



RUETER-HESS RECREATION

GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

Douglas County Division of Park, Trail, and Build Grounds
9651 S. Quebec St.,
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130
douglas.co.us/rueter-hess-recreation

These Rules and Regulations apply and refer to the Rueter-Hess Reservoir (“Reservoir”), as well as the Parker Water & Sanitation District (PWSD) owned property adjacent to the Reservoir located north of Hess Road including all open space, the dam, special use sites, natural areas, and trails, (together with the Reservoir, the “Property or Properties”)

The Property is owned, maintained, and managed by the Parker Water and Sanitation District (PWSD) for water storage. Douglas County (the County) operates and maintains the recreational facilities and manages the recreational services and programs at the Property.

The Reservoir serves as a primary drinking water source. NO bodily contact is allowed with the water at the Reservoir unless authorized and permitted by PWSD and the County. Programs and events must be approved through the established application and permitting process with the County. Access to the Property is allowed only at the times provided by the County. A County permit or reservation is needed to access the reservoir portion of the Property.

The Property is largely not improved, and users should expect that hazards will be present. Please exercise caution when using the Property. Examples of common hazards may include but are not limited to, broken glass and/or other sharp objects, discarded reservoir construction materials, manmade and natural steep slopes, deep water, cold water, thin ice, fish and animal carcasses, wild animals, and snakes. No lifeguards, rescue services, security services, water testing, or any other public safety measures will be provided. All activities must be in compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.

The use of the Property is strictly at the User’s Own Risk.

In the event of an accident of any kind, the User shall be solely responsible for any and all occurrences, claims, and liabilities. By entry onto the Property, request of an access

permit, or by use of the Property, the user agrees to abide by these Rules and Regulations as may be modified or amended and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Parker Water & Sanitation District and the County for any claims or causes of action arising or claimed based on injury, loss, or damage to property or death that occur or are alleged to arise from users access to and use of the Property. Nothing in these Rules and Regulations shall be deemed to be a waiver of the protections granted to PWSD and the County under the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act.

1. Property Usage

- 1.1. Open spaces, picnic shelters, trails, facilities, etc., are available for use only during the posted days and times specified by the County. A violation of any posted days and times usage of any amenity or property may result in the County or PWSD filing trespass or other appropriate charges and may result in immediate expulsion from any Property of the offending person(s).
- 1.2. Use of any open space, picnic shelters, trails, facilities etc., that are outside of the posted rules and regulations may only occur by an approved permit on a case-by-case basis. It is a violation of these Rules and Regulations for any person(s) to occupy or encroach on an area when such area has been reserved with a permit unless as authorized by the County. Failure to obtain a permit, violations of the terms of a permit from the County, or a violation of these Rules and Regulations may result in the County or PWSD filing trespass or other appropriate charges against and may result in immediate expulsion from the Property of the offending person(s). Violations of these Rules and Regulations may also result in the County or PWSD seeking fines, restitution, or damages from the responsible parties for any damages resulting from such violation.
- 1.3. The County expressly reserves the right to revise, amend or modify these Rules and Regulations without notice. PWSD may also implement additional restrictions or usage rules regarding the Property. The County may also grant exceptions, waivers, or modifications of these Rules and Regulations on a case-by-case basis pursuant to a written permit issued to any person without notice and may deny same in their sole discretion.

2. Schedule

- 2.1. Hours of operation for the Property is from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. The incline challenge and trails located on the north side of the Property, north of Hess Road, are open daily, sunrise to sunset, year-round. The Reservoir position of the Property is open Friday through Monday from Memorial Day through October 31st. A violation of any posted days and times of usage of any amenity or property may result in the County or PWSD filing trespass or other appropriate charges and may result in immediate expulsion from the Property of the offending person(s).

- 2.2. Unless expressly authorized by the County, access to any of the Properties is prohibited between sunset and sunrise.
- 2.3. It is unlawful to exceed the maximum number of authorized people and activities on the properties as permitted by the County or designee. Temporary closures of the Properties may occur at any time if deemed necessary by PWSD or County for any reason.

