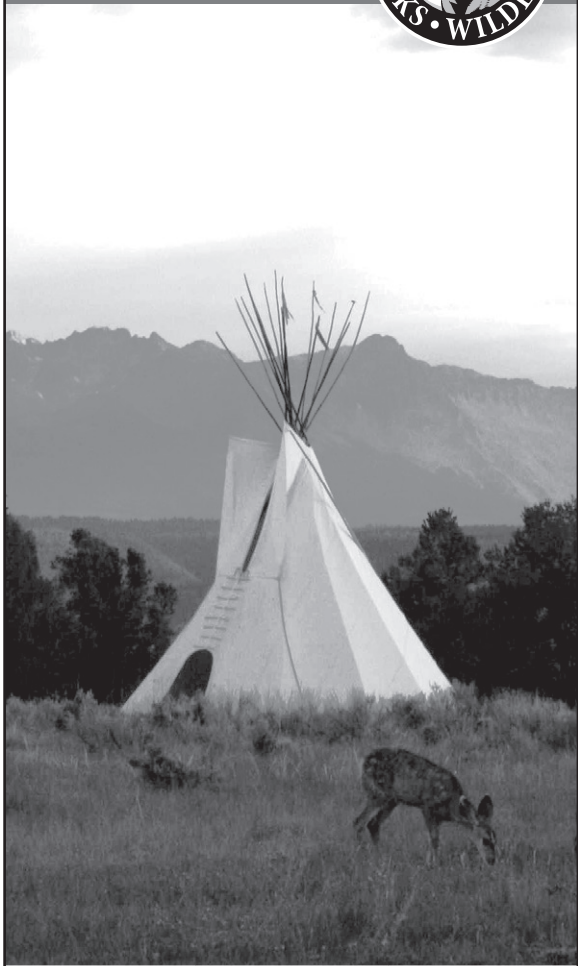


COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Ridgway State Park

ENJOY YOUR STATE PARKS



cpw.state.co.us

Welcome to one of the most magnificent parks in America, Ridgway State Park. Nestled at the base of the spectacular San Juan Mountains in southwestern Colorado, Ridgway State Park is a year-round outdoor recreation paradise. Stretching nearly five miles into the Uncompahgre River Valley, Ridgway State Park is a mecca for boaters, anglers and swimmers.

The park offers three campgrounds, each with a unique atmosphere and charm, and outstanding facilities for comfort and convenience. All the recreation sites have easy bicycle access. Natural surface trails pass through the pinyon/ juniper forests and onto mesas offering spectacular views of the surrounding mountain peaks.

Vehicle Passes and Campsite Reservations

All vehicles entering the park are required to have a current Keep Colorado Wild Pass or display a current Colorado State Parks vehicle pass. Daily or annual vehicle passes are available, visit the state park website at cpwshop.com for more information about vehicle passes.

Camping reservations are required in addition to vehicle passes. Information about camping reservations is also available at cpwshop.com. Vehicle passes are also available at the park visitor center, entrance stations, or self-service fee stations and camping reservations can also be made by calling 1 (800) 244-5613.

Project History

Settlement of the Uncompahgre River Valley occurred following the mining boom of the 1880s. Early farmers and ranchers soon recognized the need to augment the river's flow with a dependable source of summer irrigation water. In 1909, the 5.8-mile Gunnison Tunnel was completed to divert water from the Gunnison River to the Uncompahgre Valley. However, as early as the 1940s, interest developed in storing spring and summer snowmelt from the upper Uncompahgre River for later irrigation use.

At about the same time, a plan was being developed to control the flow of the huge Colorado River and some of its major tributaries. In 1956, the Colorado River Storage Project, one of the most complex and extensive river developments in the world, became a reality. The Dallas Creek Project (Ridgway Reservoir) was authorized in 1968. The dam was completed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 1987.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation involvement did not end with the completion of the dam. Studies indicated the need for a water-based recreation facility south of Montrose.



— BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION —

Federal funding continued for eight years and paid for all recreational development in the park. Today, partners in the project are the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Tri-County Water Conservancy District, which manages water distribution, and Colorado Parks & Wildlife, which manages the recreation facilities.



Camping And Yurts

Ridgway has three picturesque campgrounds: Dakota Terraces, Elk Ridge and Pa-Co-Chu-Puk.

A camper services building in each campground provides hot pay showers, laundromat, vending machines and a playground.

Dakota Terraces is located within easy walking distance of the swim beach and features 76 campsites with electric hookups, nearby water, concrete pads, tables, cooking grills and fire rings. Dakota Terraces affords excellent views of both the San Juan and Cimarron Ranges. A trailer dump station is available.

For those who enjoy camping, but don't have a tent or a motor home, Dakota Terraces features three yurts. Our yurts are circular tents made of vinyl-impregnated canvas surrounding a wooden lattice, floor and ceiling. The yurts have electricity, heat, and sleep up to six people. They are available for rent year-round on a reservation. Elk Ridge, our most popular campground, is located in a pinyon-juniper forest with excellent shade at most sites. Some sites provide panoramic views of the San Juan Mountains. The 98 campsites at Elk Ridge offer electric hookups, nearby water, concrete pads, tables, cooking grills and fire rings. Ten campsites are set aside for walk-in tent camping only (no electricity provided).

Full utility (water/sewer/electric) hookups are featured at 81 campsites at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk located next to the scenic Uncompahgre River. A level concrete pad makes for a quick set-up, and each site has a table, cooking grill and fire ring. Fifteen walk-in tent sites are available across the river. Accessible campsites may be reserved by calling 1 (800) 244-5613 or online at cpw.state.co.us



For campground reservations, call 1 (800) 244-5613 or online at cpwshop.com



Boating

The 1,000 surface-acre reservoir offers a variety of activities, including fishing, water-skiing, boating, sailing and windsurfing. The four-lane concrete boat ramp, located at the Dutch Charlie site, stretches to the lower limits of the water level, so boaters will be able to launch in low water conditions. All boats must be inspected prior to launch for aquatic nuisance species.

Boaters must observe Colorado's boating statutes and regulations. A brochure is available at entrance stations and the Visitor Center.



Marina

Visit the Blue Heron Marina and Snack Shop just above the swim beach area at the Dutch Charlie entrance. The Snack Shop offers ice cream, cold drinks, ice, as well as limited snacks, apparel, novelties and fishing tackle. Here you can also rent pontoon boats, pedal boats, Paddle boards, or towables for your boating enjoyment. Boaters can also rent slips or buoys on a nightly or weekly basis, depending on availability.

For more information and pricing visit the Marina website at cpw.state.co.us/blue-heron-marina or call (970) 626-5822.

Slip and Buoy reservations may be made by calling 1 (800) 244-5613



Fishing

Stocked rainbow trout, brown trout and Kokanee salmon, make up the game fish within the reservoir.

Fishing on the Uncompahgre River below Ridgway Dam is restricted to catch and release, with artificial flies and lures only. A valid fishing license is required at all areas.



Swimming

Swimming is allowed on most of Ridgway Reservoir. Recommended areas include the designated beach in Dutch Charlie, and the shoreline at Dallas Creek in the no wake area. Safety recommendations on the main reservoir include surface marking for visibility, and personal flotation device for swimmers safety.

There are 3 no-swimming areas on the reservoir which are located in Mears Bay, at the dam, and the in-flow river to the reservoir. No swimming is allowed in the Pa Co Chu Puk section of the park. Children 12 and under must be supervised in all swimming locations.



Hiking And Trails

Approximately 14 miles of developed trails wind through the park connecting the various facilities. The range of trails offer a variety of challenges for hikers and bikers.

Three self-guided trails are available in the park. Guides are available at the Visitor Center. Visitors are encouraged to visit the Forest Discovery Trail near the Visitor Center, and the Dallas Creek Nature Trail in the Dallas Creek day-use area, and the Oak Leaf Trail across the river in the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk area. The trails feature information about the geology, vegetation, history, and wildlife in the park.



