

CROSS TIMBERS STATE PARK

ANNUAL REPORT

CALENDAR YEAR 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CALENDAR YEAR 2021 GOALS



KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, PARKS & TOURISM
PARKS DIVISION

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JANUARY 2021

CONTENTS

A. Introduction & Developments.....	3
B. Mission of Department.....	3
C. Mission of Park.....	3
D. Park Description.....	4
E. Staff.....	5
F. Volunteer & Friends Group Activity.....	5-6
G. Inmates.....	6
H. Partnerships & Benefits.....	6-7
I. Visitation.....	7
J. Utilities Costs.....	7
K. Law Enforcement.....	7
L. Rental Cabins.....	7-8
M. Seasonal Camping (Long Term)	8
N. Prime Sites.....	8-9
O. Capital Improvement Projects.....	9-10
P. 2020 Accomplishments.....	10-11
Q. 2021 Work Plan.....	11-14
R. Trails.....	14
S. Children’s Initiatives.....	14
T. Vehicles.....	15
U. Equipment.....	15

A. Introduction

Cross Timbers State Park is in the gently rolling hills of the Verdigris River Valley in southeastern Kansas. Cross Timbers State Park surrounds the 2,800-acre Toronto Lake, with 1,075 acres of park encompassing this reservoir. Visitors can enjoy a variety of camping experiences with 76 utility and 85 primitive sites surrounding the lake. Four modern log cabins are fully operational year-round. Three areas are available for group camping experiences: Sandstone has a gazebo with five primitive campsites; Clovis Point has a large shelter and eleven E/W sites; and Blackjack has 7 E/W and 7 E only. There are five shower houses throughout the park, six boat ramps with three courtesy docks, a fishing pier, two playgrounds, and a campfire theater. The park includes 14.75 miles of trails open to foot and bike traffic; one-mile hiking only with interpretive signs; and one Blue Water Trail consisting of 15 interpretive stops with accompanying brochure. Paddlers typically take about 45 minutes to 1 hour to complete.

B. Mission of the Department

Enhance or conserve the natural, historical, cultural, and wildlife resources, through good stewardship, while providing for quality outdoor recreation experiences. Provide public service, including courtesy, cleanliness of facilities, protection of resources, safety, and constantly being responsive to the needs of the people and the park resources.

C. Mission of Cross Timbers State Park

To manage Cross Timbers State Park and its natural landscape with a balanced approach commensurate to the outdoor recreational needs of its visitors, the preservation and enhancement of the area's resources, with the financial resources available. Also, to increase citizen understanding, respect for Kansas State Parks, and promote collaborative involvement with stakeholders to foster the wellbeing of the entire system.

D. Park Description

- 1,075 Land Acres
- 2,800 Water Acres
- 8.5 miles of roadways
- 15.75 miles of trails (including one interpretive trail)
- 1 mile of Blue Water Trail (Interpretive)
- Five Areas Surrounding Toronto Lake
 - Toronto Point Area
 - Sandstone Campground
 - 56 primitive sites (includes group camp w/gazebo) 1 E only
 - Clovis Point (f/k/a Group Camp) Campgroup
 - Group camp 11 E/W sites with shelter house
 - East Boat Ramp Area
 - 3 full hookups and 1 primitive campsites
 - 4 modern cabins
 - Timber Ridge (f/k/a Cross Timbers)
 - 24 E/W sites
 - Osage Plains Campground
 - 15 full hookups; 8 E/W sites
 - Mann's Cove Area
 - Mann's Cove Campground
 - 15 primitive campsites
 - Woodson Cove Area – Day Use
 - Spillway Area – Day Use
 - Holiday Hill Area
 - Lakeside Campground
 - 12 primitive campsites
 - Blackjack Campground
 - 1 full hookup and group camp (7 E/W, 7 E only)
- Six boat ramps with nine lanes, three courtesy docks, and a fishing pier
- O&M Budget for FY20 \$81,080, ended in the black +\$5,957.
- Revenue CY20 \$245,914, CY19 was \$145,247
- Visitation for CY20 was 127,728
- Five full-time positions – five shared with FLRP
- Seasonal Salaries FY20 \$21,000 – Four seasonal, four shared with FLRP, FY20 was in the red -\$1,685.
- Friends Group – Raising funds with laundry, ice and firewood and through special events
- Four Special Events : First Day Hike, Earth Day/OK Kids (cancelled COVID19), National Trails Day, Toronto Days

