

WATERCRAFT USER GUIDE

FOR PROSPECT LAKE & QUAIL LAKE



Revised 2025



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Prospect Lake and Quail Lake are operated by the City of Colorado Springs
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department (PRCS)



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BOATING HOURS

PROSPECT LAKE (1605 E. Pikes Peak Ave., Memorial Park, south side)

Motorized Hours

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays: Sunrise to Sunset

Non-motorized Hours

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays: Sunrise to Sunset

Prospect Lake Activity Closures

The lake is **CLOSED** to all watercraft during the duration of the **Adaptive Water-Skiing & Tubing Program (see pg. 9):**

Wednesdays, July 2nd - August 6th; 8am - 3:30pm

The lake may occasionally **CLOSE** for maintenance during the Prospect Lake Aeration project.

NOTE: For additional information regarding the Prospect Lake Aeration project, please visit ColoradoSprings.gov/ProspectLakeAeration.

For information on watercraft use for Prospect Lake, see pg. 7

QUAIL LAKE (915 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd., Quail Lake Park)

Non-motorized Hours:

Daily, (Sunday through Saturday): Sunrise to Sunset

NOTE: All motorized watercraft are prohibited on Quail Lake.

For information on watercraft use for Quail Lake, see pg. 11

GENERAL LAKE CLOSURES

Special Events: Special events and organized open water swimming may be scheduled during boating times. These activities can/will pre-empt some or all boating hours for the duration of the event (**see pg. 9**).

Health & Safety: Occasionally, the lakes may close due to the prevalence of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), and other hazardous situations.

GENERAL LAKE RULES

- All watercraft use is by permit only.
- No swimming or wading allowed, unless in the designated beach area. Please contact the Parks department and/or SUP Colorado Springs for information.
- Dogs are allowed on a leash in the surrounding lake areas and leash laws are in effect for Prospect Lake and Memorial Park.
- No ice-related activities shall be permitted on the lake.
- Due to the possibility of damage to the lake liner, no anchoring devices will be permitted on or around the lake.

IMPORTANT: Please be respectful to all lake users (**see, pg. 4**).

In the event of an emergency, please dial 911, or contact the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) non-emergency dispatch at (719) 444-7000.

WATERCRAFT DEFINITIONS & REGULATIONS

Required by City Codes, Sections 4.1.101 & 4.3.109

4.1.101 DEFINITIONS

WATERCRAFT: Every type of vessel used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water. Watercraft may include hand-propelled boats, belly boats, motorized boats and wind vessels.

(Ord. 4716; 1968 Code, §10-2; Ord. 88-65; Ord. 88-265; Ord. 01-42; Ord. 11-19; Ord. 18-21)

4.3.109 WATERCRAFT PERMITS

The Manager shall regulate the use of watercraft upon any park, park property or park facility and require permits for appropriate types or classes of watercraft used upon any park, park property or park facility. It shall be unlawful to use any watercraft upon the waters in any park unless a permit has been issued in accord with this article and the Manager's rules and regulations.

(1968 Code §10-24.18; Ord. 80-47; Ord. 01-42)

City Code can be found at <https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/coloradospringsco>

WATERCRAFT DEFINITION *(as defined by City of Colorado Springs)*

Motorized Watercraft & Motorized Personal Watercraft

Motorized watercraft means any vessel propelled by machinery, whether or not such machinery is the principal source of propulsion including "personal watercraft (i.e. jet skis) and vessels with trolling motors".

Non-motorized Watercraft

Sailboats, Float Tubes, Belly Boats, and other hand propelled watercraft.

ENFORCEMENT *(as authorized by City Code, Section 4.2.101)*

City police, fire officials and designated PRCS personnel are authorized to enforce all ordinances, rules and regulations.

Only permitted users can be on water during their scheduled times.

Scheduled and non-scheduled users may not be on the lake at the same time.

If a non-scheduled user of the lake does not vacate the water immediately, a description of the watercraft and its operator, in addition to the state registration number shall be reported to **CSPD Dispatch (719) 444-7000**.

