

BIG HILL LAKE

CAMPSITES

DISCOVER LABETTE COUNTY

Pearson-Skubitz Big Hill Lake is located in an oak-bluestem forest, just southwest of Parsons and east of Cherryvale. It provides a wide variety of native vegetation, fish and scenery for all to enjoy.

The 1,240 acre lake is a fisherman's paradise. Pre-impoundment planning and the continued trophy lake management has developed Big Hill Lake into one of the best fishing lakes in Kansas!

Big Hill Lake has an 18-inch minimum length limit for smallmouth bass and a 21-inch minimum length limit for largemouth bass.

Popular with tournament and recreation anglers alike, Big Hill offers two concrete boat ramps and several shore access points.

Standing timber throughout the lake provides wonderful cover for largemouth bass. The south end of the lake supports a strong smallmouth bass population with its rocky banks and points.

In spring, Crappie is king and a number of good sized catfish are taken annually by anglers. White bass and bluegill are found throughout the lake and will keep anglers of all ages busy.

Interested in scheduling a fishing tournament? Or for more information or regulations and limits, contact the Army Corps of Engineers Big Hill Project Office at (620) 336-2741.

Not a fisherman? Play a round at either of the 18-hole Disc Golf courses at Big Hill Lake.

Big Hill Lake Parks

The Army Corps of Engineers offers several parks for camping, picnicking & other activities. Seasonal fees are collected at three of them.

Cherryvale Park (Class A) - located 4 miles east of Cherryvale.

Mound Valley North/South (Both Class A) - located five miles east of Cherryvale. Located on the main body of Big Hill Lake. (Beach access.)

Timber Hill Park (Class B) - located 5 miles east of Cherryvale. Timber Hill is for those who like to get back to nature with the bare minimum.

Chetopa

Elmore Park offers plenty of RV parking, a boat ramp, shelter houses, picnic tables, electric and water hook-ups. East Park runs along the Neosho River. Electric hook-ups are available for RVs or campers.

Idle Hour Lake (Altamont)

The Louis P. Gartner Recreational Area is a beautiful, quiet escape to camp, fish, picnic or play disc golf. Rent camp spots or the shelter by calling (620) 784-5582. The site is open to both tent and RV campers.

