



Northeast Colorado Hot Spots

Aurora Reservoir: Perched atop the high plains of Aurora's "outback," this oasis provides 820 acres of water for the outdoor enthusiast. There are plenty of good-sized game fish including rainbow trout, brown trout. Other fish include walleye, wipers, largemouth bass, yellow perch and crappie. The reservoir is open year-round from dawn until dusk. Location: Approximately 2.5 miles east of Gun Club Road on Quincy Ave. [Interactive Map](#)

Bear Creek: (Evergreen to Bear Creek Reservoir): For a medium-sized stream, Bear Creek produces good catches of 10- to 12-inch rainbow trout with an occasional larger trout being taken. There are also a few tiger muskies and saugeye being caught. Location: Access west of Morrison on Highway 74. [Interactive Map](#)

Big Thompson River: This is another favorite of residents and non-residents alike. Natural rainbow and brown trout populations provide good fishing from May through September. Salmon eggs, various lures and worms work best during the spring runoff; flies are best during late July, August and September. Location: East of Estes Park on Highway 34. [Interactive Map](#)

Boulder Reservoir: A fantastic view of nearby foothills and 540 acres of open water make this a favorite with many metro area residents. Walleye fishing is good during the spring. Other fish species include bluegill, crappie, yellow perch, rainbow trout and many channel catfish in the 1- to 6- pound range. Location: Northeast of the Longmont Diagonal at Jay Road and 51st Street. [Interactive Map](#)

Cache La Poudre River: The river begins its race for the flatlands from the Continental Divide in Rocky Mountain National Park. During the course of its rush to join the South Platte River near Greeley, it provides more than 60 miles of public fishing. There are good populations of brown trout, as well as some mountain whitefish and a limited rainbow fishery. Location: West of Fort Collins on Highway 14 for approximately 14 miles to the mouth of the canyon. [Interactive Map](#)

Chatfield Reservoir: This Denver metro area reservoir is one of the most popular recreation areas. With its extraordinary view of the foothills, this reservoir is developing a good walleye population, featuring many fish in the 1- to 3-pound class. There are rainbow trout, yellow perch, tiger muskie, smallmouth bass and crappie. Night fishing lands channel catfish, particularly in the Plum Creek area. A State Parks Pass is required. Location: South of Highway 85 to C-470, west and C-470, south on Wadsworth to the park entrance. [Interactive Map](#)

Cherry Creek Reservoir: There is premier trophy walleye fishing at Cherry Creek. Best fishing occurs in mid-May to early June with jigs, bait and plugs along the dam and island. Anglers can also find crappies, wipers and catchable stocked trout. A State Parks Pass is required. Location: Interstate 225 to Parker Road, south on Parker Road to the east entrance off South Yosemite Street. [Interactive Map](#)

 **Delaney Butte Lakes:** These three bodies of water are highly productive trout lakes. North Delaney Butte Lake is stocked exclusively with brown trout fingerlings and is a gold medal water. Lake habitat provides the potential for trout to grow 18- to 20-inches in a short time. South Delaney Butte Lake is also a productive trout lake, but is managed to produce somewhat smaller fish. The south lake contains rainbow and Snake River cutthroat trout. East Delaney was reclaimed in spring 1999, and since has been stocked with 15,000 5-inch rainbow trout, while 17- to 20-inch rainbow trout have been caught. All three lakes have sanitary facilities and boat ramps. These three lakes have special restrictions. Location: From Walden, .5 miles west on Highway 14 to County Road 18, 4.5 miles west on 18 to County Road 5, 1 mile north. [Interactive Map \(North Delaney\)](#) [Interactive Map \(South Delaney\)](#) [Interactive Map \(East Delaney\)](#)

Eleven Mile Reservoir: Something for everyone here: larger-than-average rainbows, cutthroats and browns can be caught right near your campsite, or troll for trophies. Some of the biggest kokanee salmon in the state are caught here. A State Parks Pass is required. Location: West of Colorado Springs on Highway 24 to the town of Lake George and south to park entrance. [Interactive Map](#)

