

CRAWFORD

Crawford State Park is located 9 miles north of Girard on Highway 7. The 150 acre lake was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps on the Drywood Creek in the early 1930's. Shortly thereafter, a fish

hatchery was built below the dam. In 1965, Crawford State Park was established.

One of the most beautiful parks in the state, Crawford is located on the edge of the Ozarks. Redbud trees offer spectacular beauty in

spring, plus multicolored foliage in the fall. The area provides unequalled opportunity for wildlife and scenic adventures. There are two recorded archaeological sites identified within the boundaries of Crawford State Park.

FISHING

Special length and creel limits may be in effect for some species. Check the Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary and all posted notices before fishing.

Channel catfish, crappie and striped fishing are excellent year-round.

FACILITIES

The park consists of about 500 acres and has seven campgrounds, two boat ramps, one swimming beach and two bathhouses. A sand volleyball court and horse shoe pits offer other recreational opportunities. There are 72 electrical hookups some with water and 42 primitive

camping sites. Pleasure boating and scuba diving is allowed. Food, fuel and convenience items are provided at the full service marina and restaurant located within the park. Many special events are held throughout the year. Contact the Park office for additional information.

HISTORY

Established with its current boundaries in 1867, Crawford County was once a part of the Louisiana Purchase. The county was named after former governor of Kansas Samuel J. Crawford. Cherokee, and part of Bourbon counties encompassed over 60,000 acres in all, and were known as the Cherokee Neutral Lands. The name was given to this tract because the land belonged to the Cherokee Nation of Indians, as payment for their Georgia property that the U.S. Government stole from them.

By 1860, many white families were scattered over the territory. The Cherokees sent their wisest chiefs to Washington to demand money, instead of new land. But President James Buchanan found the treasury empty and promised to see that the lands were vacated. Accordingly, in the fall of 1860, two companies of soldiers arrived at the south line of the Neutral Lands and drove the settlers north to Drywood Creek.

The Civil War brought a halt to this activity and the Cherokee Neutral Lands were abandoned, except for this

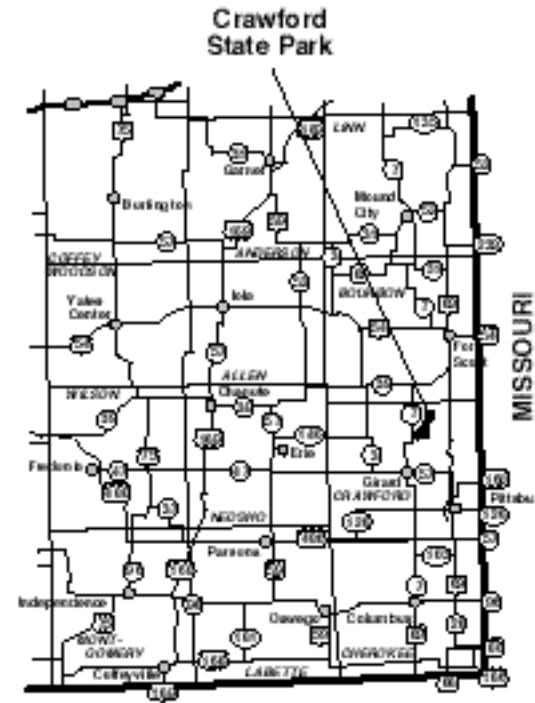
strip along the north end. A treaty was signed; the terms of which called for the sale of the land at no less than one dollar per acre, and the money to be paid to the Cherokee Nation. All of the land was sold by the Secretary of the Interior to James F. Joy, Emigrant Company, who intended to sell the land to the settlers to pay for the building of a railroad. The settlers were very upset when they found out the land had been sold. They threatened to burn the railroad's building materials. The railroad called for soldiers to protect their property and remove the squatters.

The government had a military outpost on the branch of Drywood Creek at Crawford State Park. There are still remnants of the old outpost on the site, which reveals many two room cabins once stood there. (Our current naturalist program interprets this site, which is on an interpretive trail between the state park and fish hatchery.) The soldiers had an old caboose from the railroad that they used. The outpost also guarded "Spiderleg Bridge" that was made of long poles similar to telephone poles.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Vehicles are permitted on maintained roads only. Special length and creel limits may be in effect for some fish species.

Consult area information signs for additional rules and regulations on the area.