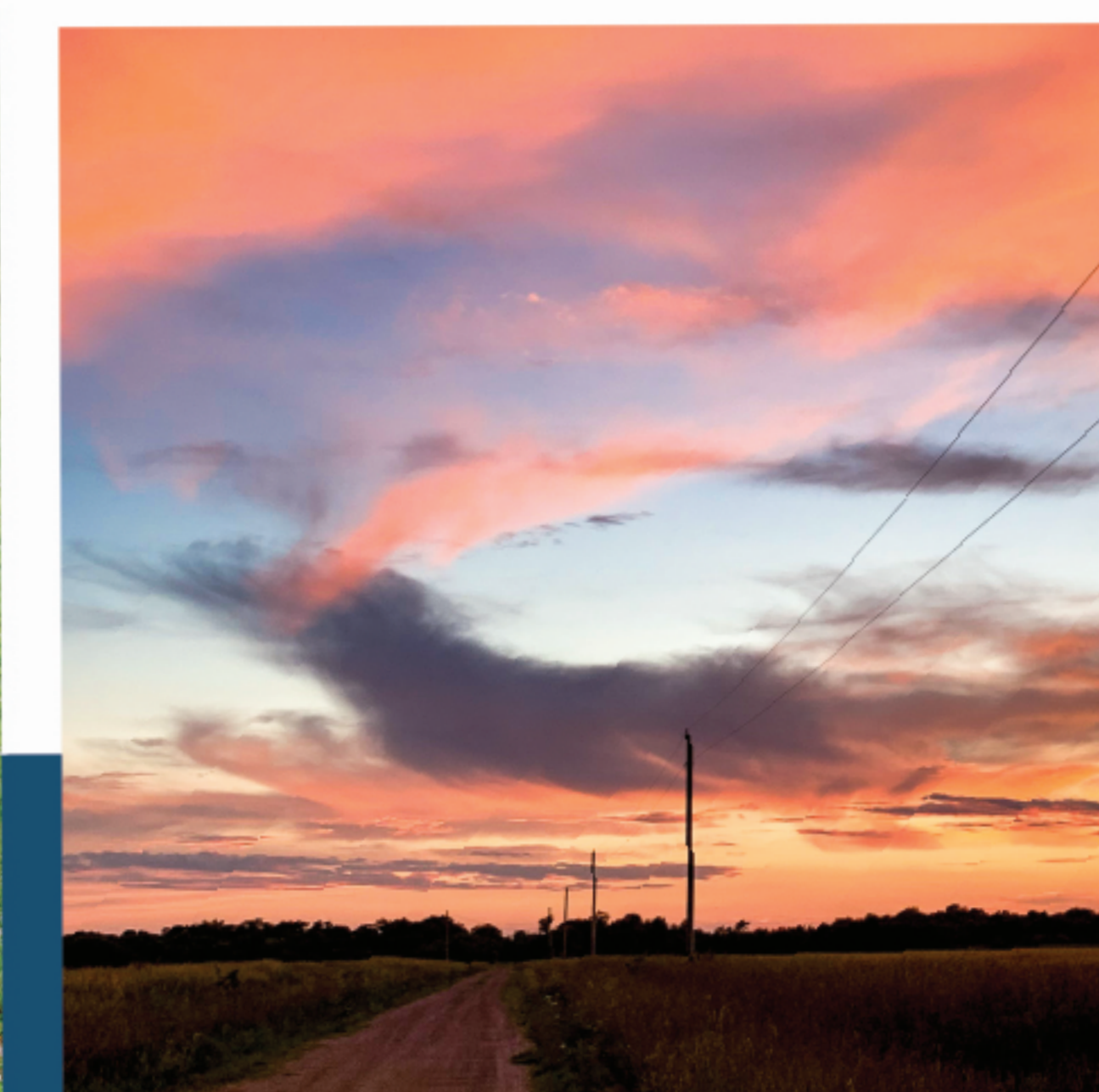
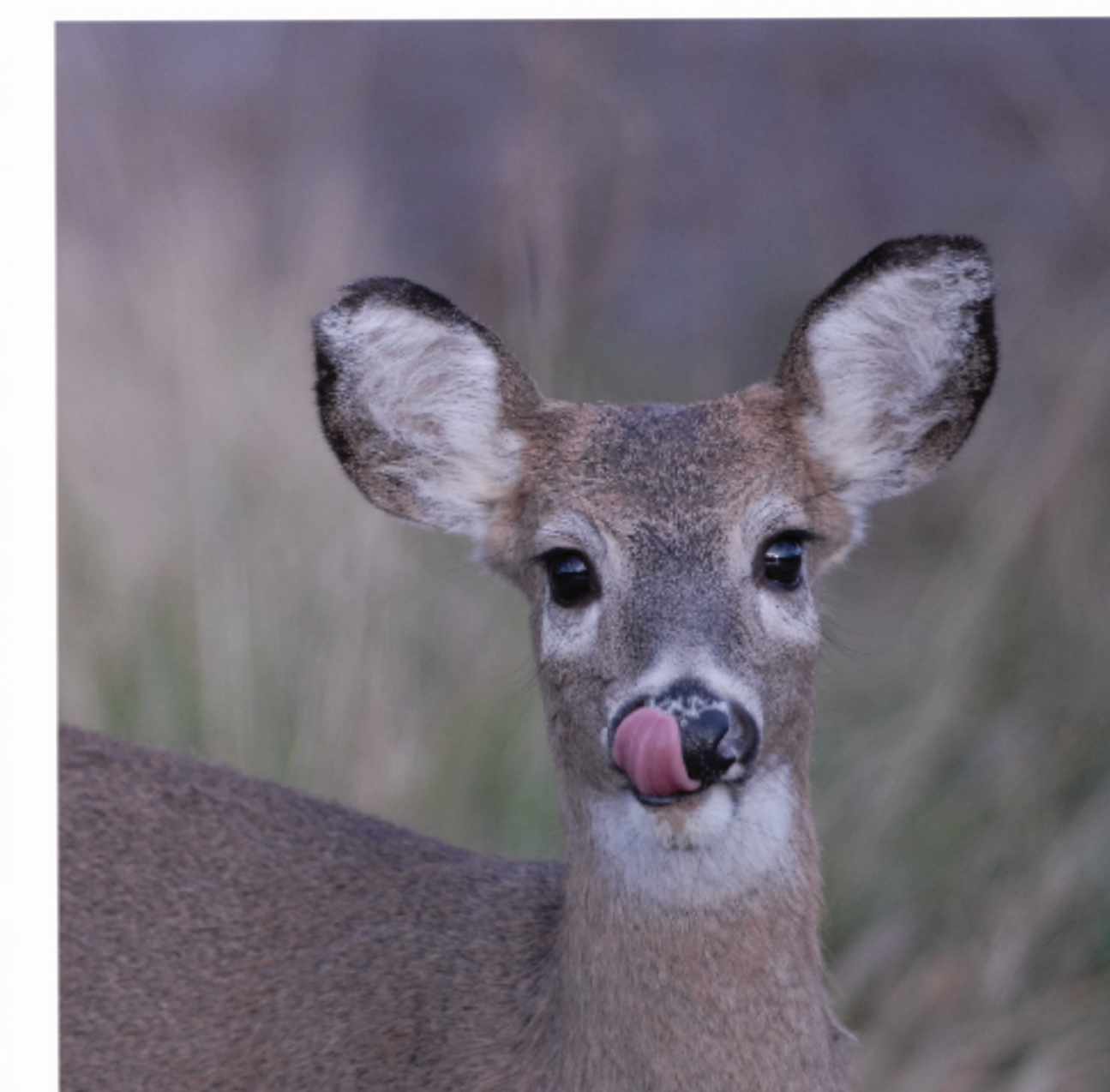
