

Ridgway State Park



Who we are

Nestled at the base of the spectacular San Juan Mountains in southwestern Colorado, Ridgway State Park is truly an outdoor recreation paradise. The park offers camping with facilities for comfort and convenience. Natural surface trails pass through the piñon/juniper forests and onto mesas offering spectacular views of the surrounding mountain peaks. Ridgway's great outdoors provide views of the towering Sneffels Range, known as the "Switzerland of America." Ridgway is also one of the nation's most accessible recreation areas, with universally accessible picnic, swimbeach, camping and hiking areas.



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Top attractions

- Camping, hiking, boating, paddle sports, fishing, and sightseeing

Our partners

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Bureau of Reclamation • Colorado Department of Transportation • Uncompahgre Trail Riders • Friends of Ridgway State Park • Colorado State Patrol • Colorado Workforce Center • Ouray County Government • School District: RE1J, R-2, R-1 and 50J • U.S. Forest Service • Tri-County Water Conservancy District | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Ridgway • U.S. Bureau of Land Management • Colorado State Forest Service • Telluride Adaptive Sports Program • Gunnison Gorge Anglers • Chambers of Commerce: Ridgway, Ouray and Montrose • Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Bird Conservancy of the Rockies • Colorado Alliance for Environmental | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth groups: Boy Scouts and Voyager • Blue Mesa National Recreation Area Education • Black Canyon Audubon • Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation • GOCO • Friends of Colorado State Parks • Friends of Youth and Nature • Ute Indian Museum |
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Challenges we face

- Park facilities are showing signs of age after nearly 30 years of use. Addressing the deterioration and extending the useful service life of facilities requires adequate funds.
- Recreational trends are changing, particularly on the water and on trails. Accommodating a variety of user groups without conflicts and ensuring resource protection is a challenge.
- There is limited funding for increased utility costs as well as competitive wages.
- The lack of and cost of area housing for both full time and seasonal employees significantly impacts recruitment and retention of a quality park workforce..



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Volunteer Activities

- Volunteers are essential to Ridgway State Park.
- Primary volunteer activities include the Friends of Ridgway State Park, campground hosts, visitor service staff, education and maintenance.

Ridgway State Park

28555 Highway 550, Ridgway, CO 81432
(970) 626-5822 • Email: ridgway.park@state.co.us
Park Manager: John Freeborn

As of July 1, 2022

DUSTIN DOSKOCIL/CPI

Manager's Message

Ridgway State Park is located in a beautiful setting and offers many activities, including swimming, hiking, fishing, boating, paddle sports, biking, and camping. The park is also near many regional attractions, such as Black Canyon of the Gunnison and Mesa Verde National Parks. At Ridgway, we want to create a safe world-class recreational experience for our visitors while enhancing and protecting the resources in the park.

Geography

Region: Southwest
County: Ouray
Year Acquired: 1989
Elevation: 7,000 ft
Miles From Denver: 280

Acreage

Total Acres: 3,201

Governmental

US Cong Dist: 3rd
CO Senate: 6th
CO House: 58th

Employees

Permanent: 9
Temporary: 24
Volunteers (FY 22): 103
Volunteer Hours (FY 22): 21,910

Annual Visitation

FY 22: ~550,000

Facilities

Boat Ramp
Campgrounds
Dump Station
ANS Inspection & Decontamination Station
Equipment Rental
2 Fish Cleaning Stations
Fishing Piers
3 Group Picnic Areas
Laundry
Flush Restrooms
Marina/Mooring/Docking/Slips
50 Picnic Sites
Playground Areas
Shower Buildings
Group Event Facility
Swim Beach
Visitor Center
Wedding and Event Facilities

Trails

Biking: 14 miles
Hiking: 15.6 miles
Cross Country Skiing/
Snowshoeing: 4 miles
Total: 15.6 miles

Roads

Paved: 16.3 miles
Unpaved: 0.1

Recreation

Boating
Fishing
Geocaching
Hunting
Jet Skiing
Paddle Boarding
Kayaking
Sailing
Photography
Picnicking
Ranger/Nature Programs
Sailboarding
Snowtubing
Swimming
Volleyball
Water Skiing
Wildlife/Bird Viewing
Winter Camping
Mountain biking
Hiking
Walking
Watchable wildlife
TrackChairs

Camping

Yurts (year-round): 3
Campsites (basic, seasonal): 25
Campsites (basic, year-round): 15
Campsites (electrical, seasonal): 187
Campsites (electrical, year-round): 51
Campsites (full-hookup, seasonal): 85

