

## Watchable Wildlife at Perry Lake

The diversity of environments that surround and include Perry Lake offer our visitors amazing opportunities to view a variety of wildlife in their natural habitat. This brochure was composed in order to provide the best locations at the lake for an enjoyable wildlife experience. Refer to the numbered map on the back that coincides with the following locations. We wish you the best of luck in your adventures!

1. **Rock Creek Park**, located west of the dam, offers an opportunity to see two of our shyest predators, the red fox and the bobcat. These animals are mainly nocturnal, but can begin their activity up to two hours before dusk and continue for up to four hours after dawn. Beavers have also made a residence in this park and are active during the same approximate times as the fox and bobcat. Look for trails in the grass that lead to water or listen for the sound of a slap on water (their warning signal made by hitting their tail against the water's surface). Red-tailed hawks are often seen hunting here and raccoons are a common sight strolling through the campgrounds.
2. **Thompsonville Park**, located just south of Rock Creek Park, continues as prime red fox habitat. This is also a good place to observe some of our

forest animals such as gray squirrels. They are active from early morning into late evening and are often seen resting on a horizontal limb with their tail arched over their back in order to screen themselves from the sun. Bald eagles and blue herons are often seen soaring over the dam and are easily viewed from various vantage points in Thompsonville. Cliff swallows have made a home under the control tower and migratory waterfowl stop here to feed and rest.

3. The **Delaware Marsh** was created for the specific purpose of attracting a large variety of migrating birds, amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals. A 1.75-mile easy hiking trail takes you around the marsh and includes a number of interpretive stations.
4. **Perry Park** contains grassland and forest habitat, ideal for deer, bobcats, fox, songbirds, hawks, squirrels, rabbits, and many other animals. It is largely untouched and natural. A little stroll through the woods can offer some excellent wildlife viewing.
5. **Slough Creek Park**, our largest campground, also harbors the largest white-tailed deer population at the lake. The deer are common sites in the evening and night feeding both inside the campground and along the road leading to Devil's Gap boat ramp. Thunder Ridge hiking trail is located here and contains 30 interpretive stations along the way. Wild turkeys and raccoons are regular visitors to this area.

6. **Longview Park** is covered with forested areas and bounded by miles of shoreline. This is one of the few places on the lake that you can listen to the whippoorwills and chuck-will's-widows during the evening. Watch for insects that gather around the lights of buildings, campers, and boats during the first few hours of nightfall and you might be lucky enough to get a glance at one of our Kansas natives, the Big Brown Bat. These furry fliers can also be seen swooping down to take sips of water from still or shallow pools. The forest also houses the eastern woodrat (a.k.a. the pack rat). They build nests out of sticks and leaves, often up against the side of trees. These homes are used for generations and can grow to be very large. Great Horned Owls, coyotes, and bobcats have all been seen hunting through the woods.

7. **Old Military Trail** offers a largely untouched paradise for songbirds, red fox, coyotes, squirrels, woodrats, owls, and many other forest creatures. Animal sightings can almost be guaranteed, but be warned, you'll have to park the car, as this is a hike-in only area.

