

# Pomme de Terre Lake

Missouri



## While You Are Here

In order to manage the parks and natural resources and ensure that visitors have a safe and enjoyable recreation experience, guidelines have been established to assist visitors. Please observe all posted regulations and familiarize yourself with the rules governing park use. Copies of these rules (Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations) may be obtained at the project office, park attendants, or any park ranger.

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### Emergency Phone Numbers

Sheriff, Fire, Ambulance:	417-745-6415
Park Ranger Assistance:	417-745-6411

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#### *For more information contact:*

Pomme de Terre Lake Project Office  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
RT 2 Box 2160  
Hermitage, Missouri 65668  
Phone (417)745-6411  
Email: [Pomme.De-Terre@nwk02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Pomme.De-Terre@nwk02.usace.army.mil)



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** \*  
Kansas City District



## Fish and Wildlife

Pomme de Terre Lake is known for its excellent fishing. Opportunities abound for many species ranging from pan fish to muskie. Muskellunge have been stocked in the lake regularly since 1966 and fishermen have an opportunity to catch trophy size muskie.

A fish attractor program to improve habitat and enhance fishing success has resulted in hundreds of attractors being placed in Pomme de Terre Lake. A map showing their location is available from the Project Office.

Lands surrounding the lake provide excellent hunting opportunities for white-tailed deer, eastern wild turkey, rabbit, quail, and waterfowl. Hunting is permitted in all areas of the project with the exception of the park areas and administration areas.

The management of natural resources on Pomme de Terre is important to maintain the quality environment that we enjoy. The land surrounding the lake provides a buffer that ensures quality water, as well as habitat for the abundant wildlife and plants. The Corps of Engineers, Missouri Department of Conservation and volunteer groups play important roles in the cooperative management of these natural resources. Sportsmen should keep in mind that all federal and state regulations pertaining to hunting and fishing methods, limits, and hours apply on the waters and lands of Pomme de Terre Lake.

## Welcome

The Kansas City District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers welcomes you to Pomme de Terre Lake. This map and brochure will assist you in planning your visit to the wide range of areas and activities found here. For further information, stop by the project office located at the east end of the dam or telephone 417-745-6411. You may also visit our Internet web site at:

[www.nwk.usace.army/pommedeterre/pomme\\_home.htm](http://www.nwk.usace.army/pommedeterre/pomme_home.htm)

## The Lake

Pomme de Terre Lake lies in the rugged, tree covered hills of the Missouri Ozarks, a region long known as a popular Midwest vacation spot. The 7,790-acre lake was authorized in 1938 as part of a comprehensive flood control plan for the Missouri River Basin. Project planning efforts started in 1947 and construction began in 1957. The lake was completed in 1961 at a cost of \$14,946,784.

With 7,790 acres of clear water and 113 miles of shoreline, the lake has become one of the most popular outdoor recreation retreats in the Kansas City District and is commonly known as the best kept secret in the Ozarks.



## Benefits

Pomme de Terre Lake covers 7,790 acres at the multipurpose pool of 839 feet above mean sea level. During periods of heavy rain, the lake can increase to 16,100 acres as excess runoff is impounded to prevent downstream flooding. Pomme de Terre Lake works in conjunction with several other Corps-operated projects to provide flood protection for the Osage River Basin and the lower Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. Recreation, fish and wildlife enhancement, and water quality are also major benefits of the lake.

