

Constructed in 1967, Highline Lake State Park has been the center for water sports and wildlife watching in the Grand Valley. The warm water provides a comfortable setting for water-skiing, fishing, and picnicking. In winter, large numbers of migratory birds use the park as a rest stop. In fact, the park is designated as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society.

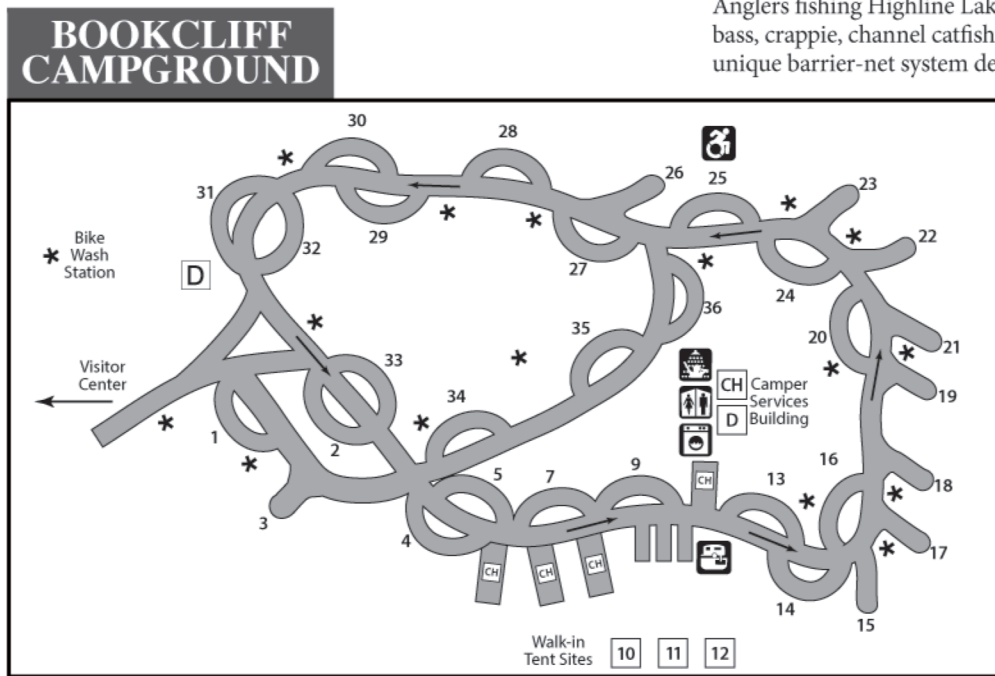
In the early 1900s, the Uintah Railway, a narrow gauge railroad company, operated in nearby Mack, Colorado. This railway was instrumental in transporting dinosaur fossils from what is now Dinosaur National Monument to the Smithsonian Institution. Remnants of the train's history, which ran until 1939, are still present in the park today. If you find artifacts, please leave them be for future visitors to also enjoy.

In the early 1950s, Grand Valley residents recognized the need for water recreation in the area. Mack Mesa Lake was constructed in 1952 and by the early 1960s, the popularity of water recreation led to development plans of the larger Highline Lake. Utilizing the Government Highline Canal, our namesake, Highline Lake was completed in 1967.

Throughout the years, Highline Lake State Park has served as the venue for family vacations, field trips, and days of exploring the great outdoors.

Camping

Bookcliff Campground offers 34 grassy campsites that can accommodate RVs and tents. Sites 10, 11, and 12, are



tent-only. Showers and laundry are available on-site in the Camper Services Building, located in the center of the campground. The campground offers easy access to the Day Use Area, Lakeview Swim Beach, and trail system.

Campers must have a valid reservation prior to arrival. Reservations can be made 24/7 by calling 1-800-244-5613 or visiting www.cpwshop.com. Day Passes are required for each vehicle in addition to the reservation unless vehicles have an Annual Pass. Day Passes can be purchased from the Visitor Center, kiosks at each park entrance, or the Campground Hosts.

Parks Passes

Park Passes are required on each vehicle entering the park and help fund the operation of the park's facilities. Park Passes are available for purchase at the Visitor Center, West Entrance, and kiosks at each park entrance. The kiosks are cashless and only accept credit card.

Individual Park Passes are also required for visitors entering the park by hiking, biking, or horseback riding into the park. Passes for these visitors are available in the same locations as the vehicle passes.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife also offers a number of annual passes. Inquire in the Visitor Center or visit www.cpw.state.co.us for more information.

Fishing

Anglers fishing Highline Lake can expect to catch largemouth bass, crappie, channel catfish, and more. The lake has a unique barrier-net system designed to keep sportfish in the lake and away from endangered fish in the Colorado River. This net is located near the Highline spillway and was the first fish screen of its kind to be installed in the United States.

Mack Mesa Lake is popular with early season and fall trout fishing, as well as its great ice fishing. The smaller of the two lakes, it is popular with shore anglers for much of the year. Its easy accessibility also makes it a great fishing spot for families with small children.