Violators of ordinances, rules or regulations concerning the conduct or operation of vessels on or around the lake area may be removed from the lake, cited by an enforcement officer, or have watercraft permit revoked.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Weather in Colorado Springs is unpredictable and can change rapidly, becoming dangerous to boaters. Be aware of rapid cloud build up, drop in temperature and sudden changes in wind direction or speed as these may signal the arrival of dangerous weather conditions. When lightning is seen or thunder is heard near the lake, it is strongly recommended that people immediately shelter in their cars.

It is not safe to take shelter under a tree or anywhere within 100 feet (100') of the shore when lightning is present. As a rule of thumb, boaters can return to the water thirty minutes after the last audible thunder is heard or lightning seen.

WATERCRAFT GENERAL USE REQUIREMENTS

As set forth by the Colorado Boating Statutes & Regulations

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- One personal flotation device of a type approved by the commandant of the USCG in good and serviceable condition, and in a readily accessible place of storage for each person on board a watercraft.
- Additional equipment designed to promote navigational safety to include, but not limited to: sounding device, bailing device, fire extinguisher, and orange flag.
- If not an entirely open vessel and if carrying or using any inflammable or toxic fluid in any enclosure for any purpose, an efficient natural or mechanical ventilation system which shall be capable of removing any resulting gases prior to and during the time such vessel is occupied by any person.
- Personal watercraft equipped by the original manufacturer with an engine cutoff switch lanyard that shall attach to his/her person, clothing, or PFD, as appropriate for the specific watercraft.
- Watercraft owner shall be subject to an equipment inspection at any time while participating in boating activities at Prospect or Quail Lake.



PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Each person applying for a watercraft permit shall present to the Director or the Director's designee the following:

• Colorado State Boat Registration

Evidence of a current Colorado State Boat Registration certificate and number, unless exempt by statute due to the type of watercraft.

• Watercraft Inspection Form

Each person applying for an annual watercraft permit is required to complete a City of Colorado Springs PRCS - "**Watercraft Equipment Inspection Form**". This can be done at Sertich Ice Center (1705 E. Pikes Peak Ave) during business hours at the sale of an annual permit. (**NOTE: Boat dealers are exempt from this requirement.**)

• Insurance (required for all motorized watercraft)

Evidence of current boater's insurance is required. No motorized watercraft annual permit or day pass shall be issued to the applicant without evidence of current public liability and property damage insurance policies. The following insurance coverage shall be required in the name of the watercraft owner:

Bodily Injury and Property Damage: Combined single limit of \$300,000

Each policy of insurance shall contain an endorsement that the insurance carrier shall notify the City at least thirty (30) days in advance of the effective date of any reduction or cancellation of the policy. The cancellation or reduction of insurance shall be cause for automatic suspension of the permit.

WATERCRAFT PERMIT TERMS & FEES

TERMS & WAIVER OF BOAT PERMITS

- Upon issuance, the permit shall be permanently affixed in a conspicuous location on an exterior surface of the boat.
- Upon issuance of the permit, if needed, the watercraft owner will receive a key to open the gate at the boat ramp. As a Prospect Lake permit and key holder, you are **required** to lock the gate after launching and loading watercraft.
- Each permit is a nontransferable, revocable permit which shall continue in full force and effect from the date of issuance through December 31 of the year of issuance, unless sooner terminated, discontinued or revoked by the provisions of these rules and regulations or by legal action or operation of law.
- Designated personnel may, from time to time, close Prospect Lake to the public for use by the City in promoting or sponsoring **special events** and may waive the permit requirement for special events (**see pg. 9**).

DEALER PERMITS

Marine craft, boat dealers or others engaged in the business of selling boats may obtain special dealer permits for use on boats they may be testing or demonstrating. By applying for a dealer permit, each dealer acknowledges that the boat tested or demonstrated carries all safety equipment required by the State of Colorado and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) (**see pg. 5**).

