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**RIGS FLY SHOP & GUEST SERVICE**  
\$48 per-person • 5 minutes from Park!  
(888) 626-4460 • www.fishrigs.com



**Colorado State Parks**  
**RIDGWAY**

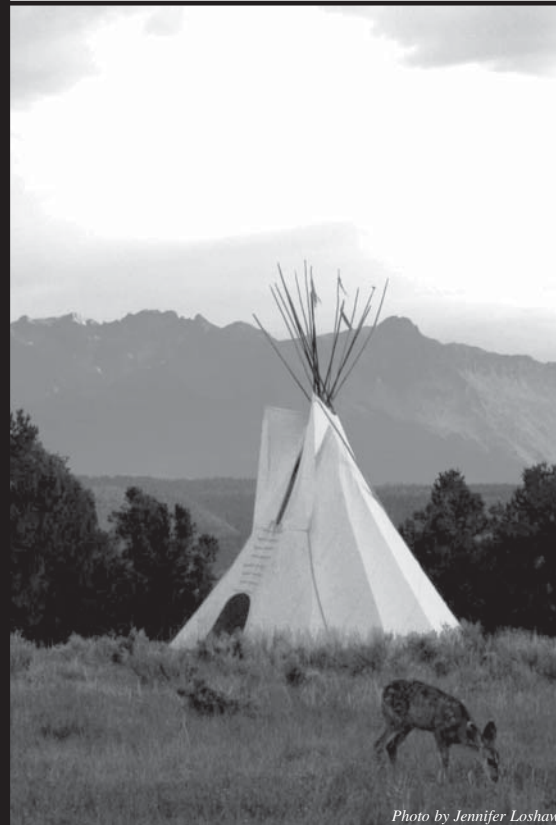


Photo by Jennifer Loshaw



Visit all your Colorado State Parks at  
[www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us)

**INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to one of the most magnificent parks in America, Ridgway State Park. Nestled at the base of the spectacular San Juan Mountains in southwestern Colorado, Ridgway Reservoir is a year-round outdoor recreation paradise. Stretching nearly five miles into the Uncompahgre River Valley, Ridgway is a mecca for boaters, anglers and swimmers. The park offers three campgrounds, each with a unique atmosphere and charm, with modern facilities for comfort and convenience. All the recreation sites have easy bicycle access. Natural surface trails pass through the pinyon/juniper forests and onto mesas offering spectacular views of the surrounding mountain peaks.

**PASSES, PERMITS, FEES**

All vehicles entering the park are required to display a current Colorado State Parks pass.

**Daily pass**, valid from the day purchased until noon the next day. Passes are available at entrance stations, self-service dispensers and the Visitors Center.

**Annual pass**, valid at any state park. Multiple passes are available for a reduced fee to annual pass holders who own additional vehicles. The **Aspen Leaf pass**, a discounted annual pass for Colorado senior citizens age 64 or older. The Aspen Leaf pass allows reduced camping fees on weekdays.

**Colorado Disabled Veterans** displaying DV license plates are admitted free without a pass. A camping fee is charged.

**Camping permit fees** are charged per night, per site, and are in addition to park pass fees.

**Columbine pass** for disabled visitors.

**Centennial pass** for limited income visitors.

Check the Visitors Center, an entrance station or a self-service dispenser for required passes.

**PROJECT HISTORY**

Settlement of the Uncompahgre River Valley occurred following the mining boom of the 1880s. Early farmers and ranchers soon recognized the need to augment the river's flow with a dependable source of summer irrigation water. In 1909, the 5.8-mile Gunnison Tunnel was completed to divert water from the Gunnison River to the Uncompahgre Valley. However, as early as the 1940s, interest developed in storing spring and summer snowmelt from the upper Uncompahgre River for later irrigation use.

At about the same time, a plan was being developed to control the flow of the huge Colorado River and some of its major tributaries. In 1956, the Colorado River Storage Project, one of the most complex and extensive river developments in the world, became a reality. The Dallas Creek Project (Ridgway Reservoir) was authorized in 1968. The dam was completed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 1987.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation involvement did not end with the completion of the dam. Studies indicated the need for a water-based recreation facility south of Montrose. Federal funding continued for eight years and paid for **all** recreational development in the park. Today, partners in the project are the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Tri-County Water Conservancy District, which manages water distribution, and Colorado State Parks, which manages the recreation facilities.



## CAMPING AND YURTS

Ridgway has three picturesque campgrounds: Dakota Terraces, Elk Ridge and Pa-Co-Chu-Puk. A camper services building in each campground provides hot showers, laundromat, vending machines and a playground.

