

North Sterling State Park



Who we are

Majestic bluffs and expansive views along with diverse wildlife viewing opportunities provide a memorable recreational experience at North Sterling State Park. This boater's paradise offers nearly 3,000 acres of pristine waters, providing an interesting array of coves for visitors to explore. The large, deep reservoir provides water-based activities throughout the summer months, even in drought years. The park offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities, including hiking and biking trails, stargazing, horseback riding, fishing, boating, picnicking, archery and hunting.

Top attractions

- Cottonwood Cove Swim Beach and pavilion
- Excellent warm water fishing opportunities
- More than six miles of trail along reservoir shore line
- Excellent star gazing opportunities
- Camping, boating, water skiing, sailing and windsurfing opportunities
- Archery range

Our partners

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| • North Sterling Irrigation District | • Sterling Elks Lodge #1336 |
| • Colorado State Land Board | • Sterling Boat Club |
| • GOCO | • Northeastern Junior College |
| • Colorado Parks Foundation | • Sterling Correctional Facilities, Department of Corrections |
| • City of Sterling | • Bayside Boat Club |
| • PJ Marina | • North Sterling Boat Rental and Charters, LLC |
| • U.S. Bureau of Land Management | |

Challenges we face

- High irrigation demands, which drop the reservoir's water level in late summer
- Aging infrastructure on the north end of the park, including the park office and visitor center – construction of a new office and maintenance facility on the south end of the park would be in line with the park's master plan
- ADA access to the water for fishing with a lake level that fluctuates an average of 35 vertical feet each year



VERDON TOMAJKO/CPW

Volunteer activities

- Volunteer camp hosts help answer questions and keep the park clean during the summer.
- Volunteers plant and transplant trees that will hopefully increase shade and wind protection in the future.
- Volunteers from Northeast Junior College sponsor stargazing parties in the spring and fall for park visitors, using large telescopes provided by the group.

North Sterling State Park

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(970) 522-3657 • Email: north.sterling.park@state.co.us
Park Manager: David Piper

As of July 1, 2022

Manager's Message

Park staff is excited about the new enhancements to the park. We have made changes to the swim beach shoreline to prevent erosion issues we have faced for years. In doing so we added stairs at both the swim beach and overflow areas to allow easier access to the water. We added another camp host site on the north end of the park in the Elks Campground. This camp host site will allow us to increase our volunteer numbers at the park and better serve the public. All campsites are now 50 amp electrical sites. We have also added a volleyball court and a crossnet volleyball court and additional shade shelters will be coming soon. We are also working to add additional shade structures at the south boat ramp.

While North Sterling is mostly known for its summer recreational opportunities, such as boating, fishing and camping, we also offer great recreational opportunities in the fall and winter, such as hunting, ice fishing and wildlife viewing. If you are looking for bald eagles, we generally have anywhere from 40 - 60 of them from December to February. If you want to stay for a few days outside of summer, our Elks Campground is open year round.

Geography

Region: Northeast
County: Logan
Year Acquired: 1988
Elevation: 4,065 ft
Miles From Denver: 137

Acreage

Total Acres: 5,022

Governmental

US Cong Dist: 4th
CO Senate: 1st
CO House: 63rd

Employees

Permanent: 5
Temporary: 17
Volunteers (FY 22): 5
Volunteer Hours (FY 22): 1,344

Annual Visitation

FY 22: ~210,000

Facilities

Amphitheater
Archery Range
2 Boat Ramps
2 Dump Stations
2 Group Picnic Areas
2 Laundry Facilities
Marina (summer only)
Mooring/Docking
38 Picnic Sites
Playground Area
2 Showers
Swim Beach
Visitor Center

Trails

Biking: 6.4 miles Hiking:
6.4 miles Horseback: 3
miles Cross Country
Skiing/
Snowshoeing: 6.4 miles
Total: 6.4 miles

Roads

Paved: 1.9 miles
Unpaved: 3.7 miles

Recreation

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

Camping

Campsites (electrical, seasonal): 91
Campsites (electrical, year-round): 50