Visitor Center & Bookstore

At our Visitors Center, learn more about the rich natural and cultural history of the park and southwest Colorado through the outstanding views and displays. Nature books for all ages, t-shirts, maps and beautiful souvenirs are available. A portion of the sales proceeds return to the park to support our environmental education program.



Special Events

Ridgway State Park offers outstanding facilities and activities for groups. Groups may reserve multiple campsites anywhere within the established campgrounds by calling the reservation office at 1 (800) 244-5613 or online at cpwshop.com.

The group event facility at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk, will accommodate 250 people and provides restrooms, volleyball, horseshoe pits and a playground. Memorable wedding ceremonies are held at the Visitor Center overlook for up to 100 participants. Group event facilities are available by reservation only. Please contact the park at park.ridgway@state.co.us.



Natural Resources and Environmental Education

Wildlife abounds in and around Ridgway State Park. Deer, marmots, golden eagles, waterfowl, mink, red fox and occasionally osprey and black bears are seen in the area. Winter brings elk and bald eagles into the park. When viewing wildlife, please keep a respectful distance from the animals, and leave the family pet at home. A clean campsite will keep visitors and wildlife safe.

Geology in the area created by prehistoric oceans, volcanoes, and glaciers produced the stunning scenery which surrounds Ridgway State Park. The most prominent peak is Mt. Sneffels, rising 14,149 feet above sea level. The San Juan Mountains dominate the landscape to the south, while the Cimarron Range to the east features Chimney Rock, Courthouse Mountain and Turret Ridge. The Uncompahgre Plateau to the west stretches nearly 100 miles from Ridgway to Grand Junction. The area is rich in geologic history.

Pinyon-juniper woodland and Western sagebrush is the dominant vegetation community at Dutch Charlie, while ponderosa pine and cottonwoods are common at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk.

The Park conducts education programs about the natural and cultural resources in the area from Memorial Day to Labor Day each Summer, contact the park office for more information, or visit our website.



Ridgway State Park Overview

Dutch Charlie

The Dutch Charlie site opened to the public in August, 1989. Most of the major facilities, including the Visitors Center, swimbeach, boat ramp and two campgrounds are located at Dutch Charlie. This 300-acre site offers a variety of activities, including: fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming and boating. Nature hikes and environmental education programs are available during the summer.

