

# Lathrop State Park



## Who we are

Nestled in the shadow of the legendary Spanish Peaks, Lathrop State Park is one of Colorado's oldest state parks. The park opened in 1962 after Colorado State Parks' first director, Harold Lathrop, acquired the property. The park's gentle climate, beautiful campsites, excellent fishing, water recreation, unique geology and scenic views attract travelers and visitors from near and far.

## Top attractions

- Lathrop features the only golf course (which also has miniature golf and a restaurant) in the state park system.
- The paved three-mile Cuerno Verde trail is ideal for bicycles, wheelchairs, skates, strollers and walkers, and the one-and-a-half mile Hogback Trail provides beautiful views of the park, the Spanish Peaks and the plains of the Walsenburg area.
- Lathrop is the only state park that has two lakes, each providing a different type of user opportunity. Martin Lake is an excellent warm water fishery and allows for water recreation such as tubing, waterskiing and jet skiing. Horseshoe Lake offers wildlife-based use such as fishing and hunting. Horseshoe Lake features world-class fishing for the elusive tiger muskie. Horseshoe allows wakeless boating only, which makes it a perfect water experience for kayaks, canoes and paddle boards.
- Group camping facilities, with electric hookups, volleyball and horseshoes, are located along the shoreline of Martin Lake.
- There are two campgrounds with 82 electric sites and 21 non-electric sites.
- The swim beach features expanded swim and sand areas, nearby parking, a restroom, a change room and a wash station.

## Our partners

- Walsenburg City Government and Water Department
- Colorado State Forest Service and Division of Fire Prevention and Control
- San Isabel Electric Association
- Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center
- Huerfano County Sheriff's Department and Emergency Services
- Huerfano County Government
- Colorado State Patrol
- Walsenburg Golf Course
- Southern Colorado Hunting Retriever Club
- Le Veta Trails
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)
- State Land Board

## Challenges we face

- Controlling invasive species in the park, including Eurasian watermilfoil, Ips bark beetle and invasive plant species such as Russian olive, thistle and clover requires continuous effort.
- Keeping the park's lakes free of aquatic nuisance species (ANS), such as zebra mussels also remains a challenge. Thanks to the joint efforts of the CPW ANS program and the boating public, the waters within the park have not become infested.
- Camping has become more popular in recent years and our campgrounds are fully-booked months in advance for every weekend through the summer. We are looking at ways to provide camping opportunities to our visitors who plan months in advance as well as those who would like to go last minute. We have adapted our reservation system to give visitors an opportunity to book their own sites, and we are promoting camping opportunities for weekday camping when there are more available sites. Funding limitations, protection of our natural resources, and risk of overcrowding the park are reasons that building new campgrounds is not the first choice for resolving this challenge.

## Volunteer Activities

- During our peak seasons, four camp hosts oversee campground reservations and greet campers. Work campers also help clean restrooms and collect trash each summer.
- Young volunteers from the Mile High Youth Corps work in the field, and other dedicated volunteers help sell passes in the Visitor Center, report bird activity in the raptor monitoring program and remove invasive species of trees.



CHRIS STARK/CPW

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Park Manager: Stacey Koury

As of July 1, 2022

## Manager's Message

Lathrop State Park is steeped in tradition. Even before the two lakes opened as a state park in 1962, visitors would return each year to fish the shores of Martin and Horseshoe Lakes as long ago as the early 1900's. Today, we see visitors returning every year who tell us they bring their children and grandchildren because there are so many activities for every age group in the family. While fishing is still the main attraction, visitors also enjoy the large campsites, the 9-hole golf course, hiking, biking, an archery range, and two lakes for both motorized and non-motorized boating. Hunters, kayakers, and bird-watchers find a more wildlife-based experience around the shores of Horseshoe Lake. Children stay busy at the swim beach, junior ranger and interpretive programs, free bicycle rental, and miniature golf. Spring, fall, and weekdays are great times to visit the park when there are more campsites available. We invite anyone who has not been to Lathrop yet to start your own traditions at our park.

### Geography

Region: Southeast  
County: Huerfano  
Year Acquired: 1961  
Elevation: 6,400 ft  
Miles From Denver: 165

### Acreage

Total Acres: 1,451

### Governmental

US Cong Dist: 3<sup>rd</sup>  
CO Senate: 35<sup>th</sup>  
CO House: 47<sup>th</sup>

### Annual Visitation

FY 22: ~135,000

### Employees

Permanent: 5  
Temporary: 12.5  
Volunteers (FY 22): 17  
Volunteer Hours (FY 22): 2,253

### Facilities

Archery Range  
2 Boat Ramps  
Dump Station  
Golf Course  
40 Picnic Sites  
Restaurant  
Showers (coin-operated)  
Swim Beach  
Visitor Center  
2 Playgrounds

### Roads

Paved: 7.7 miles  
Unpaved: 3 miles

### Trails

Biking: 8 miles  
Hiking: 3 miles  
Horseback: 1.3 miles  
Cross Country Skiing/  
Snowshoeing: 3 miles  
Total: 8 miles

### Recreation

Archery  
Boating  
Fishing  
Golf/Miniature Golf  
Hiking/Biking  
Hunting  
Jet Skiing  
Picnicking  
Ranger/Nature Programs  
Paddleboarding/Kayaking/Canoeing  
Swimming  
Water Skiing/Tubing  
Wildlife/Bird Viewing  
Winter Camping

### Camping

Campsites (basic, seasonal): 21  
Campsites (electrical, year-round): 82  
Group Facilities (seasonal): 3

