

# Mound City District Fisheries Report Fall of 2019

## Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism: Fisheries Division

**District impoundments include:** Pomona Reservoir; La Cygne Reservoir; Bourbon State Fishing Lake; Richmond City Lake; Pleasanton Old, West and East City Lakes; Parker City Lake; Prescott City Lake; Mound City Lake; Critzer Lake; Blue Mound City Lake; Linn County Strip Pits; Elm Creek Lake; Cedar Creek Lake; Ft Scott City Lake; Rock Creek Lake; Ft Scott Community College – East and West Lakes; Ft Scott Gunn Park – Fern and West Lakes.

**Partially Accessible Public Rivers:** Marais des Cygnes River, Marmaton River.



Fall 2019, I just can't believe it. What happened to 2018? This is the best time of the year for anglers and boaters who are looking for fish to catch and fun places to explore. The weather will start to cool down, the leaves will start to turn into a colorful cornucopia, and to top it off, the fishing gets very good. Our part of the state has many great places to fish and have fun, regardless of whether you fish from the shore or from a boat.

Hot topics in this newsletter:

- **The Marmaton River Trail, a perfect afternoon adventure.**
- **Things to do and places to go with your kayak or canoe.**
- **La Cygne Reservoir, home of great largemouth bass fishing.**
- **Trout Season Opens Soon.**
- **Friends of Reservoirs have grants available for members who want to improve reservoir habitats.**
- **Pomona Reservoir, La Cygne Reservoir, Pleasanton East Lake receive stockings of Wipers.**
- **Walleye stocking at Pomona Reservoir.**
- **Creel census at Ft Scott Reservoir.**

## **The Marmaton River Trail - a perfect afternoon adventure**

This is the perfect time to float down the Marmaton River Trail or around one of the many lakes. It provides a place to get away and enjoy the quiet environment that only floating down a river can provide. This is a close place to use the kayak or canoe before the season ends. The Marmaton River Trail, located in Bourbon County, begins just west of Ft Scott along the dam of Rock Creek Lake. To get to the Marmaton River you drive along the lake to the west side of the dam. There is primitive parking for the vehicle, and it is easy to drag your canoe or kayak down to the river. The GPS location for entry is 37.81607 – 94.72679.

Usually it takes about 4 hours to float down, but of course it depends on flow and your paddling effort. This river does fluctuate, so check out this site for current water flows.

[https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ks/nwis/uv?site\\_no=06917500](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ks/nwis/uv?site_no=06917500)

The downstream exit site is at the dam, located in Gunn Park, Ft Scott. The location is GPS 37.82784 – 94.72678. There is room for parking and the City of Ft Scott has camping, cabins, and camper hookups. <http://fscity.org/>. There are a lot of places to stay in town and some great places to eat. This river provides some good angling for channel catfish, bullhead, flathead catfish, largemouth and spotted bass, crappie, bluegill, buffalo, carp and gar. Fish harvest limits are generous for this area and are covered under the statewide regulations. Some areas of this river remind me of what some of the first explorers saw as they traveled the streams of Kansas. While on this section of the river all travel is restricted to the area below the highwater mark. Parts of this river is surrounded by private land, so do not trespass. Please respect the river and take your entire trash home with you.

## **Things to do and places to go with your kayak or canoe.**

More and more people are looking towards canoes and kayaks for water-based recreation and for fishing. We are lucky, because we have many places here to use kayaks and canoes. The Marmaton River is open to this use from Rock Creek Lake dam downstream to Gunn Park in Ft Scott. The area behind the Rock Creek Lake dam makes a good spot to unload small watercraft and launch into the Marmaton River. The water along this part of the river is often slow with little flow. Typically, this float may take about 4 to 5 hours and makes a perfect Saturday or Sunday.

All public lakes in Linn and Bourbon counties, except Ft Scott City Lake, prohibit recreational boating, that's to say no skiing, no wave runners, no power boating. The lakes are open to fishing, so all boating is for fishing only. Because of this rule canoes and kayakers really have a great deal. They don't have to worry about being blown off the water. If they have a fishing pole and a fishing license, unless exempt, you are good to go. I didn't mean to forget your safety equipment, please wear your life jacket and keep your throwable handy. Cedar Creek Lake, in Bourbon County, is 220 acres, with lots of standing timber. The shoreline is covered with oak and maple trees that in the fall can be very beautiful in color. Fishing for crappie and bass at this lake in the fall can also be very good. Mound City Lake and Critzer Lake, both in Linn County, can be equally beautiful as the leaves turn and the crappie start to bunch up for the winter.



Here's two big 22-inch-plus bass from La Cygne Reservoir.

Those of you that like to catch big largemouth bass, fishing at La Cygne Reservoir greatly increases your chances of catching a 9 or 10 pounder. For many years large bass have been caught at La Cygne. La Cygne Reservoir is the cooling lake for KCP&L's coal fired power plant. Because of the warm water produced by the power plant operation, the growing season is longer here. The average water temperature is warmer than any other Kansas reservoir. All of this combined with a very good forage base, an 18 inch length limit, and the fact that Florida strain largemouth bass were stocked here in the early 1980's, make this lake a place for big bass to grow. There are more trophy largemouth bass caught here than any other lake in the state.



### **Trout Season Opens Soon**

Have you ever wished you had a chance to try your hand at trout fishing? Fern Lake in Gunn Park at Ft Scott has had trout stocked there for over twenty years. Rainbow trout do very well here in this lake during the fall and winter months. The trout are stocked from November to April each year for the Kansas trout season which runs from November 1 to April 15. Every

two weeks, 2,600 trout are stocked during the trout season. This keeps a nice population in the lake for anglers to catch. Anglers 16 and older can fish for trout all day, harvest five trout for the \$14.50 trout permit, plus their fishing license if needed. Anglers age 15 or younger may trout fish without a trout permit but they can only harvest 2 trout per day. Fern Lake is a Type 1 trout water and means all anglers fishing this lake in trout season must have a trout permit.

