

Barr Lake Oasis...

A Collection of Exciting Learning Opportunities and Nature Center News

September – October 2017



Fall Birding Festival

Saturday, September 8th,
7am-12pm

Fly over to Barr Lake State Park to celebrate the fall bird migration, an experience worth sharing with others. Be entertained at this festive community event filled with food, fun, and lore, something for everyone. First 200 attendees get a free 20th Annual Fall Birding Festival commemorative patch. Admission per vehicle is a \$7 daily or an annual parks pass.

Enjoy events at the festival including:

- **Free snacks**
 - **Witness** live migratory songbirds in the hand at the Education and Bird Banding Station from 7-11am
 - **Explore** bird habitat on a guided walk with some of the region's best birders, 7, 8, 9 & 10am. See the schedule at the event for sign language and Spanish interpreter tours.
 - **Ride** aboard the Eagle Express for a driving tour of the wildlife refuge at 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am and 12:30pm.
 - **View** many live raptors up close from 9am-12pm
 - **Create** fun kids' crafts from 9am-1pm
 - **Brighten** your good looks with the help of a face painter
 - **Experience** educational booths; representatives of governmental and private entities will present information, discuss ideas, and answer questions from 9am-12pm
 - **Participate** in kid-centric *Bird Olympics*, which includes "What is Your Wingspan?", "Bird Hurdles" and "The Migration Game". 9am – 1pm
 - **Discover** the art of bird feeding & watching while exploring great birding supplies from 9am-12pm
 - **Shop:** 20% off all clothing and bookstore items
- For more information about the festival, call the Nature Center 303-659-6005

Guided Bird Walks

Collect your binoculars and find your field guides, or check out a loaner set of ours!



Enjoy an exciting morning of birding at Barr Lake with enthusiastic Park Naturalists. The fall bird migration is underway. Bird walks meet at the Nature Center on Saturday mornings at 9am unless otherwise noted.

September 8th, 7am, 8am, 9am and 10am.

Meet at Fall Birding Festival Bird Walk Booth

Tammy and Ira - September 22nd & October 20th

Program designed for adults. All ability levels welcome.

Education and Bird Banding Station

Open 6 days a week (T-Sun), August 25th – October 14th from 7:30 am – 11:30 am. Dates the banding station will be closed: 8/27, 9/3, 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, and 10/8.

Stop by the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies' Bird Banding Station for an up-close and personal experience with migrating songbirds using Barr Lake as a stopover point. Observe a biologist collecting data and placing bands on birds captured harmlessly in mist nets. The station is a five-minute walk from the Barr Lake Nature Center. All ages welcome. *Banding Station is dependent upon weather and may close early or not be open at all due to rain, snow, or extreme temperatures. Call the Nature Center at [303-659-6005](tel:303-659-6005) for an updated daily schedule.*

Friday Night Campfire Tales

Aug 24th, Sept 14th and Oct 19th from 7 to 8pm

Enjoy a good story and roast marshmallows around the campfire with a ranger, followed by kids craft in the Nature Center. If you want to bring your own hot dogs and fixings, you can use our fire and roasting sticks to cook your dinner at 6:30pm. For safety reasons, we must limit this event to 25 kids. RSVP required by calling 303-659-6005.

Barr Lake Nature Center ♦13401 Picadilly Rd., Brighton, CO 80603

303-659-6005 ♦barr.lake.nature.center@state.co.us

www.facebook.com/BarrLakeStatePark and www.twitter.com/BarrLakeStPk

Support for educational programming at Barr Lake State Park is provided by the Friends of Barr Lake

Full Moon Hikes

Envision yourself taking an evening hike while experiencing the setting sun and the rising full moon. Explore Barr Lake at dusk with Park Naturalists and enjoy a fall evening outdoors! These walks are limited to 15 participants per event so RSVP is required. Call 303-659-6005 today.



Meet at the Nature Center front door.



Seasons, They are a Changin'
Monday, September 22nd at 6:30pm

Welcome, Autumn! While the full moon isn't until the 24th, the Fall season starts on the 22nd. Celebrate by walking to the gazebo, explore how Barr Lake's residents are responding to seasonal changes.



The Man on the Moon Speaks
Wednesday, October 24th at 6:30pm

And, man, does he have a lot to share with you! Come discover some interesting relationships and little known moon facts. Is there really a dark side of the moon? What are its phases? And much more!

Eagle Express Rides in September

Saturdays and Labor Day 10am-noon
Sundays 11am-1pm

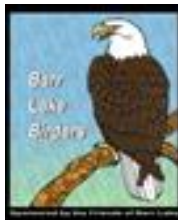
Take an express ride to adventure aboard our universally accessible, motorized Eagle Express on Saturdays and Sundays through the **entire month** of September and October. *Reserve a seat by calling the Nature Center.*

No EE on Sept 15th & 29th and Oct 13th due to special events.