General Area Map

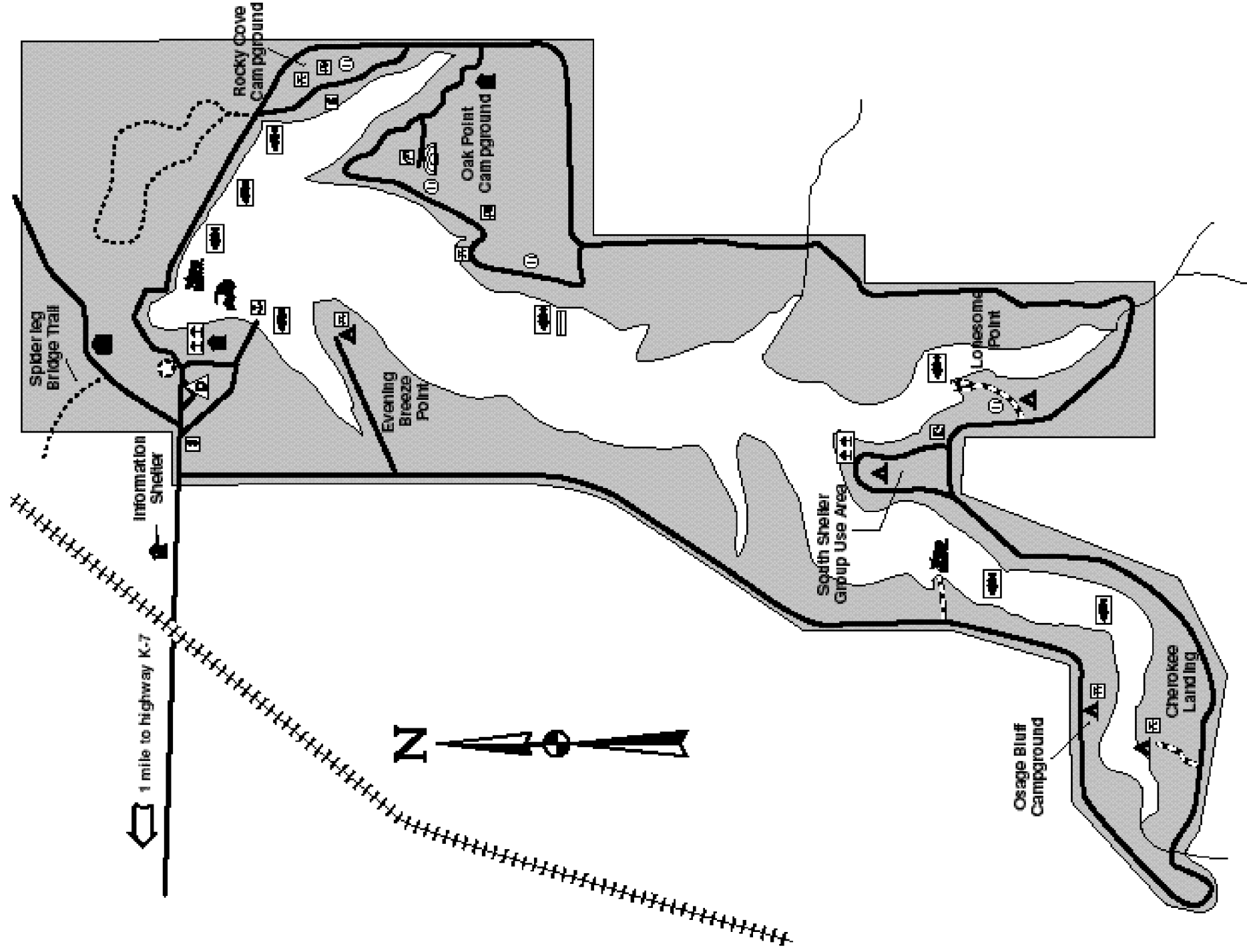
Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or handicap. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 900 Jackson St., Suite 502, Topeka, KS 66612. 01/01

Crawford State Park



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CRAWFORD STATE PARK



LEGEND

Office	Group Shelter	Toilets, Modern
Gate House	Picnic Shelter	Shower House
State Park	Swimming Beach	Amphitheater
Paved Road	Marina	Camping Area Improved
Gravel Road	Fish Attractor	Camping Area Primitive
Nature Trail	Earthen Fishing Pier	Playground
Rail Road	Outlets	Self-pay Station
Boat Ramp	Dump Station	Maintenance Building