

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Cherry Creek State Park

ENJOY YOUR STATE PARKS



cpw.state.co.us



Cherry Creek State Park

Over 2 million visitors each year can't be wrong! Cherry Creek State Park is an oasis in the Denver metro area for boaters, fishermen, campers, bicyclists, equestrians, swimmers, hikers and picnickers alike.

The recreational opportunities are unlimited at this 4,200-acre park. There's excitement on the 850-acre reservoir with water-skiers and boaters. Yet solitude can be found fishing in a cove or walking the nature trails. For the most relaxing visit, try the park on weekdays or evenings.

The views are pretty spectacular, too. During the summer, colorful masts from sailboats dot the lake against a backdrop of the Rockies. It's a unique place. It offers a fast getaway for city dwellers to unwind. It provides a place to learn about nature and a place to have a family picnic.

Then there is the unexpected—herds of white-tailed and mule deer, coyotes, foxes, pheasant, rabbits and a wonderful variety of resident and migratory birds.

The dam at Cherry Creek State Park was built in 1950 by the Army Corps of Engineers to prevent flooding in Denver. The early wagon train travelers on the Smoky Hill Trail that cuts through Cherry Creek could not have imagined that this rolling prairie studded with yucca would become such an important natural resource to the people of Colorado.



Park Passes

All vehicles entering the park are required to display a current Colorado State Parks pass or Cherry Creek Water Basin sticker on the windshield. Daily or annual passes are available for purchase. Colorado residents can purchase a \$29 Keep Colorado Wild Pass when registering a car, motorcycle, recreation vehicle or light truck through the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The \$29 pass is included in your registration total unless you choose to opt out. Save time and buy online by visiting cpwshop.com and to see if you qualify for a discounted pass. Regular passes are also available at park entrances and self-service dispensers. Only Colorado Disabled Veteran (DV) license plates are admitted free without a pass.



Water Quality Surcharge - Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority Fee & Sticker

Cherry Creek will charge an additional fee which goes to the Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority. Daily and annual passes purchased at the park will include this surcharge. Colorado residents that purchase the Keep Colorado Wild Pass with their vehicle registration will provide the park with proof of the pass and purchase the Water Basin fee sticker to display on their windshield. The funds from the surcharge are used to improve the water quality in the Cherry Creek basin and reservoir.



Facilities for People with Disabilities

Special facilities to accommodate persons with disabilities are located at the fishing access areas, campground, swim beach and group picnic sites. Parking for visitors with disabilities is designated throughout the park.



Nature Study

Enter the enchanting and educational world of nature study through the interpretive programs led by park staff at areas throughout the park. Call the Visitor Center for information and activities. Bird, plant and wildlife guides are available at iNaturalist.org or on the iNaturalist app for Android and iPhone. Visitors can also become an Agent of Discovery, completing missions and adventures with the interactive app.



Trails

The state park's extensive multi-use trail system provides a pleasurable experience year round. Please be courteous to fellow trail users. The park's trails connect to surrounding trail systems.



Winter Recreation

Cherry Creek State Park can provide special experiences for the winter outdoors enthusiast with ice fishing and cross-country skiing as conditions permit. Remember there is risk anytime you venture onto ice. Know how to judge ice conditions and always suspect thin ice.



Camping

The park's 135 campsites offer visitors convenient year round, full hook-up and basic camping. A sewage dump station is also available across from the campground entrance to visitors with camping permits. Visitors without camping permits may pay \$28 for a single day dumping permit, and must also have a park pass (daily or annual) at the time of dumping. In the campground there are three Handicap Accessible campsites and two Handicap Designated sites. Pay showers and laundry facilities are located nearby. Quiet hours are observed within the campground from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Campsites can be reserved 24 hours/day online at cpwshop.com or by calling 1 (800) 244-5613, opt. 7.

Picnicking

The park offers visitors a cool place for a family outing. Shade shelters, picnic tables and grills are available to visitors throughout the park. There are also three group picnic areas available for reservation on weekdays that are the perfect outdoor venue for family reunions, business meetings, employee functions, to name a few. The picnic reservations can be made through cpwshop.com or by calling 1(800) 244-5613, opt. 7.

