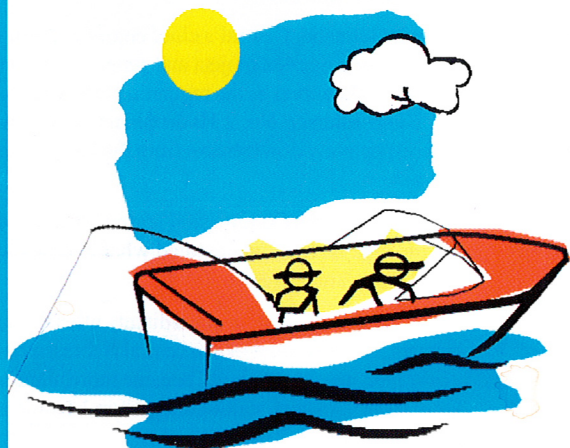


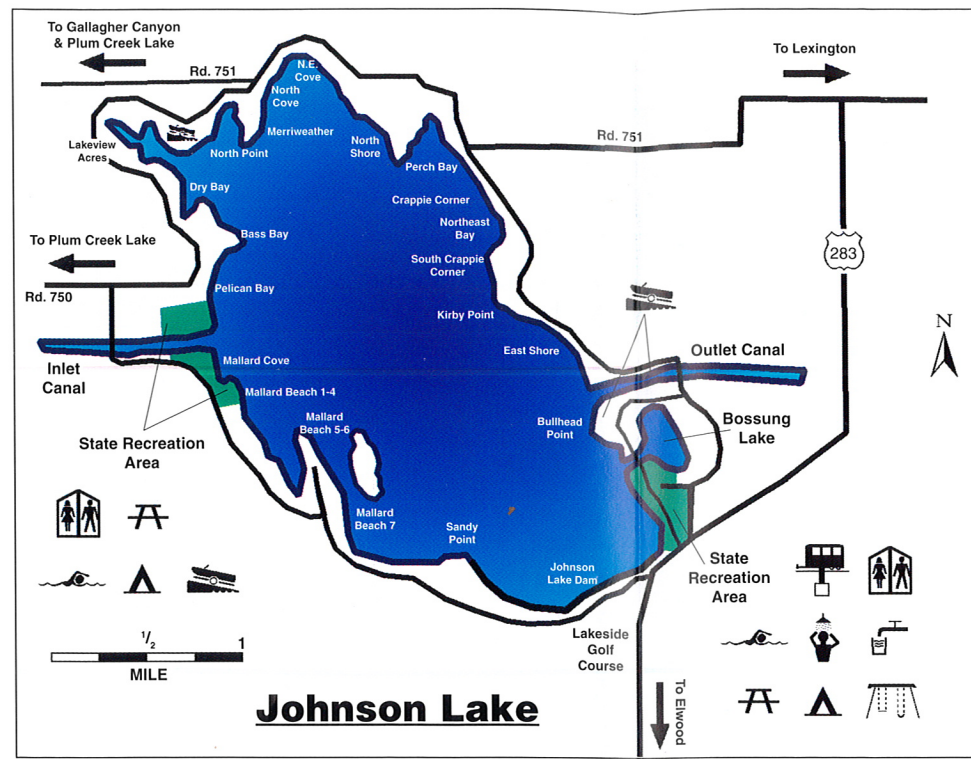
Johnson Lake



Elwood Reservoir



Owned and operated by
The Central Nebraska Public Power
and Irrigation District



Johnson Lake

Johnson Lake is located 7 miles south of Lexington on Highway 283. While most lakes on Central's supply canal are canyon lakes, Johnson Lake was originally a natural depression or low-lying area when construction began in 1939.

Named for George E. Johnson, Central's chief engineer during construction of the hydro-irrigation project and general manager from 1935 to 1946, the lake serves as the regulating reservoir for the Johnson No. 1 and Johnson No. 2 Hydroplants which are one and six miles respectively downstream from the lake on the Supply Canal.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission leased 50 acres of land adjacent to the lake in 1945 and created what is now the Johnson Lake State Recreation Area.

Fishermen discovered the lake almost immediately after it was formed. Power boats, virtually unknown in central Nebraska before the hydro-irrigation project was built, became more numerous on the lake in the 1950s and water-skiing soon became a popular recreational activity.

The cabin development at the lake began with a few small structures either built on-site or hauled to the shore to serve as simple fishing huts. Larger cabins soon followed and the 11-mile shore-



line was virtually lined with cabins by the late 1960s. There are now almost 1,000 homes and cabins at the lake.

The lake, which covers about 2,500 surface acres, is one of the most popular recreational lakes in central Nebraska. Two campgrounds, with both primitive and modern camping facilities, provide access to day-use and overnight visitors. The campgrounds,

managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, cover 78 acres and require a park entry permit.

The lake also features a swimming beach on the southeast side of the lake, public boat ramps, and a variety of concessionaires. An 18-hole public golf course is located below the dam on the south side of the lake. Marinas and other concessionaire provide a full range of services and supplies at Johnson Lake.

