



# Colorado State Parks Backgrounder

**A**ttracting over 11 million visitors per year, Colorado's 43 state parks and statewide recreation programs are a vital cornerstone of Colorado's quality of life, offering some of the highest value outdoor recreation destinations in the state. Our parks include a variety of landscapes to match the state's geography, from urban playgrounds to back-country retreats, from mountain lakes to whitewater adventure.

Colorado State Parks enable everyone, regardless of age, background, economic or social circumstance, to enjoy the state's internationally famous natural beauty and experience a wide range of activities. Park visitors and beneficiaries of State Parks' many statewide outdoor recreation programs can literally "re-create" themselves both physically and spiritually. The parks are a priceless, irreplaceable legacy for future generations. Providing that enjoyment and protecting the legacy is the core of the Colorado State Parks' mission.

Colorado State Parks manages 4037 campsites, 42 cabins and yurts, encompassing 246,000 land and water acres. Several statewide programs including Trails, Boat Safety, Commercial River Outfitter Licensing, and Registrations for vessels, snowmobiles, and off-highway vehicles are also administered through Colorado State Parks. We are an integral revenue source to Colorado's growing economy.

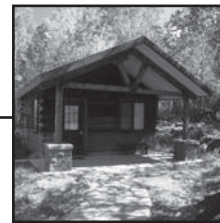


## Mission Statement

*To be leaders in providing outdoor recreation through the stewardship of Colorado's natural resources for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of present and future generations.*

## Vision Statement

*Colorado State Parks offer exceptional settings for renewal of the human spirit. Residents and visitors enjoy healthy, fun-filled interaction with the natural world, creating rich traditions with family and friends that promote stewardship of our natural resources. Parks employees and their partners work together to provide ongoing and outstanding customer service through recreational programs, amenities and services.*



## History

In 1957 the Governor appointed the first State Park and Recreation Board, and in 1959 Cherry Creek State Park was the first park to open to the public. The Colorado State Parks Board is charged with determining State Parks policy. This includes maintaining and establishing parks, adopting and enforcing Division rules and regulations, educating the public about the availability of state park facilities, and preserving the environment, water, vegetation and wildlife. The Board is comprised of five members appointed by the Governor, with four members representing the West, North, South and Metro regions of Colorado, and a fifth "at-large" member.

