WELCOME!

Reservoir Parks Master Plan



Resource
Management
Plan/
Environmental
Assessment



Horsetooth Reservoir
Carter Lake
Pinewood Reservoir
Flatiron Reservoir

Welcome

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

	RESERVOIR PARKS		
	Master Plan Update	Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Assessment Update	
LEAD AGENCY	Larimer County Department of Natural Resources	Bureau of Reclamation	
SCOPE OF PLAN	Update to County-wide Park Needs and Opportunities	Improve management of the 4 Colorado-Big Thompson Reservoirs: Horsetooth, Carter, Flatiron, and Pinewood	
TIME FRAME	10 Years +	10 Years	
UNIQUE / SPECIAL NEEDS	Address future management opportunities including needs not likely met by the four reservoirs	Compliance with NEPA and other applicable Federal laws and requirements	

PLANNING PROCESS?

DUACE 4. FOUNDATION	
PHASE 1: FOUNDATION	
What methods should we use to reach you and what is your initial feedback?	Stakeholder Interviews Online Questionnaire #1
PHASE 2: Visioning	
Refine the vision, issues, objectives and opportunities for the plans.	Public Scoping Meetings Online Questionnaire #2
PHASE 3: Alternatives	
Provide input on the preferred opportunities and programs.	Alternatives Public Workshops Online Questionnaire #3
PHASE 4: Draft Plans	Λ
Input on the preferred options, strategies and draft plans.	Draft Plan Public Meetings Public Review Period Online Questionnaire #4
PHASE 5: Final Plans	
Refine the final plans, support the adoption and define the steps for implementation.	Final Plan Presentations Public Hearings



Welcome

WHAT IS MY ROLE?

How to Participate Today:

- Sign in and join the project mailing list.
- Provide input on the potential recreation improvements and other management actions at the four reservoirs.
- Provide input on potential future parks and funding strategies.

How to Provide Comments:

- Submit questions via:
 - Comment form via email or fax (see comment form for details)
 - Online questionnaire at <u>www.onegreatcountytoplay.com</u>
- Comments will be collected until August 7, 2017.

Next Steps:

- Following public feedback, specific and substantive comments will be analyzed and responded to.
- Reclamation will determine whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact or Environmental Impact Statement for the RMP/EA.
- The Reservoir Parks Master Plan will be reviewed by County Planning and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.



Foundation

Join the Conversation!

100,000+ people have received direct notification about opportunities.

3,000+ people have commented via events, questionnaires, or online

Public Outreach Methods:

- Press Releases
- Parks Advisory Board
- Natural Resource Newsletter
- Online Questionnaires #1, #2, and #3
- New West Fest
- Public Meetings @ Horsetooth Reservoir, Carter Lake, Chilson Center, County Courthouse, and The Ranch Events Complex
- Entrance Gates @ Horsetooth Reservoir and Carter Lake
- Facebook
- Constant Contact Emails







Foundation

Visitation Trends

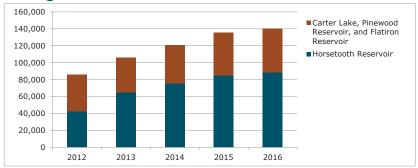
2016 visitation is estimated between

650,000 - 1.4 million

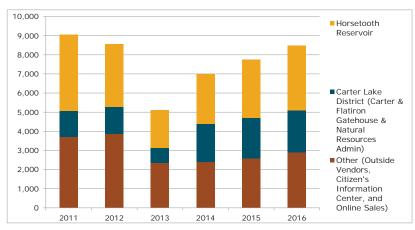
Horsetooth Reservoir ranked as the #3 best lake in the United States by Foursquare.com. No other Colorado lake made the top 30.

Visitors to Horsetooth Reservoir often visit more than 10 times per year, while visitors to Carter Lake visit 2 to 5 times per year.