Species of game fish in the lake include white bass, walleye, channel catfish, flathead catfish, striped bass, largemouth bass, northern pike and drum.

The lake is best known for white bass and walleye fishing, yielding hundreds of "Master Angler" fish over the years. The best time of the year to catch white bass is during spawning from late April to mid May. After spawning is over, white bass are most frequently found along the shoreline and near the outlet canal on the northeast side of the lake. From mid-summer to late September, the white bass move into deeper water in pursuit of shad and other small fish.

Walleye fishing is at its best in the spring when they spawn near the rocks on the dam's face. In late May and June walleye can be found on the flats and areas where the lake's bottom drops off into deeper water. There is a 15-inch minimum length at Johnson Lake on walleye and largemouth bass.

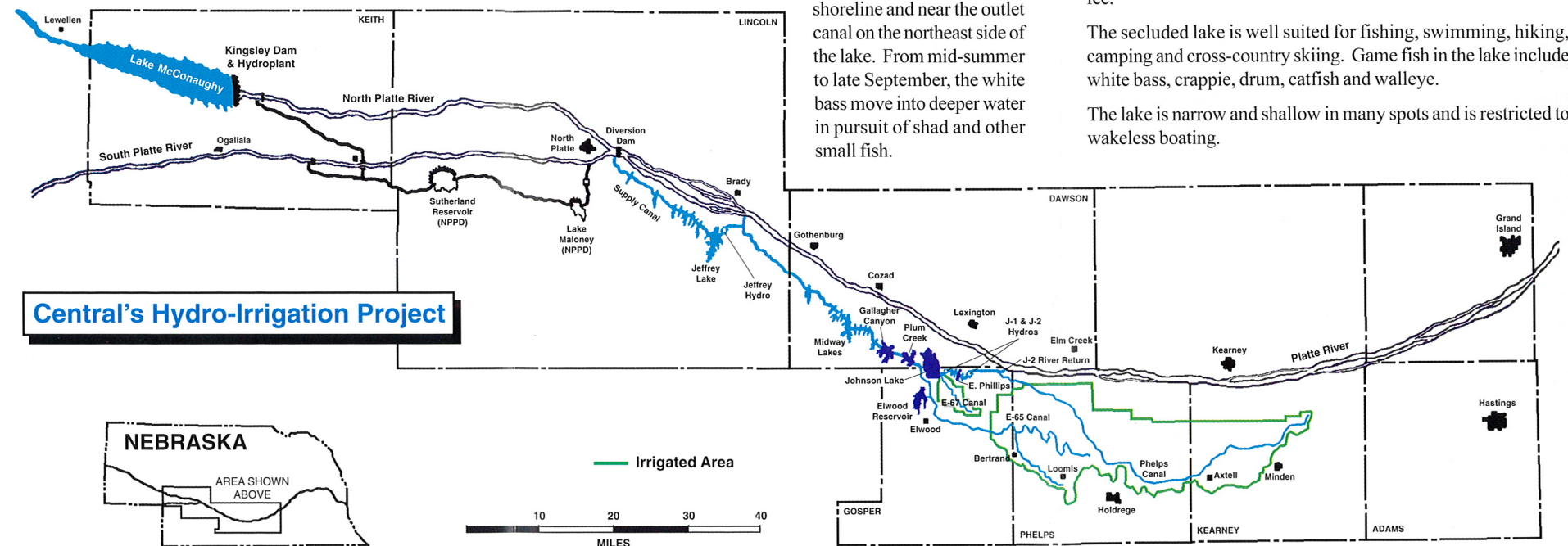
Gallagher Canyon Reservoir

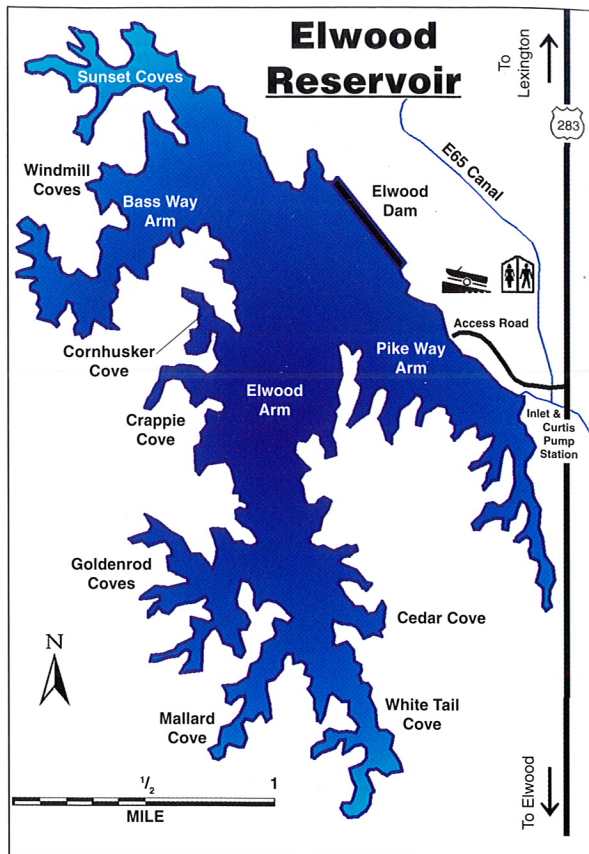
Recreational opportunities also exist at Gallagher Canyon Reservoir which is located 5 miles west of Johnson Lake. Access to Gallagher Canyon can be gained from County Road 751 via a gravel road.

