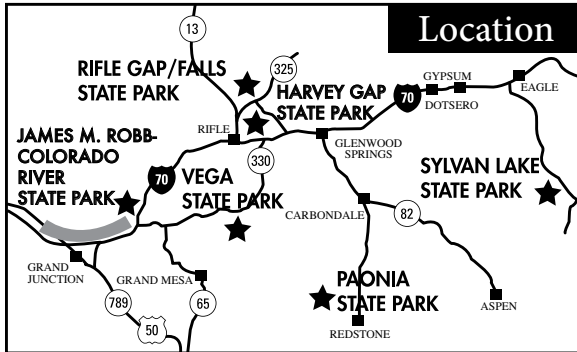
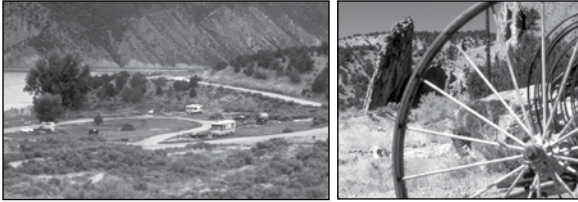


## Nearby Attractions

While not offered within the park, Rifle Gap is also close to a championship 18 hole golf course and world class climbing. Visitors hoping to golf at Rifle Creek Golf Course <http://www.riflecreekgolf.com> or climb at Rifle Mountain Park <http://www.rifleco.org> are able to enjoy the amenities at Rifle Gap while using it as a “base camp.”



### Rifle Gap State Park

5775 Highway 325 • Rifle, CO 81650

E-mail: [rifle.gap.park@state.co.us](mailto:rifle.gap.park@state.co.us)

[cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us)



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COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

# Rifle Gap State Park

ENJOY YOUR STATE PARKS



[cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us)

Rifle Gap State Park and its 360 surface acre reservoir lies at the foot of the majestic Grand Hogback, just nine miles north of Rifle. The clean clear waters of this reservoir provide excellent boating, fishing, waterskiing and swimming opportunities for our warm weather visitors. During the colder months, visitors enjoy excellent hunting and ice fishing opportunities within the park. In addition to the water based activities, this newly renovated park is a popular camping and picnicking destination.

## History

In 1964, near the abandoned site of the tiny town of Austin, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, working with the Silt Water Conservation District, began construction of the Rifle Gap Dam at the confluence of East and West Rifle Creeks. This project was completed in 1968 to provide irrigation water for farmers and ranchers in the area. Rifle Gap became a state park in 1967. Forty years later, the park, with help from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Great Outdoors Colorado, completed extensive renovations and additions. Please help us maintain these new facilities!

## Visitor Center

Park staff is available to answer your questions and provide first aid and emergency assistance when needed. The visitor center is located on the northeast side of the reservoir on State Highway 325. From Rifle, head north on Highway 13 for approximately two miles. Turn right at Highway 325 and travel six miles to the visitor center, located at the main entrance. For information call (970) 625-1607.

## Entrance Fees

Entrance fees help us maintain these new facilities. State Park passes are required year round and are available at the visitor center and self-serve stations located throughout the park. Visitors may choose to either purchase a daily park pass which is valid from the date purchased until noon the next day or they may purchase an annual pass which is valid at any Colorado State Park. Colorado residents age 64 and older may purchase annual passes (Aspen Leaf) at a discounted rate.

## Regulations

Regulations also play an important role in maintaining our facilities, protecting our resources, and helping ensure that everyone has a safe, enjoyable stay. The following list includes answers to some of our most commonly asked questions. Please do your part to help alleviate these concerns.

- Quiet hours last from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. Please respect others and keep noise down within the campgrounds.
- Pets must be under control and on a leash no longer than six feet. This limits conflicts between pets and decreases the likelihood of an accidental dog bite. Controlled pets are also less likely to attack wildlife.
- Fires are only allowed in designated grills. Please make sure to constantly monitor your fire and completely extinguish it when it is no longer needed. Firewood gathering is prohibited within the park; however firewood is available from camp hosts and at the visitor center.
- Keep vehicles on designated roads and parking spots. Driving vehicles off road can damage vegetation and soil.

Common sense and common courtesy will help all of us enjoy the park more.

