

Boat Ramp Restroom — A new vault toilet facility will be installed at the park's boat ramp this spring or early summer.

The commercially built concrete cast vault restroom is being purchased with Motor Boat Access Funding. The present facility constructed in 1965 will be removed and replaced with the handicap accessible facility.

Identical to the restroom at the fishing dock, the new facility will be much easier to maintain and clean during the busy season. The park has had many requests from constituents

for an updated facility of this type at the boat ramp.

Lateral Field Replacements — The lateral fields at both shower buildings were replaced in late January.

The contract was awarded to Bolig Construction in WaKeeney and was completed in two days. The new lateral systems should extend the life of the sewage system in each facility for many years. The total cost of the project was \$5,000.

Agricultural practices help improve park

In addition to burning and mowing, agricultural practices are used to improve habitat in the state park.

David Brandyberry has a contract to farm approximately 200 acres of cropland and wildlife food plots within the park area. The park's objectives for the farming program include the re-establishment of native grasses, providing wildlife food plots and habitat, and reducing the noxious weed infestations in the area.

Under the contract, the department's share of the milo crop is left un-harvested as a wildlife food source, while it's share of the harvested wheat crop is sold with proceeds being deposited in the park's fund.

The drought conditions have greatly reduced our progress with habitat improvement. Hopefully, the park will receive ample rainfall this spring and proceed with this much

needed ongoing project.

Prison crews are invaluable asset

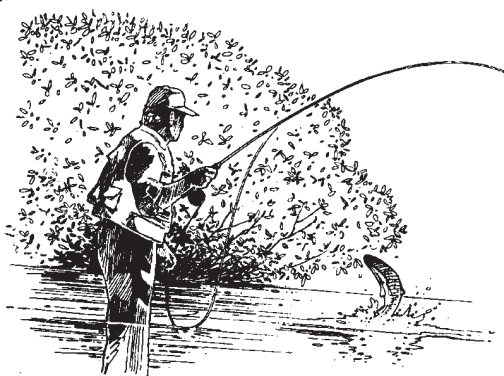
An inmate crew from the Norton Correctional Facility continues to be an invaluable asset for the park and wildlife area.

Many of the projects they complete would never be done without their assistance. Some of the projects they have worked on during the last year include painting picnic tables, shoreline tree removal, mowing and trimming, assist staff with opening and closing shower/restroom facilities, sign staining, and litter pickup.

The park has utilized a crew since the facility opened in the late 1980s.



Norton's Lynn Harper caught a 5 pound, 12 ounce, 24 inch wiper on April 4.



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