3. Unauthorized or Restricted Areas

- 3.1. It is unlawful for a person or persons to enter into or remain on any undesignated area or restricted areas. **All signage regarding access to and use of the Property must be obeyed at all times.** Any PWSD or County employee/representative or designee shall have the authority to close the Reservoir or any associated open space area to any or all users or to limit the number of watercraft when deemed necessary for the safety, protection, and welfare of the public.
- 3.2. All person(s) are prohibited from engaging in or conducting any activity on the Properties contrary to any signage, permanent or temporary, posted by PWSD, County, or designee. A violation of any posted signs or instructions by PWSD, County, or designee may result in the County or PWSD filing trespass or other appropriate charges against and may result in immediate expulsion from the Property of the offending person(s), and may also result in the County or PWSD seeking fines, restitution, or damages from the responsible parties for any damages resulting from such violation or act.

4. Damage to Property

- 4.1. No person shall alter or damage in any manner the Properties, or the County or PWSD facilities. Alter is defined as, but not limited to, any modification of existing lands or vegetation from its existing condition, including any form of mowing, removal, modifying, digging, landscaping, constructing of any improvements, painting, trenching, or placement of structures, signs, roadways, trails, enclosures, markers or other alterations.
- 4.2. No person shall remove, alter, destroy, mutilate, deface, or damage any building, structure, facility, sign, marker, rock, vegetation, or other object located on the Properties.
- 4.3. No live vegetation or seeds shall be brought into the Properties or be introduced onto any part of the Properties.
- 4.4. An owner of an animal that destroys, damages, or injures land, property, or a facility or area owned by the County or PWSD shall be responsible for damage caused by the animal. Owner is defined as any individual in possession of, keeping, or having custody or control of any animal.

5. Hazardous or Reckless Activities

- 5.1. No person shall engage in an activity, whether allowed by these Rules or Regulations or not, in a reckless manner which constitutes a hazard to or endangers any person or the Property or which is deemed to threaten the safety of the participant or other persons. Determination of hazardous or reckless activities or behavior shall be in the sole discretion of the County, PWSD, or their designated representatives.

6. Commercial Gain

- 6.1. The following activities are prohibited unless expressly authorized by a permit issued by the County or designee:
- 6.2. Use of Properties for commercial purposes or fundraising of any sort;
- 6.3. Offering any article or thing for sale, including food, beverage, or services within the Property or for delivery or provision within the Property; or
- 6.4. The charging of fees or collection of any compensation for use of the Property or facilities or services therein.

7. Vehicular Use

- 7.1. Unauthorized motor vehicles, either electric, gas, or otherwise powered, shall not be permitted on the Property except in designated roadways, parking areas, or in specifically posted areas. Unless otherwise posted, no authorized vehicle may travel at a speed in excess of 20mph on any portion of the Property. Unauthorized motor vehicles, including, but not limited to, motorized (including electric) watercraft, sailed watercraft, mini-bikes, drones, aircraft, scooters, motorcycles, ATVs, UTVs, and go-carts are prohibited on the Property at all times.
- 7.2. Individuals with mobility disabilities may only use electric power-driven mobility devices ("PDMD") on trails, roadways, sidewalks, shelter areas, and pedestrian areas for purposes of transport only. PDMDs shall meet the following criteria:
 - 7.2.1. Width of PDMD must not exceed 40% of the total width of the trail.
 - 7.2.2. Length of PDMD must allow the operator to maneuver around all corners without leaving the trail surface.
 - 7.2.3. Weight must not cause displacement or damage to trail surface material.
 - 7.2.4. Must not cause damage to the trail, turf, property, or natural ecosystem.

8. Parking

- 8.1. Parking of any vehicles is permitted only in designated parking areas, including vehicles for purposes of loading or unloading.
- 8.2. Parking is only allowed during posted hours. No overnight parking. Vehicles left after posted hours shall be towed at the owner's expense unless specifically authorized. Parking, stopping, and/or loading/unloading in a designated fire lane is prohibited.

8.3. Oversized vehicles (RVs, buses, etc.) and trailers shall be parked in designated areas only, and access by oversized vehicles or trailers to any Property may be restricted or denied as determined by the County or PWSD.

8.4. Vehicles shall not park in loading/ unloading zones.

9. Handicapped Parking

9.1. No vehicle shall be parked in designated handicapped parking areas unless such vehicle displays a current state issued handicap license plate and/or tag. Unauthorized vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.

10. Bicycles

10.1. Bicycles may only be operated on designated trails. Bicycles shall not exceed posted speed limits, be ridden in a reckless manner or in a manner that damages the trail surface or natural vegetation of the Property. Pedestrians always have the right-of-way on any trail, amenity, or roadway.