Day Permits



Annual Passes



Estimated Visitation Day Permits			
	Total Day Permits Sold*	Group Size+	Total Visitors (Day Permits)
2016	140,163	2.84	398,063
2015	135,505	2.84	384,834
2014	120,485	2.84	342,177
2013	106,215	2.84	301,651
2012	85,995	2.84	244,226

Source: *Larimer County 2017, +CPW 2009

Estimated Visitation Annual Passes					
	Total Annual Passes Sold*	Annual Visit Times (Low)+	Annual Visit Times (High)+	Group Size+	Total Visitors (Annual Passes)
2016	8,470	10.97	42.38	2.84	263,881 - 1,019,442
2015	7,752	10.97	42.38	2.84	241,512 - 933,025
2014	6,983	10.97	42.38	2.84	217,554 - 840,468
2013	5,108	10.97	42.38	2.84	159,139 - 614,795
2012	8,547	10.97	42.38	2.84	266,280 - 1,028,710

Source: *Larimer County 2017, +CPW 2009



RMP/EA

OBJECTIVES

What is the Role of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation at the Four Reservoirs?

- Reclamation owns the land and infrastructure that the four reservoirs occupy. As such, the reservoirs must comply with a variety of federal mandates and policies, including the need to prepare an updated RMP/EA every 10 years. Reclamation has the primary stewardship responsibility to manage the lands under its jurisdiction in accordance with existing laws, policies, and guidelines.
- In cases in which Reclamation lands are directly managed by others, such as through the management agreement with Larimer County, Reclamation exercises oversight responsibility to ensure that the managing agency fulfills its responsibilities pursuant to the terms and conditions of the management agreement between the parties.

The RMP is needed to do the following:

- Provide decision makers with consistent direction and guidance for successful resource and recreation management of Reclamation lands and water surface
- Address increasing impacts to existing infrastructure and resources by providing a guide for future developments
- Maximize recreational benefits
- Minimize resource conflicts
- Protect resources on Reclamation lands





Resource Management Plan/EA

NEPA PROCESS & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Issue Identification & Inventory

June - Sept 2016

Public Scoping uly 25- Sept 13, 2016

Alternatives Development & Analysis Fall 2016

Draft RMP/EA
Winter 2017

Public Review Period
Summer 2017



Final RMP/EA & Decision





A Plan for the Future

EXISTING RESERVOIR PARKS

Proposed Action Balances:

- Demand from recreationists for more, more, more
- Specific comments and desires expressed by local residents
- Environmental resources and settings

Plan Highlights:

- System-wide Goals and Policies
- Management Zones By Park
- Desired Future Facilities, Resource, and Management Conditions
- New Development by Site

Management Zones

Zone	Recreation Opportunities	Potential Facilities
Highly Developed Recreation	High-density recreation. Emphasis on providing opportunities that rely on motor vehicle access via roads, such as picnicking, RV and tent camping, and shoreline facilities needed to support both motorized and non-motorized boating and swimming.	Typically includes parking areas, paved or high-use roads, boat ramps, marinas, utilities, group picnic areas, visitor services, restrooms, concessions, interpretive facilities and developed camping areas/cabins.
Moderately Developed Recreation	Medium-density, day use recreation. Emphasis on trail-based activities (hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use etc.) and access for fishing and other trail-based recreation. Some picnicking, watchable wildlife, interpretive opportunities are likely to occur in this zone.	Typically trails and interpretive facilities, restroom, and individual picnic areas. Less typically, this could include dirt roads or light use roads, remote and boat-in camping. Minimize utilities to the extent possible.
Low Developed Recreation	Medium- to low-density recreation. Emphasis on providing low impact, non-motorized and dispersed recreation. All recreation opportunities in the Moderately Developed Recreation Zone are likely to occur here with more of an emphasis on providing non-motorized dispersed recreation.	Limited trails and some interpretive facilities. Minimize utilities to the extent possible.
Natural	Limited, including wildlife observation and nature study.	Few, if any facilities.
Restricted	None, or heavily restricted.	None.
Motorized Multiple Use	High-density recreation for all types of water craft.	Buoys to delineate from wakeless boating area.
Wakeless Boating	Paddle sports, hand-powered craft, motorized craft not producing a wake. In designated areas, scuba diving, and swimming.	Buoys to delineate area from Motorized Multiple Use area. Typically paired with developed recreation facilities.



