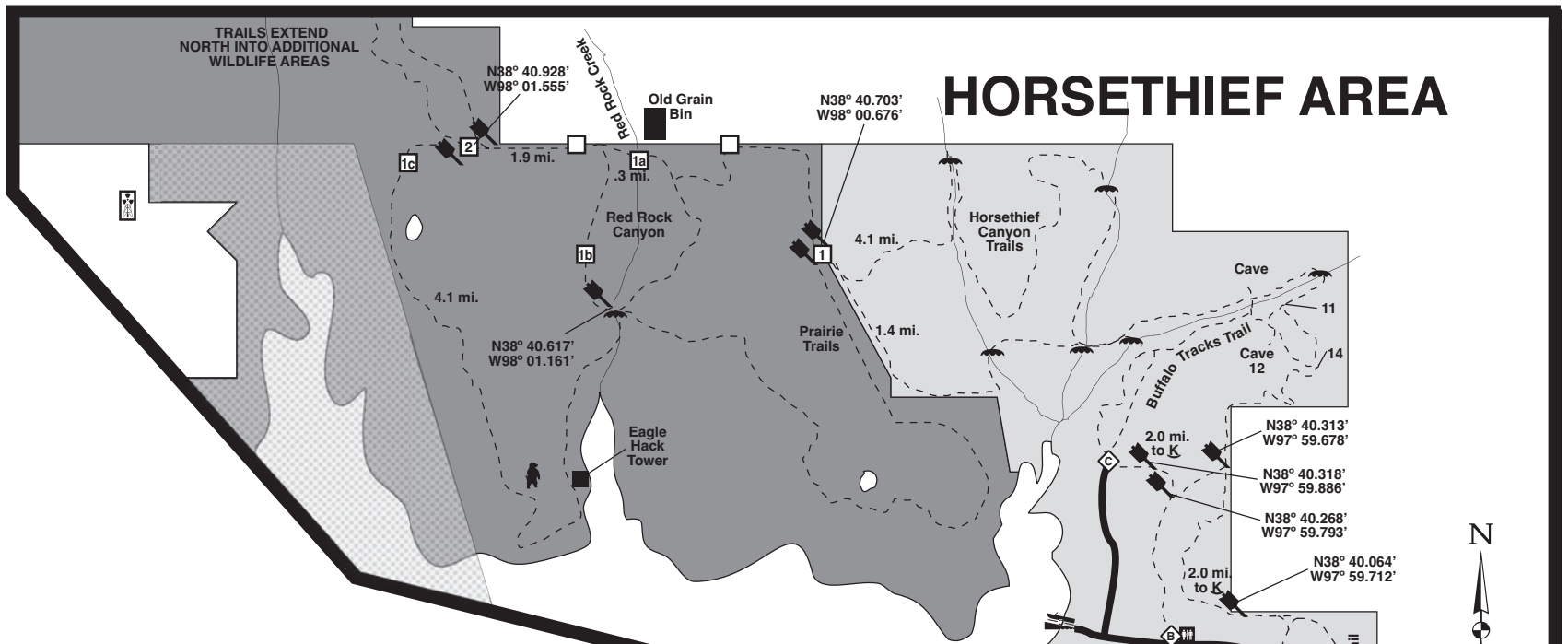
The Rockin' K campground is designed for equestrians. Sites 1-4 are ADA accessible. All sites are reservable to equestrians.

After 12pm on Fridays non-reserved spots will become walk-in campsites.