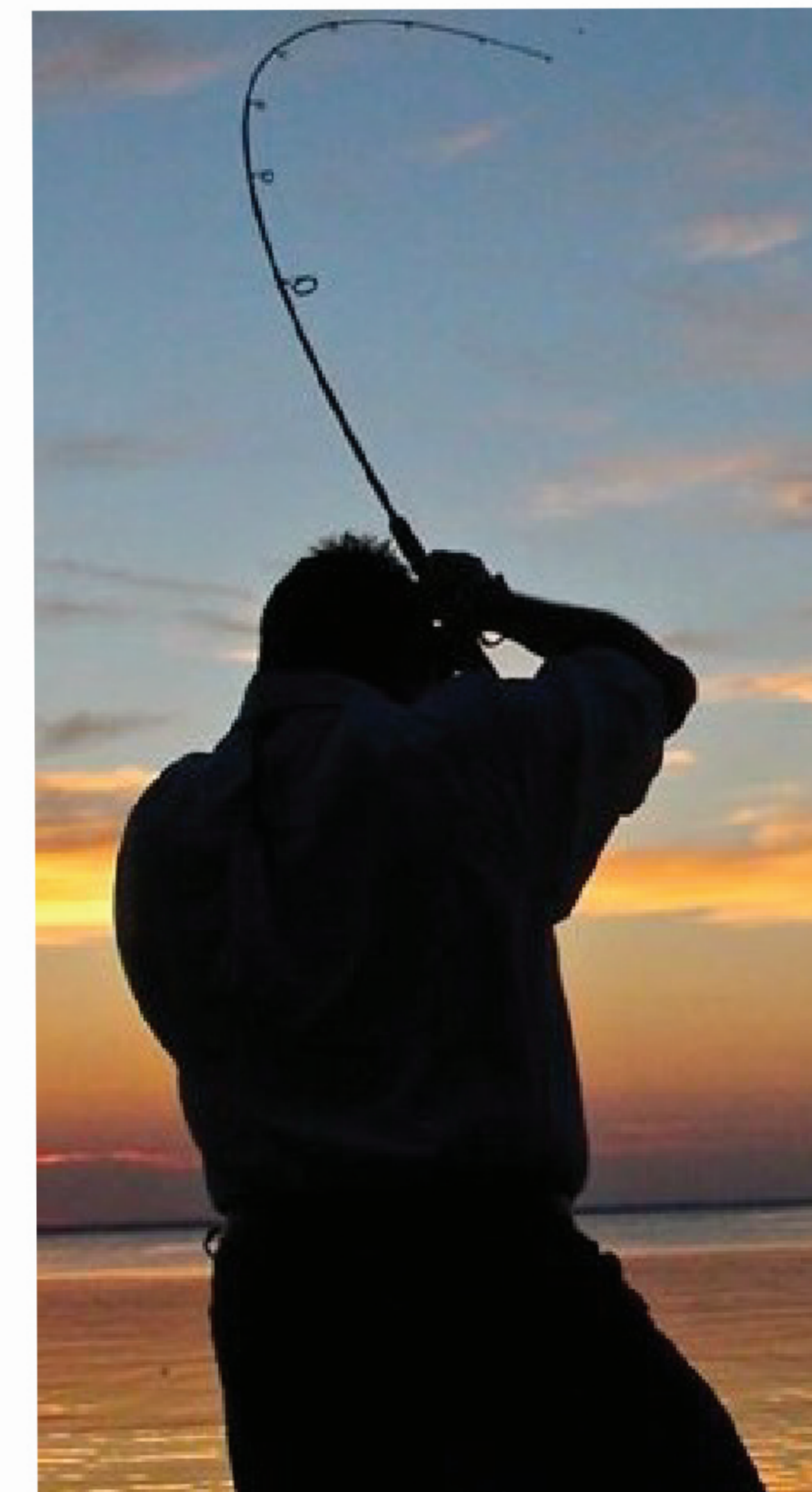
Lake Parsons