Hunting

Waterfowl and small game hunting are within certain boundaries in the park. Seven waterfowl blinds at the north end of the lake provide great hunting opportunities for most of the season. Reservations for the blinds are recommended and hunters must check in at the West Entrance prior to hunting. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-244-5613 or by visiting www.cpwshop.com.

Small game hunting is permitting on the north end of the park from the Tuesday following Labor Day until the Friday before Memorial Day using shotguns only. Hunters must check in at the West Entrance prior to hunting. For small game hunting boundaries, please visit www.cpw.state.co.us or inquire in the Visitor Center.

Wildlife

More than 200 species of birds have been observed at Highline Lake State Park, and migrating ducks and geese winter at Highline. Birds such as the great blue heron, white pelican, snowy egret, sandhill crane, golden eagle, and bald eagle are seen in the park. Visit the Watchable Wildlife Overlook for more information about specific species. A bird checklist is available at the Visitor Center. In addition to the birds Highline Lake has a resident herd of mule deer that can be seen year round. There are also coyotes, bobcat and red fox that make their residence in the park.

Trails

Over nine miles of trail allow visitors to explore the desert landscape. The main trail, the Highline Lake Trail, loops 3.5 miles to provide excellent wildlife watching opportunities. The other trails are single-track but accommodate hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. Highline Lake State Park serves as a great starting point to world-class mountain bike routes on nearby BLM property.

Mancos Group Picnic Area

This reservation-only area can accommodate groups of up to 150 people and includes a large grill, covered eating area, and private restrooms. Horseshoe pits and a volleyball net are also available. Groups must reserve the area in advance by calling the park office at 970-858-7208. Reservations can be made up to a year in advance and reservations fees apply.

Boating

Highline Lake opens to boating on March 1st each year, ice permitting, and closes annually on September 30th. Boat capacity is often reached before noon on weekends during

the summer months. Consider arriving early on weekends or boat on weekdays. Wednesdays are wakeless on Highline Lake (excluding July 4th on years it falls on a Wednesday). This means that vessels may not create a wake while they are under power, typically travelling less than 5mph.

Mack Mesa Lake is open to vessels that are hand-powered or have electric motors only.

All boats must carry the appropriate safety equipment: see the Colorado Boating Regulations and Statutes brochure for more information, or ask any Park Ranger. Life jackets are required on ALL vessels, including paddleboards and kayaks. Highline Lake proudly offers a Life Jacket Loaner Program, free of charge. Pick up and return life jackets at the Visitor Center and West Entrance.

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) inspections are require for all motorboats and sailboats prior to launching. The main inspection station is at the West Entrance. For ANS requirements, please visit www.cpw.state.co.us or inquire with any Park Ranger.

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Picnicking

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Lake View Swim Beach

With hot temperatures in the summer, the swim beach is a great way to beat the heat. Located near several picnic areas with grills and tables, the area is perfect for families looking to enjoy a day at the lake. Water temperatures range from the high-60s to low-80s. The Swim Beach is open from the second weekend in May through the end of September. Pets are not permitted on the Swim Beach and may not be left elsewhere in the park unattended, please plan accordingly.

Swimming at Mack Mesa is not permitted.

Accessibility

The Swim Beach is located 50-75 yards from the parking lot and is accessible with assistance. The Day Use Area restroom facilities, Camper Services Building, and Mancos Group Picnic Area facilities are all handicap-accessible. One campsite, Site 25, is also handicap-accessible.

On the west side of the park, the Watchable Wildlife Overlook and the fishing pier at Mack Mesa Lake are handicap-accessible.

Park brochures are available in braille. Please inquire at the Visitor Center.

Help Protect Your Park

A complete copy of park regulations is available at the Visitor Center or West Entrance. Highline Lake State Park was built and is managed for your enjoyment. In the interest of safety and the conservation of your park, please observe the following:

Place trash in dumpsters provided.

Vehicles must remain on designated roads and parking lots.

Please keep pets off of the Swim Beach and on a leash no longer than six-feet. Pets must be attended at all times.

Fire pits and grills must be attended at all times and fully extinguished before leaving.

Camping is only permitted in designated campsites.

Report any problems to a Park Ranger or dial 911 in case of emergency.

To prevent theft, never leave personal belongings unattended on picnic tables or in tents and keep your vehicles locked.