Barr Lake Birders

Saturdays, 10am-12pm,
September 22nd & October 20th

Children will enjoy a community atmosphere while learning about the birding world during once a month club meetings of the Barr Lake Birders, a birding club exclusively for kids ages 6 - 15. No previous experience required, just an interest in birds and the outdoors. In addition to the monthly club meetings, we will enjoy field trips to off-park birding sites, dates & times to be determined. Call the Nature Center at 303-659-6005 to sign up.



Autumn Specialties

Bike the Colors!

Saturday, October 6th at 10am

Explore Barr Lake's nine mile Lake Perimeter Trail by bicycle! Autumn is a great time in the park and wildlife abounds. Come join a naturalist for this special time of the year at the Park. **Limited to 25 participants.** Call 303-659-6005 to RSVP. *Be sure to bring water, bug spray and a helmet.*

6th Annual Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 13th 9am to 1pm

Join us for a great fall day event sponsored by the Friends of Barr Lake. Midway games for kids to win prizes, hay rack rides, kids' crafts, face painter, plus the "Pumpkin Patch Express" kids ride. Pumpkins and corn stalks available (for appropriate donation) from our own patch! There will also be a Snack Barr with breakfast & lunch items.



Things are Batty at Barr Lake

Saturday, October 20th, 10am



Bats are amazing! They fly, use sonar, sleep upside down and can each eat up to 5,000 insects per evening! Join us as we learn about these amazing mammals. Program will be split halfway through.

Kids will then go outside to hang bat boxes. Adults can join them outside or stay at the Nature Center for an additional informational program on White Nose Syndrome which is threatening much of North America's bat population.

We're Into Pumpkins

Saturday, October 27th 1pm for ages 5-10

Really get to know your pumpkin, and its contents, before painting your free, unique jack-o'-lantern to take home just in time for Halloween! **Quantities are limited. Please contact the Nature Center to make your reservation.**

Halloween Trail

Saturday, October 27th, 6pm to 9pm

Explore what goes bump in the night on a trick-or-treat trail. Finish with kids crafts and a face painter in the Nature Center. Hot cider and cookies too!

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2018 Fiestas Patrias!

A Mexican Independence Day celebration

September 15th 11am -4pm

Coordinated by Barr Lake State Park and the Greater Brighton Chamber of Commerce, Fiestas Patrias is a cultural festival celebrating the richness of Latin American cultures and traditions, highlighting artists, crafts, music, dance and delicious food!



The celebration of this annual festival provides an excellent means of education and sharing of cultural diversity among our communities. The event is planned for September 15, geared toward all ages and people of every ethnic background. The Fiestas Patrias committee is an open group and welcomes collaboration with individuals and businesses willing to add other important dimensions to the celebration and the overall benefit it has for the Community.

The Fiestas Patrias festival will feature entertainment which will include Mexican Folklore Dancing, Spicy Tacos Mexican Food, Business Vendors, Nonprofit booths, Community Speakers, Piñatas, children activities and more! This event is free of charge and open to the general public. A parking pass or State Parks annual pass is required (fee is \$7/per car.)

What does Fiestas Patrias celebrate?

Fiestas Patrias is much like the American 4th of July in that it celebrates the creation of an independent country free of their colonial masters. Mexico's celebration of independence doesn't celebrate the actual day of independence but the call to be an independent nation.

On September 16, 1810 Father Miguel Hidalgo the parish priest of the small town of Dolores, issued his call for Mexicans to rise up and overthrow Spanish rule. This call for independence is known as "El Grito", the cry, and is widely celebrated all over Mexico today. Today it is simply rendered as "Mexicanos, Viva Mexico" and the crowds answer back with loud cries of "Viva Mexico" and much celebrating. Call the Nature Center to RSVP: 303-659-6005



\$7 daily or annual parks pass required for all programs

J.A.T.T-Just About Twilight Time

Friday, September 7th 6:30pm

Explore Barr Lake nine mile trail at dusk by bicycle! "**Just At Twilight Time**". Call 303-659-6005 to **RSVP**. Be sure to bring a light, water, bug spray and a helmet. Twilight is a quiet time in the park and wildlife abounds. Come join a naturalist for this special time of day at the Park. Limited to 25 bicycles.