Dakota Terraces is located within easy walking distance of the swim beach and features 76 campsites with electric hookups, nearby water, concrete pads, tables, cooking grills and fire rings. Dallas Creek affords excellent views of both the San Juan and Cimarron Ranges. A trailer dump station is available.

For those who enjoy camping, but don't have a tent or a motor home, Dakota Terraces features three yurts. A yurt is reminiscent of a nomadic portable tent used by the Mongolian people of Siberia. Our yurts are circular tents made of vinyl-impregnated canvas surrounding a wooden lattice, floor and ceiling. The yurts have electricity, heat, and sleep up to six people. They are available for rent year-round on a reservation or first-come, first-serve basis.

Elk Ridge, our most popular campground, is located in a pinyon-juniper forest with excellent shade at most sites. Some sites provide panoramic views of the San Juan Mountains. The 98 campsites at Elk Ridge offer electric hookups, nearby water, concrete pads, tables, cooking grills and fire rings. Ten campsites are set aside for walk-in tent camping only (no electricity provided).

Full utility (water/sewer/electric) hookups are featured at 81 campsites at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk located next to the scenic Uncompahgne River. A level concrete pad makes for a quick set-up, and each site has a table, cooking grill and fire ring. Fifteen walk-in tent sites are available across the river.

**For campground reservations, call (800) 678-CAMP (2267) or (303) 470-1144 in the Denver area. Or online at [www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us)**



## BOATING

The 1,000 surface-acre reservoir offers a variety of activities, including fishing, water-skiing, boating, sailing and windsurfing. The four-lane concrete boat ramp, located at the Dutch Charlie site, stretches to the lower limits of the water level, so boaters will always be able to launch.

Boaters must observe Colorado's boating statutes and regulations. A brochure is available at entrance stations and the Visitors Center.

## FISHING

Stocked rainbow trout, native brown trout and Kokanee salmon, make up the game fish within the reservoir.

Fishing on the Uncompahgre River below Ridgway Dam is restricted to catch and release, with artificial flies and lures only. A valid fishing license is required at all areas.

## SWIMMING

Swimmers will enjoy the beautiful beach located at the Dutch Charlie site. The modern facility has changing rooms with lockers and outdoor showers. Swimming is at your own risk, as life guards are not on duty. Children 12 years or younger must be supervised. Swimming is **permitted** from boats, as follows: swimmers wear an approved **flotation device**, stay **within 50 feet** of stationary vessel (vessel must be at least **150 feet from shore**), and have an **observer** on board displaying a **ski flag**. Swimming is *prohibited* in Mear's Bay (marina cove) and *between sunset and sunrise*.

## NATURE STUDY

The park is a wonderful outdoor classroom. Evening programs and nature hikes are available during the summer and by appointment in the off-season. Park naturalists enjoy leading groups to the little known, special parts of the park to explore and share the wonders of nature. Program announcements are located at all camper services buildings, restrooms and the Visitors Center.

## WILDLIFE AND HUNTING

Wildlife abounds in and around Ridgway State Park. Deer, marmots, golden eagles, waterfowl, mink, red fox and occasionally osprey and black bears are seen in the area. Winter brings elk and bald eagles into the park. When viewing wildlife, please keep a respectful distance from the animals, and leave the family pet at home. A clean campsite will discourage uninvited guests such as skunks.

Hunting is permitted at certain times of the year in designated areas. Hunters are advised to check with the park office for specific closures and regulations.

## HIKING AND TRAILS

Approximately 14 miles of developed trails wind through the park connecting the various facilities. The range of trails offer a variety of challenges for hikers and bikers.

The Forest Discovery Nature Trail near the Visitors Center is a 1/2 mile self-guided nature trail featuring the geology, vegetation and wildlife of the area. Nature lovers are encouraged to visit the Dallas Creek Trail at the confluence natural area and the Oak Leaf Trail at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk.

## EXCEPTIONAL SCENERY

Prehistoric oceans, volcanos and glaciers have shaped the spectacular scenery which surrounds Ridgway State Park. Most prominent is Mt. Sneffels, rising 14,149 feet above sea level. The San Juan Mountains dominate the landscape to the south, while the Cimarron Range to the east features Chimney Rock, Courthouse Mountain and Turret Ridge. The Uncompahgre Plateau to the west stretches nearly 100 miles from Ridgway to Grand Junction. The area is rich in geologic history. For more information, stop by the Visitors Center or watch for signs along the trails.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

The aesthetic qualities of Ridgway State Park are best described as extraordinary! In addition to outstanding views, visitors are invited to study the geology, water resources, vegetation and wildlife of the park. The pinyon-juniper forest is the dominant vegetation community at Dutch Charlie, while ponderosa pine and cottonwoods are common at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk.

