



The Great American Hatchery Road Trip!

Central Edition



WELCOME TO Missouri

There's nothing like cruising down the interstate, a fresh summer breeze blowing through the windows, the stereo blasting, and the anticipation of adventures ahead! The hardest part? Picking a destination! Don't worry, we've got you covered.

The National Fish Hatchery System has been improving recreational fishing and restoring aquatic species since 1872, so what better way to explore these cool sites than by starting with ones over 100 years old! Fish hatcheries have something for everyone in your group, so buckle those seatbelts and let's hit the road!



Neosho National Fish Hatchery

Neosho National Fish Hatchery was established in 1888 and is the oldest continuously operational federal fish hatchery raising fish today. Their top billing: raising rainbow trout that are released in Lake Taneycomo, in addition to raising the federally endangered pallid sturgeon, Topeka shiner, and even Neosho mucklets (a magical mussel) for the first time in their history!



A perfect song for the location, be sure to blast Chuck Berry's "Route 66" as you cruise through the area!



Fishing is only allowed on hatchery grounds during special fishing derbies, but there are GREAT fish viewing spots in the display aquariums, ponds, and raceways (the aquarium even has a viewing bubble to give you a fisheye view!).



Neosho has a TON of activities! A few great suggestions: pop into the visitor center, walk the trail loop, grab some free food to feed the fish, or walk through the hatchery building. If you have extra time, plan a picnic at one of their shelters!



Bird buffs can see mallards, bald eagles, and great blue herons. For the mammal maniacs, year-round species include cottontail rabbits and red fox. And butterfly besties may catch a glimpse of monarchs, spicebush swallowtails, or zebra swallowtails!



Being the oldest federal hatchery, Neosho is a bucket list item for fish history nerds and there are quite a few exhibits in their visitor center. Fun fact: it was founded at this location because of the nearby railroad that was used for shipping fish using railcars.



Live out your best Monet fantasies with an art pad and set of acrylic paints, as you gaze out over the ponds, display aquariums, OR native plant flower beds. Beautiful scenery is abundant!



MAP LEGEND

- The Angler
- The Explorer
- The Animal Lover
- The Historian
- The Artist



We love a weird pit stop and this one certainly fits the bill...a mere 20 minutes north of the hatchery, you'll find the World's Largest Small Electric Appliance Museum! A stop you never knew you needed (or wanted) to make, it will make for an amazing selfie spot in front of the museum's collection of over 700 toasters!



Before you hit the road, be sure to check the hatchery's web page for additional activities and call ahead to check opening status.

Next Exit: More Hatchery Fun!

OTHER HATCHERIES IN THE CENTRAL SERIES

- ➔ D.C. Booth National Fish Hatchery - South Dakota
- ➔ Leadville National Fish Hatchery - Colorado
- ➔ Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery - Mississippi
- ➔ Saratoga National Fish Hatchery - Wyoming