

How to Nominate a Site for a Future State Park

The public is invited to propose sites for Colorado Parks and Wildlife to consider as a new state park. Sites will be evaluated based on 5 Future State Parks Criteria (listed below). To nominate a site, you will need to complete this [nomination form](#). Before you get started, please review the Parks Criteria, and review the following nomination form instructions and corresponding documentation.

Nominated sites can be private or public lands, including:

- private lands proposed with landowner consent,
- existing CPW or other lands owned by the State,
- properties held by the Federal or local governments.

Nominations will be accepted on a rolling basis moving forward. CPW will review nomination forms to identify top tier sites. For these sites, CPW staff will follow up with the property owners and the nominating party (if they are not the owner), to conduct on-the-ground visits and further evaluation of the site. Ultimately, proposals for new state parks will be presented by CPW leadership to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission for final approval.

When filling out the nomination form, you will need to provide the following information and documentation:

1. Name of applicant/contact
 - a. Name of landowner/land manager if different from the applicant
2. Site information
 - a. Site name, location, and the total number of acres (can be an estimation)
3. Description for how the proposed site meets CPW Future State Parks Criteria (provided below).
4. Description of legal access to the site from public and private roads.
5. Description of water access and rights.
6. Notice of other parties who have legal access to the site, such as mineral owners, easement holders, grazing leases, ditch or reservoir owners.
7. Possibility for remediation/restoration work.
8. The nominator's preference for land ownership (perpetual access easement, lease, fee title, management agreement).
9. Opportunities for partnerships with other management agencies, government entities and/or organizations.
10. Description of collaboration with other management agencies, government entities and/or organizations in preparing this proposal.
11. Request of notification to the following parties:
 - a. CPW Regional Manager for the region where the property is located. Listed here: cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Leadership.aspx
 - b. Local government officials, including the Boards of County Commissioners and City/Town Councils geographically associated with the property.
 - c. State Representative(s) and Senator(s) whose district the property is in.

- d. Federal or State land managers if associated or adjacent to the property or access to the property is through public land(s), such as the Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation and State Land Board.
12. Description of any potential opposition to the project.

Requested Documentation:

1. Easements used to access the site
2. Survey of the site, if available
3. High resolution photographs of the site
4. Two to three letters of support

**Nomination parties will also have an option to attach additional supporting documentation.

For questions, please email CPW's Policy and Planning section at:
dnr_cpw_planning@state.co.us.

Future State Parks Criteria

CPW's vision is that Colorado's state parks connect people to natural wonders. Every state park should offer a unique place to experience Colorado and live life outside. To accomplish this vision, future Colorado state parks will support a system of state parks that:

- I. **Provides outstanding nature-based recreation.** Everyone regardless of age, abilities or interest, is connected to Colorado's diverse landscapes. Exceptional nature-based recreation provides for visitor education and enjoyment.
- II. **Conserves natural resources.** Large natural areas conserve resources and sensitive habitats. They also allow for sustainable outdoor recreation. Connections to conserved public and private lands advance landscape-scale conservation.
- III. **Meets Colorado's needs.** Attention is given to locations that will benefit from new outdoor recreation opportunities and resource conservation. Factors include distance to population centers, visitation demand, and ease of access. Future state parks are innovative, offer a range of amenities and experiences, and provide for evolving outdoor recreation interests. Colorado's state parks system can adapt to changes in society, the environment and technology.
- IV. **Provides community value.** Future state parks engage nearby communities. Local economies and quality of life improve by having a state park. The benefits of Colorado's state park system are available to everyone with attention to being inclusive and accessible.
- V. **Supports a financially sustainable system.** Looking into the future and park system-wide, new state parks are financially practical, considering acquisition, development, operations and management.