

BOURBON

Bourbon State Fishing Lake is a picturesque 103-acre lake located 5 miles east of Elsmore. It lies in a deep valley surrounded by oak-hickory timber on Wolfpen Creek. The lake was

built in 1957 and opened to fishing in November 1959. It was drained and restocked in 1977. While the lake was dry, extensive shoreline and in-basin improvements were completed.

Numerous campsites can be found along the south and west shoreline. Facilities include picnic tables, barbecue grills, drinking water, and restrooms.

FISHING

The lake has a diverse fish population, which includes largemouth and spotted bass, bluegill, channel catfish, black and white crappie, walleye, redear sunfish, and bullhead catfish.

A good population of black bass is present with about equal numbers of spotted and largemouth. The best areas to catch spotted bass are along the face of the dam and along the rocky shorelines of the lake. Largemouth bass will usually be found in or around the many brushpiles.

Channel catfish are popular and offer fair fishing.

Some channel cats reach trophy size, while annual supplemental stockings of 10- to 12-inch fish help maintain the population.

Both white and black crappie can be caught around brushpiles in the spring and can be taken in the summer under the lights at night.

A small population of walleye is present, with some fish weighing 5 to 6 pounds. The walleye population is self-recruiting. The creek channel and rocky points are best bets for catching walleye.

MANAGEMENT

A water-level management program helps maintain the lake's quality fishery. The lake is lowered 5-8 feet after Labor Day and kept at this level through the winter. Lowering the water level crowds fish, increasing feeding efficiency of predatory fish. The predators feed heavily on small crappie, bluegill, and shad improving growth and preventing overpopulation. Angler success

will improve during the drawdown because fish are concentrated. An extension was added to the boat ramp so that boats can be launched during low-water periods.

Special length and creel limits may be in effect. Check all posted notices and the *Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary* prior to fishing at Bourbon State Fishing Lake.

WILDLIFE

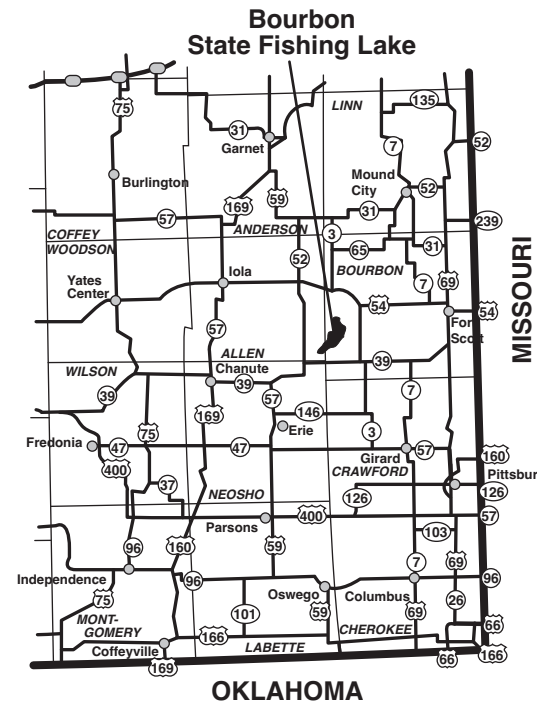
Though a relatively small area at just 277 acres, land around the lake supports a variety of wildlife. Habitats include native prairie, woodland, and a savannah. Transition of the forest into prairie southeast of the lake makes good habitat for a number of songbirds, as well as small game and furbearers.

Hunting is restricted to areas east and south of the lake. Squirrel, quail, rabbit, and deer are the primary game species found on the area.

Raccoon, muskrat, mink, coyote, and opossum are the most common furbearers and may be hunted and trapped during the open seasons.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Boats are to be used for fishing only. A no trash policy is in effect. No trash barrels are provided, so please remove all your trash when you leave. Vehicles are restricted to established roads and parking areas.



General Area Map

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Bourbon

State Fishing Lake & Wildlife Area



Bourbon SFL
8705 Wallace Rd.
St. Paul, KS 66771


Kansas
Department of
Wildlife and Parks

Area Office
(620) 449-2539

Regional Office
(316) 683-8069

www.ksoutdoors.gov

BOURBON STATE FISHING LAKE & WILDLIFE AREA

LEGEND

Public Use Area
No hunting allowed

Public Use Area
Hunting allowed

Paved Road

Gravel Road

Parking Area

Camping Area, Primitive

Vault Toilet

Boat Ramp

Floating Pier

Earthen Fishing Pier

Fish Feeder

Fish Attractor

Drinking Water

P

▲















The map displays the layout of Bourbon State Fishing Lake and Wildlife Area. The lake is divided into two main sections: a larger, irregularly shaped section on the right and a smaller, more elongated section on the left. The lake is bordered by a gravel road (dashed line) and a paved road (solid line). Various facilities are marked throughout the lake, including parking areas (P), primitive camping areas (▲), vault toilets, boat ramps, floating piers, earthen fishing piers, fish feeders, fish attractors, and drinking water stations. A north arrow is located near the top center of the map. An inset map on the right shows the location of the lake relative to Bronson, Uniontown, and Elsmore & Hwy 59, 4 miles. The inset map also shows the location of Hwy 39, 5 miles, and the intersection of Hwy 39 and Hwy 59. The inset map includes labels for Allen County, Bourbon County, and the lake's location relative to Hwy 39 and Hwy 59.