Campsites available with or without electricity. Daily or annual permits are available. Call (620) 421-7010. There's no charge for camping in areas with no improved pad. City ordinance limits camping to 10 days per month and not more than 10 consecutive days.

Oswego

Take advantage two campgrounds. Danny Elliot Park offers five sites with electric & water. For directions, call (620) 795-4433. Kamp Siesta features 30 sites, electric, water, dump station, restrooms/showers.

*Labette County Convention & Visitors Bureau
506 Main Street • Parsons, KS 67357
(620) 421-6500 • www.VisitLabette.com*



OUTDOOR GUIDE

MINED LAND

History of the Property

The first land donation was received in 1926. The largest acquisition, totaling 8,208 acres was donated by the P&M Coal Company to the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks in 1981.

About the Land

This area contains more than 14,500 acres and is comprised of 1,500 acres of water and 13,000 acres of land. All but 2,000 acres was surface mined for coal from 1920 to 1974. The property is rugged country dotted with more than 1,000 strip-mine lakes, steep-sided hills and dense vegetation. Unmined areas consist of mature bottom woodlands and small crop fields. The strip-mine lakes vary in size from ¼ acre to 50 acres with depths up to 60 feet.

Native and cool season grasses dominate 4,000 acres of the property. The remaining 9,000 acres is comprised of burr oak, pin oak, walnut, hickory and hackberry trees with a thick understory of dogwood, green briar, honeysuckle and blackberry.

Primary terrestrial use on the property includes hunting, hiking, camping, wildlife viewing and mushroom/berry picking. Species hunted include whitetail deer, eastern turkey, dove, bobwhite quail, fox squirrel, cottontails and waterfowl. Fisherman can take advantage of regional species, including one pit stocked with trout.

Nearby Attraction:

Big Brutus, an 11 million pound, 160ft high coal shovel & mining museum is open to the public 9am - 5pm, seven days a week.



IDLE HOUR LAKE

The Louis P. Gartner Recreational Area at Altamont's Idle Hour Lake is a beautiful place to camp, fish or picnic. Rent campsites or the shelter by calling (620) 784-5582.



The site is open to both tent & RV campers. It offers nine RV campsites; including water & electric, bathrooms, picnic tables, grills and fire rings and a playground for children. A

challenging 18-hole disc golf course is on site as well. The lake is stocked with bass, catfish and crappie to keep fishermen challenged.

LAKE PARSONS

Beautiful 980-acre Lake Parsons is a peaceful retreat for campers, a fun-filled beach for swimmers and a sportsman's paradise.

Fishermen can take advantage of this rural lake and catch buffalo, channel catfish, crappie, flatheads, sunfish, largemouth, white bass and a variety of other fish. This is a year round recreational area. Lake Parsons is best known for its deer hunting (archery only) and very good wild turkey and duck hunting.



