# 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.

### Top attractions

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

### Our partners

- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Uncompangre 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

- 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



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

## Challenges we face

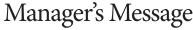
- Park facilities are showing signs of age after nearly 30 years of use. Addressing the deterioration and extending the useful service life of facilities requires adequate funds.
- Recreational trends are changing, particularly on the water and on trails. Accommodating a variety of user groups without 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..

### 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.



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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: 3<sup>rd</sup> CO Senate: 6<sup>th</sup> CO House: 58<sup>th</sup>

#### **Employees**

Permanent: 9
Temporary: 24
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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

