

Smithville Lake

Missouri



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Kansas City District

Welcome to Smithville Lake

The Kansas City District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Clay County Department of Parks welcomes you to Smithville Lake. We invite you to use and enjoy the lake, the park areas and the surrounding public lands.

Water Safety

Smithville Lake attracts thousands of water sport enthusiasts each year. With many people using the lake, it is important to know and use the basic rules of water safety. Please note the “no water skiing” areas and hazardous points indicated on the map.



Boating

Smithville Lake has more than 175 miles of shoreline offering excellent boating opportunities. Five multi-lane boat launch ramps and excellent parking for trailers ensure easy accessibility to all parts of this 7,200-acre lake. Rental boats are available at the two full-service marinas located on the lake: Camp Branch Marina - 816-407-3420 and Paradise Point Marina - 816-532-2666.



Sailboating Slips, moorings and dry sail facilities may be rented through the Clay County Parks' office. Sailboat Cove is a special sailboat launching area available for the exclusive use of sailboaters. In addition, shower facilities are conveniently located nearby. For more information, call (816) 403-3400.

Water Skiing & Innertubing The southern half of the lake basin is available for water skiing and innertubing on a year-round basis. The Kansas City Water Ski Club has a slalom course near Little Platte that is open to the public once a month during the summer months. Water skiing and innertubing activities are confined to the area south of Highway W and west of Camp Branch Bridge.

Marinas Two full-service marinas offer boat and slip rentals, bait, fuel, refreshments and equipment sales. Patio and indoor dining is also available.

Kelsey Short Youth Camp A special organized youth group camping area is available at a nominal fee. Each group camping site features a shelter house, grills, water and restroom facilities. A sand beach is available for the exclusive use of youth campers.

Trapshooting Park The Kansas City Trapshooters Association is open to the public and is home to the finest trap and skeet shooting in the Midwest. Facilities include 12 trap shooting pads, two skeet houses and a clubhouse.

Fishing Fish habitat is plentiful at Smithville Lake. More than 4,000 of the lake's 7,190 water surface acres were left uncleared to create the aquatic habitat that should provide excellent fishing for many years. Hundreds of irregularly shaped coves furnish more than 175 miles of shoreline fishing. The Missouri Department of Conservation began stocking the lake in 1975 and continues to this day. Species include largemouth bass, white bass, channel catfish, blue catfish, walleye, crappie and bluegill.



Hunting The public may hunt on more than 7,000 acres of Smithville Lake's wildlife management area. The wildlife management area is open to all hunting seasons in accordance with the Missouri Department of Conservation. However about 2,200 acres of land and water in the Honker Cove Waterfowl Refuge is closed seasonally to boating, hunting, trapping, and fishing October 15 – January 31.

Swimming Beaches Beach areas are located at both Little Platte and Camp Branch with plenty of room for water and beach activities. Facilities include showers and changing rooms.

Camping 858 campsites surround Smithville Lake. More than one-third of the tent and RV sites have electrical hook-ups. Shower, laundry and other facilities are conveniently located. Group reservations are accepted by calling (816) 407-3400.

Picnic Sites 200 individual picnic sites with 11 shelter houses are available for public use. Shelter house reservations are recommended. Call (816) 407-3400.

Handicapped Accessibility In addition to all campground restrooms, Crows Creek Park offers a handicapped accessible fishing dock and picnic shelter. Call (816) 407-3400 to reserve.

Golfing Located along the Smithville Lake shore is Paradise Pointe Golf Complex featuring two 18-hole championship courses. This public complex offers outstanding links on zoysia and bluegrass fairways against the dramatic lake backdrop. A full-line discount pro shop offers equipment sales, cart rentals, PGA pros, snacks and banquet facilities.

Smith's Fork Park Located below the dam, the park is operated by the city of Smithville and offers a wide variety of recreation facilities: camping, fishing, picnic area, softball and soccer fields, skateboarding area, Lake Remote natural walking trail and nature area. Call (816) 532-8130 for shelter reservations.

Perkins Park Located at the northern end of Smithville Lake in Plattsburg, Perkins Park offers picnic facilities including grills and four shelter houses, softball and soccer fields, playground and fishing access. Concessions and restrooms are also available. Call (816) 539-2148.

Hiking and Biking Trails

Take a hike, ride a bike, or just bring the family dog for a stroll. Smithville Lake now has 23 miles of completely paved multi-use trails. Beautiful lake views can be seen virtually the entire length of the trail system. Currently, we have four main trails; Smokin' Davey, Bonebender, A. B. Gorman, and Cabin Fever. Each trail is unique and allows you to see different areas of the park, rarely seen before the trails were built.



For a map of the paved trails, visit the Clay County Parks Office, Jerry Litton Visitor Center or print them online at: http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/smithville/smithville_home.htm. If an off road adventure is your taste, the lake offers 10 miles of single-track mountain biking that is among the best in the Kansas City area. The single track trails can be accessed from the Smokin' Davey trailhead on W Hwy and Sailboat Cove. Earthriders of Kansas City has built and continually maintains this excellent mountain biking trail system. For more information, visit, www.earthriders.com.

Horse Trails

Smithville Lake also offers nearly 26 miles of horse/hiking trail on the south east side of the lake. An equestrian parking lot is located on Collins road ½ mile south of the Collins bridge. The trail consists of a shoreline trail that is marked with orange indicators, and a boundary trail marked with white indicators. Lettered locator posts have been placed at various locations along the trail to help riders reference their location on a map. To pick up a map, stop by the Jerry Litton Visitor Center or print one online at: http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/smithville/smithville_home.htm

Nearby Clay County Parks

Tryst Falls is the area's only scenic waterfall open to the public. The park is located five miles east of Kearney on Highway 92 and includes a playground, shelter house and picnic tables. Nearby is **Rocky Hollow Lake**. This scenic area is 1/4 mile east of Tryst Falls and south on Old Quarry Rd. Both entrances feature shelter houses and fishing areas.

Smithville Dam & Lake

Congress authorized Smithville Lake in 1965 as a multipurpose project for flood reduction, water supply, water quality control, recreation and fish and wildlife conservation. Construction began in 1972, and the dam was completed in October 1977. Impoundment began in 1979 and reached multipurpose pool in the spring of 1982. At normal operating pool level, the lake covers 7,190 surface acres and stretches 18 miles up the Little Platte River Valley from the damsite to the city of Plattsburg. Smithville Lake controls a drainage area of 213 square miles providing flood protection for the city of Smithville and 8,500 rural acres in the Platte River Basin. In addition to impounding potential floodwaters, the lake contains 102,000-acre feet of multipurpose storage for water supply and to improve water quality. The communities of Plattsburg and Smithville are currently using the lake's water and Kansas City, Mo., has reserved part of the storage for future use.

Visitor Center

The Jerry L. Litton Visitor Center is located on State Highway DD near the south end of the dam. It was named for Missouri's late 6th District congressman who was killed along with members of his family in a plane crash August 3, 1976. The center offers exhibits portraying Mr. Litton's life and his contributions to our society. Also in the Center are U.S. Army Corps of Engineers administrative facilities and exhibits. These exhibits offer information on the history of the area, the dam, recreational opportunities, wildlife management, water safety, cultural resources and more. Please stop by for a visit. Corps personnel are available to answer your questions or visit our website at www.nwk.usace.army.mil/smithville/smithville_home.htm.



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Additional Information

For additional information about the facilities or operation of Smithville Lake, write to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Smithville Project Office, P.O. Box 428, Smithville, MO 64089 or call (816) 532-0174. Email: Smithville@nwk02.usace.army.mil