BOAT RAMP KEY DEPOSIT

A \$10 key deposit will be assessed when purchasing any annual permit(s). The key deposit can be **credited** to the following year's account or a refund can be processed when the annual key is returned (key deposit refunds may take up to seven business days). Please note: keys will need to be exchanged every year.

PERMIT FEES

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • Motorized Watercraft* (<i>any non-personal watercraft propelled by <u>any</u> motor</i>) | \$125/annual |
| *Requires proof of insurance, see pg. 5. (Prospect Lake only) | |
| • Motorized Personal Watercraft* (<i>i.e. jet skis</i>) | \$80/annual |
| *Requires proof of insurance, see pg. 5. (Prospect Lake only) | |
| • Motorized Watercraft Day Pass* (<i><u>any</u> motorized watercraft</i>) | \$10/day |
| *Requires proof of insurance, see pg. 5. (Prospect Lake only) | |
| • Non-motorized Watercraft (<i>any <u>solely</u> hand-propelled watercraft</i>) | \$50/annual |
| • Non-motorized Watercraft Day Pass (<i>any <u>solely</u> hand-propelled watercraft</i>) | \$5/day |
| • Dealer (<i>includes three permits for any three watercraft vessels</i>) | \$225/annual |

WHERE TO PURCHASE PERMITS & DAY PASSES

Sertich Ice Center: Sundays-Saturdays; 8 AM-6 PM

1705 E. Pikes Peak Avenue | Colorado Springs, CO 80909 | (719) 385-5983

Lake-side Kiosk: Daily; 24-hours (located near boat ramp(s))

- Non-motorized Day Passes only (*cash & electronic payments accepted*).

TESTING A BOAT?

Prior to testing, user must purchase relevant Day Pass from Sertich Ice Center. Please note, all Day Pass requirements apply: proof of insurance is required for all motorized watercraft. Ramp key may be borrowed for the duration of a Day Pass with photo ID as collateral.

WATERCRAFT USE ON PROSPECT LAKE

MEMORIAL PARK

For park information, **see pg. 8.**

USER WATERCRAFT OPERATION (as authorized by City Code, Section 4.2.101)

- No person shall use any watercraft on Prospect Lake in a careless or reckless manner or as to interfere with the reasonable use or enjoyment of the lake by any other person.
- No person under 16 years of age shall operate a motorboat or personal watercraft upon the lake. (**EXCEPTION: Youth 14 years or older who have completed a boating safety course approved by the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and have a boating safety certificate issued by the boating safety course provider in his/her possession. Adult supervision is required.**)

WATERCRAFT USE LAKE CAPACITY

- During hours of operation for motorized and personal motorized watercrafts, no more than five (5) watercraft, shall be permitted to operate on the lake at any time. (***"Operate" being defined as moving in the rotation of boat traffic. Mooring or beached watercraft are not considered operational.***)
- During motorized watercraft operation, all traffic shall move in a counter-clockwise direction. Swimming or diving from any watercraft is prohibited.
- Operation of **ALL** watercraft is prohibited during an electrical storm.
- No motorized watercraft shall be operated while the operator or any occupant is standing or sitting on the gunwale or bow or in any unsafe position.
- Watercraft operation is only allowed in the designated boating and water-skiing areas (**see pg. 10**).
- Watercraft operators must be aware of shoreline and swimming areas at all times.
- Remote controlled boats are only allowed in the southwest end of the lake during the hours of 11am - 5pm and should not go further than fifty feet (50') of shore (**see pg. 10**).

WATER-SKIING ON PROSPECT LAKE

- Water-skiing shall be permitted only during "motorized" operation times (**see pg. 3**).
- Water-skiing is **prohibited** within fifty feet (50') of shore.
- No watercraft shall follow a water-skier closer than one hundred fifty feet (150'), except when their own skier is in the water.
- All watercraft towing water-skiers shall have aboard a responsible observer, in addition to the operator, who shall, when launching a water-skier, when a water-skier falls down in the water, when signaling to return to the shore or when the watercraft is retrieving its water-skier, conspicuously display a flag.
- The launching and discharging of water-skiers at the shore shall be limited to the designated area only (**see pg. 10**).
- Water-ski towropes shall be no longer than one hundred feet (100') in length.
- Watercraft towing water-skiers shall have the right of way over other watercraft.

