



Harper Lake Open Space

Harper Lake is a small lake within the Leon Wurl Wildlife Sanctuary in Louisville, Colorado that was originally constructed in the 1890s and expanded in 1985. It covers 29 acres and serves as one of three storage areas for the City's water supply. The lake offers beautiful mountain vistas and is a popular area for walkers, runners, anglers, birders, and kayakers. Amenities include parking, a restroom, an interpretive kiosk, and an art installation in the McCaslin underpass.

Boating

Harper Lake allows for motorless boating beginning on May 1 each year. Permits are required for boaters 12 years and older. Permits are sold from April 1 through September 30 and can be purchased online at www.LouisvilleCO.gov/boatpermit. Boat permits are only valid for use in the current calendar year. Paddleboards are not permitted.

Fishing

Fishing at Harper Lake is allowed, subject to possession of a valid Colorado License and adherence to the Colorado state fishing regulations. The lake is annually stocked by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the most popular species caught here are Rainbow trout, Largemouth bass, and Yellow perch.

Trails

A 0.9-mile gravel trail encircles the lake, perfect for walking, running, or bicycling. Since the surrounding area is classified as a wildlife sanctuary, dogs are not permitted at Harper Lake.



Boulder County Non-Emergency Dispatch

303.441.4444

Please be prepared to provide the dispatcher with a location and problem. For emergencies call 911.

The City of Louisville Open Space

MISSION: To conserve and restore Open Space through land acquisition and management for the protection of natural and cultural resources and provide opportunities for education, volunteering, and appropriate passive recreation.

VISION: An Open Space program funded for future generations that enriches the experience of living in Louisville by providing opportunities for citizens to reconnect with nature and their cultural heritage while also enhancing their mental and physical well-being.



City of Louisville
Department of Parks, Recreation & Open Space
749 Main Street, Louisville, CO 80027
303-335-4742
www.LouisvilleCo.gov/OpenSpace



Harper Lake

Rules & Regulations



BOATING HOURS: Sunrise – Sunset

Boating season begins every May 1, or, if ice is still present, when the water is ice-free. The boating season ends when the first ice forms.

- In order to boat on Harper Lake, each vessel must have an officially licensed permit, displaying the current year's adhesive sticker provided by the City, affixed to the bow's starboard (right) area.
- Adult guardians are responsible for the supervision of their child boaters. Boaters should be at least 12 years of age to boat on Harper Lake without on-board adult supervision.
- All boaters must comply with State Law. Boaters must have one immediately accessible personal flotation device for each person on board. Children 12 and under must wear PFDs at all times. All vessels must have at least one sounding device (air horn, whistle, etc) and must be marked in legible, durable fashion with owner's name and current address.
- All boats and equipment shall be in good and serviceable condition.
- Boats must be manually portable to the lake—no motorized trailers or carts.
- Wildlife habitats shall not be disturbed.

- The City of Louisville prohibits the operation of vessels on any waters within the City, and may order the removal of vessels, when such operation constitutes or may constitute a hazard to human life, wildlife, or safety.
- Any ranger, code enforcement officer, or other peace officer has the authority to enforce any and all rules. Permit holders will immediately comply with any officer's request to verify their permits or inspect their vessels for safety equipment.
- Any person who fails to obey an officer's order shall be charged with a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine and all permits and passes will be revoked.

BOAT PERMIT HOLDERS: In consideration of the issuance of this requested boat permit, the Licensee agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City, its officers, employees, agents, or servants, and to pay any and all judgments rendered against said persons on account of any suit, action or claim caused by, arising from, or on account of acts or omissions by the Licensee, his officers, employees, agents or servants, connection with the use of Harper Lake/ Leon A. Wurl Wildlife Sanctuary, and to pay to said persons their reasonable expenses, including but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees and reasonable expert witness fees, incurred in defending any such suit, action, or claim.

Licensee covenants to use the facilities only for lawful purposes and in a lawful manner, in accordance with all applicable statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations.

Failure to comply will result in a court summons and may incur a permanent loss of use of Harper Lake.

Permitted

- Canoes
- Open Air Kayaks
- Row Boats
- Bicycle Type Paddle Boats
- Inflatables with a solid bottom and no self-bailing device
- Fishing
Anyone over the age of 16 must possess a valid Colorado fishing license and adhere to state of Colorado fishing regulations. Ice fishing is prohibited.

Not Permitted

- Bodily contact with water
- Paddle Boards
- Motorboats
- Sailboats
- Whitewater Kayaks
- Water Skis
- Aquaplanes
- Surfboards
- Inner Tubes
- Belly Boats
- Pool Inflatables*
- Swimming
- Wading
- Ice Skating
- Ice Fishing
- Scuba Diving
- Dogs, Horses, or other domesticated animals in the sanctuary
- Motors of any kind
- Alcohol and Glass Containers
- Fires
- Modifications to a vessel to meet the intent of a rule or regulation. The original factory configuration of the boat will determine eligibility to receive a permit.

*Inflatables: Inflatables that meet specific criteria will be allowed.