Horsetooth Reservoir

Desired Recreation Activities

The key recreation activities and experiences provided for at Horsetooth Reservoir include:

- Higher speed motorized boating in open water - primary activity.
- Fishing.
- Highly social and developed full-service camping adjacent to the reservoir, including multiuse campsites, cabins, and dump station.
- Full service marina.
- Primitive boat-in camping in remote shoreline locations.
- Picnicking in scenic locations.
- Swimming at designated and protected natural
- Trail use with connections to regional trails and adjacent public lands.
- Group picnics and events.
- Rock climbing.
- Facilities to host weddings, family functions, and events.

Desired Resource Conditions

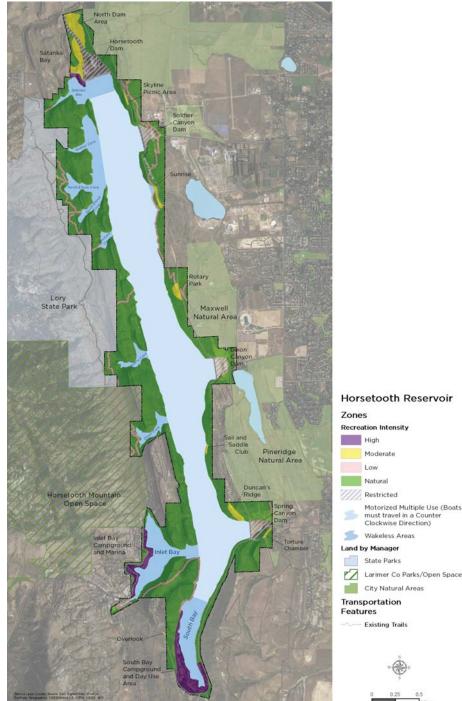
- Protect paleontological resources.
- Coordinate with CPW and the Fort Collins Natural Areas Department to minimize human disturbance to bald eagles occurring along the eastern portion of the reservoir.
- Control potential pollutants (gasoline, petroleum products) associated with boat activity.
- Develop education materials for distribution at entrances to educate the public about methods to minimize gasoline or petroleum leaks.
- Ensure that the marina are following best management practices for fueling boats and the use of fuel containers.

Desired Managerial Conditions

- Manage for a high level of visitation and revenue.
- Boating capacity thresholds, which are described in Chapter 2, would remain in place and continue to be implemented under current practices.

All facilities will be renovated as their condition warrants. Most improvements will occur within existing recreation areas. The acres of new development outside current footprints are shown here:

Site	Acres
South Bay-Inlet Bay Day Use Area Trail*	2
North of Horsetooth Dam	31
Satanka Bay and Expanded Parking	14
Total Acres	47



Horsetooth Reservoir

Zones	
Recreation Intensity	



Restricted







Transportation

Existing Trails



Horsetooth Reservoir

Inlet Bay

This area is heavily used and very little usable area remains for facility expansion. Therefore, focuses on several enhancements intended to reduce user conflicts and upgrades to key facilities. These upgrades include improving the efficiency of parking by paving and striping the major lots and upgrading the existing gatehouse with a standard design that provides ADA accessibility and an employee restroom.

Other specific improvements are listed below.

Campground

- Add safety signage and wayfinding to reduce conflicts for Inlet Bay Trail users and vehicles.
- · Investigate potential to improve functionality and add up to five campsites without using fill material.
- · Convert some existing electric sites to full hookup campsites.
- Replace water line.

