



# golden gate canyon state park FY09-10



## who we are

Golden Gate Canyon State Park offers a variety of recreation opportunities within an hour's drive of the Denver metro area. Thirty-six miles of multiple use trails await the outdoor enthusiast providing access to high mountain meadows, lush streamside corridors, rocky peaks and dense forest. Overnight accommodations range from the Harmsen Ranch Guest House to the family friendly Reverend's Ridge Campground (with tent and RV sites) to rustic backcountry tent sites with no amenities. First class campgrounds, picnic areas, trails, and fishing areas are nestled within nearly 12,000 acres of semi-wilderness. Panorama Point scenic overlook and group facility, with year round access, offers spectacular views of over 100 miles of Colorado's Continental Divide. Sportsmen of all ages and abilities will find numerous hunting and fishing opportunities within the boundaries of this spectacular state park.

Visitors to Golden Gate Canyon State Park spend about \$17.4 million annually in local communities.

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

## top attractions

- Thirty-six miles of trails offering a variety of opportunities for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding.
- Year-round overnight accommodations, including cabins, yurts, vacation homes, electric RV sites, tent camping and backcountry shelters.
- The Panorama Point scenic overlook offers views of 100 miles of snowcapped peaks along the Continental Divide.
- Various group facilities, including Rifleman Philips Campground, Red Barn Picnic Area, the Columbine Meeting Room, and the Works Ranch Group Area.
- Hunting and fishing opportunities include regularly stocked fishing ponds along park roads and in the backcountry in addition to small and big game hunting areas.

## our partners

- The Friends of Golden Gate Canyon State Park
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Larkin Family Trust
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Gilpin County
- The Clinton Family Foundation

## challenges we face

- Ensuring forest health, fuel mitigation, mountain pine beetle mitigation and noxious weed resource management projects are funded and completed annually through coordinated efforts between park staff, Colorado State Forest Service staff and volunteers.
- Augmenting operational and personnel resources with increased efforts to recruit and train individual and group volunteers.
- Seek private donations to maintain and enhance the park's 36 miles of multiple-use trails, access roads and backcountry campgrounds.
- Balancing expanded recreational uses and facility maintenance with increased self-sufficiency emphasis.

## 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: **611,862**

Estimated expenditures within 50 miles of the park: **\$17,385,590 (2008-2009)**

Full-time staff: **8**

Visitor to full-time staff ratio: **76,483:1**

Temporary employees: **25**

Volunteers: **94**

Volunteer hours contributed: **4772**

County: **Gilpin and Jefferson**

Congressional District: **2**

State Legislative Districts

Senate: **16** House: **13, 25**

## expenses/revenue

Total operating expenses: **\$1,001,907**

Total construction expenses: **\$ 136,229**

Total revenue generated: **\$ 704,875**

Self-sufficiency ratio: **70%**  
(FY 09-10 revenue/operating expenses)

## land acquisitions FY 09-10

There were no new acquisitions in FY 09-10.

## volunteer activities

- Campground host program at Reverends' Ridge Campground and Aspen Meadow Campground.
- Volunteer naturalist program at Reverend's Ridge Campground and the visitor center.
- Visitor center host program initiated to assist with staffing needs.
- Scout groups, Eagle Scouts, and others continue to assist with trails and natural resource projects throughout the park.
- Neighboring Eagle Rock Youth Camp volunteers will continue to assist with forest health and fire mitigation projects.
- Members of the Friends of Golden Gate assist with historical preservation projects throughout the park.
- Volunteer mounted patrol assist with patrol of trails and backcountry campgrounds.

## park inventory

Year became a state park: **1960**  
Land acres: **12,158**  
Water acres: **7**  
Elevation: **9,100'**

### Ownership

State parks: **95%**  
Other: **5%**

### Miles of Roads

Paved: **8.7**  
Unpaved: **2.7**

### Miles of Trails

Hiking: **36.0**  
Bike/horse: **22.0**

**Campsites: 155**

**Cabins: 7**

**Yurts: 2**

**Picnic sites: 125**

### Concessions:

Rocky Mountain Nature  
Association Book Store

### Major buildings/structures:

Visitor center  
Panorama Point scenic overlook  
Red Barn group picnic area  
Harmsen Ranch Guest House  
Green Ranch House/barn  
Vigil House/barn  
Maintenance shop

## to contact us:

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**42 great**  
state parks!



Colorado State Parks