11. Water Activities

11.1. All activities in Rueter-Hess Reservoir waters, including the use of watercraft, waders, paddle boards, kayaks, canoes, etc. shall be at the sole discretion of PWSD, County, or designee, and may be discontinued or suspended without notice in the sole discretion of the County and PWSD.

11.2. SCUBA diving, snorkeling, tubing, rafting, motorized boating, sail boating, general swimming, and ice fishing are prohibited on the Reservoir, spillways, or canals. A violation of these rules and regulations may result in the County or PWSD filing trespass or other appropriate charges against and may result in immediate expulsion from the Property of the offending person(s), and may also result in the County or PWSD seeking fines, restitution, or damages from the responsible parties for any damages resulting from such violation or act.

12. Watercraft Regulations

12.1. No person shall operate a watercraft of any kind at the Reservoir unless each person aboard such vessel is wearing a personal flotation device of a type approved by the United States Coast Guard which shall be in good and serviceable condition.

12.2. For the purposes of these regulations, any reference made to an approved vessel or watercraft, singularly or together, shall mean any type of non-motorized, hand-carried, non-sailed, and launched watercraft (e.g., kayak, canoe, standup paddleboard). No watercraft shall be trailer launched, and no boat ramps, trailer parking, or facilities are available at the Reservoir.

12.3. Trailered, motorized, and sail boating are prohibited. Prohibited watercraft (unless authorized for emergency purposes) include, but are not limited to, jet

skis, motorized boats, sailboats, kites used for sailing, sailboards, windsurfing vessels, or any other device capable of being used as a means of transportation of persons or property on or through the water that is propelled by means other than a paddle or similar.

- 12.4. No inflated floating devices are permitted on the water, including: inner tubes, air mattresses, floating rafts, or similar devices, except inflated stand up paddleboards.
- 12.5. All vessels and watercraft will be required to be inspected as designated by the County or PWSD. This includes boats used for emergency rescue, maintenance, treatment, sampling, or other safety/training uses.
- 12.6. Inspections may be provided and conducted by PWSD or the County, or their designee, for any approved recreational watercraft.
- 12.7. Motorized watercraft may be used only by authorized personnel for emergency purposes, for organized and permitted events as specifically authorized, permitted, and approved by PWSD and the County.

13. Containers and User Property Subject to Inspection

- 13.1. As a condition to access to the Property, any and all containers, bags, or other property being brought into any Property are subject to reasonable inspection by PWSD and County staff or designee.

14. Fishing is allowed with:

- 14.1. A valid Colorado Fishing License is required
- 14.2. Catch-and-Release Only
- 14.3. Standard Equipment (no waders, belly boats, etc...)
- 14.4. Single Pole Fishing (regardless of stamp)
- 14.5. Only Single, Barbless Hooks may be Used
- 14.6. Artificial Flies & Lures
- 14.7. Bait is Prohibited (live and artificial)
- 14.8. Fishing Allowed in Authorized Areas
- 14.9. Tackle boxes will be Inspected
- 14.10. Fishing from Unapproved Boats is Prohibited

15. Wildlife

- 15.1. It is prohibited to willfully damage, destroy, harass, possess, or remove any wildlife from any Property.
- 15.2. No wildlife or domesticated animals may be released or introduced into any Property.
- 15.3. No person shall feed, cause to be fed, or provide food to any wildlife, fish or water fowl, or domesticated animal within any Property.

15.4. It shall be unlawful for any person to use toxicants, poison, drugs, paint, dynamite, explosives, or any stupefying substances for the purpose of taking or harassing any wildlife.

16. Hunting and Trapping

16.1. No hunting or trapping is permitted without written permission of the County or PWSD. If such permission is granted, the hunter or trapper must comply with state statutes and regulations pursuant to Article 6 of Title 33 of the Colorado Revised Statutes and requirements established by the County or PWSD.

17. Pets

17.1. Pets are only allowed in designated areas of any Property. All pets shall be restrained by a leash, cord, or chain a maximum of ten (10) feet in length and held by a person who is physically able to control the animal at all times. No animal shall be allowed to run at large or off lead within any Property.

17.2. It is prohibited for any owner or person to allow their animal to catch, attempt to catch, molest, harass, harm, chase, injure, or kill any wildlife. Training of dogs on any Property is prohibited.