Gallagher Canyon covers 182 surface acres and has 15 miles of shoreline. NGPC maintains a State Recreation Area on the north side of the lake with a boat ramp, grills, toilets and playground equipment. Overnight campers are required to pay a small, nightly fee.

The secluded lake is well suited for fishing, swimming, hiking, camping and cross-country skiing. Game fish in the lake include white bass, crappie, drum, catfish and walleye.

The lake is narrow and shallow in many spots and is restricted to wakeless boating.





Elwood Reservoir

Elwood Reservoir, located off Highway 283 three miles south of Johnson Lake, was formed in the late 1970s as part of a project to rehabilitate and modernize Central's E65 irrigation canal system. The lake was created by damming one end of a series of canyons. Water from the E65 Canal is pumped into the reservoir each spring to supplement flows in the canal for irrigation. The reservoir's level falls each summer as the irrigation season progresses, but the lake is partially filled each fall after irrigation season ends.

The reservoir's boat ramp was designed to remain in service even at lower lake elevations. There is a 5-mph (no-wake) speed limit for boats over the entire lake.

The only access to the lake is from the east off of U.S. Highway 283. Once on the lake, fishermen can choose among dozens of coves within the lake's 1,300 surface acres (at full pool) to cast their lines. There are no campgrounds at Elwood Reservoir although the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) does maintain a Wildlife Management Area at the lake.



Elwood Reservoir

A parking area and toilets are available at the lake, but camping is not permitted within the WMA. A private concessionaire operates on a seasonal basis on land adjacent to the lake. Camping (for tents and trailers/RVs), restroom and shower facilities are available as are indoor overnight accommodations.

The NGPC regularly stocks the lake which is populated with walleye, white bass, northern pike, crappie, channel catfish, largemouth bass, bluegill, yellow perch, and drum. More than 100 Nebraska "Master Angler" fish have been caught at the reservoir. Fishing regulations include an 18-inch minimum length limit on walleye with a daily limit of one walleye over 25 inches long. There is a 15-inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass. For striped bass and wipers (striped bass/white bass hybrids), there is a three-fish daily limit and fishermen may possess only one fish over 18 inches long.

Plum Creek & East Phillips Lakes

Recreational opportunities can also be found at Plum Creek Canyon and East Phillips Lakes. Plum Creek is a narrow, many-fingered lake just west of Johnson Lake enclosed by steep banks. Access to the water can be gained via a public boat ramp on the southeast side of the lake.

East Phillips Lake, located 2 miles east of Johnson Lake, covers 142 surface acres. A public boat ramp is located within a 13-acre WMA maintained by the NGPC. A primitive camping area with picnic tables and potable water is located within the WMA on the south side of the lake.

Have Fun -- Be Safe!

The public is welcome to enjoy recreational activities at and on Central's canals and reservoirs. Access to some areas is restricted for safety reasons. Please obey all posted warning signs and follow general safety guidelines.

- Hunting, fishing, boating, swimming and camping on Central property are subject to the rules and regulations of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Please observe all campground regulations at Johnson Lake and Gallagher Canyon. Contact NGPC for more information.

- Always wear life jackets on or near the water and make sure that children are wearing life jackets that fit properly.
- Nebraska hunting regulations sets up a 200-yard safety zone around residences. Please observe this regulation when hunting waterfowl or other game at Johnson Lake and other Central reservoirs. A species protection zone to protect migratory bald eagles and waterfowl has been established on the island at Johnson Lake. Hunting is not allowed on or near the island.
- The swimming area at Johnson Lake is marked by buoys. Boating in this area is prohibited. Please be aware of the potential for swimmers near the buoy line.
- Central's canal system and reservoirs may include areas with swift currents, deep and/or cold water, steep banks and moving gates that can pose hazards. Please obey all warning signs and stay out of restricted areas.
- Ice may form on canals and reservoirs during the winter. Avoid walking or driving all-terrain vehicles or snowmobiles on thin ice.

The Central District

The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District was established in 1933. It operates a hydro-irrigation project with four hydroplants (104 MW combined capacity). Power is sold at wholesale for distribution to electric customers. The project provides surface water irrigation to more than 112,000 acres in south-central Nebraska, supplemental water to another 130,000 acres, and ground water recharge benefits to more than 300,000 acres irrigated from wells. The project also provides recreational opportunities for the public and thousands of acres of habitat for wildlife.