



PARK RULES

- Park open sunrise to sunset (Gates open by 6:30 am)
- Trail speed limit is 15 mph
- Wildlife habitat is protected
- Bikes & rollerbladers must stay on designated trails
- Pets must be on a six foot leash
- Non-motorized boating and in the river only
- Horses in designated areas only

PROHIBITED

- Alcoholic beverages
- Unauthorized motorized vehicles
- Glass bottles, littering, dumping
- Swimming & bathing
- Hunting & trapping
- Tree houses & rope swings
- Amplified sound
- Golf practice
- Weapons, including projectiles and bowfishing, and fireworks
- Overnight camping & fires
- Boating on lakes

C.R.S. 18-9-117

SOUTH PLATTE PARK

A Natural Area



3000 W Carson Dr.
Littleton, CO 80120

303.730.1022

ssprd.org/nature

southplattepark



The South Platte River Shapes Life in Our Community



Shaping our Community

The South Platte River has a history of dramatic floods. A tremendous rainstorm in 1965 sent a flash flood racing towards Littleton. Imagine the roar from a wall of water 12 feet high and a mile wide crashing through the valley uprooting trees, homes and bridges. Look for evidence of the flood as you hike.

Chatfield Dam was built to prevent future flooding. Littleton envisioned keeping open space along the river for people and wildlife.

City leaders lobbied Congress for permission to purchase the floodplain, rather than channelize the river. Thanks to Littleton, the open space option is now considered a viable alternative for flood projects across the nation.

Over many centuries, the South Platte River deposited sand and gravel that was mined and used for concrete and asphalt roads. Park staff and volunteers are restoring these former gravel mining pits into prime habitat for wildlife using native plants and advanced restoration techniques.

Shaping Wildlife

South Platte Park protects 2.5 miles of the South Platte River along with the surrounding riparian (streamside) habitat of cottonwood forests and wetlands. The river naturally meanders through the Park, creating essential habitats for wildlife including the sandbars used by killdeer and toads, or the cut-banks used by kingfishers and swallows.

South Platte Park has five lakes that are open to fishing, and two others managed with limited access as water storage and for wildlife habitat. In an arid place like Colorado's Front Range, water is essential to wildlife and attracts great diversity. South Platte Park is recognized as a national Important Bird Area. In the winter, South Platte Park serves as a critical stopping point for bald eagles and nearly two dozen types of waterfowl. In spring, hundreds of songbirds create a dawn chorus.

In spring, dozens of neotropical migrant birds use the forests for nesting, and join in the melodious dawn chorus. The park is also home to a host of other animals including deer, coyote, raccoons, bobcats, and more!



Shaping Human Lives

Discover the nature of the South Platte Park on your own, or with a professional naturalist. Sign up at register.ssprd.org:

- Join a family walk, moonlight hike, or campfire program.
- Sign up for naturalist classes and wildlife tours on evenings or weekends.
- Enjoy summer camps like Junior Rangers or Kids Nature Clubhouse.
- Bring your classroom or community group for a custom guided field trip.
- Interact with exhibits and live animals in the Carson Nature Center and pick up trail maps, wildlife guides and brochures.
- Rent "Explorer Packs" to guide your own hikes.
- Contribute your skills and learn as a volunteer interpreter, nature center host or for land stewardship projects.
- Rent the Kingfisher Studio or book the South Platte Express nature van for your group meeting or family party.
- Enjoy a free hike each month into the Cooley wildlife area.
- Enjoy a nature-themed birthday party!
- Celebrate solitude in the city.

Relax and get fit with recreation opportunities:

- Bike, skate or ride horses along 2.5 miles of the paved Mary Carter Greenway Trail, part of a metro-region trail system.
- Hike on five miles of natural surface trails.
- Fish on five lakes or the entire 2.5 mile stretch of the river.
- Float the river on canoes or rafts.
- View wildlife including more than 250 kinds of birds and 60 types of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish.
- Photograph scenic vistas.