17.3. All animal excrement shall be immediately picked up and shall be properly disposed of in a proper receptacle.

17.4. Pets are prohibited from entering the water or onto the ice at all times.

17.5. Pets are prohibited where expressly prohibited by posted sign.

18. Horses

18.1. Horses are currently prohibited on the Property. If allowed in the future, horses may only be ridden in designated equestrian areas or on designated trails and areas.

19. Carts, Carriages

19.1. Carts, carriages, wagons, and sleighs are prohibited on Properties unless authorized by PWSD, County, or designee. Infant and toddler strollers are permitted on improved trails and parking areas.

20. Livestock

20.1. It shall be unlawful to negligently, recklessly, or intentionally turn livestock onto or to allow to graze in or upon any Property.

21. Alcohol Beverages/Drugs

21.1. It is prohibited to consume, possess, or be under the influence of any beverage containing alcohol or any illegal drug or intoxicant as defined by federal law within any Property.

22. Glass Bottles or Containers

22.1. Glass bottles or glass containers of any kind are prohibited within any Property.

23. Trash

23.1. The Properties are “Tread Lightly” and “Pack In/ Pack Out”. Littering and disposal of trash on the Property is strictly prohibited except in designated receptacles.

24. Dumping

24.1. Dumping of any commercial or household refuse, landscape materials, organic or yard waste, or any hazardous substances on any property or into containers managed or owned by PWSD or County is prohibited.

25. Urination or Defecation

25.1. Urination or defecation, other than in designated port-a-lets or restroom facilities, is prohibited.

26. Fire/Smoking

26.1. It is unlawful to have any fire, grill, campfire or to burn any material on any Property.

26.2. Smoking is prohibited on any Property.

27. Camping

27.1. Overnight or day camping is prohibited.

28. Amplification/Noise

28.1. Amplified or artificially produced music or sound is prohibited on any Property.

28.2. It is prohibited for any person to make, continue, or cause to be made or continued, any unreasonably loud, continuing, or unusual noise.

29. Lighting

29.1. Use of artificial lighting or import of mobile or other light fixtures other than those installed as a permanent part of the site facilities or personal flashlights is prohibited.

30. Firearms

30.1. Possession of a firearm is prohibited on any PWSD property, open space, or facility except as authorized by PWSD, County, or designee through an approved permit or as allowed by State of Colorado law. Firearms include but are not limited to, handguns, rifles, shotguns, crossbows, bows and arrows, slingshots,

blowguns, air guns or devices, BB guns or pellet guns, whether powered with gunpowder, compressed air, mechanical means or gas cartridges.

31. Weapons

31.1. Illegal possession, display, brandishing, or use of weapons is prohibited on the Property. Weapons are defined as including, but not limited to, any slingshot, razor, dirk, dagger, or any knife with a blade over 3 inches, nunchaku, or throwing stars.

32. Fireworks

32.1. Fireworks of any kind are prohibited on any Property.

33. Missiles

33.1. Launching of missiles, rockets, or similar devices of all types are prohibited any Property.

34. Aircraft

34.1. It is unlawful to land or launch any type of aircraft, engine powered glider, glider, sail plane, drone, parachute, or hot air balloon, on any Property.

35. Remote Controlled Devices

35.1. Remote or radio controlled devices of all types (including, but not limited to, drones, planes, cars, trucks, and boats) are prohibited on any Property.

36. Interference with Staff or Contracted Vendors

36.1. No person shall interfere with, harass, verbally assault or attempt to interfere with, by use of any physical action, threat, or coercion, a ranger, County staff, or PWSD staff, authorized personnel, or vendor while such party is discharging or engaged in his or her duties. Failure to comply with authorized County or PWSD personnel shall be grounds for immediate expulsion from the Property and pursuit of charges, fines, and banning of offending individuals from the Property.

37. Disorderly Conduct/ Violation of Rules and Regulations

37.1. No person shall engage in disorderly conduct or violate these Rules and Regulations within any Property. Disorderly conduct shall be determined by PWSD, County, or designee but is generally defined as:

37.2. Use of abusive or vulgar language or threats to any person present which creates a clear and present danger of violence;

37.3. Fighting or violent behavior in within the Property;

37.4. Alteration or destruction of facilities or property or the property of another so as to create a hazardous, unhealthy, or physically offensive condition;

- 37.5. Failure to obey a lawful order or command by an authorized representative of PWSD, County, or a ranger.
- 37.6. Disorderly conduct under this section or violation of any of the Rules and Regulations may result in expulsion and suspension from the Property, prosecution, and/or pursuit of damages.