

# Castlewood Canyon State Park



## Who we are

Castlewood Canyon State Park offers a beautiful natural setting with hiking, picnicking, rock climbing, sightseeing and nature study. Visitors enjoy spectacular panoramic views that stretch more than 100 miles along the Colorado Front Range. Designated as a Colorado Natural Area, the park preserves 2,628 acres of the ecologically unique Black Forest Region, including a number of rare and endangered plant species. Trails lead to historical landmarks such as the Castlewood Dam and the Lucas Homestead.

In 2020, Leave No Trace awarded Castlewood Canyon its Gold Standard site designation for the park's exceptional sustainable use messaging and outreach. In doing so, Castlewood Canyon became the 12th park in the nation to hold this prestigious status.

## Top attractions

- Several popular bouldering and rock climbing areas
- Popular destinations for weddings and other special events, including The Bridge Canyon Overlook and Pike's Peak Amphitheater
- A wide array of volunteer-lead public programs
- One of Colorado's summer roosting sites of the turkey vulture—birders often report sightings of rare or unexpected bird species at the park

## Our partners

- The Friends of Castlewood Canyon
- Castlewood Canyon State Park Volunteers
- Douglas County Parks and Open Space
- Douglas County

## Challenges we face

- Strong population growth along the Front Range is driving ever-increasing visitation, and this is predicted to continue past 2050. Managing this increase through public education, preventative maintenance and best stewardship practices will be critical for the park's natural resource integrity and availability for future generations to enjoy.
- Community outreach is important for park success. The park will continue strong relationships with park visitors, park volunteers and the Friends of Castlewood Canyon.
- Ensuring natural resource health projects, including fuel mitigation, noxious weed resource management and white nose fungus, are funded and completed through coordinated efforts between park staff, Denver office staff, Colorado State Forest Service staff and volunteers remains a challenge.
- With over 90% of park visitors using our trails, the park continues to work with volunteers and youth corps groups to keep 13 miles of trails safe and enjoyable.



KEN PALEO/HIGH COUNTRY COLORING/CPW

## Volunteer activities

- Volunteers and community groups help with most trail maintenance projects. The park routinely welcomes work crews from TEENS, Inc., Mile High Youth Corps, and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado to improve the sustainability of our trail system.
- Castlewood Canyon routinely receives over 11,000 volunteer hours donated annually, the majority of which are given by park-trained naturalists leading educational school programs.

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Park Manager: Brent Lounsbury

## Manager's Message

Castlewood Canyon State Park's rich natural landscape and diverse wildlife habitats, along with its proximity to the burgeoning greater Denver metro area, make it a unique and precious place. It is a sanctuary for raptors, deer and elk, as well as for the quiet renewal of the human spirit. This value is reflected in our strong and increasing visitation, the ongoing commitments of our volunteers and partners and the dedication of our staff. It is essential that all these stakeholders work together for the future, long-term sustainability of Castlewood Canyon as a space for people and nature to coexist.

### Geography

Region: Northeast  
County: Douglas  
Year Acquired: 1979  
Elevation: 6,300 ft  
Miles From Denver: 30

### Acreage

Total Acres: 2,628

### Governmental

US Cong Dist: 4<sup>th</sup>  
CO Senate: 4<sup>th</sup>  
CO House: 39<sup>th</sup>

### Employees

Permanent: 4  
Temporary: 6  
Volunteers (FY 22): 228  
Volunteer Hours (FY 22): 6,911

### Annual Visitation

FY 22: ~200,000

### Facilities

Amphitheater  
Conference Rooms  
Group Picnic Area  
55 Picnic Sites  
Visitor Center  
Wedding and Event Facilities

### Trails

Total: 12.9 miles

### Roads

Paved: 2 miles

### Recreation

Hiking  
Horseback Riding  
Picnicking  
Ranger/Nature Programs  
Rock Climbing  
Wildlife/Bird Viewing

