

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 unequaled opportunity for wildlife and scenic adventures. There are two recorded historical sites identified within the boundaries of Crawford State Park.

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, 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 leaders 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. 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.

Facilities

The park consists of about 530 acres and has six campgrounds, five modern cabins, two boat ramps, one swimming beach and three bathhouses. Four trails and a 9-hole disc golf course offer additional recreational opportunities. There are 74 electrical hookups some with water and 28 primitive camping sites. Pleasure boating and scuba diving is allowed. Food, and convenience items are provided at the marina and restaurant located within the park. Many special events are held throughout the year. Contact the Park office for additional information.

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.

Trails

Spiderleg Bridge Trail: This half-mile self-guided interpretive trail will take you thru a historic military outpost.

Deer Run Nature Trail: Deer Run is .75-mile hardened self-guided nature trail with interpretive signs; much local flora and fauna can be seen along this trail, depending on the time of year.

CCC Memorial: This paved .25-mile historic self-guided interpretive trail features items used in the building of Farlington Lake, and a statue of a CCC Worker is at the entrance to the memorial.

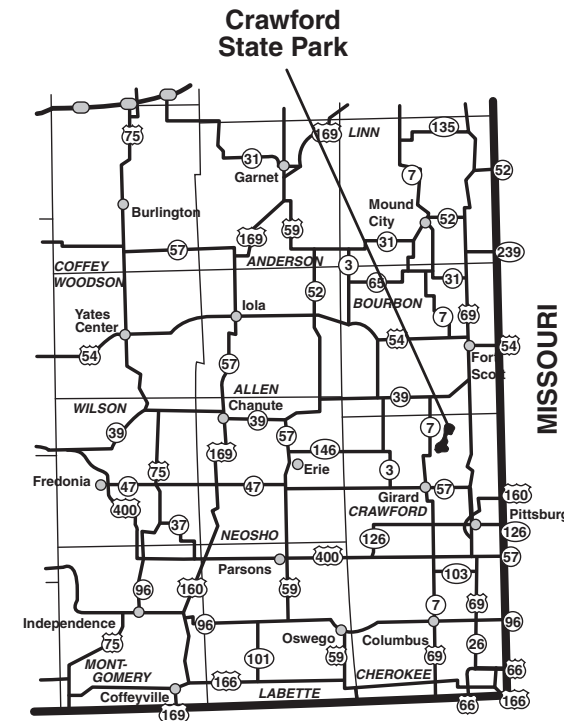
Things to Remember

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.

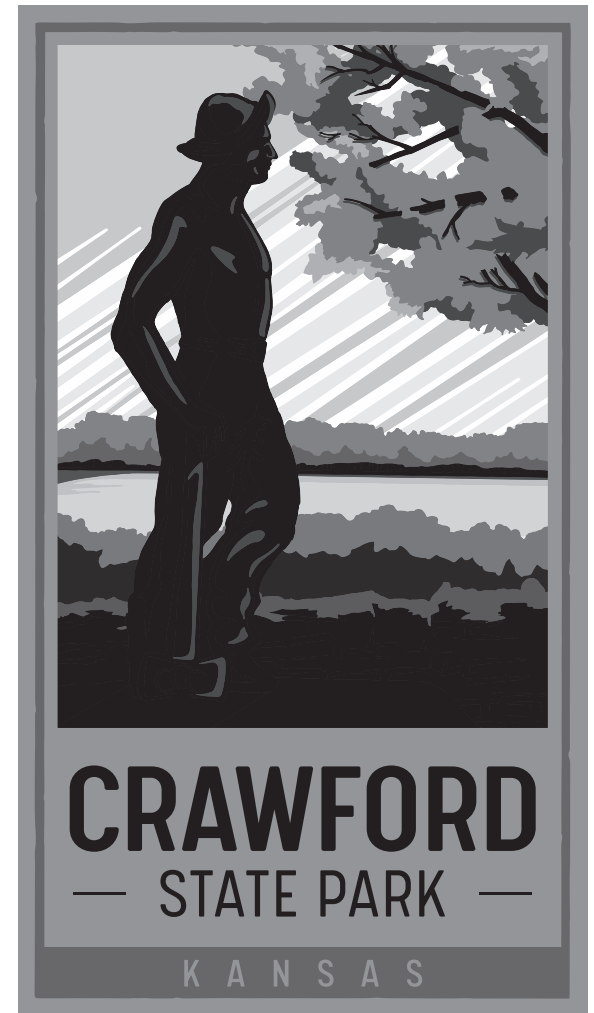


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General Area Map

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CRAWFORD STATE PARK

