

## Carrying Capacity

Due to Cherry Creek State Park's convenient location, it experiences high use on summer weekends and holidays. A carrying capacity (the maximum number of boats and vehicles allowed in the park) is enforced to protect park users, prevent resource damage and provide an enjoyable experience for visitors. Arrive at the park early on weekends or visit on weekdays and evenings to avoid waiting to use the park.

## Help Protect Our Natural Resources

We need your help to do your part by sharing the park and respecting other users. Complete park and boating regulations are available at park entrances. Visit cpw. state.co.us for more information about Cherry Creek and all 42 Colorado state parks.

- 1. Motor vehicles must remain on designated roads or in parking areas.
- 2. Dogs must be kept on a leash not exceeding 6 feet in length, except in the Dog Off Leash Area, and under control at all times.
- 3. Pets and glass are not allowed on the swim beach.
- 4. Camp only in the Campground at designated sites.
- 5. Fires are allowed only in grills and in the fire rings provided at campsites.
- 6. Speed limits are strictly enforced.
- 7. You must pick up after yourself and your pets and place waste in a proper container. Littering is unhealthy, unsightly and illegal.

#### Outdoor Risks

Expect other users, changing conditions and wildlife. Be prepared and responsible for your own safety.

#### Contact Us

For comments or additional information including temporary employment and volunteer opportunities please contact us at:



#### Cherry Creek State Park

4201 South Parker Road • Aurora, CO 80014 Phone: (303) 690-1166 • Fax: (303) 699-3864 E-mail: cherry.creek.park@state.co.us

cpw.state.co.us









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## Cherry Creek State Park

Over 2 million visitors each year can't be wrong! Cherry Creek State Park is an oasis in the Denver metro area for boaters, fishermen, campers, bicyclists, equestrians, swimmers, hikers and picnickers alike.

The recreational opportunities are unlimited at this 4,200-acre park. There's excitement on the 850-acre reservoir with water-skiers and boaters. Yet solitude can be found fishing in a cove or walking the nature trails. For the most relaxing visit, try the park on weekdays or evenings.

The views are pretty spectacular, too. During the summer, colorful masts from sailboats dot the lake against a backdrop of the Rockies. It's a unique place. It offers a fast getaway for city dwellers to unwind. It provides a place to learn about nature and a place to have a family picnic.

Then there is the unexpected—herds of white-tailed and mule deer, coyotes, foxes, pheasant, rabbits and a wonderful variety of resident and migratory birds.

The dam at Cherry Creek State Park was built in 1950 by the Army Corps of Engineers to prevent flooding in Denver. The early wagon train travelers on the Smoky Hill Trail that cuts through Cherry Creek could not have imagined that this rolling prairie studded with yucca would become such an important natural resource to the people of Colorado.



#### Park Passes

All vehicles entering the park are required to display a current Colorado State Parks pass on the windshield. Daily or annual passes are available. Passes are valid at any Colorado state park. Save time and buy online by visiting **cpwshop.com** and to see if you qualify for a discounted pass. Passes are also available at park entrances and self-service dispensers. Only Colorado Disabled Veteran (DV) license plates are admitted free without a pass.

## Water Quality Surcharge

Cherry Creek will charge an additional fee which goes to the Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority. Daily passes include this surcharge. The funds from the surcharge are used to improve the water quality in the Cherry Creek basin and reservoir.

## Camping

The park's 140 campsites offer visitors convenient year-

round, full hook-up and basic camping. A sewage dump station is also available across from the campground entrance to visitors with camping permits. Pay showers and laundry facilities are located nearby. Quiet hours are observed within



the campground from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Campsites can be reserved 24 hours/day online at **cpwshop.com** or by calling **1-800-244-5613**.

# Nature Study

Enter the enchanting and educational world of nature study through the interpretive programs led by park rangers at areas throughout the park. Call the park office for information and reservations. Bird, plant and wildlife guides are available at iNaturalist.org or on the iNaturalist app for Android and iPhone.

# Facilities for People with Disabilities

Special facilities to accommodate persons with disabilities are located at the fishing access areas, campground, swim beach and group picnic sites. Parking for visitors with disabilities is designated throughout the park.

# Fishing

Anglers head out to the park to catch trout, walleye, bass, wipers and more. The Tower Loop area near the dam is a popular spot, as well as the quiet south end of the reservoir. State record walleye have been caught at the reservoir. Lake zoning maps and copies of Colorado boating and fishing regulations are available at the park office.

## **Boating/Water Sports**

Public boat launching ramps are conveniently located near the east and west park entrances. The best way to have fun on your boat is the safe way—know your safety equipment requirements and boating regulations. Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) boat inspections are mandatory prior to launching boats.

#### Swim Beach

The park is a gathering spot for families to soak up that Colorado sun—with a sandy beach and roped-off swimming area. Where else can you sit on a beach in



midsummer and view snow-capped peaks? There are no lifeguards, children require adult supervision. Swimming is permitted only within the designated swim beach area. The swim beach is open Memorial Day through Labor Day.

## Marina/Event Center

The Marina at Cherry Creek offers boat slips, a variety of vessels for rent and even a store for fuel and safety equipment. To see everything that the marina offers please visit pbcherrycreek.com. Just above the Marina sits the "Lake House" event center that has the perfect view for your perfect occasion. The Lake House offers a great venue for weddings, reunions or even corporate functions.

#### Model Airfield

Model airplane enthusiasts will find asphalt runways, frequency posts and field regulations for radio controlled aircraft at this area located on the west side of the park.



# Horseback Riding

Horse owners will find miles of multi-use trails for conditioning or relaxing rides with extraordinary views. Horse rental, lessons and boarding are also available. Visit 12 Mile Stables at horserentalsdenver.com for more information.

## Dog Off Leash Area

Over 100 acres in the 12 Mile Area are available for owners to exercise their dogs off leash. There is an additional fee to use the area and dogs must remain under control



at all times. Dog owners must carry a leash and waste bag for each dog. The area may be accessed from the south entrance at Parker and Orchard roads or from the north at 12 Mile North.

## Picnicking

The park offers visitors a cool place for a family outing. Shade shelters, picnic tables and grills are available to visitors throughout the park. There are also several group picnic rental areas that are the perfect outdoor venue for family reunions, business meetings, employee functions, to name a few. he picnic reservations can be made through cpwshop.com or by calling 1-800-244-5613

## **Shooting Sports**

Fixed targets for rifles and pistols, a trap area for shotguns and more can be found at The Family Shooting Center in the southern area of the park. Visit familyshootingcenter. com for more information. Hunting is not allowed within the park.

#### Winter Recreation

Cherry Creek State Park can provide special experiences for the winter outdoors enthusiast with ice fishing and cross-country skiing as conditions permit. Remember there is risk anytime you venture onto ice. Know how to judge ice conditions and always suspect thin ice.

#### Trails

The state park's extensive multi-use trail system provides a pleasurable experience year round. Please be courteous to fellow trail users. The park's trails connect to surrounding trail systems.