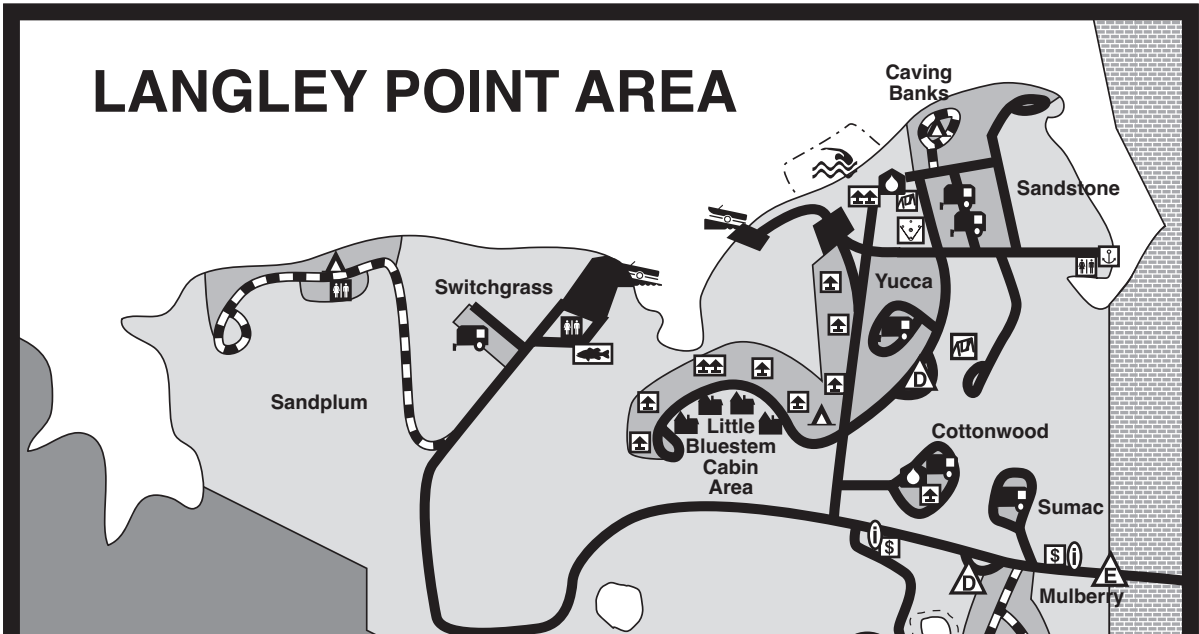
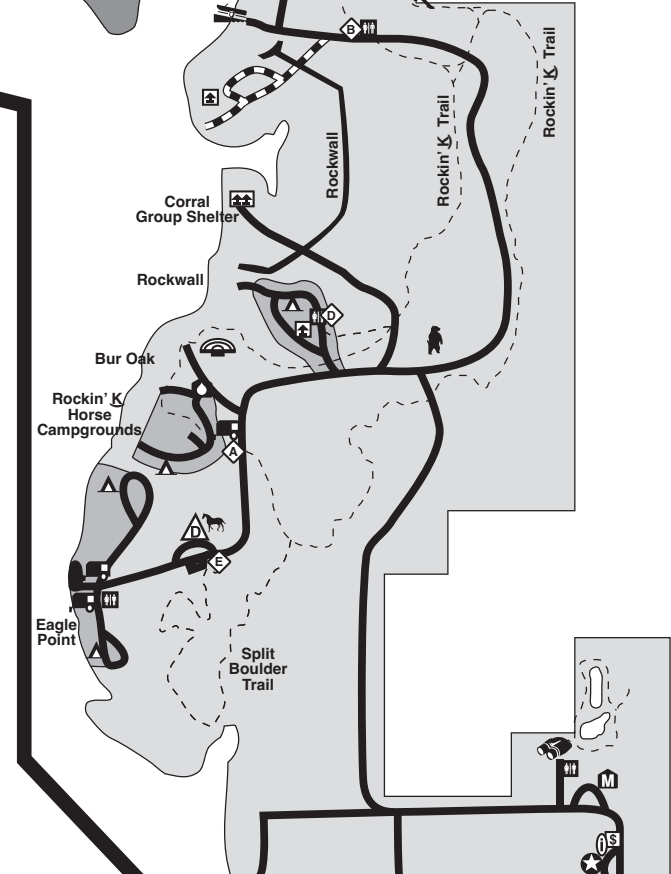
Equestrian campers are encouraged to call the state park office about the availability of campsites at Rockin' K campground at (785) 546-2565, or by email [KDWP.KanopolisSP@ks.gov](mailto:KDWP.KanopolisSP@ks.gov).

