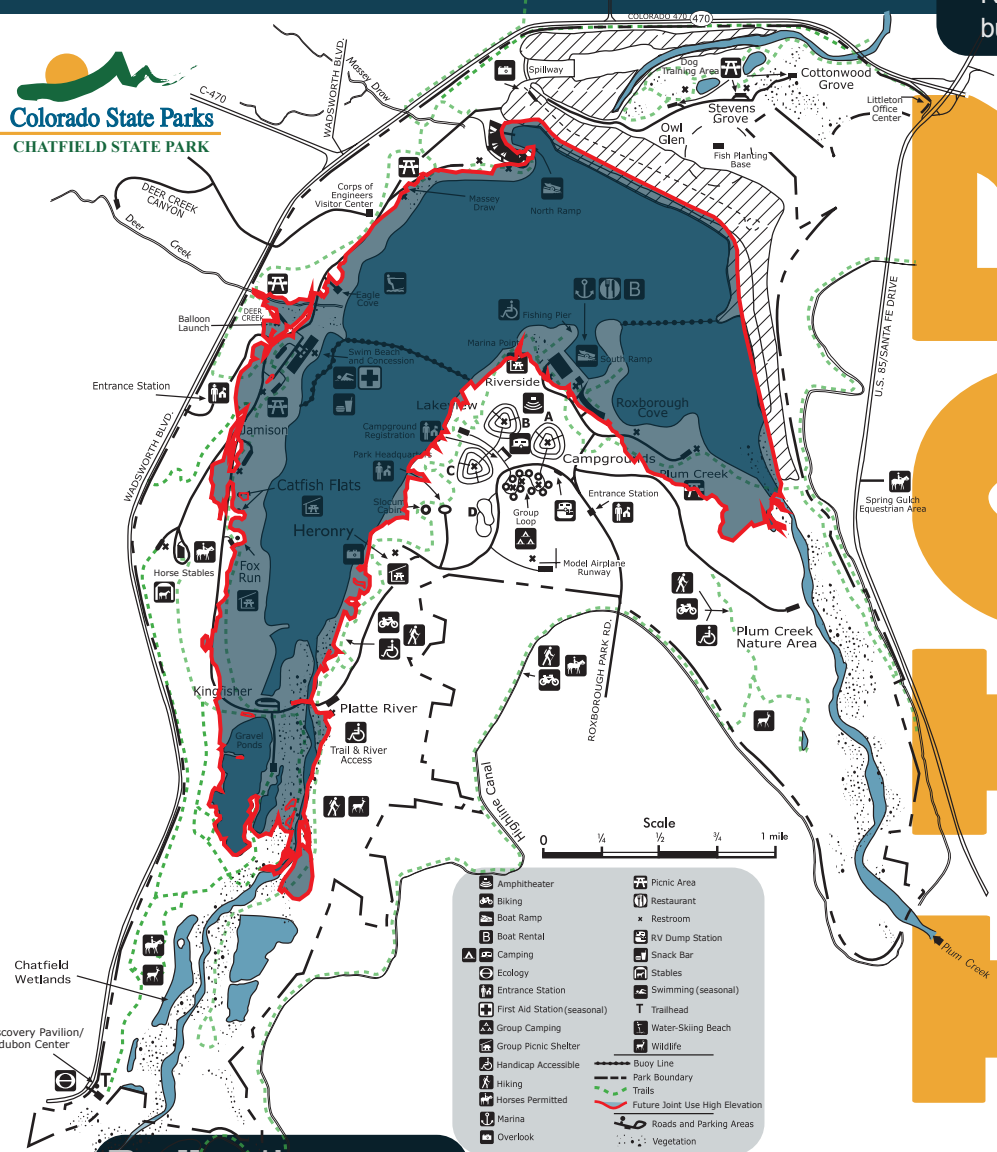


# Chatfield Dam & Reservoir

Civil War Lieutenant Isaac W. Chatfield bought 720 acres of Colorado land in 1870 where the South Platte River and Plum Creek meet. Chatfield farmed and lived on the land until 1879 when he moved. The reservoir and dam were named after him.



