

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 ROCKIN' K CAMPGROUND

The Rockin' K campground is designed for equestrians. Sites 1-10 are available for non-equestrians by request or reservation. Sites 1-4 are ADA accessible. All sites are reservable.

Camping equestrians are encouraged to call the state park office (785) 546-2565, or email KanopolisSP@wp.state.ks.us to inquire about the availability of campsites at Rockin' K campground.

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.)

HUNTING, FISHING, AND THE SMOKY HILL WILDLIFE AREA

HUNTING AND FISHING

Approximately 11,000 acres are managed by the Corps and are open to the public for hunting. Game animals include pheasant, quail, prairie chicken, deer, furbearers, turkey, squirrel, rabbits, coyotes, and a variety of waterfowl.

Kanopolis Reservoir offers excellent fishing for white bass and crappie.

White bass may be taken soon after the ice melts in the shallows near Bluff Creek or in the Smoky Hill River during their spawning runs, usually in April.

The best crappie fishing occurs from March to May, but crappie may be caught year-around in Tower Harbor and Yankee Run coves or along the face of the dam.

This lake also supports walleye, saugeye, wiper, largemouth bass, and channel catfish. Call the fisheries biologist for information, (785) 658-2465

All federal and state fishing regulations are enforced.

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. Wheelbarrows 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 washbays near the corrals.
9. Campers may use NO MORE THAN ONE (1) corral pen/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-served 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 feet long provided the pet is under the direct observation of and control by the owner; or confined to a cage, pen, vehicle, trailer, or cabin.

SMOKY HILL WILDLIFE AREA

Managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the Smoky Hill Wildlife Area encompasses over 5,000 acres of diverse wildlife habitat. Native mixed grass prairie and wooded creeks lead to the Smoky Hill River that winds through the area. This popular area is known for its deer, turkey, and quail hunting. Waterfowl frequent the wildlife refuge and special hunts on the refuge provide additional hunting opportunities. Call the Smoky Hill Wildlife Area at (785) 658-2465 for a detailed brochure.

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

KANOPOLIS STATE PARK

