

Barr Lake Oasis...

A Collection of Exciting Learning Opportunities and Nature Center News

November – December 2018



We hope you all have a safe and tasty Thanksgiving Day. Barr Lake State Park will be open all day Thursday, November 23rd, Thanksgiving Day. The Nature Center, however, will be closed, allowing staff and volunteers to share the holiday with their families.

Visit Barr Lake Nature Center this fall!

The Nature Center hours have changed!

Starting November 1st

Open every day 9am-4pm

Enjoy innovative wildlife exhibits; shop for great clothing, diverse natural history books, and unique bird & nature-themed gift items; savor a cup of hot coffee, cocoa or tea; and get cozy on comfortable leather furniture while watching interesting birds at the feeders right outside the windows. We have a new sound system that brings the outdoors in!

Veterans Day

Sunday, November 11th, 10am to 2pm



Barr Lake State Park salutes our veterans with free park admission and Eagle Express rides for you and your family into the wildlife refuge.

Enjoy a bowl of warm chili in the Nature Center after your tour, sponsored by the Friends of Barr Lake. Tours start at 10:00 am and 12:30 pm. **Please call the Nature Center at 303-659-6005 to reserve your seats on the Eagle Express which is limited to 13 passengers.**

Guided Bird Walks

Collect your binoculars and field guides, or check out a loaner set of ours, and enjoy an exciting morning of birding at Barr Lake State Park. Enthusiastic Park Naturalists will introduce birders of all ability levels to Barr Lake's feathered residents and migrants. In addition to a variety of wintering songbirds, you may find the raptor and waterfowl watching this time of year to be exceptional! No RSVP required. Meet at the Nature Center



Program designed for adults. All experience & ability levels welcome.

November 24th – Tammy & Ira

December 22nd – Tammy & Ira

\$7 daily or annual parks pass required for all programs except Fresh Air Friday on November 23rd.

Annual Week-long Sale & Holiday Open House

December 1st – 9th

Save 20% on regular retail store items and shop with a purpose

Beat the mall crowds and parking hassles! Shop for great gifts and stocking stuffers, all on sale. We carry a wide variety of children's books, puzzles, and gadgets; field and hiking guides; natural history books; stuffed animals and puppets; numerous bird items and ornaments; fabulous clothing, and more. Your purchases support great programs at Barr Lake.



Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 1st, all day

Bring your family and friends to enjoy Barr Lake's Holiday Open House and savor delicious holiday refreshments. It's a day filled with something for everyone, see schedule below!!

- 9am-4pm Save 20% & shop with a purpose

All bookstore items and clothing are on sale!

(Local artisans items not included)

- 9am Bird walk

- 10am-2pm Craft making for kids

Make a pinecone bird feeder or holiday ornament

- 11am – Winter Birdfeeding Workshop

Winter Wonders Holiday Trail

Generously Sponsored by United Power

Saturday, December 15th 6pm to 9pm

Our 8th Annual! Join us for a short hike to celebrate the wonders of winter on our lighted bridge and Niedrach Trail. Fun activities will include lighted trail, kids' crafts, face painter and **a visit from Santa Claus**. RSVP by calling the Nature Center 303-659-6005



Please visit us on Facebook for weather updates!

e-Mailing list

Would you like to receive the Barr Lake Oasis via email? Subscribers get first notifications of upcoming events. Please send an e-mail with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line to barr.lake.nature.center@state.co.us and we'll take care of the rest.

Like us on Facebook!



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Live & Learn Workshops!

Full Moon Hikes

Envision yourself taking an evening hike while experiencing the rising full moon. Explore Barr Lake at dusk with Park Naturalists and enjoy a fall evening outdoors! **Limited to 15 participants. Please RSVP 303-659-6005**



Trek through History

Friday, November 23rd at 5:30pm



Walk through the history of Barr Lake on this informative stroll through time. Please meet at the **Boat Ramp** area. *Suitable for all ages, dress for the outdoors. Fresh Air Friday so free admission day!*

Solstice Moon Hike

Friday, December 21st at 5:30pm



Bundle up and share part of the longest night of the year with Naturalist Larry which happens to be two days before the full moon (also called the Cold Moon.) *Suitable for all ages, dress for the outdoors. All ages welcome; meet at the Nature Center.*

Winter Bird Feeding Workshop

Sunday, December 16th at 10am



Providing suet, seeds and nuts to backyard birds during the winter offers the fats and carbohydrates needed to fuel their internal furnace. Join Ranger Michelle in making cold-weather treats for our feathered friends.

Archery Program

Sunday, December 2nd at 11am-1pm

Regular Basic Archery

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, ages 6 to adult, so registration is required. Call the Nature Center at 303-659-6005 to register.



Mostly for Kids!

Toddler Holiday Party

Friday, November 30th 10AM-12PM

Bring the party to the ELF-sized level! Join Ranger Michelle and her merry elves as we throw a party for toddlers ages 3-6. We will light the tree, create a holiday craft, enjoy a tasty snack and hear a story of the season.

Please RSVP - 303-659-6005. Limited to 100 kids.