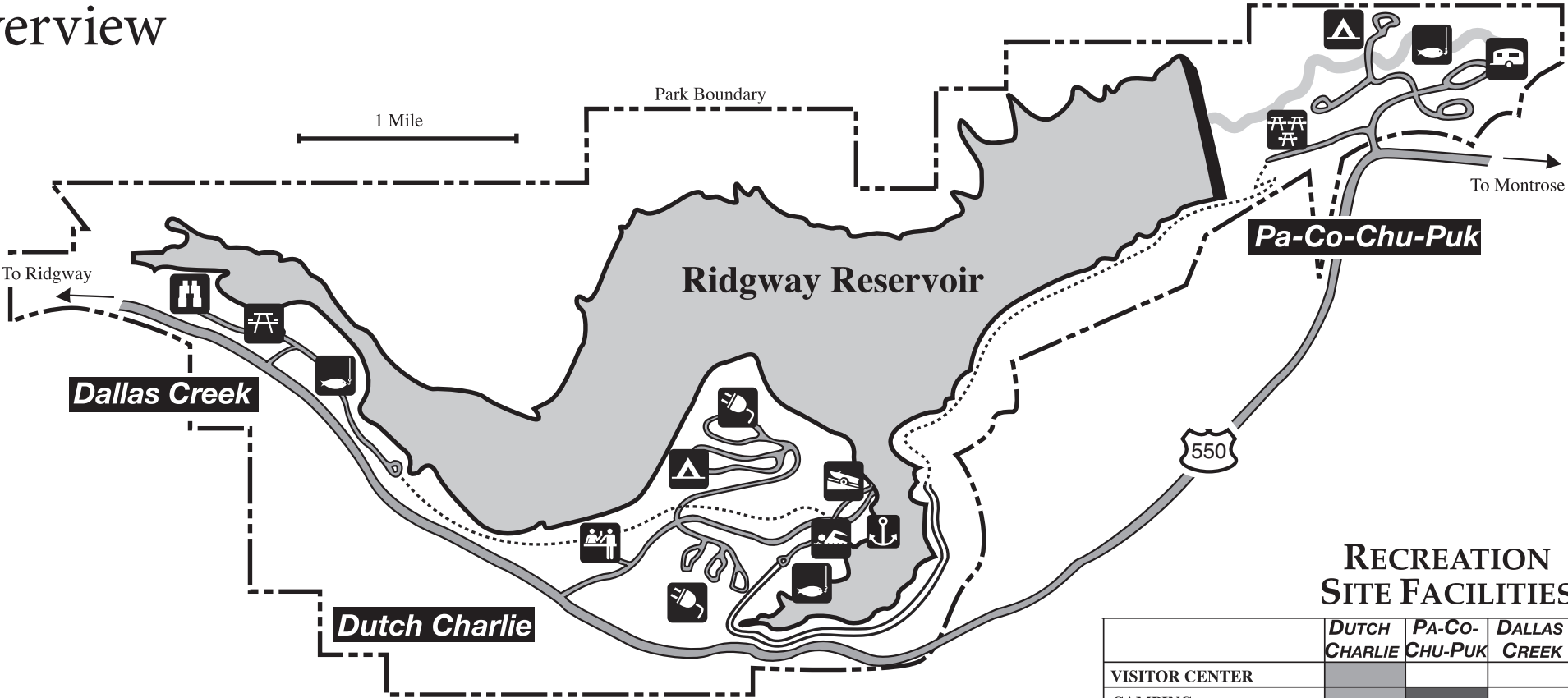
This recreation site was named after Dutch Charlie, a pioneer way station owner who ran a boarding house, blacksmith shop and livery barn near the present-day swim beach. Bull whackers and their oxen teams spent the night, fed their livestock and had repairs made at Dutch Charlie's operation.

Pa-Co-Chu-Puk

A name which reflects the varied history of the region, Pa-Co-Chu-Puk is the Ute Indian term for "Cow Creek." Located below Ridgway Dam, this site offers campsites with full utility hookups, walk-in tent camping, a large group event facility, trout ponds, several miles of hike/bike trails and catch and release fishing. This site opened in July, 1994.

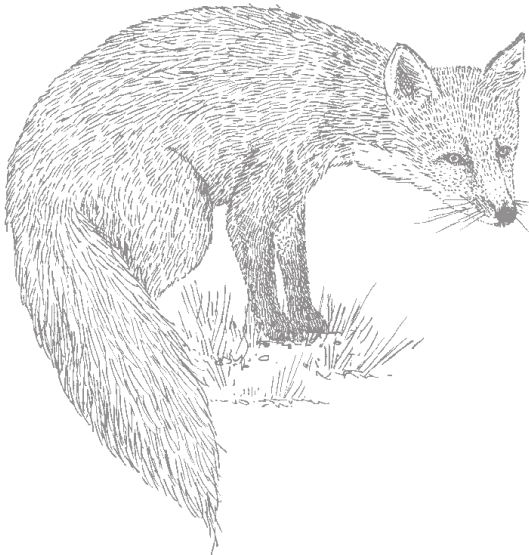
Dallas Creek
















Opened in May, 1992, Dallas Creek provides an abundance of daytime activities. Over 30 individual picnic sites, many with shade shelters, offer quiet mealtime enjoyment. The secluded nature study area near the confluence of the Uncompahgre River and Dallas Creek is a perfect setting for viewing wildlife, hiking a scenic nature trail or catching a trout. During periods of low water, access gates are opened to allow vehicles to drive closer to the reservoir.