WATERCRAFT SAFETY EQUIPMENT

USCG-approved personal flotation devices are required to be worn by all operators and passengers of personal watercraft, hand/human propelled boats, sailboards, sailboats, and every user aged 12 and under. Other USCG-approved personal flotation devices must be present in all motorboats for every adult attendant (**see pg. 5**).

IMPORTANT: Only approved anchoring devices will be permitted.

BOAT RAMP USE

- All motorized and personal motorized watercrafts are required to launch and load from the boat ramp.
- No staging or cleaning permitted on the boat ramp.

IMPORTANT: The gate must be closed and locked after vessel is launched and vehicle is parked.

MEMORIAL PARK INFORMATION & RULES

PARK INFORMATION

Address: 1605 E. Pikes Peak Ave.,
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Hours:

November 1 to April 30: 5 am - 9 pm, daily
May 1 to October 31: 5 am - 10 pm, daily

NOTE: Memorial Park access is secured
outside of operating hours.

ABOUT MEMORIAL PARK

- 196 Acres of park land
- **Prospect Lake Beach House:** the City of Colorado Springs recently renovated the Beach House. Come see what's new!
- **Boat House:** S.U.P Colorado Springs (see pg. 9)
- **Sertich Ice Center:** an NHL-size ice surface, seating for 2,000 spectators, over 500 rental skates, public skating, and many more programs.

For more information, please visit:
ColoradoSprings.gov/Sertich



- **Sports Office:** hub to organized Youth and Adult Sports
- **Tennis Center:** 15 courts, 11 are lighted
- **Other facilities:** large-group picnic area (*by reservation*), skate park, bicycle velodrome, horseshoe courts, playgrounds, 1.25 mile Prospect Lake Fitness Trail (*hiking, biking, jogging, fitness*), seasonal restrooms, basketball court, 2 softball fields, 1 baseball field, sand volleyball courts, 3 large open space areas, the Memorial Park Recreation Center and several Memorial sites

MEMORIAL PARK RULES

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in all City parks. (*Ord. 18-1-101*).
- Open fires and charcoal grills are prohibited. Make every effort to see that propane grills are placed on hard surfaces such as a concrete pad or picnic table.
- All pets must be kept on a leash and are not permitted to run at large in any park. Additionally, all pet excrement must be deposited in a waste receptacle.
- Please place trash in the receptacles. If there is no receptacle nearby, please take the trash with you.
- All automobiles must be parked in a designated parking area. Only supply and handicapped vehicles are permitted beyond the parking lots.
- Persons using park property shall be responsible for any and all damages to property and injury to persons.
- Groups in reserved areas must produce a permit upon request.
- It is unlawful to deface, damage or remove park property, including natural and historical objects. No rope, wire, or other contrivance may be attached to any tree or plant.
- It is unlawful to camp or spend the night in any City park.
- Organized games such as football, softball and horseshoes must take place in areas designated for that specific activity.
- Any use of amplified equipment must be approved by Code Enforcement. Call CSPD Dispatch at (719) 444-7000.
- The posting of signs, hanging decorations or other materials on park buildings, structures or vegetation is prohibited. A City Parks Manager or Supervisor must approve banners, balloons or other decor prior to a "permitted event".

PROSPECT LAKE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

FISHING

- Colorado Fishing License is required.
- Only fishing shall be permitted on the southeast side of the lake (**see pg. 10**).
- Fishing shall be permitted on the northeast side of the lake, **except during designated special events**.
- No ice-related fishing activities shall be permitted on Prospect Lake.
- **IMPORTANT:** At no time is fishing permitted from inside any fenced area around lake.