New Year's Eve Noon

Monday, December 31st 11:00AM

Come revel in 2019 before the rush! Bring the family whole to our rockin' raucous New Year's Eve Party without having the kids miss their bedtime! There will be crafts, snacks, party favors, punch toast and a balloon drop plus a countdown for a noon celebration. It's going to be **LOUD** so gauge how your little one will respond to all the noise of the party. **Please RSVP to the Nature Center 303-659-6005. Limited to 100 kids.**



Kids Holiday Pajama Party

Thursday, December 27th 10AM - 12PM

A Pajamas Party for kids of all ages! Join us for a pancake breakfast before settling in with your cuddly blanket and favorite stuffed animal for a viewing movie on our big screen TV! This year's movie is Disney's **The Muppets Christmas Carol (1992)** starring Kermit, Miss Piggy and Michael Caine! Wear your best pajamas and be sure there's not a hole in your slippers! It's going to be a ton of fun! Please call **303-659-6005** to RSVP for this event. *Limited to 40 kids.*

Toddler Story Time

Thursdays, Nov 1st & Dec 6th 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 November theme is **the Moon!** In December, **Bears** are the theme. Please **RSVP** to the Nature Center 303-659-6005 to reserve your child's spot. *Program designed for children 3-5 accompanied by an adult.*

Special Archery Instruction

FOR KIDS 6-16

Sunday, November 18th at 11am-1pm

Turkey Shoot!!!

Sunday, December 23rd at 11am-1pm

Snowflake Shoot!!!

Are you a kid who is interested in trying Archery? CPW staff will be on hand with loaner equipment to show you the proper and safe way to shoot. (No REAL turkeys are involved, although there might be real snowflakes floating in the air! Dress for the weather!) Number of participants limited, so registration is required. *Call the Nature Center 303-659-6005 to reserve your spot!*



Like us on Facebook!



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Take a Hike at Barr Lake!

National Take-a-Hike Day

Saturday, November 17th 10am

With over 60,000 miles of trails in the National Trail System across the 50 states, there is no lack of opportunity to take a hike. Come enjoy Barr Lake's many trails while celebrating this healthy holiday with a Ranger-led hike at 10AM. (See Nature Walk & Talk)



Nature Walk & Talk

Fridays, November 2nd & November 30th @ 10am

Saturday, November 17th @ 10am

THURSDAY December 13th @ 10am

Share your knowledge, experiences and enthusiasm with other Barr Lake visitors and volunteers as we discover the park's hidden treasures. No RSVP required. National Take-a-Hike Day will be celebrated this day too! Program designed for adults. Meet at the Nature Center, dress for the weather because we're going, rain, snow or shine.

The Great Waddle Walk-off

(Also known as Fresh Air Friday Colorado!)

Friday, November 23rd, 10am

Thinking you might over-do it at Thanksgiving? It's all about family, friends and delicious food, but wouldn't it be nice to add an adventure outdoors where you can stretch your legs and fill your lungs with wonderful fresh air? Come to Barr Lake State Park! We have a peaceful 3-mile stroll planned that is the perfect way to socialize with old friends and maybe make a few new ones, all while enjoying Mother Nature. Dogs are welcome too! Held in conjunction with CPW's Fresh Air Friday, so enjoy **free admission** to Barr Lake! Colorado Parks & Wildlife encourages you to take some time this Thanksgiving weekend to explore the outdoors and make new memories with the people you love. Turn Black Friday into a blue skies Friday, a green trees Friday, a white snow Friday... a Fresh Air Friday! Join the Photo Scavenger Hunt and share your outdoor adventures with us using the hashtag #FreshAirFridayCO!

Most of all, HAVE FUN!

America's State Parks First Day Hikes

Tuesday, January 1, 2019, 11AM



Barr Lake State Park invites all Coloradans to welcome 2019 by heading outside to enjoy the trails in our Colorado State Park. First Day Hikes offer a chance to start the new year right by getting out for some exercise in nature. This hike at the park will be a great opportunity to view bald eagles and all types of wildlife, especially Bald eagles. Spotting scopes will be set up for use during the hikes. Dogs are welcome! **Reservations are required!** Please call the Nature Center at 303-659-6005.

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Off-site Events

Operation FreeBird

Saturday, November 17th, 10am – 2pm

1800 W 89th Avenue, Denver, CO 80260

Operation FreeBird is an event sponsored by the Adams County Sheriff's Office, the Adams County Sheriff's Foundation and 200+ community partners that give back to those less fortunate in the areas they serve.



Each family that attends the event receives everything needed for a holiday meal. During the event, the participants are afforded the opportunity to visit with a number of resources to include medical, dental, grooming, job services and public assistance information. Talon the Red-tailed Hawk (CPW's mascot) will be there to cheer on the festivities! For more information, call Sr. Deputy Michael Kaiser at 303.655.3283

34th Annual City of Brighton

Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, Nov 17th 8:30am to noon

If you're running the annual Turkey Trot, please drop by to say "hi" to Talon the CPW Mascot, park staff, and volunteers at the Brighton Recreation Center. We'll have information about Barr Lake. We hope to see you there.



