

Highline Lake State Park



Who we are

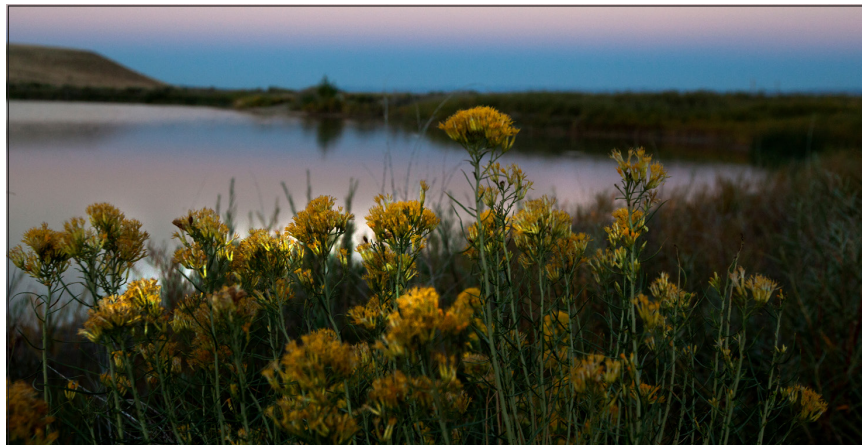
Colorado Parks and Wildlife utilizes the principles of conservation - the wise use of natural resources - to effectively manage fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, camping, motorized and non-motorized trails, boating and outdoor education for the citizens of Colorado and its visitors. Highline Lake State Park is the only reservoir in the Grand Valley that offers motorized boating, water skiing and jetskiing opportunities. The park is also popular for fishing and swimming, and many visitors use Highline Lake State Park as a camping base for mountain biking and river rafting. Large shade trees and turf grass areas offer a pleasant place to rest and cool off from the summer heat after a hard day of playing. Beginning in September, small game and waterfowl hunting is allowed on weekdays. There are also great bird watching opportunities year-round.

Top attractions

- The park is the center for water sports in the Grand Valley.
- The shady picnic sites and campsites at the park provide a very pleasant experience for visitors.
- The park provides easy access to many renowned mountain biking trails and is widely used by mountain bikers who want to camp.
- The park is a birdwatcher's paradise, with over 200 species of birds identified within the park.
- Highline is the venue of major, extreme sports races, including the 18 Hours of Fruita mountain bike race, and the Desert's Edge Triathlon.

Our partners

- Over the Edge Sports
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Friends of Highline Lake
- Grand Valley Water Users



KEN PAPALEO/CPW

Challenges we face

- With the recent infestation of Zebra mussels at Highline Lake our challenge now is to attempt to eradicate, if possible, as well as to attempt to protect other bodies of water in Colorado by increasing staff workload to decontaminate all boats leaving.
- With the purchase of the newly acquired 168 acres, we now face challenges getting funding to develop this new property to increase capacity as well as hiring additional employees to assist with the increased capacity.
- The park reaches carrying capacity most weekends during the summer, resulting in delays for boaters and occasionally in closure of the park due to lack of parking.

Volunteer activities

- The campground host program is critical to the campground operation at the park.
- Volunteers also help in the Visitor Center, with the maintenance program, with raptor monitoring, and as trail hosts. Their service is vital to the overall park operation.

Highline Lake State Park

1800 11.8 Road, Loma, CO 81524
(970) 858-7208 • Email: highline.park@state.co.us
Park Manager: Alan Martinez

As of July 1, 2022



KEN PALLEO/CPW

Manager's message

Highline Lake is an oasis in the desert. As the only water-based recreation area in the Grand Valley, the lake and day use area are at capacity most weekends during the summer. If you plan on camping at Highline Lake on weekends, make sure to make reservations 6 months in advance, as the campground is full every weekend from mid-March through the end of October. Weekday use makes it easier to find a campsite and enjoy the beautiful campsites that have turf grass and large shade trees. If you get the opportunity, come out and visit during the weekdays when you will have the park mostly to yourself.

Geography

Region: Northwest
County: Mesa
Year Acquired: 1966
Elevation (ft): 4,700
Miles From Denver: 264

Acreage

Total Acres: 738

Governmental

US Cong Dist: 3rd
CO Senate: 7th
CO House: 54th

Employees

Permanent: 5
Temporary: 13
Volunteers (FY 22): 32
Volunteer Hours (FY 22): 7,563

Annual Visitation

FY 22: ~190,000

Facilities

2 Boat Ramps
Duck Blinds
Dump Station
Fishing Pier
Group Picnic Area
Laundry
105 Picnic Sites
Playground Area
Showers
Visitor Center
Wedding Facilities

Trails

Biking: 9.6 miles
Hiking: 9.6 miles
Horseback: 3.5 miles
Cross Country Skiing/
Snowshoeing: 9.6 miles
Total: 9.6 miles

Roads

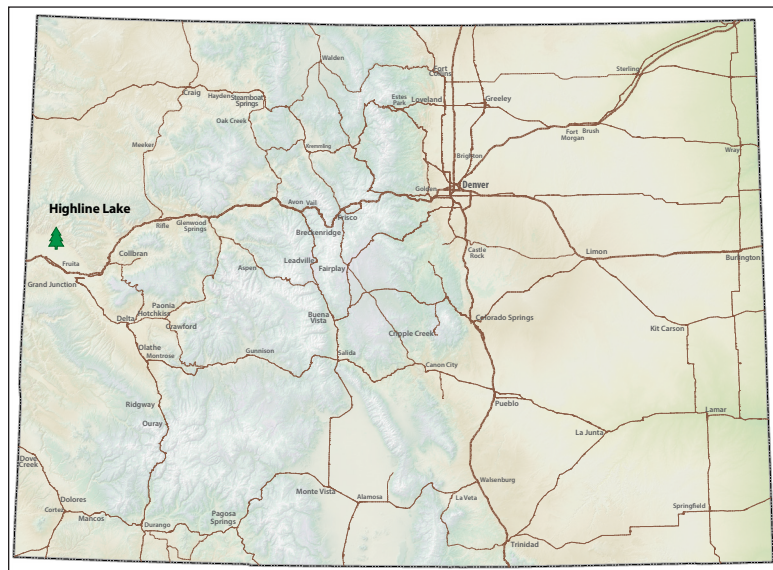
Paved: 2.5 miles
Unpaved: 0.3 miles

Recreation

Boating
Fishing
Geocaching
Hunting
Ice Fishing
Ice Skating
Jet Skiing
Picnicking
Ranger/Nature Programs
Sailboarding
Swimming
Water Skiing
Wildlife/Bird Viewing
Winter Camping
Paddleboarding

Camping

Campsites (basic, year-round): 36
Group Facilities (year round)



KEN PALLEO/CPW