E. Staffing

1. Permanent Personnel

Kimberly Jones, Park Manager
Adam Murray, Natural Resource Officer II
Linda Riley, Administrative Specialist
Mike O'Hare, Facility Maintenance Supervisor (retire date 9-7-20)
Cody Taylor, Facility Maintenance Supervisor (began 11-20)
Terry McMullen, Facilities Specialist

2. Seasonal Personnel

Seasonal Maintenance (one shared with FLRP, one cleaned cabins)
Seasonal Maintenance (Covid 19 Cleaning)
Seasonal Law Enforcement (shared with FLRP)
Seasonal Office (didn't fill in 2020)
Seasonal Gatehouse (one at TP)

3. Staff Needs

Two seasonals are needed to maintain park at a level public and management expect. Currently using Volunteers and they may or may not be in place continuously throughout green season. From necessity, Ranger and Manager assist in mowing prior to holidays, and occasionally even the admin. Situation at former DOC Correctional Facility still needs a final resolution approved by the department.

F. Volunteer & Friends Groups

AmeriCorps Program

None in 2020

Park Volunteers

Park volunteers are a necessity. In 2020, the park utilized eight volunteers on a regular basis: volunteers mowed Toronto Point and Blackjack Areas, kayak host, cleaned restroom facilities daily, put out reservation cards, greeted guests and were available for severe weather notifications and emergency contacts.

Friends Group

The Friends of Cross Timbers State Park support the park through special events, projects, and development. The group funded existing coin-op laundry; six machines are currently located in the camper convenience center in Toronto Point. Laundry revenue all goes to the group for future projects in the parks. The group recently reorganized, elected board members and are waiting for legal to complete contracts. In 2020 the group hosted ice cream social, movie nights, music in the park, chili feed, sold firewood and ice, and kept the laundry.

Toronto Booster Club

In 2020, the Toronto Booster Club did not utilize the concessions space at the Toronto Point Beach Bathhouse and have now relinquished any need to the Friends Group to utilize. The Booster Club and the Woodson County Commissioners fund Toronto Days and fireworks which is shot in the state park. We provide security, parking, and benefit by revenues from vehicle fees. The Toronto Booster Club/Woodson County Commissioners still provided a fantastic firework display for our park patrons!

G. Inmates

The Department of Corrections closed the Toronto Correctional Facility on Feb. 26, 2009. The facility grounds, however, are maintained by park staff, on a 3-4-week rotation. On average it requires two staff members one day to mow and weed eat each month.

H. Partnerships & Benefits

Cross Timbers State Park has important partnership connections to an assortment of public institutions and interests in the Toronto area.

Army Corps of Engineers

All park property is leased from the Army Corps of Engineers. We are working with the COE to begin management of the north and south sides of Mann’s Cove and the East Spillway areas of the reservoir.

Boy Scouts of America

Each year the park benefits from scouting service projects while camping.

Department of Corrections

The DOC pays water meters and electrical costs for the honor camp facility. The park currently maintains the grounds and the sewage lagoon permitting. There are no indications the facility will be occupied. Removing the facility from the grounds is being discussed.

I. Visitation

CY20 127,728*	CY19 264,759*	CY18 323,787*	CY17 213,410*
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*New counters were installed April 2020, all previous numbers were estimated

J. Utilities Cost

	Usage – CY20	Cost CY20	Cost CY19	Cost CY18
Electricity	222,498 KWH	\$31,418	\$ 25,607	\$ 25,140
Water #9	724,000 GAL	\$5,792	\$4,730	\$2,889
Water #11	334.690 GAL	\$2.131	\$1,710	\$1,692
Propane		\$1,378	\$696	1,229
Telephone		\$3,031	\$3,226	4,593
Trash		\$798	\$798	798

K. Law Enforcement

Adam Murray, Natural Resource Officer II, and Kimberly Jones, Park Manager, are permanent LE staff. The park also employs two seasonal, part-time, fully certified LEOs. The park has two primary LE vehicles, and a seasonal vehicle. The park staff routinely works with Woodson County Sheriff’s Office, KBI and KHP. We had 51 yellows, 55 outside agency assists, 40 boat checks, several incidents (none required paperwork), and 278 verbal warnings between both Cross Timbers and Fall River.

L. Rental Cabins

Cross Timbers State Park has four modern cabins. The park is currently not slated for any additional cabins. If cabins are considered in the future, they will not be placed in Toronto Point, but we may someday develop a new area possibly in South Mann’s Cove.