PARK & CITY-WIDE SPECIAL EVENTS

The Office of Special Events may pre-empt lake hours and/or CLOSE the lake to all watercraft activities for the duration of the permitted event.

Special event dates are subject to change. For information on Park and City-wide events, please visit www.ColoradoSprings.gov/SpecialEvents or send an email to Parks&RecOfficeofSpecialEvents@ColoradoSprings.gov

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION PROGRAM (TRP) SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

(719) 385-6964 | www.ColoradoSprings.gov/TRP

- Adaptive Water-skiing & Tubing (28th Anniversary!)

Wednesdays, July 2nd - August 6th; 8am - 3:30pm*

This program is coordinated by the TRP using equipment specifically designed for individuals with physical disabilities.

***Prospect Lake is closed to ALL WATERCRAFT activities during the duration of this program.**

- Adaptive Kayaking & Paddle Boarding

Tuesdays, August 5th - August 26th; 8:30am - 1:30pm

This program is an introduction to kayaking and paddle boarding, offered for individuals with intellectual/developmental or physical disabilities.

Summer Paddlecraft Rentals and Programs @ Prospect Lake offered by:

S.U.P Colorado Springs

Paddleboards, Kayaks, Lessons, Group Events, Sales, and More!

Walk-ups and reservations accepted (reservations recommended to ensure availability)



View all offerings, availabilities, and schedule or reserve today!

www.SUPcos.com

PARK MAP PROSPECT LAKE & MEMORIAL PARK



WATERCRAFT USE ON QUAIL LAKE

USER WATERCRAFT OPERATION *(as authorized by City Code, Section 4.2.101)*

- All motorized watercraft are **prohibited** on Quail Lake.
- No person shall use any watercraft on Quail Lake in a careless or reckless manner or as to interfere with the reasonable use or enjoyment of the lake by another person.
- Adult supervision is required for all youth under the age of 18.
- USCG-approved personal flotation devices must be available on non-motorized vessels for every adult attendant, and youth (**ages 12 and under**) must have personal flotation devices on their person (**see pg. 5**).
- Swimming or diving from any watercraft is prohibited.
- Operation of all watercraft is **prohibited** during an electrical storm (**see pg. 4**).



Photo credit @GeneCarlton

QUAIL LAKE PARK RULES

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in all City parks. (*Ord. 18-1-101*)
- Charcoal grills and wood fires are not permitted in City parks.
- All pets must be kept on a leash and are not permitted to run at large in any park. Additionally, all pet excrement must be deposited in a waste receptacle.
- Place trash in the receptacles. If there is no receptacle, please take the trash with you.
- All automobiles must be parked in a designated parking area. NOTE: Parking on the grass is prohibited.
- State fishing license is required for all fishing activities.
- Persons using park property shall be responsible for any and all damages to property and injury to persons.
- It is unlawful to deface, damage or move park property, including natural and historical objects. No rope, wire, or other contrivance may be attached to any tree or plant.
- It is unlawful to camp or spend the night in any City park.
- Any use of amplified equipment must be approved by Code Enforcement.
- Signs are not permitted to be attached to any park sign, traffic sign, tree, stake, post, gate, etc. A City Parks Supervisor must approve banners, balloons or other decor prior to a permitted event.

For more information, please visit [ColoradoSprings.gov/SpecialEvents](https://coloradosprings.gov/SpecialEvents)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Sertich Ice Center: (719) 385-5983

PRCS Administration Office: (719) 385-5940

PRCS Park /Pavilion Reservation: (719) 385-5941

Colorado Springs Police Department Dispatch: (719) 444-7000

Colorado Parks & Wildlife (Colorado Springs Office): (719) 227-5200

**For additional information, please visit our
Lakes, Boating and Fishing web page:**

**[ColoradoSprings.gov/parks/page/lakes-boating-and-fishing](https://coloradosprings.gov/parks/page/lakes-boating-and-fishing),
or scan the QR code to the right.**

