

The Park is Full!



Photo by Kevin Reardon

What does “the park is full” mean?

Parking in Eldorado Canyon State Park can accommodate approximately 220 vehicles. When the park is full, there are no parking spaces left and vehicles are only allowed to enter the park as spaces become available.

I'm here to picnic with my family. Why do I have to park so far from the picnic area?

Weekends and holidays in the summer are the busiest times to visit Eldorado Canyon. The picnic area is usually full by 11:00 a.m. (sometimes earlier). Obtaining a parking space in the picnic area after 11:00 a.m. depends on luck and timing more than anything else.

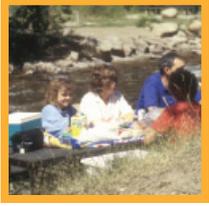


Photo by Jerry Barger



Can I park my car in the town of Eldorado Springs and walk in?

The road through town is private property—parking there is prohibited. However, if you do find a legal parking space outside the park, you can walk in. Keep in mind there is a \$3.00 per person walk-in fee.

I have a parking space in the picnic area but I am still waiting for the rest of my family.

Can I save a parking spot?

Parking is on a first-come basis; reserving parking spaces is not allowed.

I understand there is no parking left in the picnic area. Can I just drop my family and picnic supplies off?

Dropping people and/or supplies off is not allowed. The road through Eldorado Canyon needs to remain clear for the residents who live behind the park as well as emergency vehicles that may need to respond to an accident. The canyon sees approximately 250,000 people annually. If we allow drop-offs, we could easily have dozens of cars clogging the road.

My family member cannot walk up the road.

Can I drop him/her off?

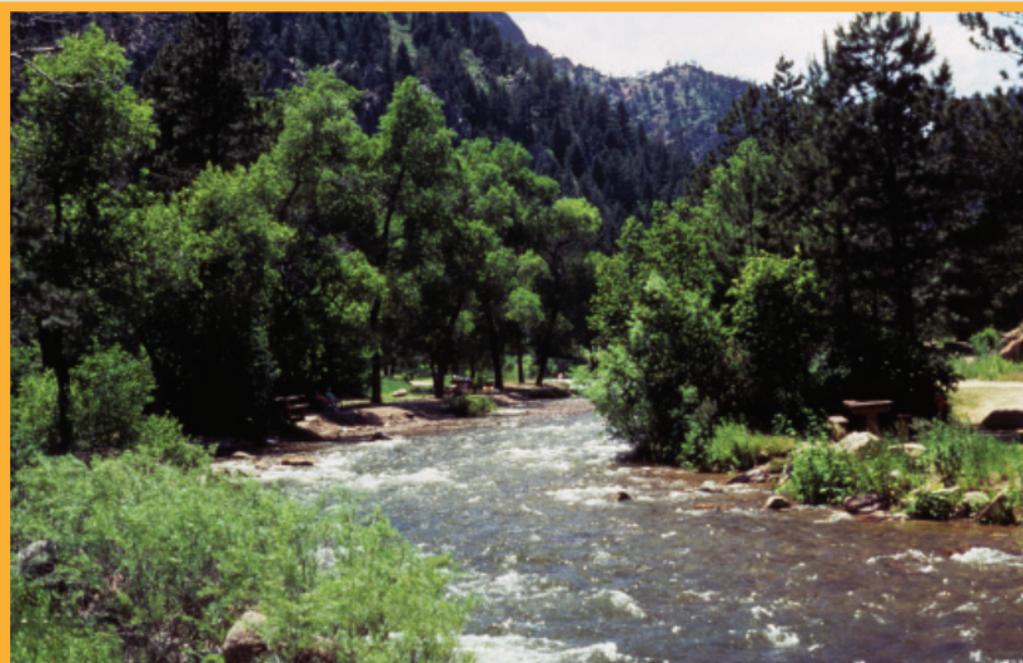
Unfortunately, we cannot make exceptions. If you have a parking spot and would like to wait for a space closer to the picnic area, notify park staff and he/she will send you up the canyon when possible. We highly recommend that people with health conditions or other concerns either wait for a parking space to open in the picnic area or visit during the evening, weekdays, or in spring and autumn when the park is less crowded.

Why We Do What We Do!

Eldorado Canyon State Park staff seeks to provide a safe and quality outdoor experience for our guests while also managing and protecting the natural resources under our care. You may think our system of controlling traffic in the canyon is unfair or unorganized. However, our procedure is planned well in advance, utilizes the majority of staff, and is focused at all times on visitor safety. We ask you to please keep in mind we do the best we can under very stressful circumstances.

What Can You Do?

- Visit on a weekday in the summer
- Come before 10:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m. on summer weekends
- Plan a trip in the spring, autumn or winter to avoid crowds
- Contact the park before your visit to see if the picnic area is full
- VOLUNTEER! We could always use more help monitoring trails and picnic grounds on busy days
- Enjoy your visit to Eldorado Canyon State Park



Colorado State Parks

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