

Desired Future Conditions

For Eldorado Canyon State Park

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Mission

“To perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado’s natural resources.”

Eldorado Canyon State Park Visitor Use Management Plan Objective

The Visitor Use Management Plan will enhance user experiences and protect park resources by identifying effective strategies for managing visitor use and access, including improving traffic flow and parking.

Desired Future Conditions

Desired future conditions are aspirational, qualitative statements describing the long-term preferred characteristics of resource conditions and visitor experiences. The Visitor Use Management Plan will include strategies to guide the management of Eldorado Canyon State Park directionally toward the desired future conditions listed below. Objective, quantifiable measures may also be developed.

- User experience: A positive experience in nature for all users
 - An inclusive place where users of all types and abilities can have an outdoor experience, including underserved communities
 - Outdoor recreational opportunities maintained/enhanced as they exist today and additional opportunities compatible with the park mission considered if and when appropriate.¹
 - Optimization of the park’s unique character as part of the broader state park system, for example, as a world-class rock-climbing destination
 - An improved and predictable transportation experience for all users, nearby residents, and first responders, including enhanced multi-modal access to park
 - Reduced traffic congestion-and illegal parking
 - Visitation that does not negatively impact the local community
 - Outdoor experiences promote physical health and mental well-being
 - Safe, healthy, and accessible facilities and infrastructure for visitors and staff
 - Trails that will support visitation for at least 50 years with limited impact to geology, wildlife, and vegetation
 - Users can easily learn where to go, what to do, and the behavior expected in the park
 - Users can discover why the park, and nature in general, is special and ways to keep it that way
 - Users can contribute to preserving the park, including having their voices heard and see themselves as public lands stewards

- Ecology: A park where native plants and animals can thrive
 - Healthy, diverse, abundant wildlife as part of functional ecosystems
 - Protection for threatened and endangered species and other species of conservation interest
 - Management based on sound biological and scientific evidence
 - Reduction/elimination of invasive species
 - Healthy forests and reduced wildfire risk
 - Reduced soil loss into South Boulder Creek
 - Reduced resource degradation in high use areas of the park
 - Protection against and effective management of fires, flooding, and other natural disasters
 - Good air quality maintained

ⁱ Existing recreational opportunities are listed on the Eldorado Canyon State Park website: Biking, boating, camping, cross-country skiing, dog walking, attending educational programs, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, photography, picnicking, rock climbing, and snowshoeing. For full descriptions see <https://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/EldoradoCanyon/Pages/Activities.aspx>