## VISITORS CENTER & BOOKSTORE

At our Visitors Center, learn more about the rich natural and cultural history of the park and southwest Colorado through the outstanding views and displays. Nature books for all ages, t-shirts, posters and beautiful souvenirs are available with a portion of the sales proceeds returned to the park in support of our environmental education program.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Ridgway State Park offers outstanding facilities and activities for groups. Groups may reserve multiple campsites anywhere within the established campgrounds by calling the reservation office at (800) 678-CAMP (2267). The group picnic area at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk, available by reservation only, will accommodate 250 people and provides flush restrooms, volleyball, horseshoe pits and a playground. Memorable wedding ceremonies are held at the Visitor Center overlook for up to 100 participants. Park naturalists are available to present an individualized program for your group. Contact the park manager for additional group options.



# RIDGWAY STATE PARK OVERVIEW

## DUTCH CHARLIE

The Dutch Charlie site first opened to the public in August, 1989. Most of the major facilities, including the Visitors Center, swimbeach, boat ramp and two campgrounds are located at Dutch Charlie. This 300-acre site offers a variety of activities, including: fishing, picnicking, hiking, swimming and boating. Nature hikes and environmental education programs are available during the summer.

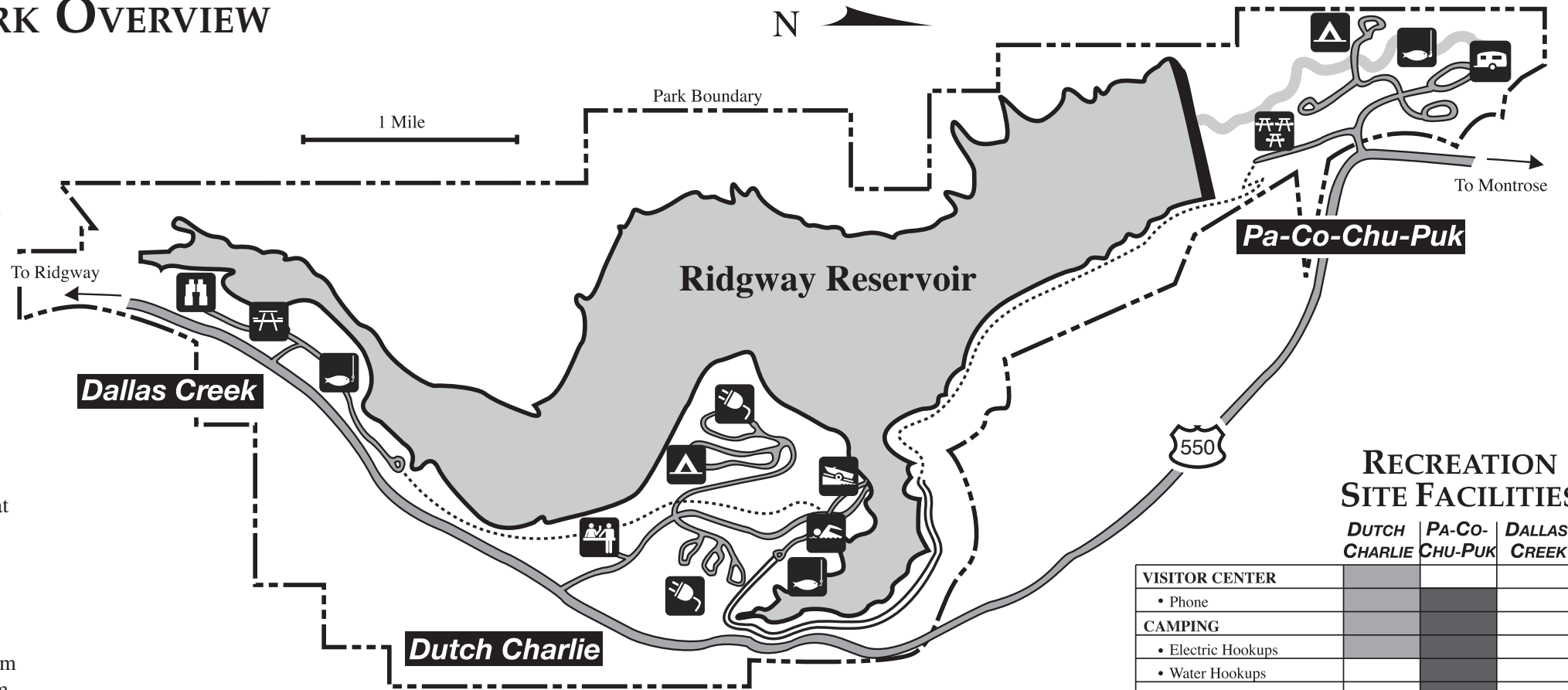
This recreation site was named after Dutch Charlie, a pioneer way station owner who ran a boarding house, blacksmith shop and livery barn near the present-day swim beach. Bull whackers and their oxen teams spent the night, fed their livestock and had repairs made at Dutch Charlie's operation.

