

# North Sterling State Park

## Geohunt



## Family Activity

### On to the trail!

“In every walk with

**Directions:** Start at the Visitor Center. Answer each question in order with answers from the green box. You can often find clues to the answer at each location. All coordinate locations are accessible by trail on foot and are close to roadways and parking areas.

**Using a personal GPS unit:** Fill in the blank spots in the coordinates with the **numbers** next to the answer to guide you to the next location.

**Using North Sterling's GPS unit:** Match the **letter** of the answer to the saved waypoints in the GPS unit.

---

---

**#1:** I am a large predatory fish orange vertical stripes. Watch out for my sharp teeth!

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Next:** N 40°47.242' / W 103°\_5.\_48'

**#2:** I lived here around 10,000 years ago, but I am more related to the rhinoceros family than cattle.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Next:** N 40°47.199' / W 103°15.96\_'

**#3:** The men who built the original dam at Point of Rocks Reservoir hauled dirt and rock for miles. When they brought this equipment with them, they were paid 25 cents extra.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Next:** N 40°46.597' / W 103°\_ \_ .308'

nature, one receives far more than he seeks.” - John Muir

**#4:** The rangers want to keep kids safe on the water.  
What do kids under 13 have to wear when they are out on the lake in a boat ?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Next:** N 40°46.71' / W 103°16.339'

**#5:** I live in a town with a HUGE family, but you'll only see three or four of us at a time . I spend the rest of my time underground in burrows and tunnels.  
HINT: Look in the field to the east.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Next:** N 40°46.6' / W 103°16.446'

**#6:** This nocturnal bird often hunts for mice and small rodents in this area, because the water and trees provide good habitat. The bird's name comes from its large size and tall feathered 'ear' tufts.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Next:** N 40°46.4' / W 103°16.867'

**#7:** This large bird of prey is often visible in the skies of Sterling in the summer, looking for any carrion or easy prey. The bird's soaring V-shape is very distinctive, but it is not very handsome up close.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Next:** N 40°45.79' / W 103°16.463'

**#8:** You're standing in the shade of this kind of tree, which commonly grows tall at the edges of waterways on the plains, and spreads seeds through a white fluffy substance that floats on the wind.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Next:** N 40°45.58' / W 103°17.947'

**#9:** This wild relative of the dog often hunts alone for small game like mice, rabbits, and birds, and is sometimes mistaken for a wolf or a fox by the untrained eye.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Next:** N 40°45.781' / W 103°18.8'

**#10:** This natural force shapes and changes the shoreline and landscape by removing dirt, soil, and rock from one location and depositing it somewhere else. HINT: Walk down to the shore.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last:** N 40°47.30' / W 103°15.933'

**A-1:** Turkey vulture

**K-11:** Shovels/pickaxes

**B-2:** Badger

**L-12:** Great Horned Owl

**C-3:** Life jackets

**M-13:** Northern Pike

**D-4:** Ammonite

**N-14:** Coyote

**E-5:** Anchors

**O-15:** Bald Eagle

**F-6:** Water erosion

**P-16:** Mules/horses/carts

**G-7:** Cottonwood

**Q-17:** Blue Spruce

**H-8:** Brontothere

**R-18:** Prairie dog

**I-9:** Snowy Owl

**S-19:** Tiger Muskie

**J-10:** Dingo

**T-20:** Volcanic eruption

**For your safety and enjoyment, please follow all park rules & regulations during your visit.**

## About the Geohunt

*This geohunt is an adaptation of traditional "geocaching" - a technological scavenger hunt. Challenge your knowledge and observation skills to solve clues and learn the next set of GPS coordinates to explore North Sterling State Park!*

**Estimated completion time: 2 hours (leisurely)**

## What You'll Need to Bring

North Sterling State Park consists of both groomed trails and rough terrain. Visitors with physical limitations should use caution when participating in this activity. All visitors should be prepared for changing weather conditions and should observe safe conduct at all times. The following is a suggested list of items for a family to bring for this activity on a typical hot summer afternoon:

- **Water—at least 1 liter per person!**
- **Snacks**
- **Sunscreen**
- **Insect Repellent**
- **Sunglasses**
- **Ballcap/brimmed hat**
- **Sturdy shoes**
- **GPS Unit**
- **Binoculars**
- **Camera**
- **Park map/brochure**
- **Cell phone:**  
Emergency - 911  
Park Office -  
(970) 522-3657

## Important Rules to Remember

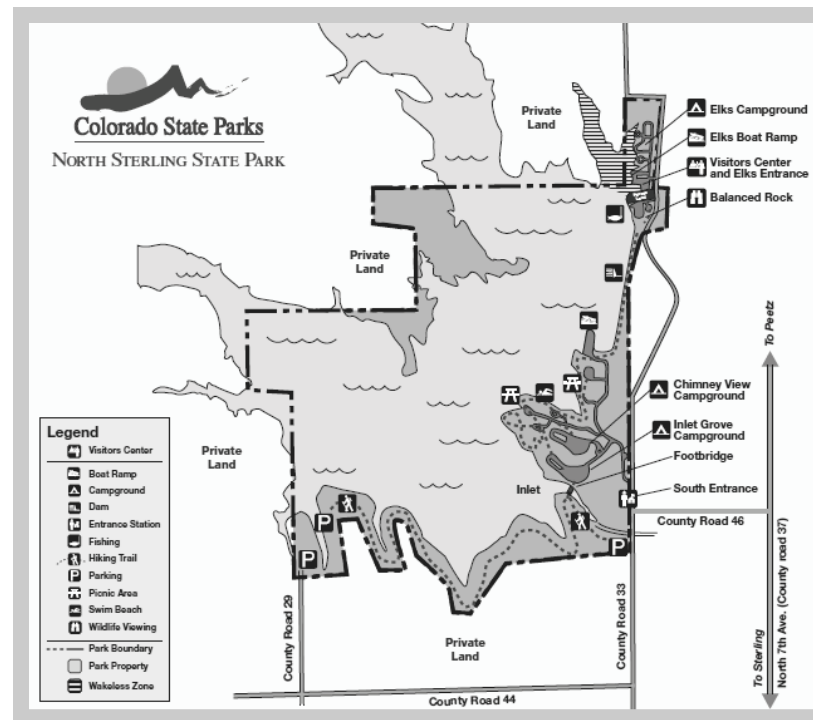
Stay safe - never go off by yourself, and stay with family or friends!



Be careful to leave no trace - take only memories, leave only footprints.



Please leave wildlife alone—including snakes. Remember, you're visiting **their** home.



## **Fun Facts About North Sterling State Park**

- **Elevation:** 4065 feet - taller than most of Vermont's Green Mountain range!
- **Reservoir capacity:** 2880 surface acres of water—that's 74590 acre-feet, or 24,113,005 gallons!!
- **Ratio of full-time staff to visitors:** 1:45,000
- The dam forming "Point of Rocks" Reservoir was finished on August 16, 1911 at a cost of \$2,019,293 - nearly **46 million dollars today!**