Trout can be caught on many types of lures, artificial or natural. Many trout are caught on power baits under a small float, or spinners or jigs. There are several good spots to uncurl the flyrod and try your hand with this tool. Two of the favorite areas where I see anglers are the south end, and in the deeper water by the water destratification unit on the north end of the lake. The destratification unit at this lake keeps the water moving and less likely to freeze over, improving the access and likelihood that trout anglers will be successful.

### **Friends of Reservoirs**

Friends of Reservoirs is a national group of organizations dedicated to improving reservoir and aquatic habitats. Linn County is currently applying for a grant to enhance and develop shoreline angling, stabilize an eroding shoreline, improve water quality, improve fish attractors and shallow/ mid depth fish habitats. Friends of Reservoirs grant states that projects to be funded must produce these benefits:

- *Protect, restore and enhance fish habitat in reservoir systems to support productive fisheries and healthy aquatic ecosystems including techniques to account for climate change effects on reservoir fisheries habitat;*
- *Continue to develop/refine the science behind reservoir habitat conservation/restoration, including development and communication of Best Management Practices;*
- *Manage reservoir systems to provide, protect and enrich quality of life for the American people;*
- *Develop and foster partnerships that implement landscape-scale approaches to the conservation of fish habitat in reservoir systems;*
- *Develop and sustain institutional arrangements and sources of funding to support the long-term conservation of fish habitat in reservoir systems;*
- *Support education and outreach initiatives that advance public awareness and understanding of the value of healthy reservoir systems.*

Proposed projects can be focused on habitat issues in the reservoir proper and/or in watersheds above the reservoir and/or tailwaters below.

If the grant application is successful, Linn County will be notified in the spring of 2020. With strong competition for limited funds, keep your fingers crossed.



Here I am tempering the walleye fry for stocking into Pomona Reservoir. Tempering the fry insures a higher survival.

### **Wiper and Walleye Stockings**

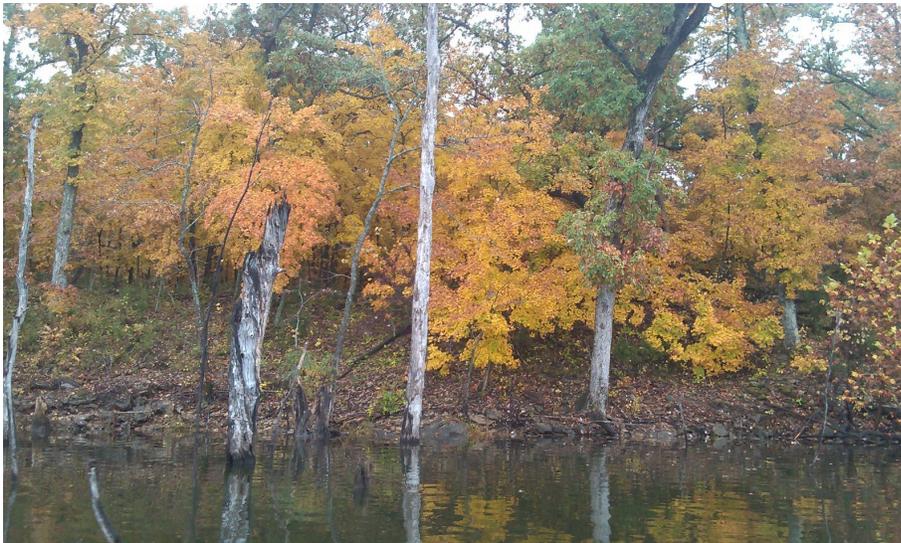
Anglers often ask about stockings. In 2019, Pomona Reservoir was stocked with 100,000 walleye fry. Conditions for stocking were good and should produce a good year class. I just hope they haven't been flushed out of the reservoir with all the water that's been released.

Wipers were also stocked, with Pomona Reservoir receiving 40,000 fingerlings, La Cygne Reservoir received 12,219 fingerlings of the requested 20,800, and Pleasanton East Lake was stocked with 2,715 fingerlings.

All lakes that were stocked have had wipers for many years and have produced many good year classes.

### **Creel Census at Ft Scott Reservoir**

Beginning in March of this year a creel census was started at Ft Scott Lake. Individual anglers are interviewed by the creel clerk, Gary Cook. He will ask anglers several questions, all of which are meant to help manage this fishery to be more productive and beneficial for anglers. This will only take a few minutes of the angler's time. The creel census will end in October. After the data has been reviewed, we will have a better understanding of what anglers catch, release and prefer. If you are fishing at Ft Scott Lake, ask Gary about the best places to fish and the top baits to use. Thanks for your help with this project.



Here is a photo of the beautiful foliage at Cedar Creek Lake. This lake has some good bass and very nice crappie.



All lakes in my district have crappie. Most have good populations, and even the worst lake has some good fish. So get outside, have fun, and go catch some!



## **STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

**When you leave a body of water:**

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

Please Remember to CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY your boat and equipment. Most boat ramps in my district are painted “CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY” to help lake users practice good lake hygiene.

Thanks for reading the Fall 2019 Mound City Fisheries District Newsletter! I hope that this information makes planning a fishing trip easier or improves your angling success.

Go fishing!

Questions or concerns in your fisheries district?

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