Swim Beach

The park is a gathering spot for families to soak up that Colorado sun—with a sandy beach and roped-off swimming area. Where else can you sit on a beach in midsummer and view snow-capped peaks? There are no lifeguards, children require adult supervision. Swimming is permitted only within the designated swim beach area. The swim beach is open Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Boating/Water Sports

Public boat launching ramps are conveniently located near the east and west park entrances. The best way to have fun on your boat is the safe way—know your safety equipment requirements and boating regulations. Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) boat inspections are mandatory prior to launching boats.

Fishing

Anglers head out to the park to catch trout, walleye, bass, wipers and more. The Tower Loop area near the dam is a popular spot, as well as the quiet south end of the reservoir. State record walleye have been caught at the reservoir. Lake zoning maps and copies of Colorado boating and fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center. The Carolyn Armstrong Handicap Accessible fishing area is located at East Shades.

Dog Off Leash Area

Over 100 acres in the 12 Mile Area are available for owners to exercise their dogs off leash. There is an additional fee to use the area and dogs must remain under control at all times. Dog owners must carry a leash and waste bag for each dog. The area may be accessed from the south entrance at Parker and Orchard roads or from the north at 12 Mile North.

Model Airfield

Model airplane enthusiasts will find asphalt runways, frequency posts and field regulations for radio controlled aircraft at this area located on the west side of the park.

Concessionaires of the Park

Marina/Event Center

The Marina at Cherry Creek offers boat slips, a variety of vessels for rent and even a store for fuel and safety equipment. Just above the Marina sits the “Lake House” event center that has the perfect view for your perfect occasion. The Lake House offers a great venue for weddings, reunions or even corporate functions. To see everything that both the marina and Lake House offers please visit pelicanbaycherrycreek.com or call (303) 220-5253 for more information.

Horseback Riding

Horse owners will find miles of multi-use trails for conditioning or relaxing rides with extraordinary views. Horse rental, lessons and boarding are also available with 12 Mile Stables, visit their website at 12milestables.com or call 1(888) 61-HORSE for more information.

Shooting Sports

Fixed targets for rifles and pistols, a trap area for shotguns and more can be found at The Family Shooting Center in the southern area of the park. Visit familyshootingcenter.com or call 303-680-5401 for more information. Hunting is not allowed within the park.