## PA-CO-CHU-PUK

A name which reflects the varied history of the region, Pa-Co-Chu-Puk is the Ute Indian term for "Cow Creek." Located below Ridgway Dam, this site offers campsites with full utility hookups, walk-in tent camping, a large group picnic shelter, trout ponds, several miles of hike/bike trails and river trout fishing. This site opened in July, 1994.

## DALLAS CREEK

Opened in May, 1992, Dallas Creek provides an abundance of daytime activities. Over 30 individual picnic sites, many with shade shelters, offer quiet mealtime enjoyment. The secluded nature study area near the confluence of the Uncompahgre River and Dallas Creek is a perfect setting for viewing wildlife, hiking a scenic nature trail or catching a trout. During periods of low water, access gates are opened to allow vehicles to drive closer to the reservoir.



## RECREATION SITE FACILITIES

	DUTCH CHARLIE	PA-CO-CHU-PUK	DALLAS CREEK
<b>VISITOR CENTER</b>			
• Phone			
<b>CAMPING</b>			
• Electric Hookups			
• Water Hookups			
• Sewer Hookups			
• Water Hydrants			
• Dump Station			
<b>CAMPER SERVICES</b>			
• Pay Showers			
• Laundry			
• Vending Machines			
• Playground			
• Restrooms			
<b>TENT CAMPING</b>			
<b>PICNIC SITES</b>			
<b>GROUP PICNIC AREA</b>			
<b>BOAT RAMP</b>			
<b>SWIM BEACH</b>			
<b>FISHING</b>			
• Lake Access			
• River Fishing			
• Pond Fishing			
<b>FISH CLEANING STATION</b>			
<b>TRAILS</b>			



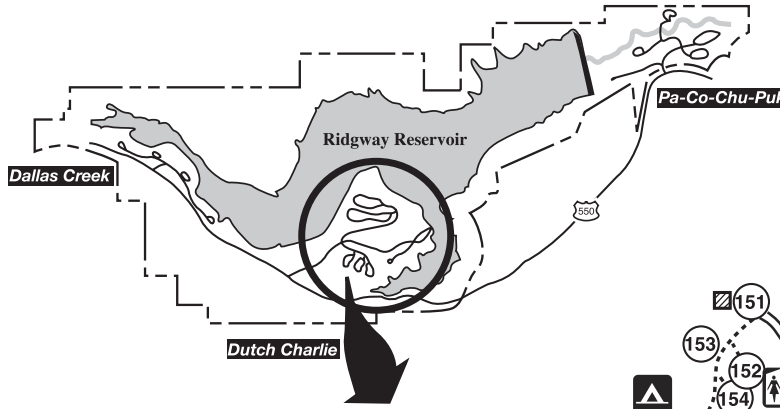
For new and current information on all Colorado State Parks visit us online at [www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us).

## LEGEND

Visitors Center/ Park Headquarters	Nature Study
Boat Ramp	Picnicking
Electric Hookups	Swim Beach
Fishing	Tent Camping
Full Utility Hookups	Concrete Trail
Group Picnic Area	Gravel Trail
	Park Boundary
	Roads