BONE CREEK RESERVIOR

Bone Creek Reservoir, north of Arma, is locally known as one of the area's best fishing lakes. Bone Creek offers more than 540 acres of nature's splendor. Fisherman have caught Bluegill, Black Bullheads, Channel Catfish, Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Small mouth Bass ' Walleye, Redear & Green Sunfish.

NEOSHO RIVER

The Neosho River runs through southeast Kansas. There are three public access boat ramps on the Neosho River in Labette County.

Chetopa

The City of Chetopa has four parks, three along the Neosho River with access to fishing and two that include concrete boat ramps.

Chetopa also offers quiet camping areas, cozy restaurants, convenience stores, a grocery and old fashioned drug store.

A special Paddle-fish Snagging season runs March 15 to May.

Oswego

If you're seeking river access above the Chetopa Dam, go to Oswego. Just west of the city's water plant is a concrete boat ramp with public access. Oswego offers improved campsites, RV parking and a variety of rural opportunities.



GRAND OSAGE WILDLIFE AREA

Kansas Wildlife, Parks & Tourism manages the Grand Osage Wildlife Area, a 2,500 acre paradise. Formerly part of the Kansas Army Ammunition Plant, it has been closed to public access since the 1940s. It reopened a few years ago. Hunting access is through managed draws for deer, turkeys & dove.



TRAILS & HIKING

Ruth Nixon Trail

The Ruth Nixon Trail at Big Hill Lake follows the western shore of the lake through woodlands for one mile. This allows hikers to view the natural habitats of a variety of species of wildlife.

Near the trail head is a beautiful stone scenic overlook. It is especially inviting in the fall, when the leaves change to vibrant colors.

Bridle Trail

The Big Hill Lake Bridle Trail loops around the northern part of the lake. This natural equestrian trail provides a scenic route for relaxation and the opportunity to enjoy Big Hill on horseback.



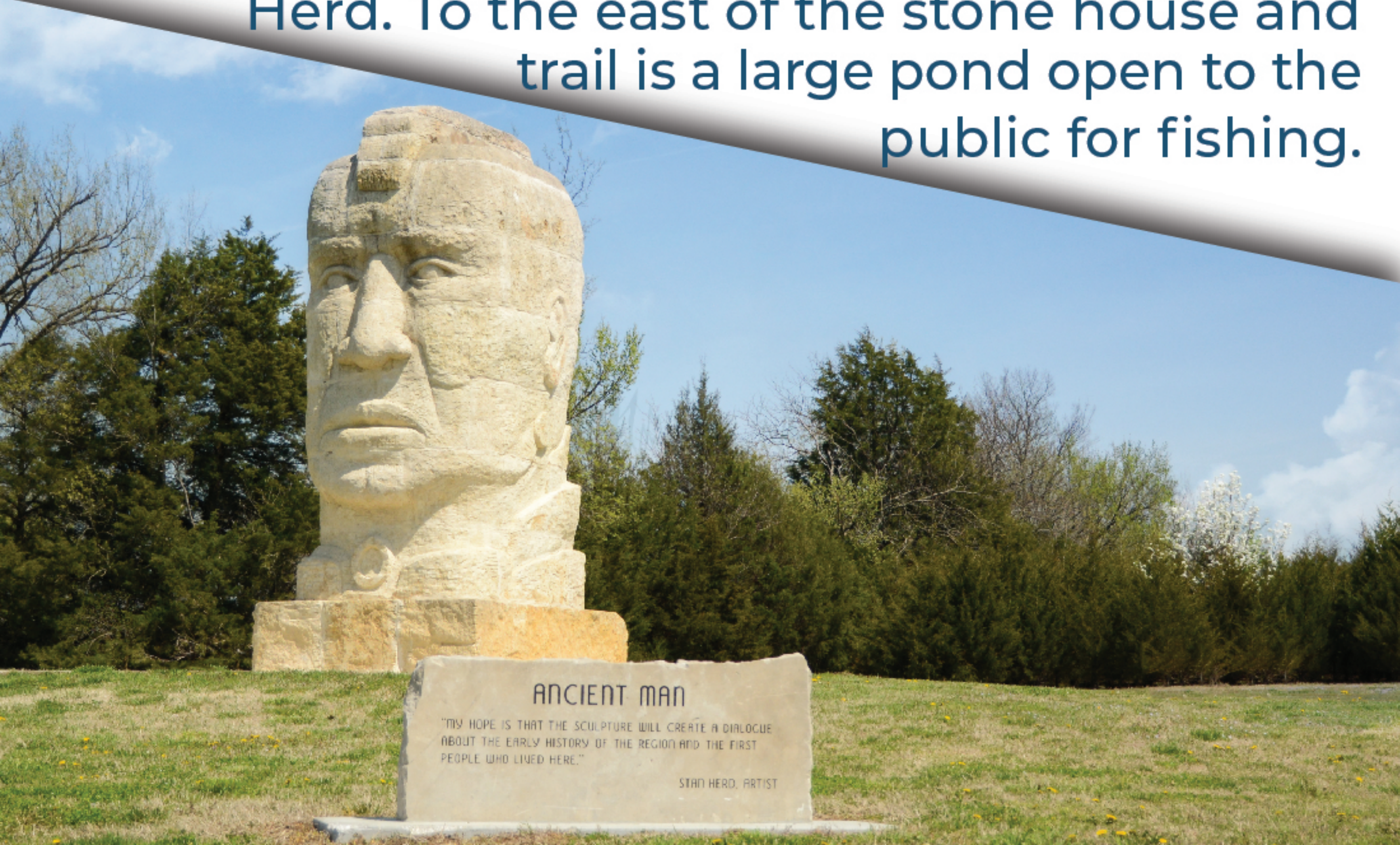
The 17-mile trail provides a variety of terrain for all ages to enjoy. There are tethering areas and three parking sites equipped with limited facilities that may be used for overnight camping by riders.