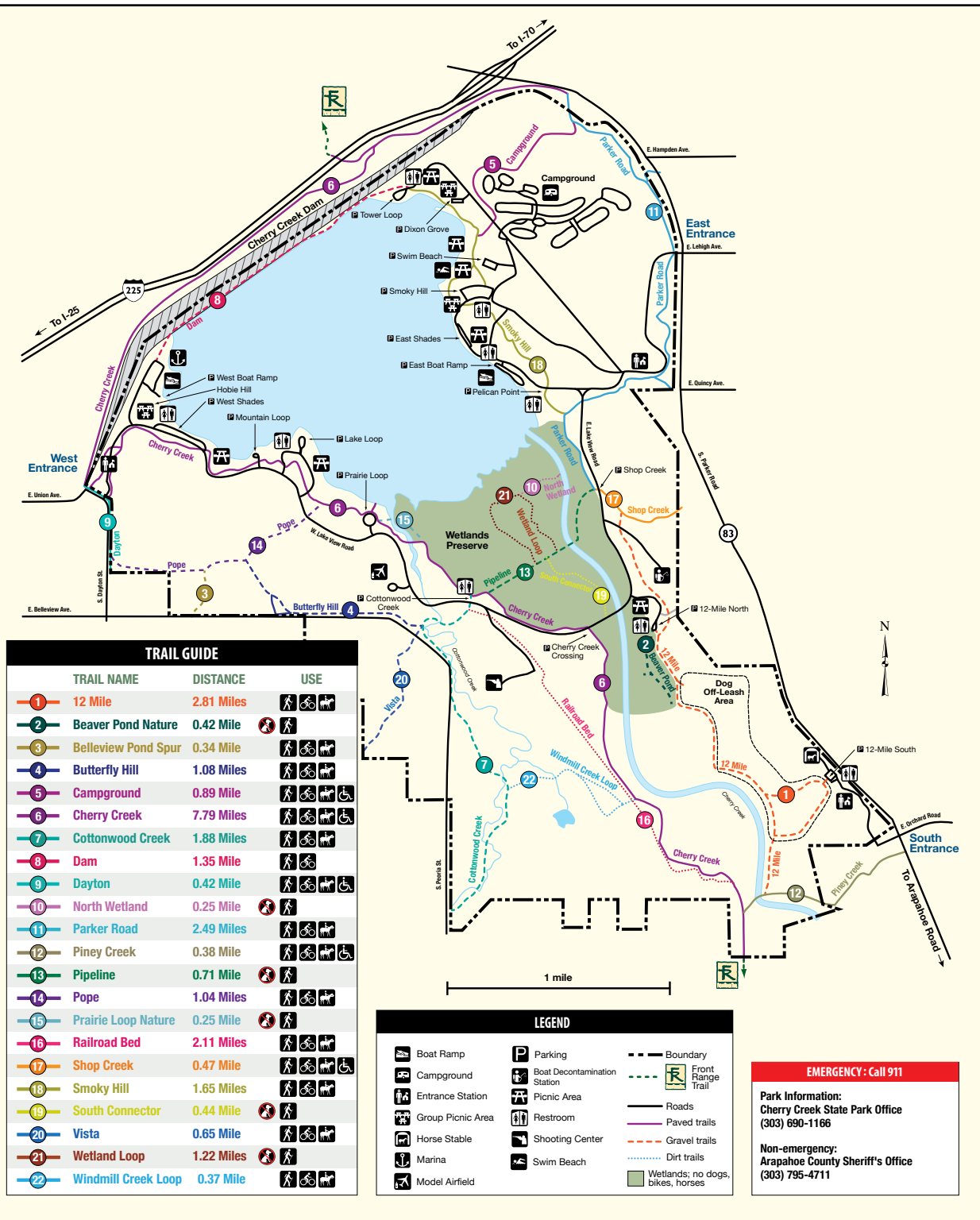
Help Protect Our Natural Resources

We need your help to do your part by sharing the park and respecting other users. Complete park and boating regulations are available at park entrances. Visit cpw.state.co.us for more information about Cherry Creek and all Colorado state parks.



THE 7 LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES

1. **Plan Ahead and Prepare:** Be sure you have proper permits and licenses, clothing, shoes, and required water safety equipment.
2. **Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces:** Hike and bike on trails and only camp in the campground.
3. **Dispose of Waste Properly:** Use the dumpsters provided. If they are full, take your trash home. Never leave it next to the dumpster.
4. **Leave What You Find:** Never take home rocks, feathers, or leaves. Those are homes to wildlife. Never burn small sticks, they are used by wildlife to build shelter.
5. **Minimize Campfire Impacts:** Campfires are restricted to the campground. Put all fires and hot coals out with water.
6. **Respect Wildlife:** Keep your distance. Never feed wildlife.
7. **Be Considerate of Others:** Yield the trail, travel single file. Keep your music down so only you can hear it.

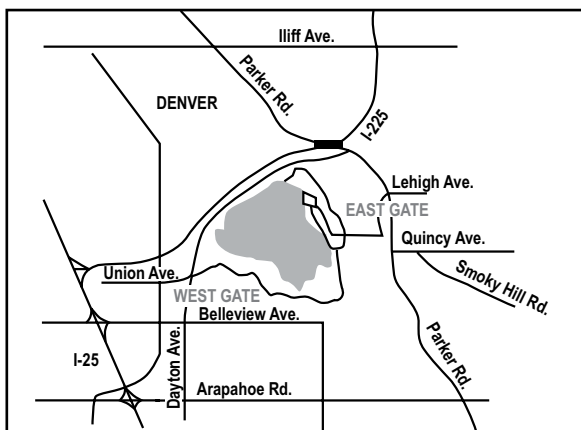


CARRYING CAPACITY

Due to Cherry Creek State Park's convenient location, it experiences high use on summer weekends and holidays. A carrying capacity (the maximum number of boats and vehicles allowed in the park) is enforced to protect park users, prevent resource damage and provide an enjoyable experience for visitors. Arrive at the park early on weekends or visit on weekdays and evenings to avoid waiting to use the park.

► LOCATION

From Denver: One mile south of I-225 on Parker Road at Lehigh, adjacent to south Denver.



Cherry Creek State Park

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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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