Marina

- To improve parking efficiency, pave and stripe the major parking lots.
- · Improve entrance road.
- Investigate a potential trailer parking reservation system.
- · Add flush toilet and new shelter.
- Replace unhealthy trees and enhance screening near existing docks.
- · Reconstruct Inlet Bay Marina Store on land and consolidate with remodeled Maintenance Shop.
- · Replace flag pole lighting to reduce glare.
- · Construct row boat storage building and dock with partners.

South Bay

Similar to Inlet Bay, this area is limited for facility expansion. Instead, the plan focuses on providing better pedestrian and biking connections to the area and a series of facility upgrades and enhancements. Improvements to existing parking areas are one of the key actions along with replacing the upper boat ramp and upgrading the existing gatehouse with a standard design that provides ADA accessibility and an employee restroom.

Other specific projects are listed below.

Campground

- Investigate opportunities for additional parking at camping areas.
- Investigate potential to improve functionality and add a limited number of campsites without adding fill material below the high water mark.
- Upgrade some existing electric RV sites to full-service hookups.
- Replace existing modular cabins that have exceeded their useful life with high quality camper cabins.

Day Use Area

- · Add new hiking and mountain biking trail connecting South Bay to Inlet Bay. Avoid disturbance of sensitive wildlife habitat.
- · Replace pit toilets with a vault toilet at ramps.
- · Re-surface and stripe parking lot at boat ramp.
- · Replace docks.
- · Repave/upgrade upper ramps.
- Investigate opportunities for further site and safety improvements at the natural swim area.

Duncan's Ridge/Torture Chamber

- Improve signage and information about the area.
- · Work with City of Fort Collins to maintain parking area at Duncan's Ridge.
- Work with climbing community to maintain access and develop a stewardship plan.



Horsetooth Reservoir

Rotary Park

- Address nuisance uses by controlling access or by other means
- Increase restoration efforts on social trails.

Lower Sunrise

- · Add shelters to existing picnic tables.
- · Add stairs to help with changing water levels.
- Add signage and enforce no dogs' off-leash/in water regulations.

North of Horsetooth Dam

- Develop a static Archery Range near CR 25G. This already was disturbed in the past by motorized recreational use.
 Allow day use only with safety as a priority (target distance, terrain shielding, etc.)
- · Provide 40 parking spaces.
- · Add a large group day use area and shelter.
- Provide a locked gate when archery range is closed (sunset to sunrise).
- Fence off riparian and wetland area from archery range to prevent social trails, fragmentation or disturbance.
- · Construct single track trail with 3D targets along trail.
- Design and build archery range in a manner that helps protect public safety.

Satanka Bay and Expanded Parking Area

- · Add guard rail path on south side of dike.
- Develop approximately 90 new trailer parking spaces.
 Construction would be phased in response to observed demand. This parking area would be used primarily during periods of higher demand, such as weekends and holidays.
- Construct 900 foot road access from Satanka boat ramp to parking in the North Dam area.
- Provide 1,200 foot access trail from parking to top of the day use area with switchbacks up ridge.
- Construct an improved paddle sports launch area. Provide sand, improved access and other means to reduce bank erosion and improve the visitor experience.

Boat-In Access on West Shoreline Coves

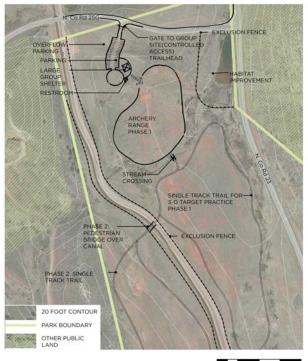
- Plant natural vegetation to screen Dixon Cove outhouse.
- · Add composting toilets at South and North Eltuck Coves.
- Add two new mulching toilets in the coves (day use).

Blue Sky Trailhead

· Plant vegetation to screen parking lot from county road.

Other Trails and Resource Enhancements

- Investigate opportunities to work with other county departments to improve bicycle access and public safety along CR 38E to Horsetooth Reservoir.
- Remove old fences on east side of reservoir to reduce wildlife barriers and mortality.



