

Boxes help track dangerous insects at park

Many park patrons may have noticed some purple triangular boxes hanging from trees at Prairie Dog State Park. These boxes are a trap which is part of a nationwide survey conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture to monitor the leading edge of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

Approximately 61,500 of these traps are placed throughout the United States in what are determined to be high risk sites to check for previously unknown beetle populations. Campgrounds are considered to be a high risk site because many people bring in firewood from outside sources, some of which may contain the beetle.

The shiny, emerald green beetle

Prairie Dog State Park News

Brian Haug, Ranger

has been spreading outward from the Great Lakes region since it was first discovered in 2002. Since then, it has killed millions of ash trees and caused thousands more to be removed to slow its spread.

The beetle traps are three-dimensional triangular traps that are approximately two feet in length. The traps are purple in color and made of plastic and coated in glue on all

three sides. The traps are placed in Ash trees and they are baited with a lure. These traps are used as a detection tool to determine possible new infestations, and not to try to control populations of the beetle.

The traps are purple in color because scientists have determined that purple is the color that the beetles are most attracted to. The traps are placed in Ash trees only because they are the only host tree species for the beetle. In their adult stage, the beetle will fly around the Ash trees looking for a potential mate and they will feed on the tree itself. It is important to note that the traps will not attract the beetle to our area, they will only aid in detecting if the beetle is already present.



These triangular purple boxes are strung from trees at Sebelius Lake and Prairie Dog State Park to help track possible infestations of emerald ash borers. The boxes and insects are not dangerous to pets or humans.

These traps are placed in the spring and summer months, before the beetle adults come out. The crews will come back in the mid-summer to add more lure and to collect any insects stuck on the trap. In the fall, the crews will again return and collect the insects and remove the traps.

If you should see one of the traps on the ground, you are asked to call the department's hotline to report it. The phone number is 1-866-322-4512. The traps contain a non-toxic glue, and are harmless to both humans and pets, however the glue is very sticky and it is advised not to touch them.

One of the biggest ways that the

beetle is spread is through the exporting of Ash firewood. Any area confirmed to have had the beetle is placed under quarantine, and is strictly regulated as to the exporting of all hardwood firewood and green ash lumber. The results of the survey are of great importance to help with the spread of beetle by moving firewood which prompted the nationwide campaign of "Burn it Where You Buy it."

For additional information, you can contact your State Department of Agriculture or call the department hotline number 1-866-322-4512. As always, thanks for keeping your park clean.

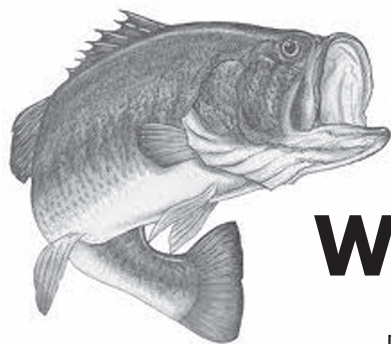


Welcome . . . to Prairie Dog State Park

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 a k. 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 Fishermen



**Charles Worden
Melissa Schoen**

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