# DUTCH CHARLIE

## Recreation Site (7,050 feet)



Trail to Dallas Creek  
.75 Miles

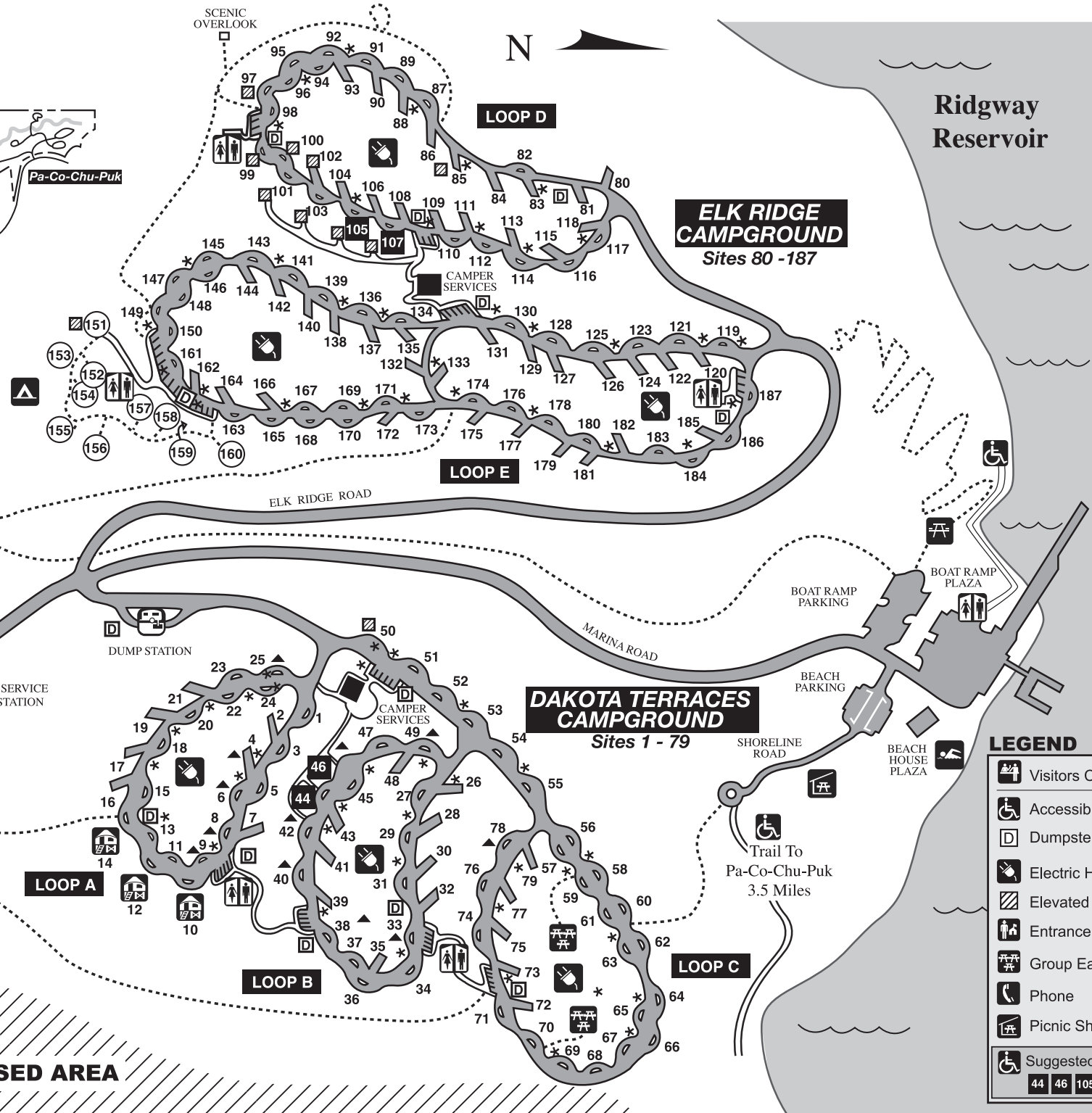
VISITOR CENTER OVERLOOK  
MAINTENANCE YARD  
VISITORS CENTER PARK HEADQUARTERS  
VISITOR CENTER PARKING  
SELF-SERVICE FEE STATION

Forest Discovery Nature Trail

HWY 550  
Park Entrance

**To make reservations call:**  
(303) 470-1144 in the Denver metro area or  
(800) 678-CAMP (2267) outside the Denver metro area.  
Or reserve online at [www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us)

