



## who we are

The location for one of Colorado’s annual bird censuses, Barr Lake State Park is a premier bird watching location in the state, with over 350 bird species identified in the park. The park offers opportunities for hiking, flat-water boating (kayaking, canoeing and sailing) and a well stocked fishery. During the May to October season, park visitors can enjoy the Eagle Express, a motorized, guided tour of the wildlife refuge at the park. Staff and volunteers provide a number of educational and interpretative presentations for school children and other groups.

Visitors to the Barr Lake State Park spend over \$117,000 annually in local communities.

Source: Corona Research, *Colorado State Parks Marketing Assessment*, “Visitor Spending Analysis 2008-2009.”

## top attractions

- Premier bird watching location! Great horned owls, Swainson hawks, great blue herons, double-crested cormorants, snowy egrets and bald eagles are just a few of the species that nest around Barr Lake.
- Channel cat fish, small and large mouth bass, rainbow trout, walleye, bluegill, wiper, and tiger muskie are the principle species stocked by Colorado Division of Wildlife.
- A 10-hp limit on boat motors on the lake, makes this an ideal spot for canoeing, kayaking and day sailing.
- Staff and volunteers provide education programs for school groups and for the general public. These may include tours of the wildlife refuge on the Eagle Express from May through October.
- Equestrians can enjoy almost nine miles of riding trails around the lake shore.

## our partners

- Adams County
- Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
- Barr Lake State Park Volunteer Corp
- City of Brighton
- Farmer’s Reservoir and Irrigation Co.
- Reunion, a Shea Homes Community
- THF Realty
- Adams County Open Space
- Little Valley Wholesale Nursery
- AmeriCorps - National Civilian Community Corps
- Adams County Workforce Center

## challenges we face

- Historically, the park is home to flocks of waterfowl and other birds due to the presence of the reservoir and adjacent vegetation. Housing and other developments now surround the park further isolating natural access corridors for wildlife.
- Increased urban development near the park and resulting runoff may degrade water quality in Barr Lake.
- Concerns over the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) requires continued inspection efforts to protect of the quality of the Barr Lake ecosystem.
- Funding reductions could seriously affect the the environmental quality at Barr Lake, especially as development increases and water issues become more affected.

## our enduring vision

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.

## statistics and ratios

Visitation FY 09-10: **104,912**

Estimated expenditures within 50 miles of the park: **\$117,139 (2008-2009)**

Full-time staff: **3**

Visitor to full-time staff ratio: **34,971:1**

Temporary employees: **5**

Volunteers: **175**

Volunteer hours contributed: **11,571**

County: **Adams**

Congressional District: **7**

State Legislative Districts

Senate: **25**

House: **30 and 32**

## expenses/revenue

Total operating expenses: **\$425,418**

Total construction expenses: **\$ 37,259**

Total revenue generated: **\$191,308**

Self-sufficiency ratio: **45%**  
(FY 09-10 revenues/operating expenses)

## park inventory

Year became a state park: **1977**  
Land acres: **1,814**  
Water acres: **1,950**  
Elevation: **5,100'**

### Ownership

State parks: **27%**  
Other: **73%**

### Miles of Roads

Paved: **2.0**  
Unpaved: **0**

### Miles of Trails

Hiking/biking/horse **12.0**

**Boat ramps: 1**

**Picnic sites: 60**

**Park Store:** Conveniences  
and souvenirs

**Concessions: 0**

### Major buildings/structures:

Nature Center and bookstore  
Meadowlark Picnic Pavilion

## land acquisitions FY 09-10

There were no new acquisitions in FY 09-10.

## volunteer activities

- Provide 10-15 Eagle Scout projects each year. Scouts also complete other service projects.
- Volunteers provide over 11,500 hours of service to Barr Lake in a variety of areas, including naturalist-led guided hikes, tours and programs, park maintenance, visitor information, pass sales, trail construction and vegetation management.
- There are two park host positions available year round. They perform a variety of jobs ranging from working in the nature center to park maintenance.

## to contact us:

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state parks!



Colorado State Parks