

CROSS TIMBERS

Cross Timbers State Park at Toronto lake is located in the gently rolling hills of the Verdigris River Valley in southeastern Kansas. Getting there is easy. See map inset to find access from the north off of Highway 54 or from the south off of Highway 400.

This 1,075-acre preserve that overlooks the 2800-acre Toronto Reservoir marks the northern reaches of a region known to early explorers, pioneers, and today by ecologists as the Cross Timbers. Forested flood plains are surrounded by open prairie, hills of oak savannah, and forests. This setting provides the visitor an opportunity to enjoy wildlife in their natural setting and to see some of the most diverse flora and fauna found in Kansas.

Those enjoying outdoor study and nature observation will find the park an extraordinary area for their pursuits. Visitors seeking solitude, relaxation and a "get away from it all" experience will find that the park meets their needs.

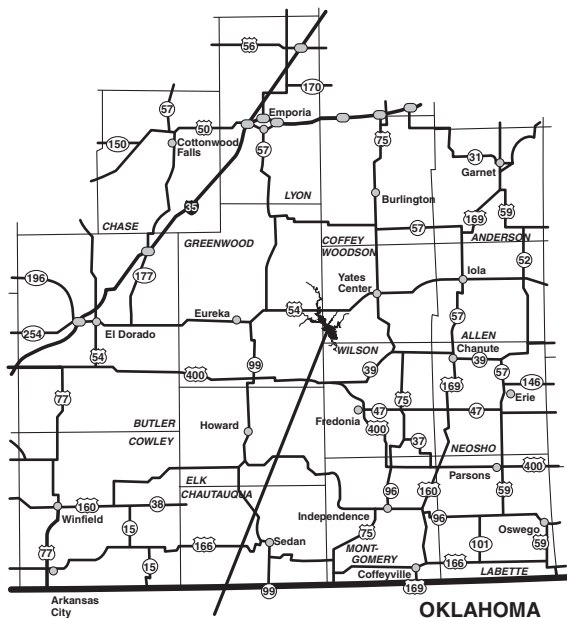
The park offers a multitude of recreational activities for the visitor. Camping, hiking, mountain biking, swimming, picnicking, boating, and fishing are popular pursuits. Park naturalists are on staff in the summer months to provide outdoor interpretive programs during the weekends.

The Park has complete facilities, including group camp areas, pull-through and back-in utility sites, and improved designated campsites for those not needing utilities. All the park campgrounds are served by modern bathroom and shower facilities. To reserve a campsite with utilities or the group camp area, call or e-mail Cross Timbers State Park office at least one week ahead of the date you plan to be in the park.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Park lands are for the use of everyone. Please familiarize yourself with regulations to ensure that all visitors have an opportunity for a safe and enjoyable experience.

You can help in developing, protecting, and maintaining the Park's trails, facilities, and its natural wonders by becoming a volunteer or a member of the Friends Group.



**Toronto Reservoir
& Cross Timbers State Park**

General Area Map

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, and military or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327. 04/15

Cross Timbers

State Park & Trails



at Toronto Lake

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Toronto, KS 66777-9749

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(620) 431-0380

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Kansas
Department of Wildlife, Parks
and Tourism

ENJOYING THE TRAILS

All the Parks trails are open to travel by foot for walking, hiking, and backpacking. All but the Ancient Trees Trail are open to other non-motorized uses including jogging and mountain biking. Back country camping is allowed by special permit on the yellow loop and on the west segment of the red loop of the Chautauqua Hills Trail. Check with park personnel for special permits to camp in these designated sites.

During high lake levels or heavy rains, portions of the trails may be hazardous or impassable. Biking is prohibited when the trail is wet enough that damage may occur.

Portions of the Toronto Point area trails may be open to archery hunting. Trails will remain open during this period. Look for trailhead postings.



TRAILS AND FEATURES

TORONTO POINT TRAILS

The *Ancient Oaks Trail* at Cross Timbers is a self-guided interpretive trail featuring old growth post oaks. In 1982, scientists from the University of Arkansas Tree-Ring Laboratory analyzed the tree rings of twenty-six post oaks in this area. The Ancient Oaks Trail was built so that fourteen of these old growth trees could be seen from the trail.

The trailhead and small parking lot are located west of the Toronto Point gatehouse and self-pay station. Following blue trail markers, hikers will pass by interpretive plaques that describe the age of each tree and outstanding historical events in North America and the United States that occurred at the same time each tree was a seedling. Hikers on this one-mile long woodland trail will see native plants, wildlife, geological formations, and the remains of early pioneer history. This trail is for hikers only.

The *Chautauqua Hills Trail* offers the hiker or mountain biker four connecting trail loops to choose from. The trailheads offer access to the trails. The main trailhead is located on the east side of the Osage Plains Campground. The secondary trailhead on Coyote Road provides access to the two farthest east loops of this trail.

Whatever you choose, either the shortest 1 1/2-mile loop or the longest 11-mile loop, you will see some of the most spectacular woodland and prairie scenery found in the central plains.

WOODSON COVE TRAILS

The *Overlook Trail* has trailheads and parking located at the East Overlook and at Woodson Cove. The Overlook Trail is 1 1/4 miles long and is rated moderate to difficult for hikers. Mountain bikers may find the trail challenging because there are many sandstone outcroppings and steep ravines. As the trail makes its ending loop it travels along a cliff that overlooks the lake making for frequent spectacular views in any season. The strenuous climb for bikers and hikers is well worth the effort! Thick carpets of lichens and mosses are prominent features as are seasonal wildflowers unique to this Cross Timbers ecosystem.

HOLIDAY HILL TRAILS

The *Blackjack Trailhead* is across the road from the Blackjack Campground. This one-mile trail is rated moderate for hikers and mountain bikers. The Blackjack Trail is the perfect trail to explore for deer, turkey, and other wildlife native to these woodlands. The Blackjack Trail's open canopy allows sunshine to filter through the woodlands where spectacular stands of native wildflowers can be viewed.

The *Oak Ridge Trailhead* is accessed directly behind the south shower building, adjacent to the cemetery. The Oak Ridge Trail is connected with a spur trail, marked in white, to the Blackjack Trail. The Oak Ridge Trail is 1/2-mile long and with its moderate rating is the perfect trail to initiate the novice hiker or mountain biker, young or old. The forest of blackjack oak, post oak, American elm, red cedar, red bud, and rough-leaved dogwood provide the opportunity to observe wildlife native to this environment.



CROSS TIMBERS STATE PARK at Toronto Lake