## Park Activities

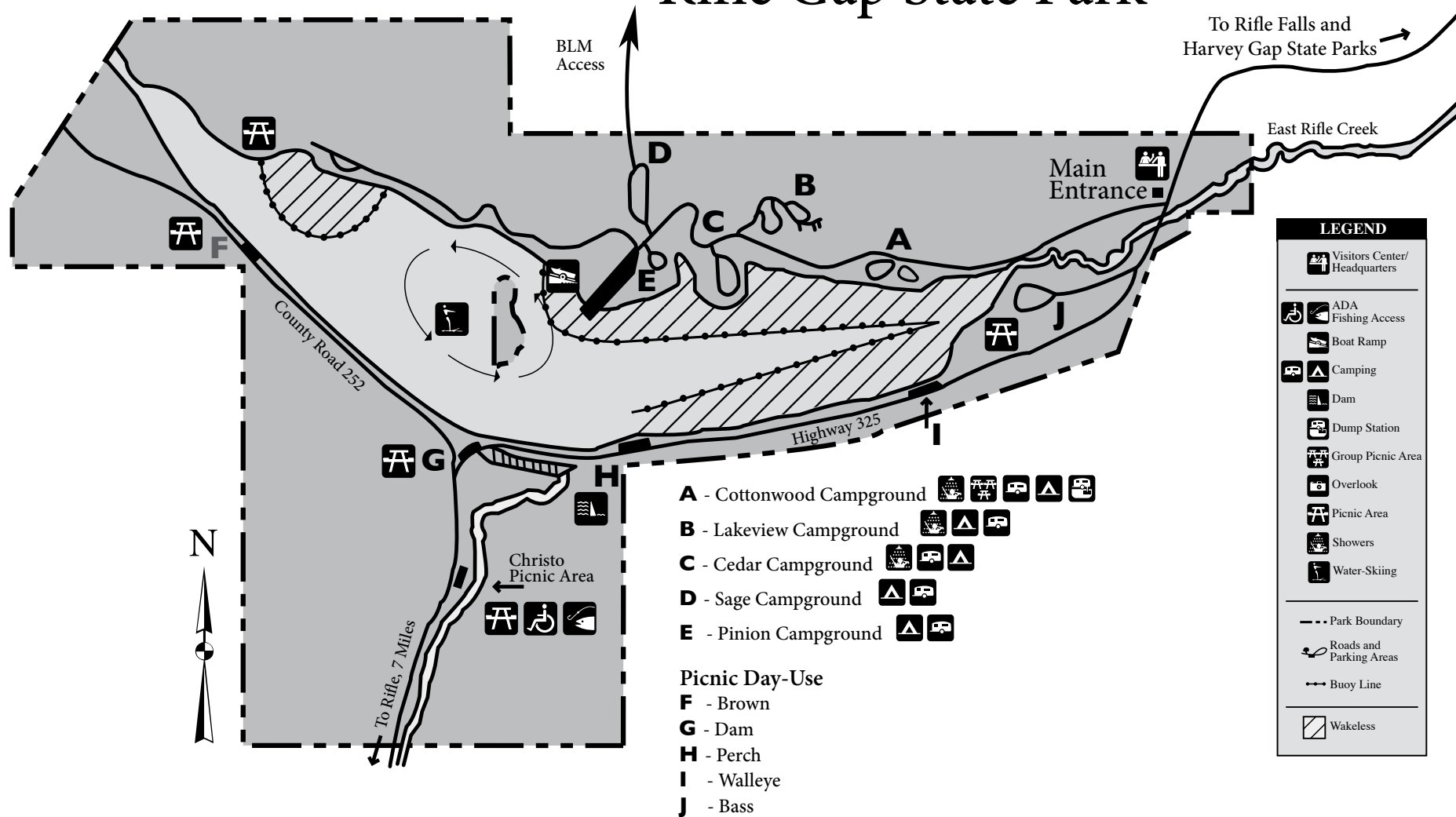
### Camping

The park has 89 campsites located in five campgrounds on the north shore of the reservoir. Each campground is unique and offers its own advantages. There is a 1.5 mile loop trail that connects Lakeview and Cottonwood campgrounds with views of the lake and hogback and is open to foot and bicycle traffic.

**Cottonwood Campground** has eight campsites with water and 50 amp electrical hook-ups at each campsite. This campground is very close to the reservoir during high water years and offers more natural shade than any other campground in the park.

**Lakeview Campground** has 46 campsites offering great panoramic views of the park and the valley below. Whether you want a secluded tent site or an RV site with all the utilities (water, sewer and 50 amp electrical hook-ups) Lakeview Campground is a great choice!

# Rifle Gap State Park



## Fishing and Hunting

Fishing is an extremely popular year-round activity at Rifle Gap. This diverse fishery is home to near state record perch and northern pike along with trout, bass and walleye. Hunting in the park is limited; however excellent hunting opportunities exist just outside the park on neighboring BLM and Forest Service land. Hot showers and clean facilities make the park a popular base camp for many hunters. During the winter months, the park is an excellent ice fishing destination.

## Water Sports

During the summer months water skiers, personal water craft operators and fisherman all share the reservoir. Please respect the rights of other users by following applicable laws and regulations. This information is available at the boat ramp and from park staff. Boaters should also keep in mind that Sunday is the busiest day on the reservoir. Swimming is also allowed at the park, however it is only allowed in the wakeless areas. While park staff try to maintain a safe environment, all recreational activities carry a degree of risk that our visitors must assume. Please be careful. The park is closed to boating November 1st thru March 31st.



## Picnicking

Picnic tables are located throughout the park, however the greatest concentrations are within Bass Day-Use area, the swim beach and in the general area of Cottonwood campground. Bass Day-Use area has ten secluded picnic sites bordered by the reservoir. During high water years these picnic sites are extremely popular. The Group Picnic Area located adjacent to Cottonwood Campground is available for reservations by calling the park office at (970) 625-1607. This facility has fourteen picnic tables located under a large pavilion with electricity and large bar-b-q grills available for your use. There are an additional seven picnic tables nearby that are available on a "first come/first served" basis. The swim beach has nine picnic tables that are very popular with our swimming and boating visitors. Please remember that pets and glass are prohibited at the swim beach.

**Cedar Campground** has fifteen campsites with electricity (50 amp). Water available within the loop. The spacious campsites are close to the reservoir and provide excellent fishing and boating access.

**Sage Campground** has fifteen centrally located campsites that provide easy access to the boat ramp, swim beach and neighboring Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. This is the only campground that allows ATV/OHV operation although riders are reminded that they can only operate their machines from Sage Campground onto BLM property. There is centrally located drinking water within this campground.

**Pinion Campground** has five secluded campsites nestled amongst pinion and juniper trees. The campground offers excellent views of the reservoir, plenty of natural shade, hammock stands and a central location.

All five campgrounds have restroom facilities, however Cedar, Cottonwood and Lakeview have flush toilets and coin operated showers. There is also a dump station near Cottonwood Campground that is available for our campers.

All campers must have a valid park pass for their vehicles and camping permits for their campsites. Reservations are required to camp and can be made by calling 1-800-244-5613 or online at [www.cpwshop.com](http://www.cpwshop.com).