RECREATION SITE FACILITIES

	DUTCH CHARLIE	PA-CO-CHU-PUK	DALLAS CREEK
VISITOR CENTER			
CAMPING			
• Electric Hookups			
• Water Hookups			
• Sewer Hookups			
• Water Hydrants			
• Dump Station			
CAMPER SERVICES			
• Pay Showers			
• Laundry			
• Vending Machines			
• Playground			
• Restrooms			
TENT CAMPING			
PICNIC SITES			
GROUP EVENT FACILITY			
BOAT RAMP/MARINA			
SWIM BEACH			
FISHING			
• Lake Access			
• River Fishing			
• Pond Fishing			
FISH CLEANING STATION			
TRAILS			



LEGEND			
	Visitors Center/ Park Headquarters		Nature Study
	Marina		Picnicking
	Boat Ramp		Swim Beach
	Electric Hookups		Tent Camping
	Fishing		Concrete Trail
	Full Utility Hookups		Gravel Trail
	Group Picnic Area		Park Boundary
			Roads

For new and current information on all Colorado State Parks visit us online at cpw.state.co.us

Dutch Charlie Recreation Site

(7,050 feet)

Tent Pads (ground level, improved surface average size 16' x 16') are provided at sites:
17, 21, 54, 55, 122, 132, 138, 140, 142, 152 - 160, 163, 165, 168, 172, 173, 175, 177, 178, 182, 183 & 185

Tent Pads (ground level, improved surface average size 12' x 12') are provided at sites:
80, 83, 87, 90, 93, 117, 120, 123, 124, 126, 127, 135, 137, 144, 150, 169, 170, 179, 186 & 187

Elevated Tent Decks (elevated wooden platforms measuring 12' x 12') are provided as marked.

LEGEND

Visitor's Center

Dumpster

Host Site

Electric Hookups

Elevated Tent Deck

Fee Station

Entrance Station

Restrooms

Group Picnic Area (camping only)