City of Brighton 22nd Annual Festival of Lights Parade

Saturday, December 8th at 5pm

Join park staff and volunteers as we highlight our fully lighted patrol vehicle and boat to join in the celebration of the "A Hometown Holiday Tradition" parade in downtown Brighton.

NOTE: All programs, services and activities of Colorado Parks and Wildlife are operated in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation as a result of a disability, please submit your request to Tracy Gripp, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216 or 303-291-7485 or tracy.gripp@state.co.us. To assure that Colorado Parks and Wildlife can meet your needs, please notify Tracy Gripp of your request at least seven working days prior to the scheduled event.

Friends Spot!

There's so much that Barr Lake State Park accomplishes that depends upon the Friends of Barr Lake State Park! From little things like paying to fix or replace broken binoculars, to supplying craft supplies at kids events throughout the year, Friends is there to help. If there's a special attraction in the park such as the upcoming installation of the ADA compliant fishing pier at the Boat Ramp area, there's a good chance that Friends was supporting the financial burden with grant applications, donations, and various fundraising events.

If you want to help in their efforts to maintain and even improve the park, please consider becoming a member or participating in their fundraisers such as are listed below. Check out their website at www.friendsofbarrlake.org or pick up a Friends application at the Nature Center. It's easy to join at one of several membership levels and you get something out of it too – continued improvements when you visit Barr Lake State Park.

★ BEER FOR THE BIRDS FUNDRAISER ★

Friday, November 30th 5pm – 8pm

Big Choice Brewery 21 S 1st Ave, Brighton, CO 80601
(303) 498-0150

Join the Friends of Barr Lake at Big Choice Brewery for craft beer and gourmet pizza! A portion of your tab automatically is donated to the Friends of Barr Lake! No special coupons or fancy passwords – just show up hungry and thirsty for delicious, regionally crafted delights! It supports both Barr Lake State Park and a local business. No RSVP required.

VILLAGE IN "SWEET RETURNS" PIE CARDS!

Through December 31st or while supplies last.

This is the sweetest way yet to help the Friends and the park! Enjoy an award-winning Village Inn pie by making a \$12.50 donation to the Friends of Barr Lake to get a whole pie card! You can use to choose to pick up a pie at a participating Village Inn, such as the one in Brighton on Kuner Rd. Select from the classic fruits like Country Apple, Strawberry Rhubarb or Triple Berry to the smooth chocolate taste of French Silk or the tangy Lemon Supreme. You can use the cards as co-worker gifts, neighbor presents, or even have it handy if you're on your way to a party and need a hostess gift like a delicious pie! Alternatively (and best option of all), redeem it to get a pie as a present to yourself! You'll be doing the Friends a good turn any way you slice it! The cards will be available at the Barr Lake Nature Center. Please use cash or check to make your donation.

WRAPPING FOR TIPS – BASS PRO SHOPS IN NORTHFIELD 7970 Northfield Blvd, Denver, CO 80238

December 16th & December 20th 10AM – 8PM

While shopping for gifts, do yourself a time-saving favor and let us put the finishing touch on your presents! Friends of Barr Lake is pairing with Cabela's/Bass Pro Shops to wrap presents for a fundraising cash donation. Make life a little easier during the busy holiday season while helping the Friends!

NATURE-THEMED BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT THE PARK

Have you ever wanted a unique birthday party to honor your child's birthday? Parties will include a nature related craft and hike. Call the park to schedule your next celebration. Cost is \$5 per child or \$7 per child if requesting a themed cake provided by the park. Accompanying adults are free. \$7 per vehicle entrance fee still applies. Contact the Nature Center 303-659-6005 for additional information.

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies Homeschool Programs

Friday, November 9, 2018: Nature Art, 9-11am

Create art with natural materials we find in our backyard!

Location: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies Environmental Learning Center, 14500 Lark Bunting Ln, Brighton, CO 80603

Ages: 4 years of age & older

Cost: \$5/child \$1/adult

Friday, December 7, 2018: Orienteering, 9-11:30am

Learn how to use a map & compass!

Location: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies Environmental Learning Center, 14500 Lark Bunting Ln, Brighton, CO 80603

Ages: 6 years of age & older

Cost: \$5/child \$1/adult

Register at <https://birdconservancy.org/what-we-do/education/colorado-programs/homeschool/>

Additional Good Things to Know JR RANGER PROGRAM

If your child is visiting the park and wants to earn a Junior Ranger badge, stop by the Nature Center to get the form. We'll help your kid(s) learn to appreciate natural settings, the varied and exciting park ecology and the hard work it takes to maintain Barr Lake State Park as a wonderful place to visit!

MEADOWLARK PAVILION and EDUCATION ROOM RENTAL

Need to hold a special event? Our Meadowlark Pavilion and our Education Room are available for your small events, such as weddings, parties, club meetings or business functions. Contact the Nature Center for price and availability.

"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, it is necessary to stand out in the cold."

- Aristotle

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