



# lathrop state park

FY 06-07 PARK FACTS

## about the park

Nestled in the shadow of the legendary Spanish Peaks, Lathrop State Park's gentle climate, clear air, beautiful campsites, excellent fishing, water-skiing and great views of the nearby mountain ranges lure Colorado travelers and other visitors to the park for regular visits. The state's first state park, Lathrop is 1,596 acres of recreational enjoyment. The park has two lakes, Martin Lake and Horseshoe Lake, which offer a variety of boating and angling opportunities. The park also features year-round camping, a three-mile paved trail, group picnic shelter, swim beach and the state park system's only golf course. Stop by the Lathrop Visitor Center for a look at murals showcasing the area's rich history and heritage, and access information about the surrounding area.

**total visitation, FY 06-07**  
(July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007)  
153,925

**county**  
Huerfano

**congressional district**  
3

**state legislative districts**  
Senate 2  
House 64

**year became a state park**  
1962

**ownership**  
34% State Parks  
66% other

**land acres**  
1,184 acres

**water acres**  
412 acres

## park inventory

**miles of road**  
paved 7.7  
unpaved 3.0

**miles of trails**  
hiking 5.0  
biking 3.0

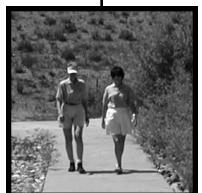
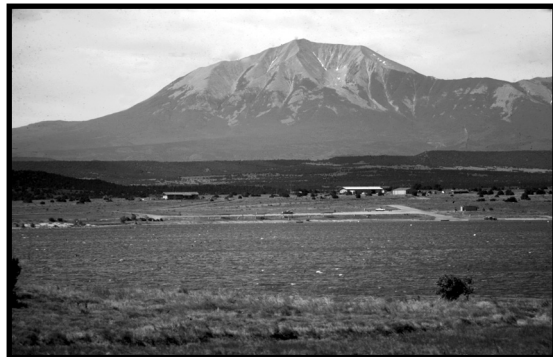
**number of boat ramps**  
3

**number of campsites**  
114

**number of picnic sites**  
40

**concessions at the park**  
Golf Course  
Rocky Mountain Nature Association

**major buildings/structures**  
visitor center  
beach bathhouse  
five shower buildings  
park residence



## top attractions

- Lathrop features the only golf course in the state park system.
- The park has one of the nicest campgrounds in the state for family-oriented camping.
- The paved three-mile Cuerno Verde trail is a closed loop that is ideal for bicycles, skates and scooters as well as walkers.
- Horseshoe Lake, on the west end of the park, features world-class fishing for the elusive tiger muskie, which can reach 60" in length and weigh over 40 pounds.
- New group camping/picnic shelter with shoreline access.
- Newly renovated campground with upgraded electric outlets, new shower facilities and new paving.

## contact information

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# challenges

- The recent closure of the nearby Youth Track facility will create a void in the summer labor force. This program has provided about 3,000 hours of youth correctional labor annually to the park, and may cause many ongoing park maintenance projects to be suspended.
- Although we have received funding for a new visitor center and a campground renovation in the last five years, Martin Beach, the most intensively used area in the park, is still in a "loved to death" condition. We have 40-year old asphalt in the parking lot and the ongoing shoreline erosion has reduced the turf area to a narrow strip of grass adjacent to the parking lot. A major renovation is needed at this area to provide for the future need of our visitors.
- San Luis State Park, a satellite park operated out of Lathrop, is a distant 170-mile round trip drive over a high mountain pass. The park has no full-time staffing and is operated Memorial Day through Labor Day with a very small staff of seasonals and volunteers. Quite a bit of Lathrop's staffing and fiscal resources are drained to keep this satellite park operational, further reducing the level of service that Lathrop is able to provide.
- Lathrop's maintenance department is understaffed and cannot be proactive in handling some of the park's natural resource issues. There is not enough manpower to remove the brush overgrowth that is limiting shoreline access or to remove dead pinon trees that have been affected by beetles. A final natural resource issue is controlling noxious weeds, especially yellow sweet clover. These weeds are becoming dominant and taking over other grasses in some areas of the park. All of these issues require a larger scale of work and equipment than a small staff can handle, we would like to pursue funding to bring in work crews to eliminate these problems.

## land acquisitions FY 06-07

none

## partners

Walsenburg City Council  
Huerfano County Commissioners  
Walsenburg School District  
LaVeta School District  
B.A.S.S. Club  
Muskie's Inc.  
Audubon Society  
Ducks Unlimited  
Huerfano County Medical Center  
Colorado State Patrol

## volunteer activity

- We have successfully recruited a volunteer with advanced auto mechanics skills to serve as a park mechanic.
- Through various senior citizen sources, we recruited four campground hosts for the summer season.
- We were the recipient of a major Youth Corps crew this summer for about 2,000 hours of beneficial project labor.

## vision statement for Colorado State Parks

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. Park employees and their partners work together to provide ongoing and outstanding customer service through recreational programs, amenities and services.

## budget and operations

### number of full-time employees

3.5

### number of seasonal employees\*

13.0

*\*seasonal employees are hired for periods up to six months in length*

### number of volunteers\*

86

### total volunteer hours contributed\*

4,972

*\*volunteer and volunteer hours figures are from calendar year 2006, denotes shared volunteers at Lathrop and San Luis*

### total operating budget

\$475,191

### capital construction budget

\$45,310

### total revenue generated

\$264,957

## ratios

### full-time staff to annual visitors

1:43,979