Highline Lake State Park

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(970) 858-7208

E-mail: highline.park@state.co.us

cpw.state.co.us



Funded in part by Great Outdoors Colorado

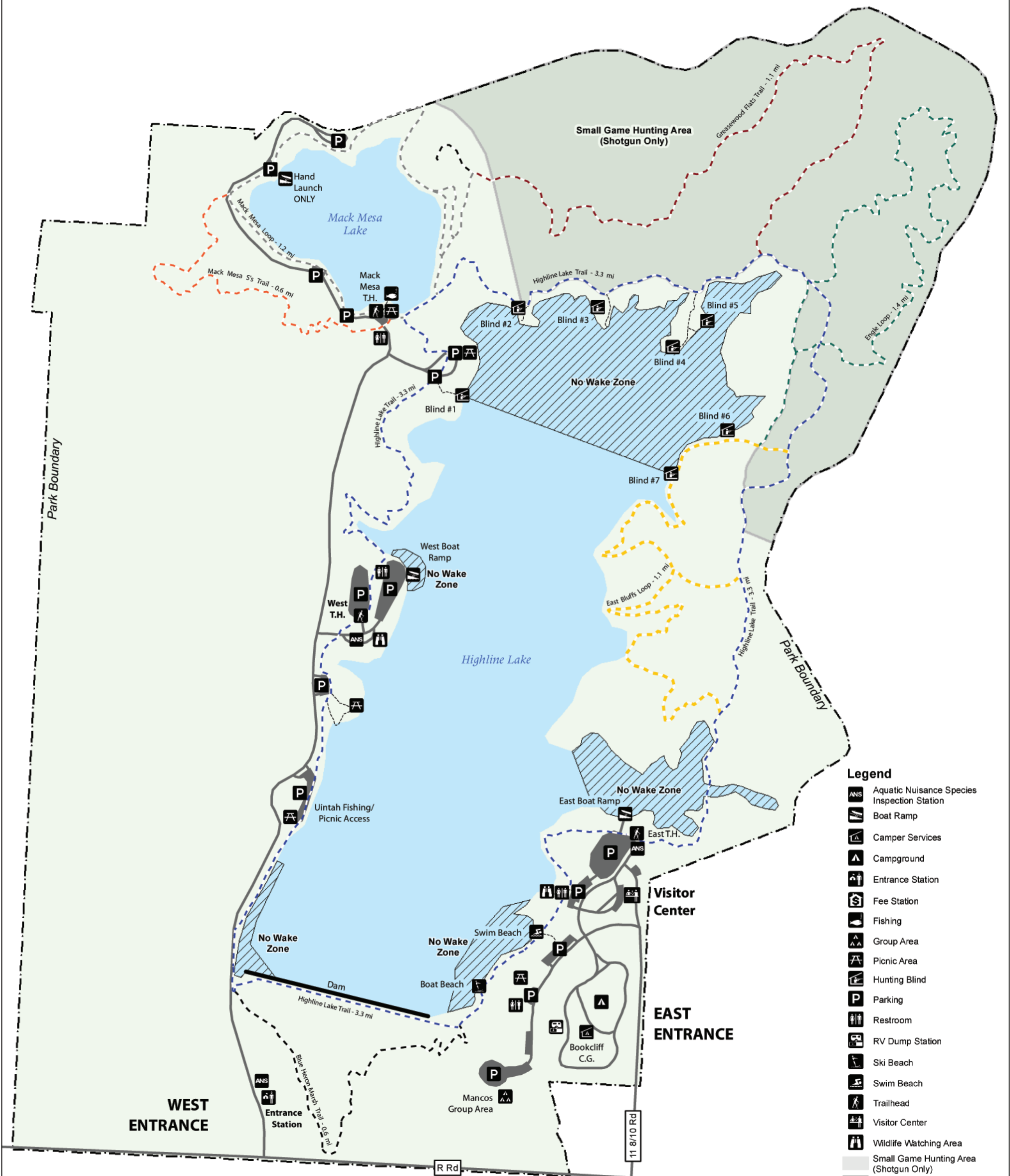
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Highline Lake State Park



- Legend**
- Aquatic Nuisance Species Inspection Station
 - Boat Ramp
 - Camper Services
 - Campground
 - Entrance Station
 - Fee Station
 - Fishing
 - Group Area
 - Picnic Area
 - Hunting Blind
 - Parking
 - Restroom
 - RV Dump Station
 - Ski Beach
 - Swim Beach
 - Trailhead
 - Visitor Center
 - Wildlife Watching Area
 - Small Game Hunting Area (Shotgun Only)
 - No Wake Zone
 - Park Boundary
- Trails**
- Blue Heron Marsh Trail - 0.6 mi
 - East Bluffs Loop - 1.1 mi
 - Engle Loop - 1.4 mi
 - Greasewood Flats Trail - 1.1 mi
 - Highline Lake Trail - 3.3 mi
 - Mack Mesa Loop - 1.2 mi
 - Mack Mesa S's Trail - 0.6 mi

Leave No Trace

1. Know Before You Go
2. Stick to the Trails
3. Trash Your Trash
4. Leave It As You Find It
5. Be Careful With Fire
6. Keep Wildlife Wild
7. Share Our Trails

As the park works toward becoming a Leave No Trace Gold Standard site, please follow the seven LNT principles to protect the park for future generations.

For more information on Leave No Trace and what you can do to help, stop by our Visitor Center or visit <https://lnt.org>

To Loma
6 miles