NORTH DAM

PROGRAM:

- 40-Parking Spaces
 1-Large Group Use Area & Shelter
- Gate- Locked when archery range closed
- Habitat improvements
 Natural surface trail with 3D targets along trail
- Archery Range would be day use; additional fee for 3D target loop.
 Safety would be a
- Safety would be a priority in the design (target distance, terrain shielding, etc.)

Phase 2 could include:

- Pedestrian BridgeAdditional single track
- Additional 3D targets



TRAILER PARKING

- PROGRAM: • -90-Trailer Parking
- Parking Spaces, to be phased based on demand • 900' Road access from
- boat ramp to parking near base of Dam • 1200' access trail from parking

Satanka

- parking to top of Dam with switchbacks up ridge • Paddle Board
- Paddle Board Launch Area
- For peak use during high demand days such as weekends and holidays







Carter Lake

Desired Recreation Activities

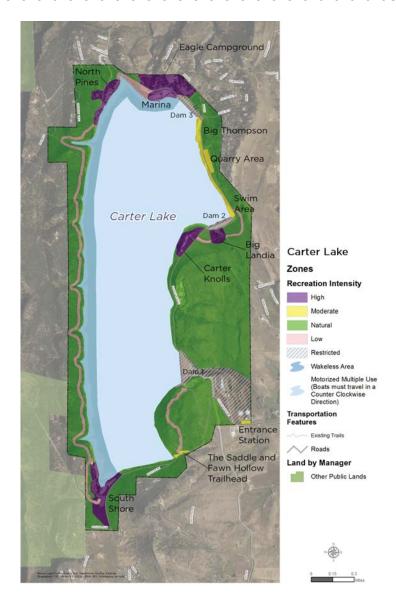
- · Motorized boating in open water—primary activity.
- · Sail boating and associated events.
- Fishing opportunities.
- Highly social and developed full-service camping adjacent to the reservoir, including multiuse campsites, cabins and walk-in tent sites.
- · Full service marina.
- · Picnicking in scenic locations.
- Swimming at designated and protected natural swim areas.
- Trail use with connections to regional trails and adjacent public lands.
- · Group picnics, camping, and events.
- · Rock climbing.

Desired Resource Conditions

- Control potential pollutants (gasoline, petroleum products) associated with boat activity.
- Develop education materials for distribution at entrances to educate the public about methods to minimize gasoline or petroleum leaks.
- Ensure that marinas are following best management practices for fueling boats and the use of fuel containers.
- Restrict vehicle use below the high water mark, except on the east shore line when the water level is low.

Desired Managerial Conditions

- Manage for a high level of visitation with sustainable revenue sources.
- Boating capacity thresholds, which are described in Chapter 2, would remain in place and continue to be implemented under current practices.



All facilities will be renovated as their condition warrants. Most improvements will occur within existing recreation areas. The acres of new development outside current footprints are shown here:

Site	Acres
North Pines Campground	1
North Shoreline*	.4
Eagle Campground	3.8
Big Thompson & Quarry Area	4
Big Landia	15
South Shore Campground	.25
Total Acres	24.45

^{*}Assumes one mile trail with 10 feet width of disturbance.



Carter Lake

North Pines Campground

- Add approximately 10 new parking spaces.
- Add approximately 22 new trailer parking spaces, including 11 pull through and 11 pull in.
- Replace existing camping sites with day use areas.
- Construct dryland boat storage racks.
- Replace or improve the Sail Clubhouse in partnership with the sail club.

North Shoreline

- Connect North Pines and Marina with a trail, potentially with aggregate base course along the shoreline.
- Add wayfinding and interpretive signage and benches.

Eagle Campground

- Construct 3 new cabins.
- Construct a wildlife friendly privacy fence to screen residences.
- Add campsites west of existing sites in the meadow.

Marina Area

- Repave and upgrade boat ramps.
- To improve parking efficiency, pave and stripe the major parking lots.