**CLOSED AREA**



Ridgway Reservoir

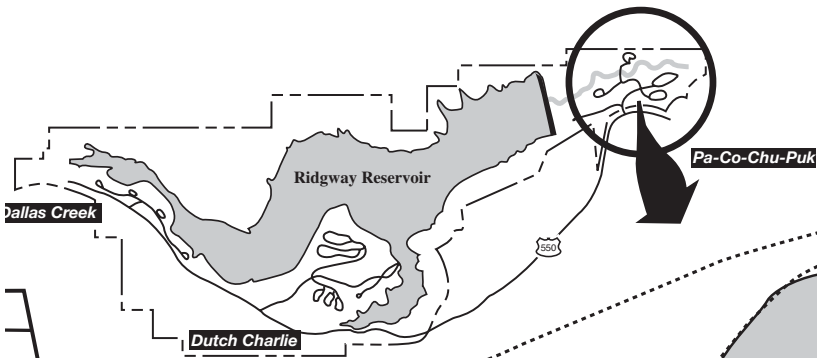
DUTCH CHARLIE	
<b>VISITORS CENTER</b>	
• Phone	
<b>CAMPING</b>	
• Electric Hookups	
• Water Hookups	
• Sewer Hookups	
• Water Hydrants	
• Dump Station	
<b>CAMPER SERVICES</b>	
• Pay Showers	
• Laundry	
• Vending Machines	
• Playground	
• Restrooms	
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<b>PICNIC SITES</b>	
<b>GROUP PICNIC AREA</b>	
<b>BOAT RAMP</b>	
<b>SWIM BEACH</b>	
<b>FISHING</b>	
• Lake Access	
• River Fishing	
• Pond Fishing	
<b>FISH CLEANING STATION</b>	
<b>TRAILS</b>	

### LEGEND

	Visitors Center		Restrooms
	Accessible Feature		Shade Shelter
	Dumpster		Swim Beach
	Electric Hookups		Tent Camping
	Elevated Tent Deck		Walk-In Tent Site
	Entrance Station		Water Hydrant
	Group Eating Area		Yurts
	Phone		Concrete Trail
	Picnic Shelter		Gravel Trail
	Suggested campsites for disabled visitors: 44 46 105 107		

