

Rueter-Hess Reservoir FAQ's

- **Is RHR currently open to the public for general recreation purposes?**
 - Rueter-Hess is not currently open to the public other than for approved, pre-registered organized programs and events.
- **When will RH be open to the public?**
 - Based on multiple factors, it is anticipated that it will be several years before the funding is in place for on-site recreation staff, and to complete the infrastructure required to accommodate the general public (roads, trails, restrooms, etc.)
- **Where is RH located?**
 - It is located about three miles southwest of downtown Parker on Newlin Gulch, which is a tributary drainage of Cherry Creek. From I-25, take the Castle Pines exit and drive east on Hess Road.
- **When was the reservoir completed construction-wise?**
 - The construction of Rueter-Hess Reservoir was completed in 2012 to hold 75,000 acre feet of stored water. The dam rises 185 feet above the bedrock and the reservoir will encompass 1,170 acres. In the spring of 2018, the reservoir is approximately 1/3 full and 100+ feet deep.
- **How will Rueter-Hess water be used?**
 - The primary purpose of Rueter-Hess Reservoir is drinking water storage for the Parker Water and Sanitation District and their storage partners. However, recreational programs and special events are currently available through the recreation partners and contracted vendors.
- **Where does the water come from?**
 - Water is pumped to Rueter-Hess Reservoir from Parker Water & Sanitation District's diversion structure located on Cherry Creek.
- **Where does the water go?**
 - The water from the Reservoir feeds into the PWSD Water Purification Facility located just North of the reservoir, treated & distributed to District customers.
- **Is there a website for Rueter-Hess recreation?** www.RHRecreation.org
- **Can you swim in RH and is there a swim beach?**
 - No, swimming is not permitted. For safety and water quality purposes, there is not a swim beach included in the Master Plan.

- **What are the water temps at RH?** Summer water temperatures range from 65 – 72°F.
- **Has RH been stocked for fishing?**
 - Yes. For water quality purposes, the reservoir fish stocking program began in 2015 with the introduction of bait fish including fathead minnows and bluegill, as well as channel catfish. Recreational species began stocking in the fall of 2018, including largemouth bass, grass carp and walleye. Fishing is NOT yet allowed at the reservoir until the species of fish establish sustainable population.
- **Will RH eventually allow dogs?**
 - On-leash dog runs are currently included in the Master Plan. In an effort to protect water quality, they will not be located near the water.
- **When will the planned trail system be complete?**
 - This will be an incremental effort that will take multiple next few years.
- **Will there be running or bike trails?**
 - Yes. The Master Plan includes approximately 17 miles of trails for users to explore including a 12-mile loop around the reservoir. The plan for the 425 acres site north of Hess Road offers approximately 5 miles of trails for hikers, on-leash dog walkers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, and cross country skiers and snowshoers, when conditions allow. Equestrians are not permitted around the reservoir in order to maintain high water quality of the reservoir.
- **Does RH allow boats?**
 - Stand-up paddle boards, canoes, kayaks and small non-motorized watercraft are currently permitted in the master plan. No motorized boats are not allowed other than for pre-approved safety purposes. Inspections will be required for all approved watercraft.
- **Can I bring my own paddleboard, kayak, or canoe?**
 - Not at this time, *unless it is connected to a special event where inspections will be available.* The future plan is to allow private equipment on the reservoir provided they are inspected and decontaminated of all invasive species.
- **Can I use a remote control device (boat, drone, etc.)**
 - No, unless preapproved by PWSD, the FAA and any other regulatory agencies.
- **Is it part of the Colorado state park system?**
 - No. Rueter-Hess Reservoir is owned by Parker Water & Sanitation District, and has taken a regional approach to bringing recreation to the site.
- **How is RH recreation funded?**
 - Funding for recreation is through the Rueter-Hess Recreation Authority, which includes Douglas County, the Towns of Parker and Castle Rock, and the Cities of Lone Tree and Castle Pines, as well as grants, public-private partnerships, and revenue from programmed events.

For more information, please check out www.RHRecreation.org .

