

Barr Lake Oasis...

A Collection of Exciting Learning Opportunities and Nature Center News

January-February 2016

First Day Hikes

Friday, January 1st at 11am

Barr Lake State Park will be participating in America's State Parks First Day Hikes 2016 and we hope you'll join us. With all 50 states participating, the nationwide effort will help promote healthy lifestyles and encourage year-round recreation at our state parks.

Starting time: 11 a.m.

Meeting place: Nature Center

Description: 3-mile easy hike with opportunity to observe all types of wildlife, including many species of birds. Dogs are welcome!

Barr Lake's staff encourages you to start the New Year by enjoying the outdoors and seeing the eagles. Spotting scopes will be available for visitors to use on the hikes.



Image Envision · 34570

Christmas Bird Count for Kids

Monday, January 18th 9am-2pm



Meet at *the Meadowlark Picnic Pavilion*, Barr Lake State Park, 13401 Picadilly Rd, Brighton CO 80603

Join local families and a naturalist from Bird Conservancy of the Rockies for the Christmas Bird Count held especially for kids! They may be off from school for MLK day, but they'll still spend time learning about their world. The event gets kids involved in the celebrated tradition of annual bird counts, started by the National Audubon Society more than 100 years ago to encourage bird conservation.

- Discover local birds that tough out the harsh Colorado winter
- Learn what it means to be a "citizen scientist"
- Explore the outdoors and practice birding with experienced birders
- Enjoy a live raptor presentation during the closing celebration

Ages 3-18 welcome! Kids must be accompanied by an adult. \$3 per person plus \$7 per vehicle park pass. Warm drinks, snack and loaner binoculars provided.

Pre-registration is required.

RSVP REQUIRED to Nicole Passeri, [\(303\)659-4348 ext. 18](tel:3036594348) or nicole.passeri@birdconservancy.org by Friday, January 15.

Your Ticket to the Great Outdoors!

The 2016 annual parks pass is available now for purchase at Barr Lake and provides entry into 42 amazing Colorado State Parks. The Annual Park Pass is \$70 and the Aspen Leaf Pass is \$60 for Colorado-resident seniors at least 64 years old. Both passes are valid for at least one year from their purchase date.

Give the gift that keeps on giving.....the great outdoors.



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

Ice Fishing Seminar by Tightline Outdoors

Sunday, January 3rd at 10am

Expert guides will cover topics from equipment to hot spots to try! Call the Nature Center 303-659-6005 to RSVP.



Martin Luther King Day Celebration

Monday, January 18th 10am-12pm

Are you looking for something fun to do with your kids on this holiday? Please join us as the Nature Center will be open this day. We'll have kids' crafts all day and a nature hike at 10am. The three-mile hike will explore the wildlife refuge and we'll observe our roosting bald eagle population.

New Volunteer Open House

Saturday, February 27th 10am

Have you always wanted to contribute your unique talents, skills, and passions to helping others? Do you think that being in the outdoor field for a career might be for you? If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you! Barr Lake is recruiting volunteers to:



- Entrance station host
- Friends of Barr Lake event coordinator
- School leader
- Park maintenance
- Nature Center host
- Trail host
- NEW teen program

We provide initial, on-the-job, and level two training sessions, ongoing educational opportunities, unique experiences, a free Colorado State Parks pass (after you complete 48 service hours), and a great team of current staff and volunteers with whom to work! Volunteer applications are available at the Nature Center and at the Volunteer Open House.

Park staff and veteran volunteers will share some basic information and be on hand to answer questions. This Open House will acquaint you with the limitless volunteer activities available at Barr Lake State Park!

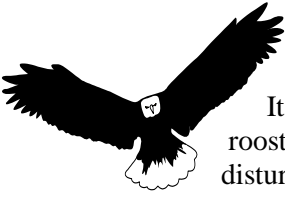


\$7 daily or annual parks pass required for all programs



Follow us on Facebook!

Bald Eagle Nesting



The habitat of Barr Lake's wildlife refuge is perfect for one pair of nesting bald eagles.