Big Thompson & Quarry Area

- Convert the campground to a day use area.
- Provide approximately 90 parking spaces for day use at Big Thompson.
- Designate and delineate up to 3 areas along the shoreline for swimming.
- Develop a trail leading south to the existing natural swim area.
- Construct guarry overflow parking area in a future phase. Parking would be a natural surface and used only seasonally during high water. It would include approximately 45 vehicle parking spaces and 35 boat trailer parking spaces.
- Provide a floating courtesy dock.
- Construct an enhanced pedestrian crossing and steps to the courtesy dock.
- Construct an overlook along CR 31.

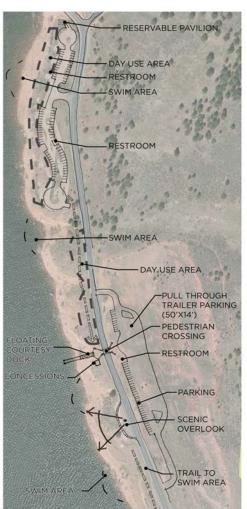


North Pines

PROGRAM:

- 9- Additional Parking Spaces
 11- Pull Through Trailer Parking
- 2- Restrooms
- 11- Pull In Trailer Parking Spaces
- Day Use Areas
- · 1-Dryland Boat Storage





Big Thompson & **Quarry Area**

PROGRAM 2-Restrooms

- 88-Parking Spaces at Day
- Use Area Day Use Areas
- Swim Areas
- Trail to Swim Areas
- 1-Overlook · 1-Reservable Pavilion
- Phase 2 Overflow Area:
- 45-Parking Spaces · 35-Boat Trailer Parking
- Spaces
- Enhanced Pedestrian
- Crossing 1-Floating Courtesy Dock





Carter Lake

Natural Swim Area

- In concert with implementation of the Big Landia campground, convert the Natural Swim Area to walk-in and bike in only access. Close entry road and eliminate parking.
- Provide trail access from Big Thompson area and new use area at Big Landia.

Big Landia

- · Construct 1 new restroom.
- · Add approximately 20 parking spaces.
- · Add 20 tent pads.
- Construct a group campground with large group shelter and fire ring.
- Operate group campground by reservation only, and install a locked gate for use during unreserved periods. Open camping to individual reservations if area is not reserved by groups (2 weeks out).
- Construct trail to existing natural swim area in a manner that protects the dam and install a cross walk to safely channel visitors crossing the county road.
- · Add a loop trail extending to south.

Carter Knolls

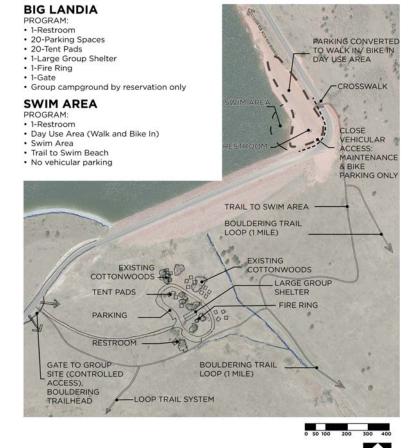
- Replace existing tent sites with 6 cabins with picnic tables and 6 RV pull through sites (no hookups available).
- Maintain one existing restroom.
- · Provide 12 parking spaces.

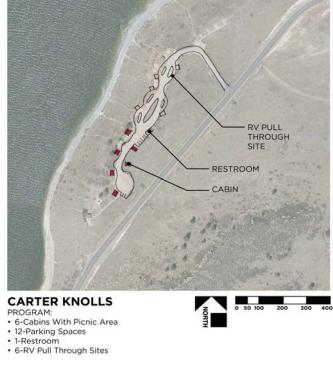
South Shore Campground

- Several improvements to this area were identified in the 2007 RMP/EA and these projects are already underway.
- Following the opening of Chimney Hollow Open Space to public use, finalize an alignment for and construct a connector trail from Carter Lake.

