

Many forms of recreation are available for everyone at Rathbun Lake. Whether you enjoy camping, fishing, boating, hunting, hiking, biking or something else, you are sure to find something that you will enjoy at Rathbun Lake.

If fishing is what you are looking for-

OUTDOOR RECREATION

MANY FORMS OF FUN AVAILABLE AT RATHBUN LAKE

ward to, you won't be able to beat the fishing that Rathbun Lake offers. Crappie, walleye, and catfish are just a few of the fish you will find swimming in the vast waters of Rathbun Lake. The Crappiethon, held at Rathbun Lake annually, draws large crowds every year with people trying to reel in the biggest crappie for that year.

Boating is also a favorite of lake visitors. Sailboating, jet skiing & pleasure boating are all popular for lake goers. Waterskiing and tubing are also popular past times for pleasure boaters and jet skiers.

There are several different trails available for hikers and bikers at Rathbun Lake. ORV trails, snowmobile trails, nature trails and interpretive trails are also available for visitors of Rathbun Lake. Several of the trails showcase

the area's wildlife and wooded terrain. Some of the trails also offer brochures for visitors at the trailhead.

If you are interested in camping while visiting Rathbun Lake, there are currently eight campgrounds available to lake visitors. These campgrounds offer many amenities for campers. The Honey Creek Resort State Park which is

currently being built, will offer many amenities including cabins for guests.

Hunting opportunities at Rathbun Lake abound with over 16,000 acres of federal land available for hunters. Turkey, deer, waterfowl, pheasant, quail, squirrel and rabbit hunting can all be enjoyed while visiting the lake. Rathbun offers visitors one of the largest Wildlife Management Areas in the state. If you plan on visiting make sure you take advantage of the unique hunting opportunities available to visitors.

Rathbun Lake also offers events throughout the year that may interest visitors. Summer Splash, regularly held the last Saturday in July, is this year held on August 2 and offers a day full of fun and sun for visitors. Various beaches give visitors excellent opportunities for swimming and various playgrounds

accommodate the younger visitors to the lake. National Water Safety Statistics

Who doesn't look forward to spending time at Rathbun Lake; stock up on groceries, load up the camper, hook up the boat, and head on down the highway that leads to Rathbun Lake. Once arriving, one may be anxious to get started at the lake: but guests often fail to assure that our outing is a safe one. We need to become more aware of the safety of ourselves, our family, and/or our friends

while recreating at the lake. Many people have been visiting Rathbun for years and fail to take safety measures seriously.

A recent nationwide study released by the US Army Corps of Engineers looked at water based activities associated with fatalities at Corps lakes including Rathbun Lake. The nationwide data associated 41% of drowning fatalities with boating activities ranging from falling from boats to boating accidents including jet skis. Swimming activities which included exceeding swimming abilities in both beach and non beach areas tallied up to 48% of all fatalities. 7% resulted from falls at marinas and bank fishing; and the remaining 4. % from non vessel drownings such as ice fishing, snowmobiling. Eight years of statistics, 411 lakes, 1336 lives lost, countless families affected.

Rathbun Lake is experiencing an increase in all recreational activities including camping, boating, swimming, and fishing. Simply put: more



people doing more things. Keep the following items in mind when you visit Rathbun Lake:

1. If you go swimming, use the designated beach areas.
2. As an adult you are responsible for watching your children.
3. Know your limits – don't exceed your swimming ability or alcohol consumption.
4. Always wear your lifejacket when you are in a boat. Iowa State Law requires that children under the age of 13 in a boat wear a lifejacket. The Adults can set the example by wearing a life jacket also.
5. Practice conscious acts of safety in all your activities at Rathbun Lake.

Make your visit at Rathbun Lake a Safe Visit. Everyone wants to see you again.

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