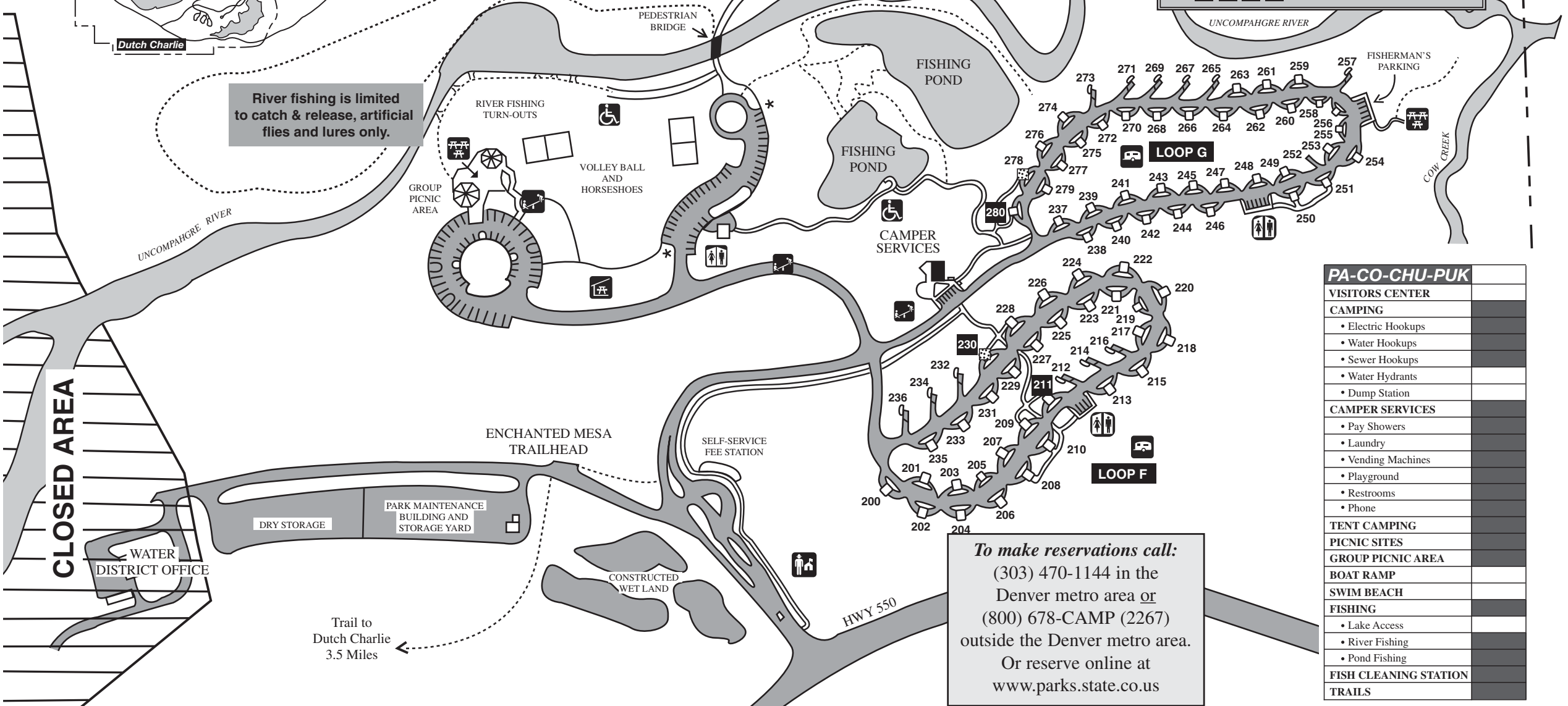
# PA-CO-CHU-PUK

## Recreation Site (6,650 feet)



### LEGEND

- Accessible Feature
  - Elevated Tent Pads
  - Entrance Station
  - Full Utility Hookups
  - Group Picnic Area
  - Playground
  - Phone
  - Picnic Shelter
  - Restrooms
  - Tent Camping
  - Walk-in Tent Sites
  - Water
  - Concrete Trail
  - Gravel Trail
- Suggested campsites for disabled visitors:**  
211 230 280 281



River fishing is limited to catch & release, artificial flies and lures only.

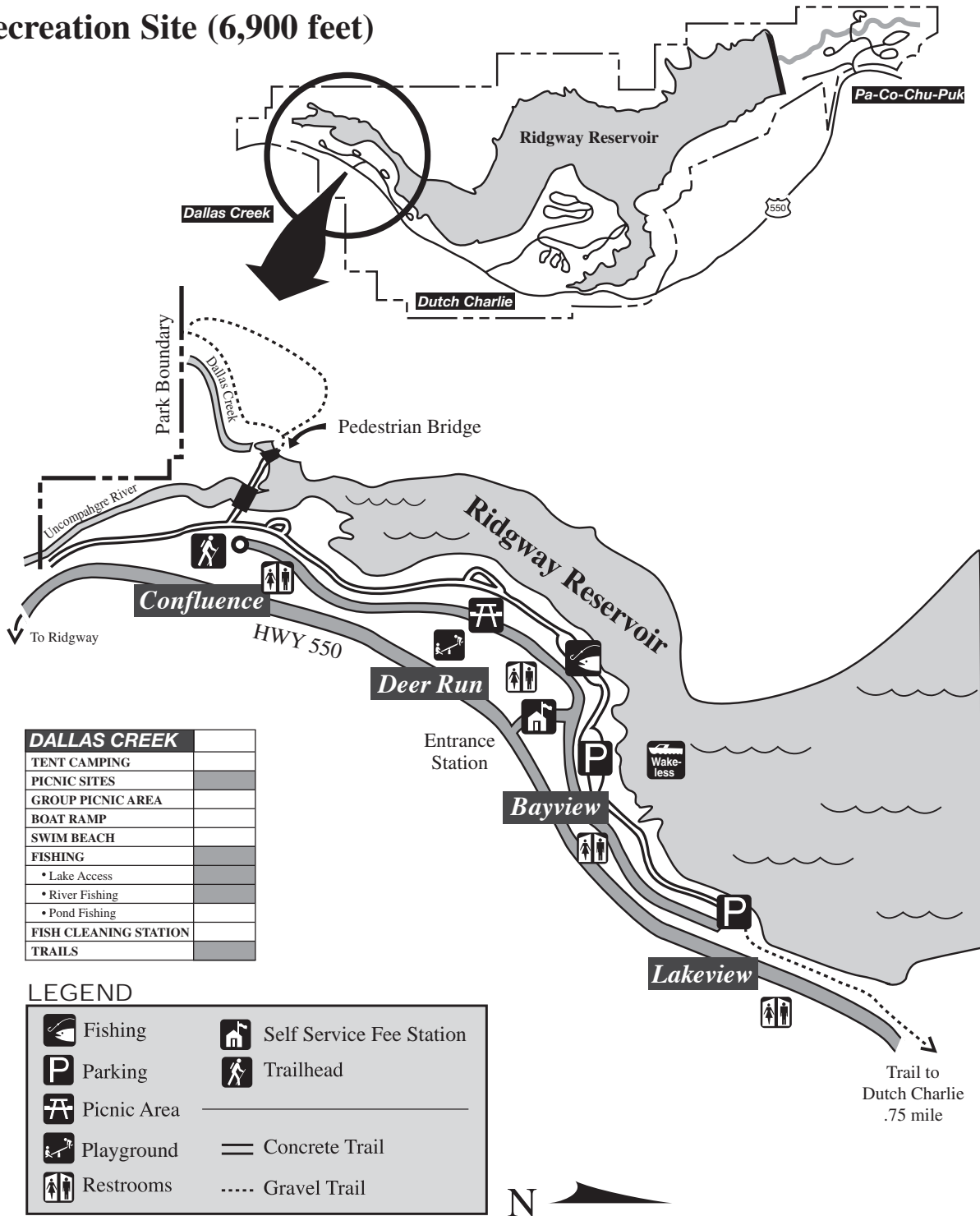
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PA-CO-CHU-PUK	
VISITORS CENTER	
CAMPING	
• Electric Hookups	
• Water Hookups	
• Sewer Hookups	
• Water Hydrants	
• Dump Station	
CAMPER SERVICES	
• Pay Showers	
• Laundry	
• Vending Machines	
• Playground	
• Restrooms	
• Phone	
TENT CAMPING	
PICNIC SITES	
GROUP PICNIC AREA	
BOAT RAMP	
SWIM BEACH	
FISHING	
• Lake Access	
• River Fishing	
• Pond Fishing	
FISH CLEANING STATION	
TRAILS	

