Chatfield State Park

Who we are
Chatfield State Park is truly one of Colorado’s full-service outdoor recreation areas. We offer traditional outdoor activities such as picnicking, boating, swimming, bicycling, hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing and camping. We also offer recreational pursuits that may be more unique to the area, such as open water swim practice, hot air ballooning, remote control model airplane flying, and off-leash dog exercise. Nestled against the foothills southwest of Denver, the park is a “hot-spot” for all things recreation.

Visitors to Chatfield State Park spend over $52.1 million annually at local businesses.¹

Top attractions
- Campgrounds located near hiking, biking and horseback riding trails, with opportunities for wildlife viewing
- Numerous water recreation opportunities, including fishing, boating, paddle boarding and swimming
- A unique chance to fly a model airplane or go for a ride in a hot air balloon

Our partners
- Centennial Water & Sanitation District
- Chatfield Ballooning Association
- Chatfield Marina
- Chatfield Stables
- Denver Audubon
- Denver Water
- Highlands Ranch Metro District
- Jeffco Aeromodelers
- Lockheed Martin
- South Suburban Parks & Recreation
- South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Sterling Ranch - Chatfield Community Association

Challenges we face
- With increased visitation, balancing sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities with needed natural resource protection is becoming more and more difficult.
- Encroaching development is resulting in increased issues with trails, roads, facilities and public safety. There is significant concern regarding impacts to wildlife, development of social trails, light pollution and degradation of the viewscape and natural areas. Higher population in surrounding neighborhoods also increases the number of people entering the park without paying the entry fee, which affects park revenues and stretches park staff even further.
- Recreational trends are changing, particularly on the water and on trails. Accommodating a variety of user groups without conflicts and ensuring resource protection is a challenge.

Volunteer activities
- Volunteer opportunities include serving as naturalists, campground hosts, trail hosts, natural resource, maintenance and office support, and Dog-Off-Leash-Area ambassadors.
- Annual volunteer recruitment open houses provide those interested with a chance to learn about all of the different opportunities available at the park.
- Other volunteer activities include Eagle Scout projects, large group projects and cooperative projects with the Denver Audubon.

Manager’s message

Most people are familiar with the extensive outdoor recreational opportunities available at the park. What many overlook is the tremendous natural resource value that the park also has. Our wide range of vegetation and terrain makes excellent habitat for a diverse variety of mammals, herpetofauna, and especially birds. At Chatfield, we want to create a great and safe recreational experience for our visitors while enhancing and protecting the natural resources in the park.

Geography
Region: Northeast
County: Jefferson, Douglas and Arapahoe
Year Acquired: 1975
Elevation (ft): 5,430
Miles From Denver: 15

Acreage
Total Acres: 5,381

Governmental
US Cong Dist: 2nd & 4th
CO Senate: 16th, 26th & 30th
CO House: 22nd, 25th, 39th & 43rd

Employees
Permanent: 16
Temporary: 52
Volunteers: 106
Volunteer Hours: 19,996

Visitation
Annual: 1,722,901

Facilities
3 Boat Ramps
Boat Rental
Dog Off-leash Area
Dump Station
4 Group Picnic Areas
Laundry
Marina (seasonal)
Model Airplane Field
Mooring/Docking
139 Picnic Sites
Showers (coin operated)
Stables (year-round)
Swim Beach

Trails
Hard Surface: 16.4 miles
Hard Surface/Gravel: 4.4 miles
Gravel: 12.0 miles
Horseback: 12.0 miles
Total: 32.8 miles

Roads
Paved: 20.3 miles
Unpaved: 1.8 miles

Recreation
Biking
Boating
Cross Country Skiing
Fishing
Hiking
Horseback Riding
Ice Fishing
Jet Skiing
Picnicking
Ranger/Nature Programs
Snowshoeing
Stand Up Paddle Boarding (SUP)
Swimming
Volleyball
Walking
Water Skiing
Wildlife/Bird Viewing
Winter Camping

Camping
Campsites (electrical, seasonal): 51
Campsites (full-hookup, seasonal): 102
Campsites (full-hookup/electrical Nov-April): 44
Group Facilities (year-round): 10