

Changes coming to camping reservations

Prairie Dog State Park News

Toby Kuhn, Manager

Prairie Dog State Park is excited to announce several significant changes to camping for the 2013 season.

Historically, long-term and extended stay camping has been very popular at the park. With the new Outdoor Recreation Management System that came online in 2012, park staff wasn't able to accommodate as many requests for extended stay camping.

In addition, the demand for long-term sites exceeded the number of sites that were available. One of the most common complaints about long-term camping is the sites that were designated by park staff. The sites utilized in the past were not always the most desirable. With the new system, many of the most popular sites were only being occupied on weekends due to reservations.

The changes in effect for 2013 only affect long-term sites and extended stay camping. Extended stay camping is considered 28 consecutive days followed by leaving the park for five consecutive days

versus a long-term site which allows for up to six months in the same site without having to move.

The online reservation system will be open to the public beginning December 15 for camping reservations for the 2013 season.

To accommodate long-term and extended stay camping requests, the system will be available through the park office only on the following dates: Dec. 3-7 and Dec. 10-14.

This time period is only for long-term and extended stay camping requests. Park staff will process these requests on a first-come first-served basis

with in-person sales taking precedence over phone sales.

This is similar to the old first day in January process we have been using for the last several years. The big difference is the availability of any utility site, up to 24 sites, being used for long-term camping.

This is double the number of sites from 2012. Park patrons will now be able to choose a utility site for long-term camping in any of the three utility campgrounds (Prairie Dog, Shady Rest and Branded Cedar). Park staff will no longer have pre-designated sites.

Camp host sites will be excluded and ADA sites (use restricted or not restricted) must be occupied by someone who meets the site requirements.

All long-term campers will need to sign an agreement for the full five month period, May 1 to Oct. 1.

Under this new program, long-term camping is no longer a month to month contract. It is now a five month agreement. No long-term permits will be sold for a period of time shorter than five months.

Payment can be made for the entire amount or in monthly installments. An annual camp permit is still required and must be purchased at the time of the long-term permit.

In lieu of purchasing a long-term permit, staff will also begin processing extended stay

requests on Dec. 3 through the park office. This will allow patrons the alternative to the five month agreement.

With an extended stay permit, the camper will be allowed to reserve a site for 28 days. They then must leave the park for five consecutive days.

This process can be repeated as many times as needed. The same site restrictions apply to extended stay as with long-term camping. An annual camp permit is required to receive the discounted rate and must be purchased at the time of the extended stay permit.

For an extended stay, full payment is required at the time of the reservation.

These changes were made to meet the demand of campers who wanted to stay longer without changing sites and to increase park revenue.

Patrons wanting to reserve a site for shorter stays and Holiday weekends will be able to access the online system beginning Dec. 15. The web site to make reservations is www.reserveamerica.com. All long-term and extended stay permits must be done through the office beginning Dec. 3.

Please don't hesitate to contact the park office (877-2953) with any questions. Thank you for an excellent 2012 camping season and we look forward to 2013.



Welcome . . . to Prairie Dog State Park

A prime place to experience the shortgrass prairies of western Kansas, Prairie Dog State Park occupies 1,150 acres on the shores of Keith Sebelius Reservoir in Norton County.

The park is home to a thriving prairie dog colony and is the site of the last remaining adobe house in Kansas. The renovated adobe house was built on the site in the early 1890's. A 1.4 mile nature

trail complete with interpretive signage is also set up at the lake. Two vintage 19th century buildings are preserved here, including a one room school and renovated adobe house. Sebelius Reservoir is well known for its excellent fishing opportunities. In recent years, anglers have found productive fishing for black bass, walleye, wiper, crappie, catfish and saugeye.

Welcome to the Sebelius Lake

- Glass Installation •Restoration
- Insurance Claims
- Semis & Tractors •Custom Paint
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-Jarrod and Trisha Lawson, Owners-



Lawson Auto Body and Customs, LLC

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Big Circle Drive Daily Noon Buffet Internet Hot Spot Meeting Room in Back

Hours: Mon.-Sat.: 6:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
Sunday: 7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

TOWN AND COUNTRY KITCHEN

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