Shade Shelter

Tent Camping

Walk-In Tent Site

Water Hydrant

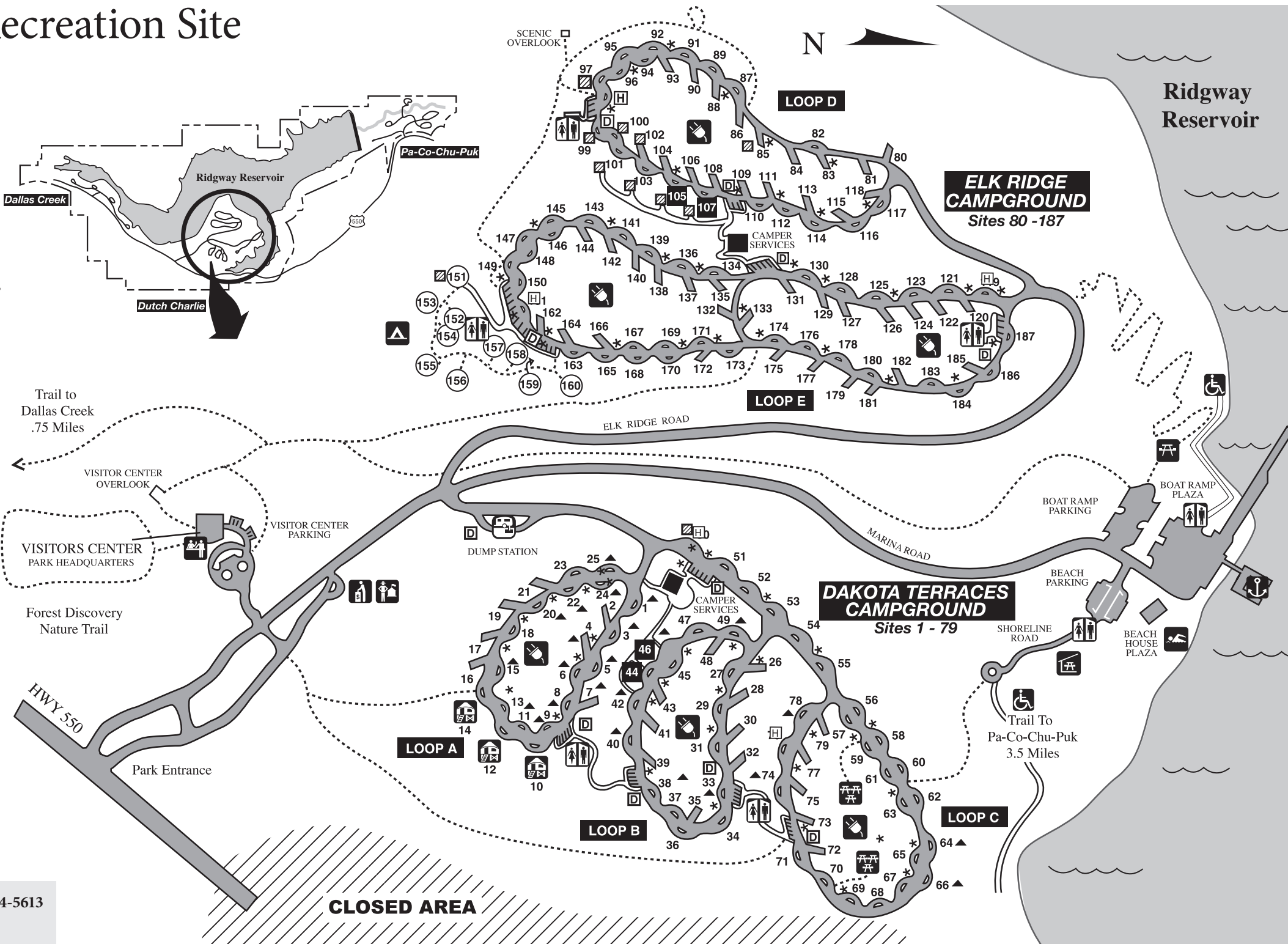
Yurts

Concrete Trail

Gravel Trail

ADA designated campsites:
44 46 105 107

To make reservations call: 1 (800) 244-5613
or visit us online at cpw.state.co.us