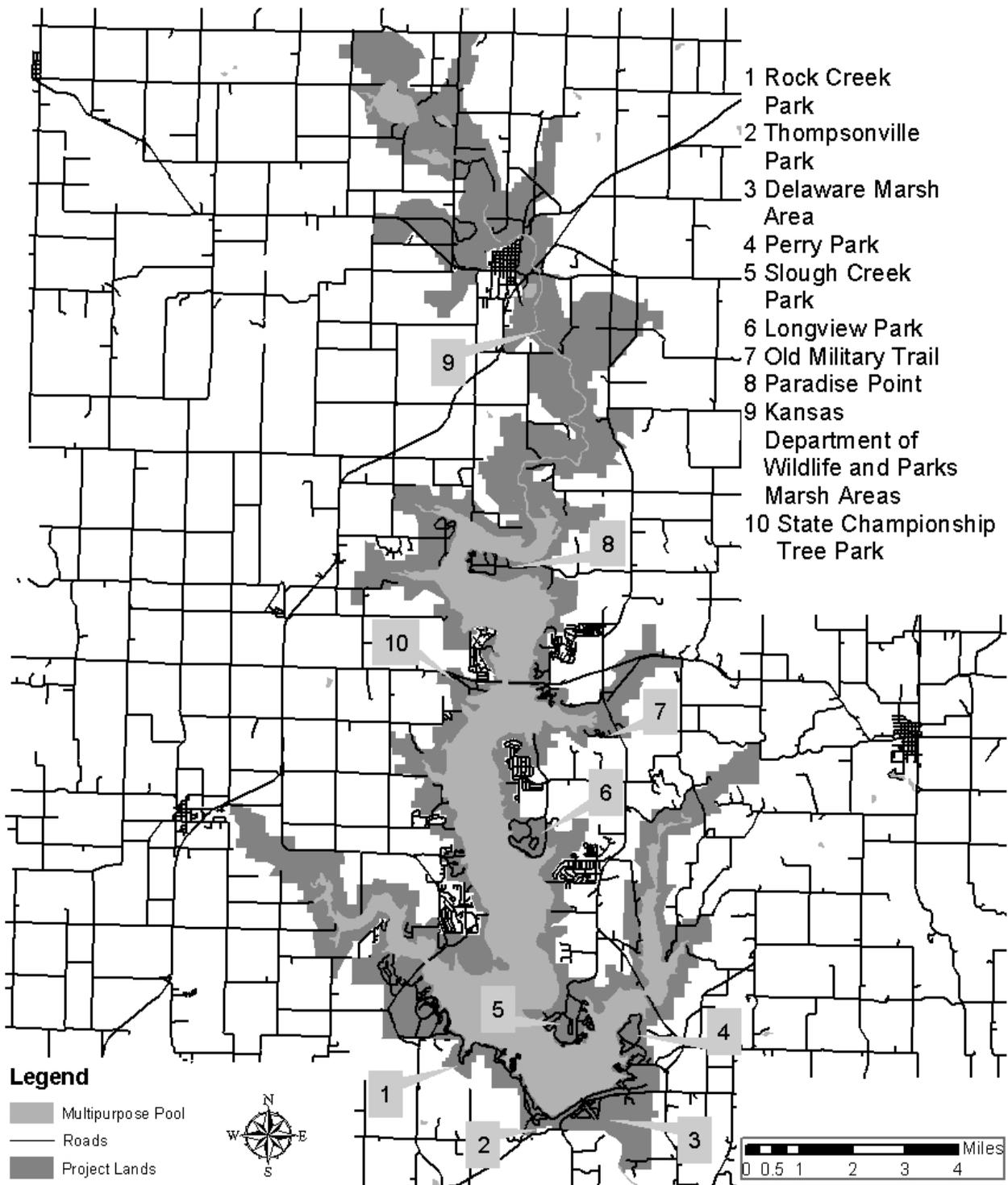
8. **Paradise Point**, like Perry Park, has a nice combination of forests, grasslands, and shoreline. Because it is not often visited, a great diversity of wildlife has made this area home. This is also one of the most likely places around the lake to view white pelicans as they migrate through the area in early spring and late fall. Watch for their circular flight patterns when riding the thermal wind currents.

9. The **Marshland Refuge Areas** are located on the northern reaches of Perry Lake. This area is managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. These areas are a bird-watcher's paradise so make sure you bring your Perry Lake bird checklist! Many species of shorebirds and waterfowl stop here to rest, nest, and mate. Some species stay here year-round.

10. Near the town of Ozawkie is our **Big Tree Park**. This park not only boasts the biggest Eastern Cottonwood tree in the state of Kansas, but also houses a rich grassland habitat. A one-mile easy interpretive hiking trail leads you around the area and gives you a few different perspectives. You can expect to see many small mammals like the eastern cottontail, squirrels, and raccoons, as well as songbirds and other larger birds of prey like hawks, owls, and eagles.



**Please stay on  
designated roadways  
at all times and have  
fun!**



# MAMMAL TRACKS

-  White-tailed Deer  
*Odocoileus virginianus*
-  Red Fox  
*Vulpes vulpes*
-  Raccoon  
*Procyon lotor*
-  Beaver  
*Castor canadensis*
-  Coyote  
*Canis latrans*
-  Eastern Woodrat  
*Neotoma floridana*
-  Bobcat  
*Lynx rufus*
-  Big Brown Bat  
*Eptesicus fuscus*

## Tips for Viewing

- Most animals are best viewed at dawn and dusk.
- Where there is an abundance of prey animals, it is more likely that there are also predators.

# Watchable Wildlife

## Perry Lake, KS



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