Lake John: Known in the past as a producer of large trout, this lake was treated in 2011 to remove white suckers. It was re-stocked with rainbows and Snake River cutthroat. Bait works well in early spring and summer with many fish

caught on flies, especially large streamers from mid-summer into the fall. Location: From Walden, 0.5 miles west on Highway 14 to County Road 12, then 8 miles west to County Road 7, then 7 miles north to the lake. [Interactive Map](#)

gold
medal

North Platte River: Slow meandering streams flowing across the valley floor offer some of northern Colorado's best fly-fishing for brown, brook and rainbow trout. CPW has leased public fishing easements on a number of these waters. Leases include portions of the North Platte River, Roaring Creek, the North Fork of the North Platte and the Michigan and Illinois rivers. Location: Walden Area. Contact CPW for maps and current leases. [Interactive Map \(Gold Medal Area\)](#) [Interactive Map \(Lease area\)](#)

Quincy Reservoir: This is a haven for tiger muskies, producing the state record (40 lb., 2 oz.). In addition, there is good black crappie and bass fishing and spring trout fishing. Location: The reservoir is 0.5 miles east of Buckley Road on Quincy Ave. in Aurora. [Interactive Map](#)

Sawhill and Walden Ponds: Twenty ponds from 1 to 30 acres sit along Boulder Creek and provide good fishing for largemouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, yellow perch and crappie. Several ponds also contain wiper and walleye. Location: Approximately 0.5 miles north of Valmont Dr. on N. 75th Street. [Interactive Map \(Sawhill Ponds\)](#) [Interactive Map \(Walden Ponds\)](#)

gold
medal

South Platte River (Cheesman Reservoir to Strontia Springs Reservoir only): The splendid natural beauty of this river is distracting even to the most seasoned angler. Bighorn sheep frequent the canyon walls and a variety of birds hover over the water. The two prime stretches of water area are as follows: Cheesman Reservoir to Strontia Springs Reservoir: This Gold Medal river is regarded as one of the best rainbow and brown trout fisheries in the nation. There are many fish over 14 inches, particularly upstream of Scraggy View Picnic Ground. Location: U.S. 85 to Colorado 67. Strontia Springs Reservoir to Chatfield Reservoir: Requires hiking or biking. There are fewer anglers in this stretch than in the Deckers area and the concentrations of fish are impressive. Best bets are rainbow and brown trout. Location: C-470 west to South Wadsworth. Follow Wadsworth to the Kassler Water Treatment Plant. Access to this area is by hiking or biking. [Interactive Map \(Cheesman to Strontia area\)](#)

gold
medal

South Platte River in South Park: One of Colorado's best for quality-sized rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout. Best areas are between Spinney Mountain and Elevenmile reservoirs, upstream from Spinney, the Middle Fork from the confluence with the South Fork upstream to Fairplay and the South Fork above Antero Reservoir to Highway 285. Best kept secret: Elevenmile Canyon. Location: West of Colorado Springs on Highway 24. [Interactive Map \(Spinney to Eleven Mile\)](#) [Interactive Map \(Above Spinney\)](#) [Interactive Map \(Middle Fork\)](#) [Interactive Map \(South Fork\)](#) [Interactive Map \(Elevenmile Canyon\)](#)

gold
medal

Spinney Mountain Reservoir: The place for consistent large rainbows (16-inch plus), browns and Snake River cutthroats. Best fishing right after April ice-out. Excellent belly boat or shore fishing and trophy northern pike can be taken, best in June. A State Parks Pass is required. Location: West of Colorado Springs on Highway 24 for 55 miles to Country Road 23. Drive south for 2.8 miles and east on County Road 59 for 1 mile to entrance. [Interactive Map](#)

Standley Lake: A popular recreation spot for west Denver, this deep (80-plus feet) reservoir provides excellent habitat for rainbow trout, wiper, walleye, smallmouth bass and yellow perch. Location: 100th Ave. and Simms. [Interactive Map](#)