

# Kanopolis State Park

**K**anopolis State Park started it all. The first Kansas state park has drawn visitors to eastern Ellsworth County since 1959. Situated in the rolling hills, bluffs, and woods of the scenic Smoky Hills region of Kansas, Kanopolis is 33 miles southwest of Salina.

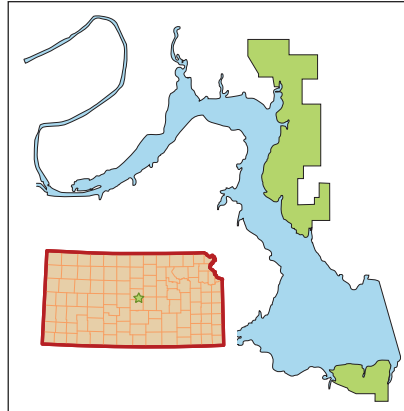
The park features a full-service marina; beaches; picnic areas; six modern cabins; and trails for horseback riding, mountain biking, and hiking. More than 200 primitive campsites and 133 utility sites are located in the 14 campgrounds in the Langley Point and Horsethief areas. Buffalo Track Nature Trail is an enthralling 1-mile route rich in native plants and wildlife, as well as Native American history.

Kanopolis offers 27.4 miles of multi-use trails, all of which start in the state park. The Rockin' K Trail takes visitors to and from the Rockin' K Campground. The Horsethief Trail loops through canyons and trees. Farther north and west, the Prairie Trail traverses high prairie and Red Rock Canyon. The Alum Creek Trail takes visitors across vast prairie and through many water crossings. Be aware that it can take more than a day to complete some trails on foot.

The 3,500-acre Kanopolis Reservoir offers excellent fishing opportunities. White bass fishing can be good soon after ice-out and in April during the spawning run. The best crappie fishing occurs from March through May. In addition, anglers will find walleye, saugeye, wiper, largemouth bass, and channel catfish. More than 12,500 acres of public wildlife area add to Kanopolis' appeal.

The Mushroom Rock area is a geological phenomenon of sandstone spheres balanced on softer pedestals of sandstone 7.75 miles north of the Kanopolis SP office. The power of erosion weathered away the softer portions of sandy rock. The spheres of the naturally-cemented portions of the sandstone are what we see today.

These unusual formations, which resemble giant mushrooms reaching for the sky, served as landmarks and meeting places for Native Americans and pioneers. The Smoky Hill Wagon Trail also crossed in this vicinity.



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