

# Harvey Gap State Park



## Who we are

Colorado Parks and Wildlife utilizes the principles of conservation - the wise use of natural resources - to effectively manage fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, camping, motorized and non-motorized trails, boating and outdoor education for the citizens of Colorado and its visitors. Harvey Gap State Park is a favorite spot for anglers to catch catfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass, tiger muskie, perch, crappie, rainbow trout and northern pike. The lake is also extremely popular for swimming and picnicking because of the ample shade and clear water. Camping is not allowed at Harvey Gap, but can be found in nearby Rifle Gap and Rifle Falls State Parks. In the winter, enthusiasts can cross-country ski and ice fish. Visitors can see wildlife in the area, including migrating waterfowl. This day-use area sits at an elevation of 6,400 feet and features beautiful cedar and sagebrush habitat with a grand hogback – a mountain ridge – that runs along the backside of the park.

## Top attractions

- There are incomparable scenic vistas and low-speed boating in an absolutely spectacular 160-acre mountain lake.
- Fishing is the main draw at Harvey Gap, whether from the shoreline or a boat. Fly fishing is popular during the warm months, while ice fishing is popular in the winter.
- It is close to the Rifle Falls Fish Hatchery, Rifle Gap and Rifle Falls State Parks, and acclaimed mountain climbing locations.
- Catch and keep all northern pike and smallmouth bass you can!
- Harvey Gap is a fantastic place for fishing, boating and picnicking.
- Many people are taking advantage of the recently expanded swimming area.
- Canoes, kayaks, sailboards and paddleboards are very popular at the park.
- It's a great place for ice fishing, a very popular activity.

## Our partners

- Colorado River Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Colorado Sportsman's Wildlife Fund
- Numerous local school districts
- Farmer's Irrigation Company
- Silt Water Conservancy District

## Challenges we face

- Harvey Gap is isolated and interaction with park staff is limited. Visitors must purchase a park pass via a self-service station only.
- The park has become very popular, particularly on the weekends, and finding available parking and resource protection can be a challenge for staff.

## Volunteer activities

- Volunteers help with maintenance work at the park.



DUSTIN DOSKOCIL/CPW

# Harvey Gap State Park

5775 Highway 325, Rifle, CO 81650  
(970) 625-1607 • Email: rifle.gap.park@state.co.us  
Park Manager: Brian Palcer

As of July 1, 2022

## Manager's Message

Smallmouth bass, northern pike, trout, perch and tiger muskie are all highly sought-after fish. In addition, many anglers visit Harvey Gap at night to see if they can land one of our large channel catfish. We have seen a surge in paddlesports at the park. Please be respectful of one another and have the required safety equipment.

### Geography

Region: Northwest  
County: Garfield  
Year Acquired: 1981  
Elevation: 6,400 ft  
Miles From Denver: 182

### Acreage

Total Acres: 304

### Governmental

US Cong Dist: 3<sup>rd</sup>  
CO Senate: 8<sup>th</sup>  
CO House: 57<sup>th</sup>

### Employees

Permanent: 6  
Temporary: 13

### Annual Visitation

FY 22: ~60,000

### Facilities

Boat Ramps  
30 Picnic Sites  
Visitor Center (at Rifle Gap)

### Roads

Unpaved: 0.2 miles

### Recreation

Boating  
Cross Country Skiing  
Fishing  
Hunting  
Ice Fishing  
Ice Skating  
Picnicking  
Ranger/Nature Programs  
Sailboarding  
Snowshoeing  
Snowtubing  
Swimming  
Wildlife/Bird Viewing