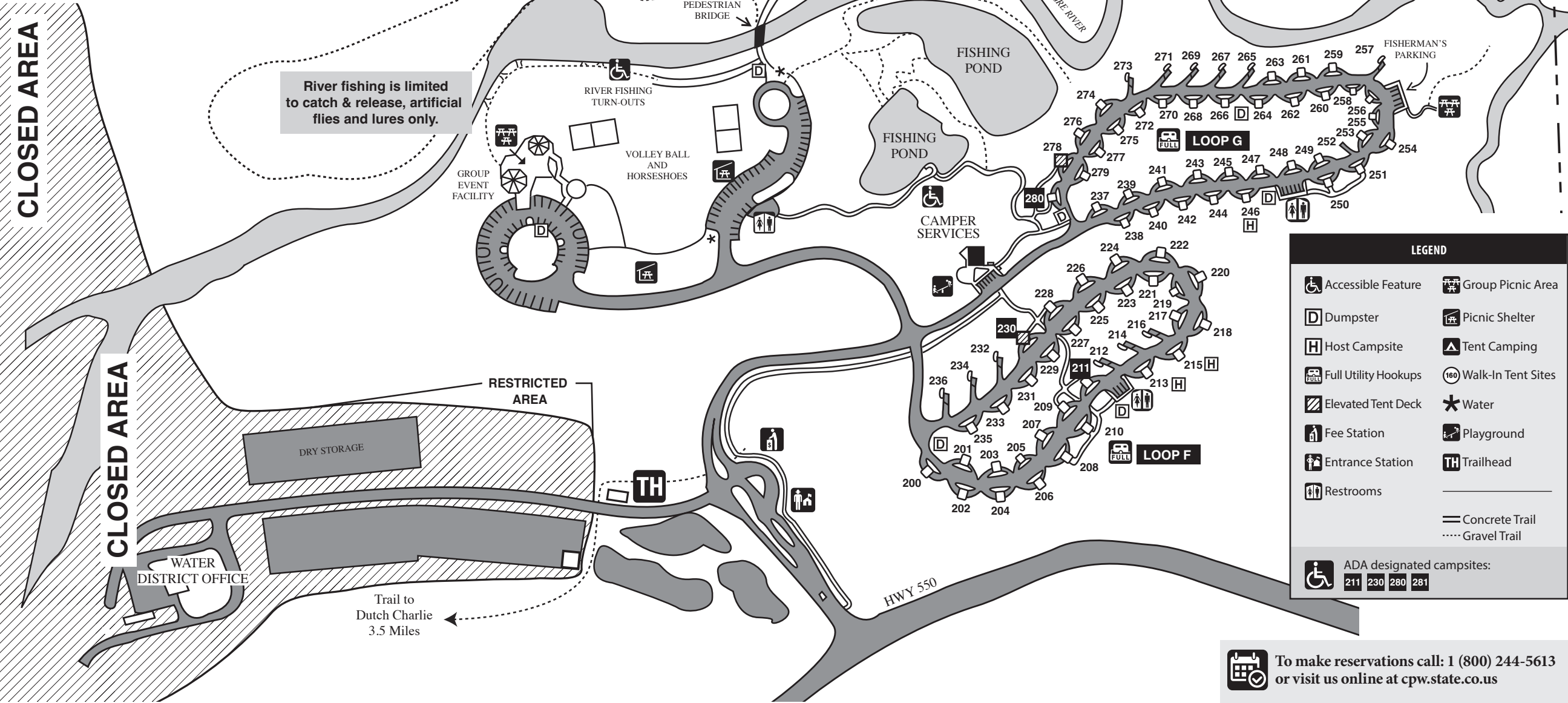


Pa-Co-Chu-Puk Recreation Site

(6,650 feet)

Shade Shelters are provided at sites:
213, 215, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 232 & 234