**1994 Reallocation Discussion Begins**  
 In 1994, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers meet to discuss conducting a formal study to determine the feasibility of reallocating some of the storage space in Chatfield Reservoir from flood control to joint flood control and conservation purposes.

**1995** Denver & Aurora Metro Area Population 1.86 million

**1996** In 1996, CWCB initiates a study to explore water supply solutions for growing CO population



**1999** In 1999, a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement allows water supply study to begin

**Study Faces Challenges**  
 Most studies don't take 20 years to complete. This one was faced with challenges related to federal funding, policy changes and contract negotiations, which led to a schedule that was much longer than originally anticipated.



**2004** Public meetings help communicate project goals and identify environmental issues and public concerns



**2012 Draft Environmental Impact Statement**  
 USACE collected information on recreational use and facilities, environmental concerns, potentially impacted culturally significant areas and socioeconomic data – including population growth and projected growth  
 Draft Feasibility Report / Environmental Impact Statement (FR/EIS) released for public comment  
 Public review of Draft FR/EIS concludes September 2012

**2013** Denver & Aurora Metro Area Population 2.6 million

Draft Final Feasibility Report released with input and collaboration from the public and multiple public and private agencies released in August 2013

**Significant Flooding in Colorado**  
 • From early to mid-1900s, Chatfield area where the South Platte River joins Plum Creek becomes notorious for floods  
 • Floods repeatedly devastate the area in 1933, 1935, 1942, and 1965  
 • 1965 flooding kills 21 people, destroys 2,500 homes and 750 businesses  
 • 1950 Flood Control Act and 1974 Water Resources Development Act authorize building and operating Chatfield Dam

**1967** Construction began in 1967 and completed in 1975.



**1975** March 1979 US and CO enter contract regarding Chatfield operation



**1979 Denver Water Agreement**  
 • Signed April 1979  
 • Allows Denver to store and use water between 15,849 acre-feet (elevation 5,423 ft) and 26,634 acre-feet (elevation 5,432 ft)  
 • Sets reservoir operations to allow water storage at 20,000 acre-feet (elevation 5,426.94 ft) between May 1 and Aug. 31 each year for recreation  
 • Best efforts will be made to keep storage below 20,000 acre-feet to support recreation between May 1 and Aug. 31

**1986** 1986 Water Resources Development Act [Section 808] authorizes study



## What's New?

**May 29, 2014**  
 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Jo-Ellen Darcy, approves and sends signed Record of Decision for the Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Project to the Omaha District.  
 The Omaha District recommended approval following a public comment period that closed September 2013.

**September 30, 2014**  
 Darcy sent a signed and approved Chatfield Reservoir Water Storage Agreement to the Omaha District.  
 Darcy also delegated execution authority to the Omaha District Commander.  
 The Water Storage Agreement confirms a storage milestone schedule for mitigation and reservoir elevations.

### Mitigation Milestone Schedule

By 2017, the following must be complete before using storage:  
 • On-site mitigation  
 • Critical habitat mitigation along the South Platte Arm in Pike National Forest and Plum Creek  
 • All on-site recreation modifications

Modifications will address impacts at the following recreation areas:  
 • North Boat Ramp  
 • Massey Draw  
 • Swim Beach Area  
 • Catfish Flats/Fox Run Group Use Areas  
 • Kingfisher/Gravel Ponds/Platte River Trailhead Areas  
 • Marina Area  
 • Plum Creek Area

5,521.6 feet maximum surcharge/spillway design flood pool

5,500 feet flood control pool

5,444 feet base flood control pool

5,442 feet joint flood control pool

5,432 feet multipurpose pool

5,385 feet inactive sediment pool

5,377 feet base elevation mean sea level

**2017** All on-site environmental mitigation and recreation modifications and off-site critical habitat mitigation must be complete before storage up to 5,442 feet becomes accessible.  
 Storage elevations between 5,442 feet and 5,444 feet cannot exceed 30 days a calendar year until the Compensatory Mitigation Plan is fully implemented.

If the Compensatory Mitigation Plan is impacted, storage becomes available following an alternate schedule.

Graphic by Eileen L. Williamson, Omaha District Public Affairs