South Entrance Station

- Upgrade the existing gatehouse with a standard design that provides ADA accessibility and an employee restroom.
- Investigate feasibility of replacing existing dump station with a connection to a sewer line.





Reservoir Parks Master Plan





inewood Reservoir

Desired Recreation Activities

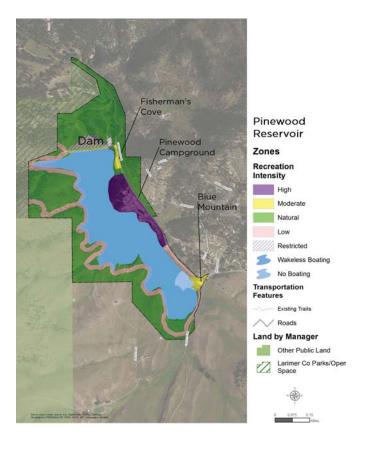
- Fishing opportunities primary activity.
- Somewhat social, rustic camping adjacent to the reservoir with multiuse and walk-in campsites.
- Day use and picnicking in a scenic location.
- Trail use with connections to regional trails and adjacent public

Desired Resource Conditions

- Level of Development: Most of the reservoir will remain natural with very little development and no large structures.
- Control potential pollutants (gasoline, petroleum products) associated with boat activity.
- Develop education materials for distribution at entrances to educate the public about methods to minimize gasoline or petroleum leaks.

Desired Managerial Conditions

Manage for a moderate level of visitation and revenue.





Fisherman's Cove

- PROGRAM:
 Access on South End of Parking Lot
- 1-Automated Fee Kiosk Bear Proof Trash Receptacle
- · Parking Directional Sign
- Neighborhood Traffic Only Sign
 Small Identification Sign



Fisherman's Cove Day Use Area

- · Add exit/entry to parking lot on south side of parking lot.
- If necessary for dam security, add future trailhead below dam and improve trail sustainability to Fisherman's Cove Parking.
- · Add self-service permit kiosks.

Launch & Parking Area

- · Improve safety and add signage near dam area stressing that the area is closed to swimming.
- Consider implementing vessel inspections within existing financial constraints.

Pinewood Campground

Add self-service kiosks.

Blue Mountain Day Use Area

- Upgrade day use area.
- Add no swimming signage near penstocks / siphon area, change safety rope to indicate danger.



Flatiron Reservoir

Desired Visitor Experience

- Highly social and developed full-service camping adjacent to Flatiron Reservoir, including multiuse campsites – primary activity.
- Shoreline fishing opportunities.
- · Picnicking in a scenic location.
- · Group picnicking.
- Water activities are prohibited.
- Trail use within the property, to the Natural Resource Administration Building.

Desired Managerial Conditions

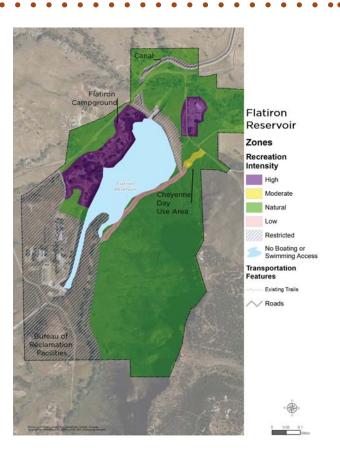
- Provide a high level of safety through signage, visitor education, and limited staff presence.
- · Manage for a high level of visitation and revenue.

Campground/Day Use Area

- · Update identification sign and kiosk area.
- Upgrade campground amenities.
- Improve group use area and campground education facility.
- · Address flooding issues by upgrading culverts.
- Add additional signs for safety, explanation of why swimming is not allowed.
- · Provide fishing etiquette signs.
- Improve pedestrian connection from Natural Resources Administration Building to Cheyenne Day Use Area.
- Evaluate ADA compliance and opportunities.