Cabin Nights Stay	CY20	CY19	CY18	CY17	CY16
Timber Walker Cabin	194	149	146	151	168
Whispering Oaks Cabin	199	115	145	136	158
Sandstone Bluff Cabin	202	131	169	182	188
Eagle’s Nest Cabin	217	143	174	181	187
Total Nights	812	538	634	650	701

M. Seasonal Camping

Seasonal camping is available year-round at designated sites. Toronto Point Area has five full-hookup sites and three E/W sites; Twenty-six 30-day agreements were issued. Additional agreements could have been filled were there additional seasonal sites

N. Prime Sites

Seventeen prime sites offering amenities (water-front, shade, view, etc.) are in Sandstone Campground, Clovis Point, Osage Plains, and Timber Ridge.

O. Capital Improvement Projects (current and long-term plans)

Major Maintenance

LWCF – Project for Timber Ridge is essentially complete (see accomplishments), only outstanding item is fire rings.

Install shut off valves at the sewage lagoons in Toronto Point to prevent a reportable environmental incident if lower check valves at lift stations fail.

Seek funding for CXT toilet in Woodson Cove to replace wooden vaults.

National Recreation Trails Fund

Resubmit for Turtle Run trail hope to be considered for the 2021 round of grants.

Investigate costs and possible NRT funding for possible equine trail, parking, and small campground in Woodson Cove/East Spillway Area

Road Funds

None currently.

P. 2020 Accomplishments

1. Developed annual work plans for CTSP, established goals for 2021, and outlined accomplishments achieved in 2020 utilizing the five-year management plan as a guide.
2. Managed CTSP (5024) budget to finish the fiscal year in the black with a positive balance of \$5,957. CTSP Seasonal Salaries ended with a negative balance of -\$1,685.
Note: Beginning in calendar year 2020, Fall River will share expenses, as appropriate, in a consistent manner with Cross Timbers, 40/60 split.
3. Assisted F&W Division with eagle survey.
4. Met all required report information deadlines.
5. Conducted ERGO and compliance inspections with CORPS.
6. Met and exceeded all division established standards that addressed grounds and park facilities maintenance.
7. Special Events included First Day Hike, Earth Day/OK Kids (cancelled due to Covid19), National Trails Day, and Toronto Days. Additionally, on-site and off-site programming was accomplished.
8. All staff training and certifications were maintained.

9. Assisted LE division with Hunter Ed classes and wildlife violation issues.
10. Assisted area county Sheriffs' with vehicle accidents, barricaded subjects, several manhunts, and warrants, including officer involved shooting.
11. Provided patrons with expected service and law enforcement response.
12. Successfully maintained the park with minimal complaints, without assistance from inmate labor, and with reduced staff.
13. Provided grounds maintenance for Honor Camp.
14. Trimmed trees, cleared limbs, remarked trails.
15. Completed all necessary freshwater/wastewater requirements.
16. Installed frost free hydrants and 50-amp service to all 24 campsites at Timber Ridge. Poured 12 concrete pads and put new gravel in remaining sites. Two sites now meet ADA standards
17. Presented several local school programs including living history to Iola Middle School.
18. Repaired fishing pier stiff arms that were broken.
19. Purged documents in office, will continue in 2021.
20. Attended NASPD virtually.
21. Installed new CXT with FEMA funds in west spillway.
22. Completed major maintenance on lateral field for Osage Plains.
23. Was able to get approval for and order new honeywagon.
24. Transitioned most all campsites to being reservable, only exceptions are long term and group camps.
25. Ordered and installed new traffic counters for visitation.
26. Wrote cabin cleaning protocols used across all parks and met all new Covid cleaning protocols.
27. Removed storage shed roof, and interior storage items for COE to demolish.
28. Repaired DOC lagoon discharge.
29. Completed life jacket loaner board for the Holiday Hill Area.
30. Interviewed, hired and began training new Maintenance Supervisor.

Q. 2021 Work Plan

GOAL 1: Utilize available financial resources effectively and efficiently.

Strategy

1. Keep operational cost within approved O&M and authorized capital project costs within authorized budgetary parameters.
2. Seek funding for replacement of remaining two wooden vault toilets with one unisex CXT toilet in Woodson Cove.
3. Seek out alternate funding and outside labor sources to help meet development and operational objectives.
4. Investigate costs and possible NRT funding for possible equine trail, parking, and small campground in Woodson Cove/East Spillway Area.
5. Seek NRT funding for Turtle Run Trail and interpretive signage.

