

# Yampa River State Park



## Who we are

Colorado Parks and Wildlife utilizes the principles of conservation - the wise use of natural resources - to effectively manage fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, camping, motorized and non-motorized trails, boating and outdoor education for the citizens of Colorado and its visitors. Located in the Yampa Valley west of Steamboat Springs, Yampa River State Park offers visitors a wonderful mix of scenery, nature, outdoor recreation, wildlife viewing and adventure. Yampa River State Park is home to some of the most biologically intact cottonwood riparian systems in the western United States. The park offers access to 134 miles of the Yampa River where fishing and boating opportunities abound. Access to national forest lands and U.S. Bureau of Land Management recreation areas are a short drive away. There are also camping opportunities in a variety of beautiful settings, ranging from basic sites to those with amenities, such as electric hookups and shower facilities.

## Top attractions

- Providing public access to the Yampa River at 8 access sites from Steamboat Springs to the Utah border
- Camping experiences from basic to improved amenities in a variety of settings
- Access to large areas of public land for hunting, fishing, Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails and horseback riding
- Centrally located between Rocky Mountain National Park and Dinosaur National Monument
- A variety of popular winter recreation activities, including a 1.5 mile groomed trail used for fat tire biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing, as well as an ice skating rink with free ice skate rentals



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## Our partners

- Routt County
- Moffat County
- Town of Hayden
- City of Steamboat
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- State Land Board
- U.S. National Park Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- Yampa Valley Land Trust
- Friends of the Yampa
- Property Landowners: State of Colorado, other governmental agencies, private landowners

## Challenges we face

- Our challenge lies in the education and oversight of a new and ever growing user base in regards to river recreation. We need to work closely with river users, private landowners and community officials to address and manage issues in a proactive manner.
- We face a challenge in trying to increase visitation and compete with private sector operations that appeal to the public. To address this challenge, we need additional amenities such as internet access, campsites with full hook-ups and cabin rental opportunities.

## Volunteer activities

- Our volunteer program has a strong focus on customer service and visitor enjoyment. Our campground hosts work diligently to greet visitors, clean sites/facilities and be a resource to all visitors.
- Yampa River State Park utilizes local volunteers to host and staff special events occurring in the park, including interpretive events, educational classes and community outreach events.

# Yampa River State Park

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Park Manager: Jacob Dewhirst

As of July 1, 2022



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## Manager's Message

Yampa River State Park continues to see increased visitation as recreationalists search for novel ways to spend their leisure time. The Yampa River State Park access sites provide much needed access to the treasure of this wild and free river in an environment where public access is limited and in high demand. Visitors of all types can enjoy the variety of amenities offered, along with the different recreational opportunities that exist in the area. Staff continue to offer new ways to reach visitors, particularly those in the local communities, by providing opportunities for recreation and environmental education at the park.

### Geography

Region: Northwest  
County: Routt and Moffat  
Year Acquired: 1997  
Elevation: 6,300 ft  
Miles From Denver: 184

### Acreage

Total Acres: 163

### Governmental

US Cong Dist: 2<sup>nd</sup>  
CO Senate: 8<sup>th</sup>  
CO House: 26<sup>th</sup>

### Employees

Permanent: 5  
Temporary: 7  
Volunteers (FY 22): 39  
Volunteer Hours (FY 22): 1,174

### Annual Visitation

FY 22: ~150,000

### Facilities

8 Boat Ramps  
Conference Rooms  
Dump Station  
Group Picnic Area  
Laundry  
35 Picnic Sites  
Showers  
Visitor Center  
Wedding Facilities  
Amphitheater

### Trails

Biking: 1.5 miles  
Hiking: 1.5 miles  
Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing:  
1.5 miles  
Total: 1.5 miles

### Roads

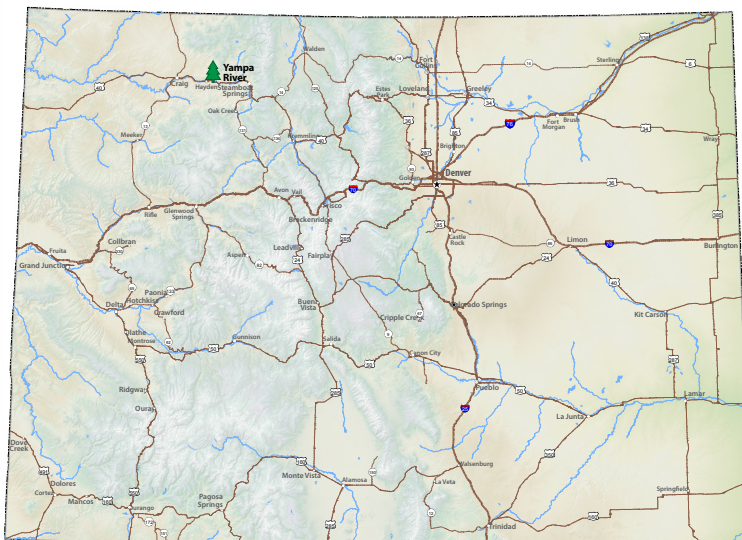
Paved: 0.1 mile  
Unpaved: 1.2 miles

### Recreation

Boating  
Fishing  
Ice Skating  
Cross-country skiing  
Picnicking  
Ranger/Nature Programs  
Volleyball  
Whitewater Rafting  
Wildlife/Bird viewing

### Camping

Tipis (seasonal): 2  
Campsites (basic, seasonal): 11  
Campsites (electrical, seasonal): 31  
Primitive River Access Campsites: 16



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