

## CHARITON RIVER

### Rathbun Lake to the Iowa-Missouri Border

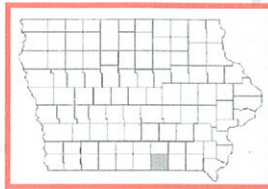
FROM THE TAILWATERS of Rathbun Lake, the Chariton River flows southerly for 143 miles to its confluence with the Missouri River near Keatsville, Missouri. The river winds its way through a mixture of timber, pasture and cropland. The rough, wooded terrain adjoining the Chariton River valley supports important wildlife habitats as evidenced by the abundance of deer and turkey.

ONE OF THE BEST AND SAFEST times to float the Chariton River is when the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers is discharging water from Rathbun Lake at a rate of 100 to 500 cubic feet per second. At this rate, the river has about a one-quarter-bankful depth and has a moderate current for good floating. Higher river conditions can be floated but are not recommended for novices. You can call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rathbun Lake Information Center 24 hours a day at (515) 647-2464 for discharge information.

THE CHARITON RIVER, between Outlet Park below the Rathbun Lake Dam and Sharon Bluffs State Park, is largely unchannelized and provides the best canoeing. Both of these parks provide camping, picnicking and boat ramp facilities.

THE NAME SHARON was brought to Appanoose County by the Mormons who used it in naming a village and township. This was done because of the resemblance of the county to the coastal



plains west of ancient Palestine. A glacial till riffle used to ford the river can be seen in the park during periods of low water.

BELOW SHARON BLUFFS, the river follows a channelized course for 12 miles before exiting Iowa. Access to this stretch is limited to bridges. The Rebel's Cove Wildlife Area is located approximately six river miles across the state line in Missouri. This area, managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation, provides primitive camping and boat ramp facilities.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE RATHBUN Reservoir and subsequent fish stocking programs have had a major influence on fishing in the Chariton River. Good fishing can be found for major game fish including channel catfish, walleye, crappie, largemouth bass, carp, flathead catfish and white bass. The river stretch immediately below the dam is the most productive area during periods of favorable water discharge.

DOWNSTREAM, THE INFLUENCE of the dam decreases and channel cat fishing becomes the most productive. Try drifting night crawlers, liver, minnows or commercially prepared baits behind stumps, log jams or other obstacles.

## CHARITON RIVER

### Rathbun Lake to the Iowa-Missouri Border

Distance from Previous Landing	Access Name	Location
0 miles	1. Outlet Park	Rathbun Dam
18 miles	2. Sharon Bluffs	3 mi E, 1 mi S Centerville
18 miles	3. Rebels Cove	1 mi S of IA/MO border



- DAM
- ▲ LANDING AREA
- ▲ LANDING WITH CAMPING
- ⌌ BRIDGE
- #### TRAIN BRIDGE
- R FISHING RIFFLE