Gatehouse (near Natural Resources Administration Building)

 Upgrade the existing gatehouse with a standard design that provides ADA accessibility and an employee restroom.





A Plan for the Future

FUTURE PARKS NEEDS

- Increased regional recreation demand and population growth
- No acquisitions of "active parks" since 2007
- Less desirable visitor experiences already occurring
- Without new properties, wait times, crowding on trails, parking demand, and reservation availability will continue to escalate.



By
2040, an
estimated
150,000
people equivalent
to the
population
of Fort
Collins
today - will
be added
to Larimer
County.

Population growth by 2040 would require:

5,040

To maintain the same opportunities and wait times as the 2007 Master Plan, population growth by 2040 would require 5,040 acres of additional parkland, which is equivalent to Horsetooth Mountain Open Space, Hermit Park Open Space, and the land of Carter Lake combined...

2,250

It would also require 2,250 acres of flatwater the equivalent of two Carter Lakes.



A Plan for the Future

POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS

Chimney Hollow Open Space and Reservoir Glade Reservoir

Private Reservoirs

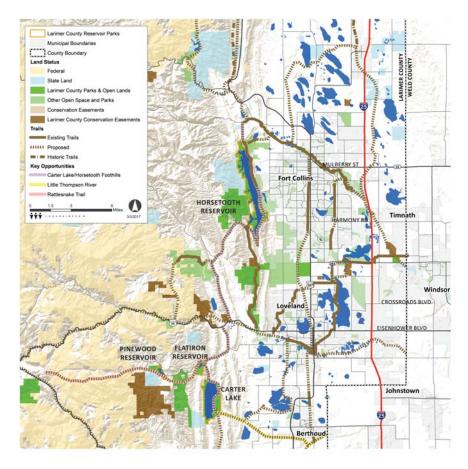
Other Public Reservoirs

Mountain Foothills Partnerships

Criteria

The following criteria will be applied to evaluate each potential reservoir park acquisition/lease/partnership:

- Does the property meet demand for public use and diversify recreation opportunities?
- Can enough revenue be generated at the reservoir park to cover the cost of managing recreation and park resources?
- Does the park have valuable natural or cultural resources?
- Does the purchase make additional recreational capacity possible in proximity to existing parks and staffing resources?
- Is Larimer County the best agency to manage the park?
- Does Larimer County's management increase public access and recreation opportunities or merely divert management from another agency's responsibility?

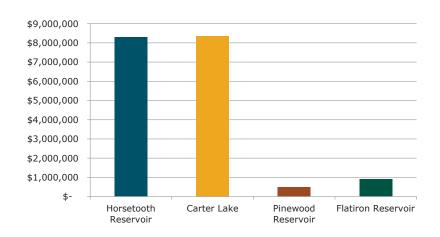




Reservoir Parks Master Plan

IMPLEMENTATION

Proposed Capital Project Costs by Reservoir



\$18 million

proposed capital costs

For comparison, over the last ten years (2007 through 2016), \$13,990,045 has been spent on capital replacement/outlay and new capital projects in Larimer County Parks.

Project Funding Sources

Capital Projects Funding Sources	Average Annu al Revenue (2007-2016)	% of Total
Transfer from Lottery Fund	\$ 4,269,945	24%
Transfer from Park Operations	\$ 4,215,145	24%
Fed- US Dept of Interior	\$ 2,529,998	14%
Psth CO- Dept of Natural Resources	\$ 2,187,362	13%
Transfer From Sales Tax Fund	\$ 2,171,212	12%
GOCO Grants	\$ 1,176,147	7%
Transfer From General Fund	\$ 563,057	3%
CO Dept Natural Resources Grants	\$ 247,561	1%
Sale of capital outlay assets	\$ 76,470	0%
Donations from Private Sources	\$ 7,230	0%
CO Dept of Public Safety	\$ 15,981	0%
Other	\$ 2,310	0%

Revenue Sources

Horsetooth



Carter, Pinewood, and Flatiron Reservoirs