PARK BOUNDARY

# DALLAS CREEK

## Recreation Site (6,900 feet)



## HELP PROTECT YOUR PARK

Ridgway State Park was built and is maintained for your use and enjoyment. In the interest of public safety and the preservation of the park, we ask that you:

1. Place trash in receptacles provided.
2. Build fires only in grills provided or portable grills.
3. Keep your vehicle on designated roads and parking lots.
4. Keep your pets under control and on a leash no longer than six feet at all times.
5. Camp only in designated campsites.
6. Report any littering or vandalism to a park ranger.
7. Respect quiet hours after 10 p.m.

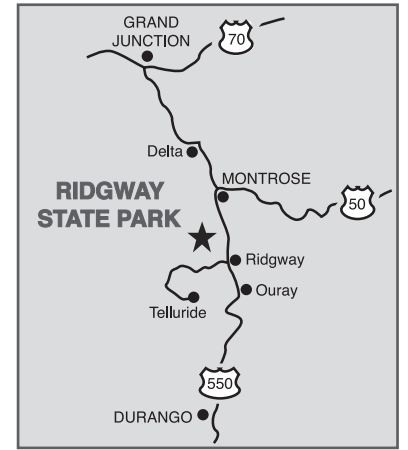
## ACCESSIBILITY

Ridgway State Park is widely recognized for its barrier-free design. Visitors with limited mobility will find easy access to camping, picnicking, fishing, trails and swimming. All restroom and shower buildings are accessible. Disabled boaters are urged to board their vessel prior to entering the launch area or use the marina platform with assistance. Accessible campsites may be reserved by calling (303) 470-1144 in the Denver metro area, (800) 678-CAMP (2267) outside the Denver metro area, or online at [www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us).

## VOLUNTEERS & FRIENDS

If you enjoy the park, perhaps you would consider joining our team as a volunteer. Volunteer positions include: campground host, Visitors Center assistant, landscaper, trail maintenance and boat assistant. An exciting citizen support group, the *FRIENDS of Ridgway State Park*, is dedicated to making Ridgway one of the finest state parks in America. Stop by the Visitors Center to learn more about our many volunteer opportunities!

Look for new and current information on all Colorado State Parks at our web site  
[www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us)



## WINTER RECREATION

Ridgway campgrounds are open year-round. Many activities await the winter visitor, including cross-country skiing, sledding, hiking, snowshoeing, ice fishing and excellent wildlife watching.

## FIRST AID

First aid can be obtained from any park ranger or at the park Visitor Center. In an emergency, call the park office at (970) 626-5822 or dial 911. A medical center is located in Ridgway, five miles south of the park. The nearest hospital is in Montrose, 25 miles north of the park.

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Gas/service stations, groceries, restaurants and religious facilities are available in Ridgway, five miles south of the park on Highway 550.

Thank you for visiting Ridgway State Park.

**Ridgway State Park**  
 2855 Hwy 550  
 Ridgway, CO 81432  
 (970) 626-5822  
 E-mail: [ridgway.park@state.co.us](mailto:ridgway.park@state.co.us)

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