

TRAIL - Barr Lake State Park

AREA - east of Brighton, CO

MILEAGE - 8.8 miles, loop.

DIFFICULTY - Easy

TRAIL PHOTOS can be seen at: RockyMountainTrails.net/TrailBearCreekLakePark (*scroll down below Bear Creek, to reach the Barr Lake photos...)

MANAGEMENT - Colorado State Parks (303) 659-6005 (<http://parks.state.co.us/Parks/BarrLake>)

- Nature Center open Wed. thru Sun. 9:00am-4:00pm

TRAIL LOCATION - From Denver, take I-76 north east to exit # 22 / Bromley Lane, go east for 1 mile (this road becomes 152nd Ave.) At Picadilly Rd, go south/right for 1.5 miles to park entrance on west/right side. Designated trailer parking is on the west/right side of the Nature Center, a large dirt lot. Space for 15-20 trailers. Trail head is to the west of the parking lot, over a bridge.

AMENITIES - Park kiosk map, rest room, picnic tables, bbq grills, ranger station, nature center. Water fountain at the rest room is on during summer months. A water spigot at the south end of the parking lot (bring a bucket.) There is a new covered picnic area - the Meadowlark Picnic Pavilion - \$90/day plus each vehicle pays the park entrance fee - holds up to 100 people and has 15 tables & counters, 2 grills, electricity, running water, horseshoe pits, a volleyball court ... reservations through the Nature Center (303) 659-6005.

TERRAIN - Flat. The horse path is mostly dirt with some gravel running parallel to the paved hiker's path - horses are to stay off the paved path. Bare hoofed ok. Mostly open, some trees on the lake shore - however, horses are not permitted in the trees nor may horses approach the shoreline. The road across the top of the dam (Crest Trail) is open to hikers and bicycles, but not to horses. Horseback riders can use the lower trail below the dam. The Crest Trail is closed completely on waterfowl hunting days (Wed.s and Sat.s from October through February.)

CAMPING - None for equestrians.

REGULATIONS - Open year round. Park hours 5:00am to 10:00pm. Park Pass \$6.00 daily (in Jan.08), purchased at the self service station at the park entrance, or at the Nature Center on Wed.-Sun. 9:00am-4:00pm. Remember to clean up horse droppings in the parking lot!

SHARED TRAIL USERS - Hikers, bikers, fishermen, boaters. Dogs on leash law here, but not unusual to see loose dogs (note: no dogs or horses allowed in wild life refuge area.) In winter, there are also cross country ski practice. No motorized vehicles are permitted on the trails.

COMMENTS - Both Mule & Whitetail Deer are often sighted - as well as coyote, fox, cottontail, ground squirrels. There are quite a few cottonwood trees around the wetlands. Bird watching is very popular here - 330 species including bald eagles! There is a gazebo for the observation area, to watch the nesting eagles and blue herons. No horses on the boardwalks to the gazebo - may hitch your horse, or take turns holding. The riding path skirts the lake perimeter, offering

good viewing of the wildlife refuge on the south side of the lake, and the cat tail marshes. There are train tracks on the west side for about 2.5 miles - a good section of the trail there runs parallel within just a few dozen yards of the often busy track! Be sure that your horse can handle the ground vibrations & sounds of the train passing so near. Could opt to just ride the east side, and avoid the tracks altogether. Insects come early and can become big pests at times, from Spring to the Fall.