Tolen Creek

The trail is located at Tolen Creek Park, on the north edge of Parsons, near the U.S. 59/400 bypass. It is being developed as a premier nature experience for hikers and bikers.

The natural winding trail takes you through wooded areas past a fully restored, 1890s stone house, and sculptures by Kansas native, Stan

Herd. To the east of the stone house and trail is a large pond open to the public for fishing.



BIRDS & WILDLIFE

Big Hill Wildlife Area

Bluestem prairie grasses and wildflowers such as woolly verbena, green and butterfly milkweed, western yarrow, partridge pea, spreading aster, and dotted gayfeather provide habitat for mice, cottontails, and coyotes.

Hedgerows of Osage Orange, dogwood, and persimmon furnish nesting sites for Bell's vireo, northern bobwhite quail, orchard orioles and scissor-tailed flycatchers.

During migrations check the lake for snow and Canada geese, canvasbacks, redheads, pintails, and blue-winged teal. More recently, bald eagles and loons have been spotted.



Along the Western Shore

The Ruth Nixon Trail follows the western shore of Big Hill Lake through woodlands of post, blackjack, red and chinquapin oaks. Acorns feed turkey and gray & fox squirrels.

Look for whitetail deer trails and watch for cardinals, chickadees, blue jays, & woodpeckers. Foxes, armadillos, woodchucks, bobcats can also be seen in the park.

In the spring, listen in the evening and early morning for great horned owls, whip-poor-wills, and chuck-will's-widow.

In early summer watch for eastern bluebirds, American red starts, Carolina wrens, and Kentucky warblers.