It has large old cottonwoods for roosting, rich food sources, and little disturbance. A pair of bald eagles has been observed in the refuge, every year, since 1986. As of 2015, Barr Lake bald eagles have fledged 51 young! Make a date to come to Barr Lake in January and February as they are excellent months for bald eagle viewing. In January, eagles begin courtship behavior including tumbling in mid-air, nest building, and staying close together. In mid-February, and often coinciding with Valentine's Day, bald eagles lay one to three eggs. The parents take turns incubating the eggs, so you are practically guaranteed to see an eagle on the nest. If all goes well, eaglets hatch in late March or early April.

Join us for a unique opportunity to view our bald eagle population at its peak! Our guided hike travels to the gazebo and back.

Saturday, January 16th at 10am

Saturday, January 30th at 10am

Bald Eagle Festival

Saturday, February 6th 10am – 2pm

Fourth Annual Eagle Fest! We'll have crafts for the kids and a live raptor presentation that everyone will enjoy. Weather permitting, we will shuttle guests on the Eagle Express to the gazebo and back. Kids can join a Naturalist on the front lawn for Build It Big!, constructing a life-sized replica of a Bald eagle nest. The hike is three miles round trip. Join RMBO at The Gazebo from 9am – 12pm for a presentation as well. Call 303-659-6005 to RSVP.

Guided hike- 10am starting at Nature Center Eagle Express

Bald eagle presentation at 12pm at Nature Center- Presented by Nature's Educators

Eagle express rides at 10am and 1pm (RSVP required to ensure participation)

Kids crafts 10am to 4pm at Nature Center

Build It Big! 11am at Nature Center

Happy Valentine's Day

Choose the perfect gift for your sweetie and loved ones from the bookstore and Barr Lake clothing. Come for a romantic stroll along the shores of Barr Lake. Take in the fresh air and feel the romance in the air.



Love is in the Air

Saturday, February 13th at 1:00pm

Kids, ages 4-8, can celebrate the heart of the season this Valentine's Day at Barr Lake. Bald eagles and great horned owls are the early birds of the nesting season. Learn about the unique courtship and nesting habits of these fantastic birds. Get a warm and fuzzy feeling with a related story, craft, and short walk.

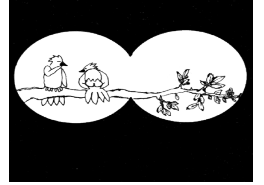
Program designed for kids, ages 4-8 years old.

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.

Saturday Guided Bird Walks at 9am

Grab your binoculars and field guide or check out a loaner set of ours, and enjoy an exciting morning of birding at Barr Lake. Park Naturalists enthusiastically 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!



January 9th - Marilyn

January 23rd - Tammy and Ira

February 13th - Marilyn

February 27st - Tammy and Ira

Program designed for adults. All ability levels welcome.

Other programs:

Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 13th 9am – 12pm

Great Backyard Bird Count now has participants in over 130 different countries with over 140,000 participants! Come join Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and Barr Lake State Park for the 19th annual GBBC. Spend a morning learning the importance of being a Citizen Scientist while exploring what local birds are toughing out the winter here in Brighton. There is even a photo contest for the photographers in the group!

Basic Archery Instruction

Sundays, January 24th & February 14th 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 6 to adult, registration is required. Call the Nature Center at 303-659-6005 to register. **Special Note:** The Sunday February 14th event will include a Cupid's Hearts Shoot.

Off-site Events

Join us at these off-site locations to see **Talon**, the Colorado State Park Boating Safety Mascot.



Denver Boat Show

Friday, January 8th through Sunday, January 10th at the Colorado Convention Center.

International Sportmen's Expo

Thursday, January 14th through Sunday, January 17th 500 companies will exhibit in a single 290,000 square foot hall, offering a staggering selection of outdoor goods and services! Check their webpage at <http://www.sportsexpos.com/attend/denver/>

Or scan this QR code with your smartphone:



Nature quote:

"People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy." ~Anton Chekhov~



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