GOAL 2: Meet all health, safety, and environmental standards.

Strategy

1. Install shut off valves at the sewage lagoons in Toronto Point
2. Seek out training for staff that will help achieve this goal.
3. Encourage and schedule inspections during the year by outside agencies such as the Department of Labor, KDHE, and CORPS personnel to help achieve this goal.
4. Train employees on these issues as time and circumstances dictate. At least four training sessions a year shall be conducted by the chief safety officer (NROII).
5. Employees will address all encountered safety and environmental problems immediately or notify management staff if immediate repairs are impossible.
6. Evaluate first aid kits, fire extinguishers, and other recognized safety equipment and keep them up to date.
7. Keep all fuel tanks painted and place appropriate warning reflectors.
8. Place navigational aids by May 1, 2021.

GOAL 3: Foster quality management

Strategy

1. Seek out alternative labor force to ensure facilities and grounds are maintained to department standards.
2. Seek out and provide quality-training opportunities for all staff.
3. Develop potential projects during the budgetary process that focus on measured customer needs and wants.
4. Keep inventory records up to date.
5. Assure that administrative actions preserve the integrity of various department funds and department-administered grants.
6. Maintain and dispose of records according to schedule.

GOAL 4: Demonstrate environmentally sound natural resources management techniques.

Strategy

1. Conduct inventories of the park's natural systems.
2. Utilize natural disturbances such as fire, when appropriate, to maintain historic plant and animal communities. Manage for the sustainability and function of the natural system.
3. Develop environmentally sound land use programs that provide the greatest benefit to native biodiversity while being commensurate with patrons' needs.
4. Utilize an IPM program in confronting alien plants and animal species. Maximize efforts to use cultural methods such as haying under strict permit conditions, utilize early and late prescribed burns to control alien and noxious plant species, and to promote biodiversity.

5. Monitor human impact on the environment, implement monarch butterfly sanctuaries of native plants designed to improve habitat for various pollinator species.
6. Provide an environment of solitude that provides a place to get away from it all and facilitates wildlife viewing opportunities.
7. Conduct surveys for threatened & endangered species as well as for species in need of conservation.
8. Manage for controlled outdoor recreation vs. uncontrolled, in order to foster sustainability and balance with the natural system.
9. Evaluate hunting programs at parks and adjust as required.

GOAL 5: Maintain all facilities and grounds to the highest standards attainable.

Strategy

1. Utilize manpower sources and equipment to the highest degree possible to exceed established maintenance standards.
2. Implement an inspection schedule that meets the needs of the agency's management objectives.
3. Recruit volunteers to provide man-hours to achieve this goal.
4. Upgrade Sandstone site 37: add water making it a viable camp-host spot.
5. Upgrade East Ramp site 62: make it a full hook-up consistent with other sites in the area and meeting demand for additional seasonal sites

GOAL 6: Provide quality standards and service that meets or exceeds the visitor's expectations.

Strategy

1. Provide clear directions to the staff on what these standards entail.
2. Managerial and maintenance personnel shall employ established inspections to assure standards are being met.
3. Staff, through both formal and informal means, shall seek out customers' reactions to efforts in meeting this goal.
4. Maintain full-service office with adequate hours during high-use periods.
5. Provide service that includes courtesy and responsiveness.
6. Staff should strive to establish personal contact with visitors.

GOAL 7: Implement action plans that include constituents as partners.

Strategy

1. Pursue interested members for enlistment into the Friends Group. Assist the group in developing on-site programming.
2. Build support with local community through joint programming efforts, such as the special event held on July 4th.

3. Foster working relationships with public and private groups who embrace the goals of the park and division. Utilize enterprise teams that involve the public in focusing on project planning, implementation, and quality control issues in order to gain public trust.

GOAL 8: Increase the public's access to outdoor recreation by improving opportunities and facilities and developing new facilities that meet ADA guidelines.

Strategy

1. Assure that ASPIRA posts and new signage at self pays are in place and current.
2. Assure that all camp sites have ancillary amenities in place (e.g. tables, fire rings, and lantern hangers.)
3. Review campground matrix, update as necessary, and provide accurate map to visitors.
4. Seek NRT funding for Turtle Run, to provide an ADA trail opportunity within Toronto Point Area.
5. Develop plan and seek NRT funding for equine trail in Woodson Cove/East Spillway area.