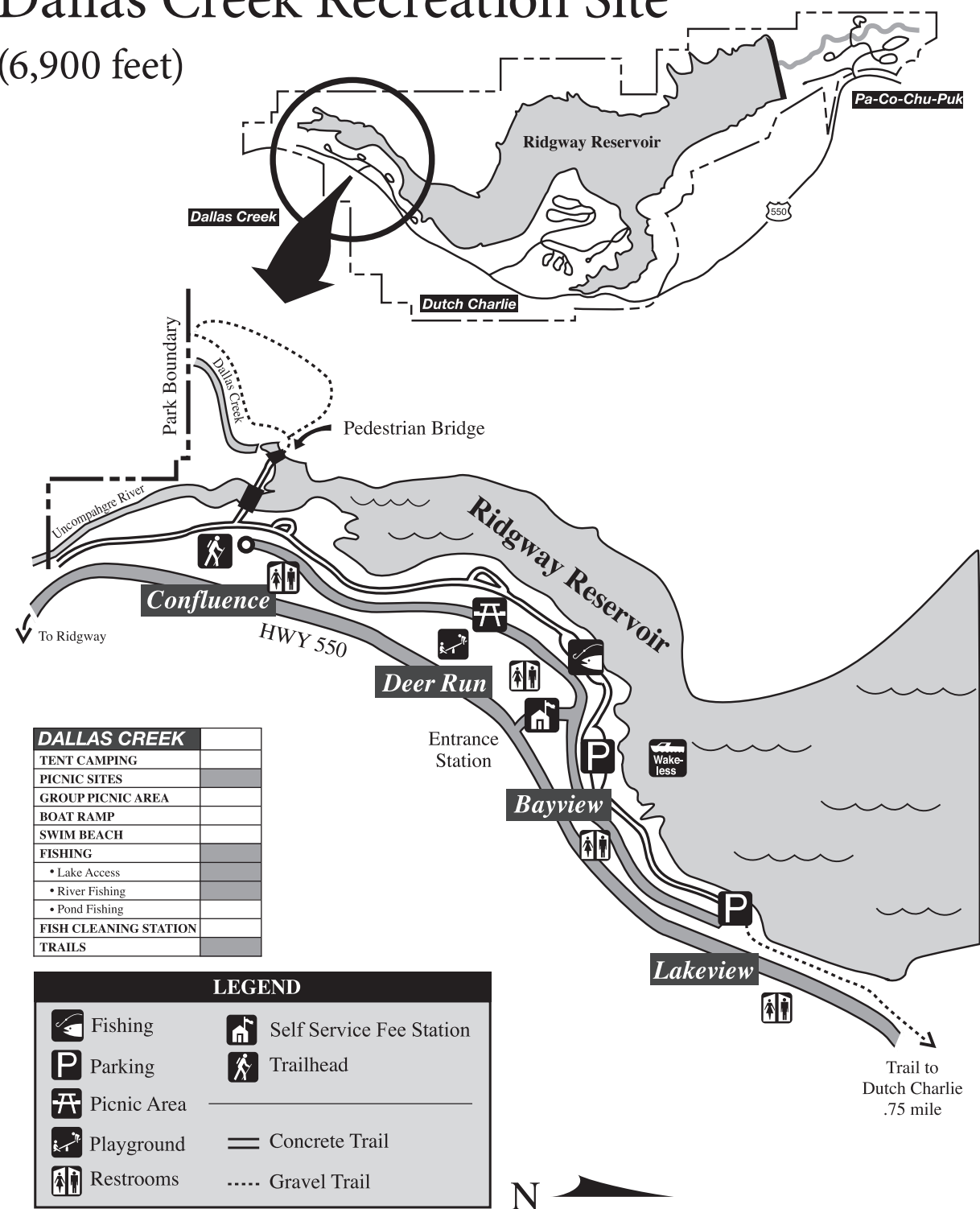
Elevated Tent Pads (measuring approximately 14' x 16') are provided at sites:
230, 278 & 281- 295



To make reservations call: 1 (800) 244-5613 or visit us online at cpw.state.co.us

Dallas Creek Recreation Site

(6,900 feet)



Help Protect Your Park

Ridgway State Park was built and is maintained for your use and enjoyment. In the interest of public safety and the preservation of the park, we ask that you follow the 7 Leave No Trace Principles:

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts (be careful with fire).
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

For specific rules and regulations please contact a staff member, call the park visitor center, or look on the CPW website.

Accessibility

Ridgway State Park is widely recognized for its barrier-free design. Visitors with limited mobility will find easy access to camping, picnicking, fishing, trails and swimming. All restroom and shower buildings are accessible.

Volunteers & Friends

If you enjoy the park, perhaps you would consider joining our team as a volunteer. Volunteer positions include: campground host, Visitor Center assistant, landscaper, trail maintenance and boat assistant.

A citizen support group, the Friends of Ridgway State Park, is dedicated to making Ridgway one of the finest state parks in America. Stop by the Visitor Center to learn how you can become a Friends member.

Winter Recreation

Ridgway has campsites available year-round. Many activities await the winter visitor, including sledding, hiking, tail-water fishing, snowshoeing, camping and excellent wildlife watching.

First Aid

First aid can be obtained from any park ranger or at the park Visitor Center. In an emergency, call 911. A medical center is located in Ridgway, five miles south of the park. The nearest hospital is in Montrose, 25 miles north of the park.



► LOCATION

General: Take U.S. 550 south of Montrose for 22 miles to any of the three park entrances, on the right (west) side of the road.

Take U.S. 550 north of Ridgway for 4 miles to any of the three park entrances, on the left (west) side of the road.



Ridgway State Park

28555 Hwy 550, Ridgway, CO 81432

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cpw.state.co.us

@COPARKSWILDLIFE



This program receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you need more information, please write to: Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20240



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