Toddler Story Time

Thursdays, September 6th & October 4th - 10am



Bring your pre-school child to listen to stories about the natural world. Join park rangers in the Nature Center on the first **Thursday** of the month at 10am for a story, a snack and a craft sure to entertain your little one. The theme for September is Migration & the October theme is Monsters (the good, non-scary kind!) Please **RSVP** to the Nature Center to reserve your child's spot. *Program designed for children 3-5 accompanied by an adult.*

Basic Archery Instruction

Sundays, Sept 2nd and October 7th 11am - 1pm

Join the Barr Lake rangers for this free Introduction to Archery event. Loaner equipment will be on hand for use during class. Number of participants limited to 16 students,



ages six to adult; registration is required. **SPECIAL NOTE:** October 21st is the Pumpkin Shoot. Call the Nature Center at 303-659-6005 to register.

Pumpkin Shoot! SPECIAL!

Sunday, October 21st 11am-1pm

Join the Barr Lake rangers for this Introduction to Archery event.



Loaner equipment will be on hand for use during class. Number of participants limited to 16 students, ages six to adult, **registration is required**. Call the Nature Center at 303-659-6005 to register.

Adult Polymer Clay Workshop

Sundays, Sept 30th and Oct 28th 1pm to 3pm

Unleash your creativity and learn how to make a fun owl sculpture or ornament out of polymer clay. Limited to 10 participants 16 or older. Supplies provided. September's project is owls & October's is bats!

RSVP required: 303-659-6005

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National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 29th, 9am – noon

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. Please join us as we take a stand against



invasive weeds at the park, water our new trees and pickup shoreline trash! Giveaways and free entrance to the park for participation! Please bring sunglasses, hat, sturdy footwear, sunscreen bug spray, work gloves (if you have them) and a water bottle. **Meet at the Nature Center.**

Tuesday Evenings on the Eagle Express

September 4th & 18th and October 2nd, 16th & 30th
4:00pm to sunset

Sit back and ride aboard the Eagle Express for a 2-3 hr excursion around the lake. Space is limited to 10 people, so make a reservation by calling 303-659-6005 & confirm the departure time. Dress for the weather (especially in October!) or bring a lap blanket. Pack a picnic for our dinner stop. Meet at the boat ramp. (*Wear your costume on the 31st!*)

Bike Your Park Day

Saturday, September 29th, all day

Guided Tour at 10AM-12PM

Explore your parks and public lands by bicycle with thousands of others throughout the world on the same day — Bike Your Park Day on **September 29, 2018**. Bring your friends and family, or go solo, and discover the bicycling opportunities in your backyard, whether it's a national park, state park, monument, historic site, recreation area, wildlife refuge, or parkway. September 29 is also National Public Lands Day and a free entrance day in our park. Call the Nature Center to RSVP 303-659-6005

Bark in the Park

Saturday, September 22nd 10am -12pm



Celebrate the dog days of September with dogs! Join us for The Dog Biscuit Barr, and pose together at the funny-face Stand-In for that perfect photo op (if you can get your dog to put his face through the hole.) There will be a Pooch Pool Party, the Dog Bone Kissing Booth and even the opportunity to meet local vendors. Come alone or bring your four-footed pal. All visitors' dogs must be kept on a 6' or less leash and be under the control of their owners at all times.

Nature Walk & Talk

Fridays, Sept 28th and Oct 19th @ 10am

Saturdays, Sept 15th & Oct 6th @ 10am

Share your knowledge, experiences and enthusiasm with other Barr Lake visitors and volunteers as we discover and rediscover the park's hidden treasures. No RSVP required. Program designed for adults. Meet at the Nature Center, dress for the weather.

Equine Playground

Come play with your horse at Barr Lake! With the financial help of The Friends of Barr Lake, the Natural Trail Riders group from the Brighton area designed and installed a 66-foot round pen with a ride through gate. Other obstacles are the slalom, barrels for working equitation, rope gate, log jam, bridge, weave with logs, car wash with noodles, log jumps, figure 8 and teeter totter. Bring your horse and come play, be safe and take care of the obstacles. At this time, no RSVP required.



Geocaching at Barr Lake

Ongoing



Do you enjoy following clues and visiting new locations? Are you good at reading a GPS or a map & compass? Geocaching could be the activity for you! Combine science and adventure to visit new areas around the park or around the state! Barr Lake is home to several cache locations and you're invited to find them. Go to Geocaching.com for more details about our caches and other caches around the world!

What's New in the Park?

You've probably noticed lots of heavy equipment in some areas of the park and wondered what's going on. Well, we're upgrading! The 3-D Archery Range is getting new targets and the trail is being renovated to improve ease of use. The west side of the Lake Perimeter Trail is being renovated. The areas near the boat ramp area are getting a facelift for shoreline stabilization, AND work is beginning on the ADA-compliant fishing pier. All these areas will remain open during the improvements construction, and we ask that you remain careful while visiting these regions of the park.

e-Mailing list

Would you like to receive the Barr Lake Oasis via email? If so, please send an Oasis e-mailing request to barr.lake.nature.center@state.co.us

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