## Recreation Management

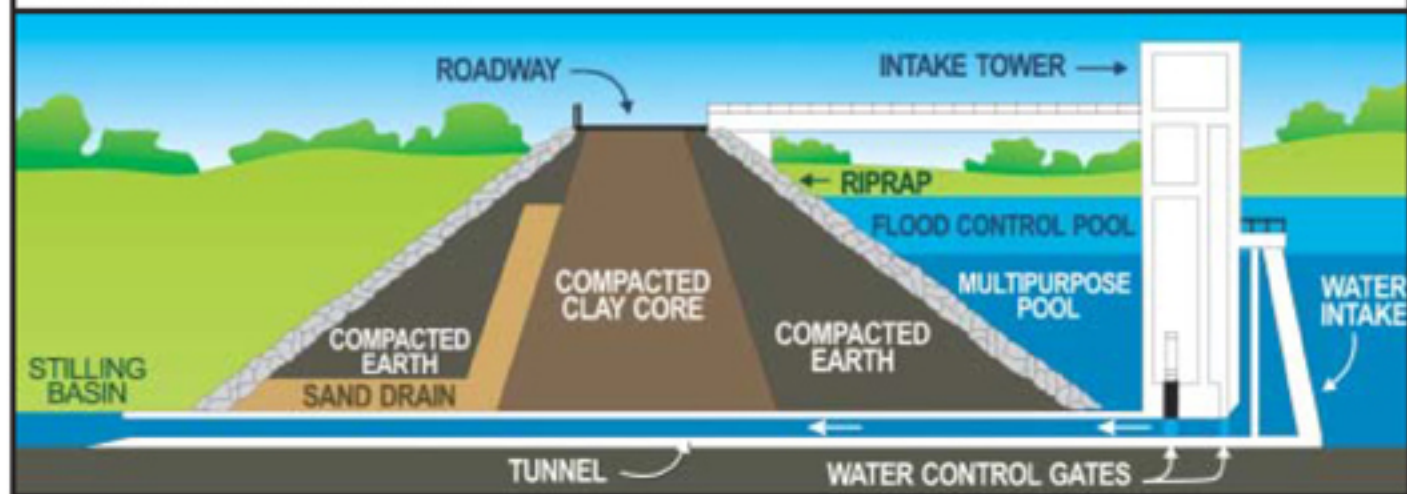
The clear water of Pomme de Terre Lake and the rolling Ozark hills provide an excellent setting for camping, picnicking, swimming, or almost any recreational activity. Over 650 campsites, ranging from rustic to those with modern conveniences like electrical and water hookups, are located in 9 public use areas situated to provide access to most areas of the lake. A more complete list of recreational facilities appears on the map side of this brochure.



## The Dam

Pomme de Terre Dam, an earth and rockfill embankment, is 7,240 feet long and stands 155 feet above the streambed. The dam's impervious core was made of heavily compacted clay and is virtually watertight. A sand drain allows any water that passes through the clay core to pass safely through the dam.

The outlet works, consisting of the control tower, tunnel and stilling basin, permits the controlled release of water through the dam. The control tower is equipped with two hydraulically-operated gates which regulate the flow of water through the outlet tunnel. The stilling basin then reduces the force of the water flowing downstream into the outlet channel.



## Reservations

Campsite reservations can be made through the National Recreation Reservation Service at 1-877-444-6777 (toll free) and via the internet at ReserveUSA.com. Campsites can be reserved up to 240 days in advance of arrival. Picnic shelter reservations can be made through the Project Office or by calling 417-745-6411.

## User Fees

The fees charged by the Corps of Engineers are for overnight camping, shelter reservations, day use, and special events. Golden Age Passports are available to persons 62 or older. A one-time administrative fee (\$10) is charged for the Golden Age Passport at time of issuance. Golden Access Passports are provided, free of charge, to persons who are permanently disabled. Passport holders are entitled to a 50% discount on camping and day use fees at Corps facilities. Both passports can be acquired at the project office or park attendant booths when proof of qualification is presented.



## The River

The Pomme de Terre River offers excellent recreational opportunities for fishing and canoeing enthusiasts. One may simply drift along and enjoy the beautiful Ozark scenery or take advantage of the fine fishing opportunities.

Public accesses are located just below the dam in the Outlet area, approximately 7 miles downstream at the Highway 254 Bridge near Hermitage and approximately 14 miles downstream at the Cross Timbers access on the upper end of Harry S. Truman Reservoir.



## Regional History

According to legend, the French explorer La Salle gave the Pomme de Terre River its name when he crossed the Ozarks in 1682. It is unlikely, however, that La Salle explored this far from the Mississippi River. The phrase "Pomme de Terre" is French for "Apple of the Earth" or "potato". The river was probably named by early French Trappers and fur traders for plants resembling potatoes that grew on its banks. This plant was probably an *Apios americana* or Potato Bean and was used as food by the Indians.

Substantial settlement began in Polk and Hickory Counties in the 1830's. The Pomme de Terre River was the dividing line between the Indians and settlers until 1835. Agriculture, lead and zinc mining, and lumbering played important parts in the economy during the early years of settlement.

