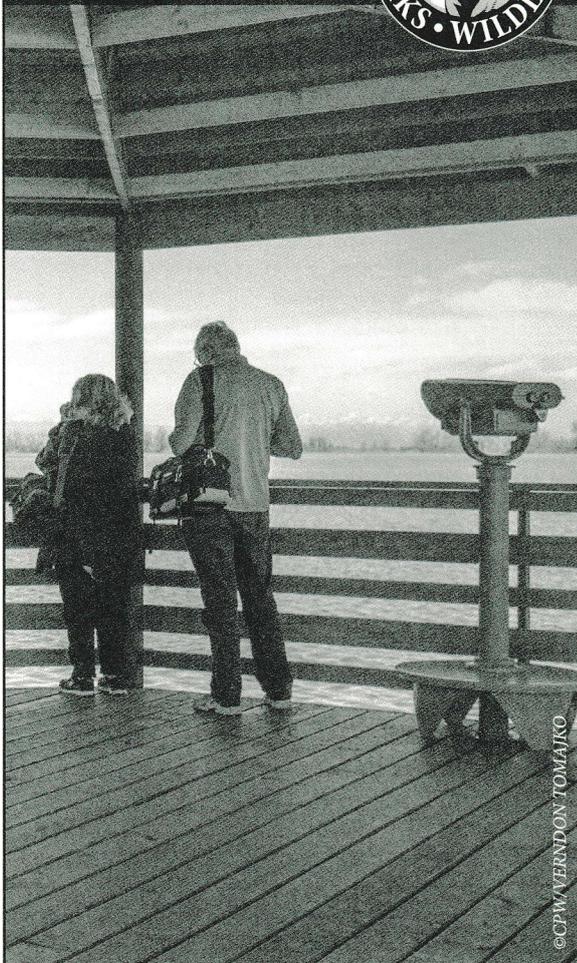


COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Barr Lake State Park

ENJOY YOUR STATE PARKS



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Barr Lake State Park provides a sanctuary for both wildlife and humans. It is a unique place to pause and re-create a kinship with nature's world.

A major prairie reservoir of over 1,900 acres forms the heart of this 2,715-acre park. The lake is lined with cottonwoods, marshes and aquatic plants, and its southern half has been designated as a wildlife refuge to shelter animals and a number and variety of birds unequalled elsewhere in Colorado.

Recreation at Barr Lake State Park takes forms that harmonize with nature. It is a park to drive to, not to drive through.

Visitors may boat, fish, hike, bicycle, horseback ride, participate in nature study, bird watch and, in winter's snows, cross-country ski.

In the late 1880s, Barr Lake was an elite outing area for sportsmen from Denver. It was touted as the "finest fishing area in the west." Later, pollution almost ruined the lake. Thankfully, laws and controls that have been in effect since the 1960s helped to stop the flow of most pollution into the lake.

Since the early 1900s, Barr Lake has been known as a premier bird-watching area. Approximately 350 species of birds have been seen at the lake, making it famous on a national and international basis. Recently, it has gained fame for hosting one of only a few successful bald eagle nests on the front range.

Management

Barr Lake is co-managed for irrigation and recreation. The lake is owned and operated by the Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Company (FRICO). The Denver-Hudson Canal, which runs along the eastern edge of Barr Lake, is owned and operated by the Henrylyn Irrigation District. Each company owns the respective land under the lake and canal, the water in them, and the irrigation control structures around them. Presently, the water in Barr Lake is stored and used for downstream irrigation purposes while recreational uses are secondary. The water in the canal by-passes the lake and fills Henrylyn irrigation reservoirs downstream.

Colorado State Parks opened Barr Lake State Park in 1977 and manages recreational activities through perpetual easements with FRICO and the Henrylyn Irrigation District.

Park Passes

All visitors entering a Colorado state park are required to display a current Colorado State Parks Pass, issued by vehicle, on their auto windshield.



A **daily pass** is valid from the day purchased until noon the following day. An **annual pass** is valid at any Colorado State Park. For annual pass holders who own more than one vehicle, multiple passes are available for a reduced fee. Passes are available at the park entrance and Nature Center. Daily passes are also available at the self-service station.

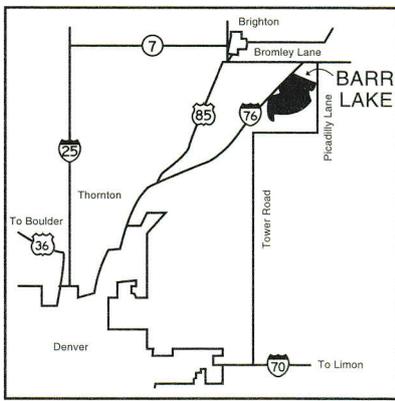
Colorado residents 64 years of age and over qualify for a special **Aspen Leaf** annual pass, available at a discounted rate. Colorado disabled veterans displaying Colorado Disabled Veteran (DV) license plates are admitted free without a pass.

Park Regulations

Barr Lake State Park is maintained for your enjoyment. These regulations are enforced to protect you and the natural resources of the park.