SHOOTING SPORTS

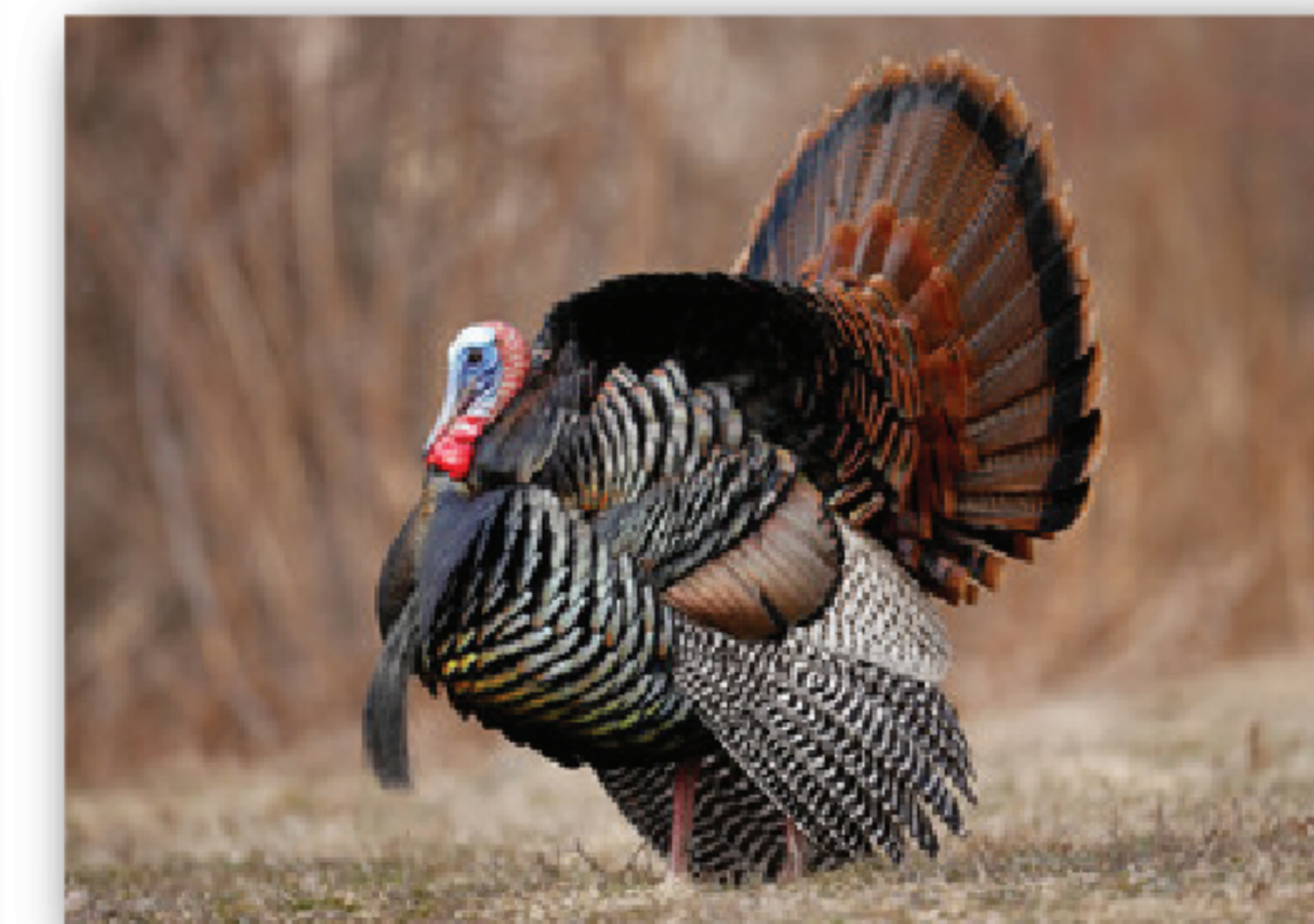
Claythorne Lodge

Claythorne Lodge is a premier resort, minutes east of Oswego. The lodge is nationally known and has hosted a number of prestigious National Sporting Clays Association sanctioned events.



HUNTING

Due to the quality and variety of wildlife in Southeast Kansas, hunting is a popular pastime that brings people into the region.



The area has an abundant supply of whitetail deer, dove and wild turkeys in addition to a growing number of quail, thanks to successful habitat rehabilitation.

A few years ago, *Outdoor Life Magazine* named Parsons one of the "Top 10 Whitetail Town" in the country.

For more details about hunting seasons, regulations and license information, call Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism at (620) 231-3173.

DISC GOLF

Explore Labette County & play all 5 of our competition level courses located at:

Tolen Creek Park • Parsons Arboretum
Big Hill Lake • Altamont Lake
Riverside Chetopa



Greater Labette County, Kansas

MAP SYMBOLS	
	Campsites
	RV Hook-ups
	Motel/Hotel
	Cabin Rental
	Picnic Area
	Hospital
	Swimming
	Boat Launch
	Equestrian Trail
	Shooting Sports
	Disc Golf