GOAL 9: Promote Kansas outdoor recreational opportunities and enhance the public's knowledge of the outdoors.

Strategy

1. Provide Hunter Ed, boating courses, and outdoor recreational education utilizing park staff and both department and outside funding sources.
2. Continue Blue Water Trail program with trail host, encouraging FREE use of kayaks to access trail.
3. Continue to have programs in conjunction with First Day Hike, Earth Day, OK Kids and National Trails Day.
4. Provide areas for active recreation that are in balance with the environment.
5. Provide opportunities to connect patrons to the natural attributes of the park.
6. Develop special events that complement the natural landscape and facilities.
7. Public generally supports environmental issues; find ways to work with the public that fully engages them.
8. Work with the Toronto Booster Club to provide for a quality July 4th special event.
9. Continue development of the Turtle Run Trail in Toronto Point, including signage at trailhead/old toilet structure.

GOAL 10: Utilize new properties to enhance opportunities for outdoor experiences, as acquired with completed lease agreements from COE.

Strategy

1. Renovate & develop six campsites in the East Spillway Area on river front.
2. Discuss and propose development and uses in the Mann’s Cove Area.
3. Use appropriate methods to eradicate noxious weeds in East Spillway area.
4. Incorporate new areas into hunting permit draws.
5. Develop hunting opportunities in the East Spillway area for Youth and Wounded Warriors.
6. Identify and propose equine trail opportunities within Woodson Cove and East Spillway area including primitive camping and parking areas.

R. Trails

Ancient Trees Trail	1mile, foot traffic only
Blackjack Trail	1 mile, open to hike/bike
Chautauqua Hills Trail	11 miles, open to hike/bike
Overlook Trail	1.25 miles, open to hike/bike
Oak Ridge Trail	.5 mile, open to hike/bike
Blue Water Trail	8 miles, paddling canoes/kayaks
Turtle Run Trail	.5 mile, foot traffic only

S. Children’s Initiatives

Following the Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights, the Kansas Wildscape’s Kansas Wildlifer Challenge, and ideas from naturalists such as Richard Louv, Cross Timbers believes in providing opportunities for children to get outside! Our OK Kids event provides children with hands-on outdoor activities, games, and hiking. We hope our OK Kids event encourages families to come together to enjoy camping, fishing, hiking, swimming, playing in a safe environment outside, and learning about our state’s great history.

T. Vehicles

Vehicles	Veh. No.	Yr.	Aq. Cost	Hours/Miles	<u>Replacement</u> Priority.
Chevy 2 ton – maintenance	05970	73	6,979	85,063	6
Chevy 1 ton – maintenance	8907	89	11,865	142,124	3
Chevy 1/2 ton maintenance	6754	92	9,597	208,636	2
Chevy 1/2 ton maintenance	13510	09	21,364	126,167	8
Chevy 1 ton – Maintenance	00428	93	18,366	135,677	4
Dodge 1/2 ton – Seasonal	04096	92	6,100	Odometer doesn't work	5
Ford 1/2 ton maintenance	04737	98		190,668	
Ford 1/2 ton LE	17331	2016		73,769	
Ford 1/2 ton LE	18841	2018		60,693	

U. Equipment

Off-Road Equipment	Inv. No.	Yr.	<u>Aq.</u> Cost	Hrs/Miles	<u>Repl.</u> Prio.	Condition
Hustler Super Z	10663	13	9,944	1702	5	Excellent
Hustler Super Z	11067	13	9,306	1062	4	Excellent
Hustler Model 3400	26692	04	13,239	1936	3	Good
Hustler Model 3200	25497	01	10,987	2247	2	Good
Hustler Model 3200	024803	98	7,851	2682	1	Good
Hustler Model 3400				1285		
Hustler Super Z		18		289	6	Excellent

Tractors	Inv. No.	Yr.	Aq. Cost	Hours/Miles	Repl. Prio.	
John Deere Skid Steer	882	13	9,944	689	0	Excellent
International 2500 Loader	0629	75	8,832	379 new meter	1	Fair
Ford 555c Backhoe	0680	90	15,000	2362	5	Good
Allis Chalmers Grader	0688	64	6,895	422 new meter	none	Fair
John Deere 301A	0623	74	3,323	2047	3	Fair
John Deere 301A	0642	76	5,635	4653	2	Fair
John Deere 301A	0653	79	8,566	1400 new meter	4	Fair

Equipment Needs

- Security system for office and south maintenance compound
- Confined space equipment.
- UTV