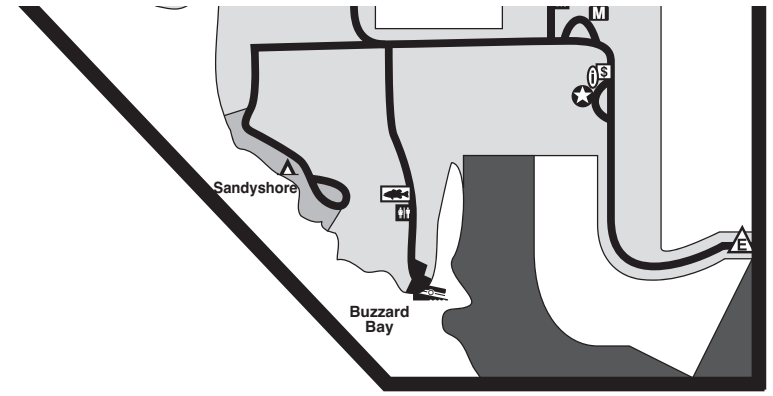
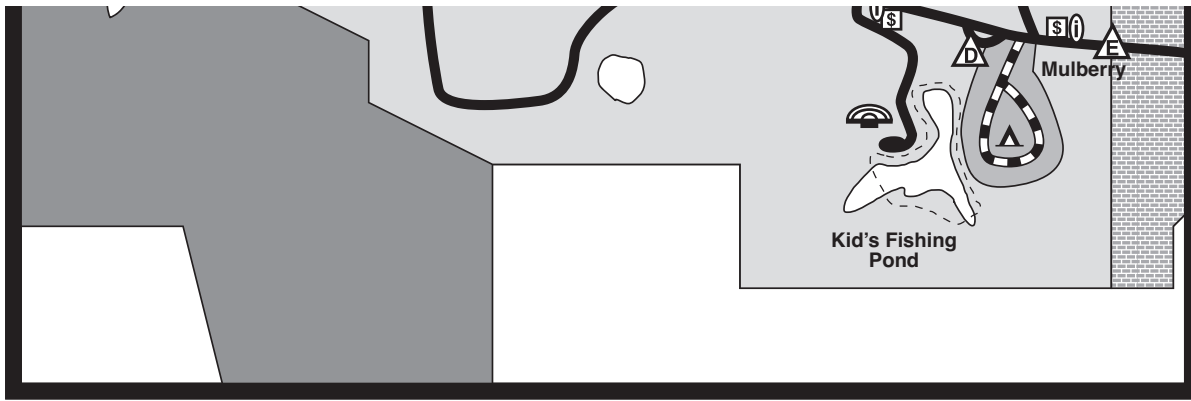
### Rockin' K Campground Rules

1. BACK INTO YOUR SITE. Keep campers/horse trailers and vehicles on improved camp pad. (Please stay off grass.) One camping unit per site. The picnic shelter IS NOT a camping area.
2. Horses must be kept in campsite and secured at designated tie-ups or provided corrals when not on the trails. Portable corrals may be used but must be erected around tie-ups. DO NOT SET PORTABLE PENS AROUND TREES.
3. DO NOT TIE TO TREES, CORRALS, ELECTRIC PEDESTALS, OR LANTERN HOLDERS (Subject to prosecution.)
4. Keep horses inside designated areas of Rockin' K Campground.
5. HORSES ARE NOT ALLOWED AT THE SHOWER BUILDING OR PICNIC SHELTER.
6. Use the manure bunker provided. You are responsible for keeping your campsite clean. Wheelbarrow and hay forks are available without charge in the campground.
7. Display valid permits at campsites and on vehicle.
8. DO NOT WASH HORSES AT CAMPSITE. Use wash-bays near the corrals.
9. Campers may use NO MORE THAN ONE (1) corral pen per campsite. There is to be no saving or reserving corrals for others. If a pen is empty (i.e. no horse and/or equipment at the pen.) it may be used by anyone.
10. Unless a prior reservation exists, the picnic shelter is available on a first-come first-serve basis. Contact the park office to make reservations.
11. Pets shall be controlled at all times by using any one of the following methods: hand-held lead not more than 10 ft in length; tethered chained or leash not more than 10 ft in length provided the pet is under the direct observation of and control by the owner; or confined to a cage, pen, vehicle, trailer, or cabin.



# KANOPOLIS STATE PARK





# LEGEND SYMBOLS

State Park Area (No Hunting)		Modern Toilet	
Camping Area (No Hunting)		Vault Toilet	
Wildlife Area (State/COE) (Hunting Allowed)		Showerhouse	
Wildlife Refuge (Call (785) 658-2465)		Shelter	
Corp or Engineers Park (No Hunting)		Group Shelter	
Dam (No Hunting)		Trailer Dump Station	
Paved Roads		Fish Cleaning Station	
Gravel Roads		Primitive Camping	
Unimproved Roads		Improved Camping	
Park Entrance		Cabin Modern	
KDWP Office		Amphitheater	
COE Office		Water Crossing	
Maintenance		Waypoint Trail Markers	
Parking Area		Gates Accessible	
Pay Stations		Gates NOT Accessible	
Information Center		Trailheads	
Boat Ramp		Trail	
Marina		Horse Rides	
Swimming Area		Baseball Field	
Playground		Wildlife Viewing	
		Prairie Dog Town	
		Windmill	