1. The park is open daily from 5 am to 10 pm.
2. Pets must be kept under control and on a leash no longer than six feet. **Pets are not permitted in the wildlife refuge.**
3. Drive and park in designated areas only.
4. No swimming or wading is permitted.
5. Build fires only in provided grills.
6. No one is permitted on the dam face or other irrigation structures due to safety hazards.
7. Hunting and trapping are prohibited. (Exception: see the section on "Waterfowl Hunting" for information.)
8. Collecting any living or dead plants or wood or collecting any animals (wildlife, insects, etc.) is prohibited.
9. **In the wildlife refuge, in addition to the other park regulations, these special restrictions apply:** boating, fishing, pets and fires are prohibited. Visitors must remain on designated trails.

Barr Lake State Park



(152nd Ave) Bromley Lane

North Entrance

- Bruderlin Stone House
- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
- Environmental Learning Center

Work Area
(Closed to Public)

Dam
(No fishing from dam structure)

Boating & Fishing Area

(10 horsepower motors or less allowed)

Wildlife Refuge

(No boating, fishing, pets or off-trail use)

Rookery Gazebo

Gazebo Boardwalk

Fox Meadow Trail

Pioneer Boardwalk

Nature Center
Niedrach Trail
Denver & Hudson Canal

Park Entrance & Ranger Station

Cottonwood Picnic Area
Bird Banding Station

1 Mile

Buckley Road
(No Park Access)

O'Brian Canal

Tower Road



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|--|
| | Archery Range | | Rookery |
| | Boat Ramp | | 10 hp or Less Gas or Electric Trolling Motors |
| | Entrance Station | | Vegetation |
| | Self Serve Fee Station | | Wildlife Observation Station |
| | Gazebo | | Buoy Line |
| | Nature Center | | Canal |
| | Non-Motorized | | Hiking Trail |
| | Picnic Area | | Hiking Trail (This trail closed 1 hour past sunset to 1 hour prior to sunrise) |
| | Restrooms | | Park Boundary |
| | | | Roads |

Park Trails

An 8.8-mile trail follows the perimeter of the lake. Shorter walks may be made to various boardwalks extending into the lake. An easy 1.3-mile walk from the Nature Center brings visitors to the Gazebo Boardwalk where there are excellent views of the bald eagle nest and rookery.

The Niedrach Nature Trail, which begins near the Nature Center, is a short loop trail leading from the main trail through an open field, along the lake shore and across a short boardwalk over the lake.

The short Prairie Welcome Trail circles east from the Nature Center into the prairie for a little over one mile including two sections and four trailheads each featuring "Prairie Welcome Trail Self-guided Experience" guides in the trail guide box.

At the southwest end of the lake is the new Rookery-view Trail. This seasonal trail (closed, if posted) ends at a gazebo giving great views of the rookery and various raptor nests.



Hikers are encouraged to use binoculars and spotting scopes to get a closer view of the wildlife. Several wildlife observation stations have been constructed at particularly good viewing locations. These are small shelters providing screening for the viewer and shelter from the weather.

The road across the top of the dam (Crest Trail) is open to hikers and bicycles but not to horses. Horseback riders can use the lower trail below the dam. The Crest Trail is closed completely on waterfowl hunting days (Wednesdays and Saturdays from October through February). Visitors are not allowed on the dam face or on any irrigation control structure.

Bicycles and horses are permitted on the main trails but not on the boardwalks. Bicyclists are encouraged to use bikes with thorn-proof tires because the trails are not paved and thorns are prevalent. No motorized vehicles are permitted on the park's trails.

NOTE: Trail users may encounter personnel/ equipment from two irrigation companies, FRICO or Henrylyn, at various locations around the park. Please be courteous and YIELD the RIGHT-OF-WAY.

Boating

Only sailboats, hand-propelled craft and boats with electric trolling motors or gasoline motors 10 horsepower or less are permitted on Barr Lake. Boats are allowed only on the north half of the lake. The wildlife refuge is separated from the boating area by a line of buoys. A boat ramp is located adjacent to the north parking lot. Swimming, wading and diving are prohibited.

Picnicking

Barr Lake State Park has three picnic areas with tables and grills and a new reservable group picnic area, Meadowlark Picnic Pavilion, adjacent to the Nature Center, call (303) 659-6005 for more information.

Nature Study

Barr Lake State Park offers the nature enthusiast a remarkable opportunity to observe all types of wildlife, including coyote, deer and such dramatic birds as white pelicans, great blue herons, cormorants, egrets, ducks, grebes, owls, eagles and hawks. Over 350 species of birds have been seen at the park.

The Nature Center is located near the south parking lot. Funds from the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Adams County Open Space were used to construct the Nature Center, as well as many of the park's boardwalks. Visitors to the center can see displays about the park's wildlife and have their questions answered by a naturalist. Center hours vary; call (303) 659-6005 for hours and information about upcoming programs.

Park interpreters and volunteer naturalists offer interpretive programs and guided walks enabling visitors to learn about all aspects of the park from its history to the plants and wildlife that make it such a unique area.

The park serves as the headquarters for the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO). RMBO's goal is bird conservation through research and education. Its staff operates banding stations in the park and offers public programs. They can be reached by calling their office at (303) 659-4348. Visit their web site at <http://www.rmbo.org>.