

GLADE RESERVOIR - RECREATION CONCEPT MASTER PLAN

Northern Integrated Supply Project

PREPARED FOR

Northern Water

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A UNIQUE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Recreation at Glade Reservoir will be a phenomenal asset and opportunity for locals and visitors, connecting people with nature through a full sensory experience. Enjoyment can be experienced from the ground under your feet, to gliding across water, to the breeze blowing the native meadow fragrance, to the sun and shadow play from rock outcroppings, and finally to the boundless starlit sky as night unfolds.



Fundamental to the goals and vision for recreation within Glade Reservoir is the concept of Thoughtful Recreation. This means that recreation programs and operation can encourage stewardship, ecological responsibility, and passive recreation, while also allowing for programmed activity that is increasingly sought after in the region as growing families and growing communities seek to enjoy the outdoors. This enjoyment and experience of the outdoors is what we deeply cherish about Larimer County, what draws people to visit or move here, and can be exemplified in the successful development of the Glade Reservoir Recreation Area.





RECREATION CONCEPT MASTER PLAN

The recreation planning team has developed a Recreation Concept Master Plan for the recreation area that utilizes the information gained from site visits, outreach efforts, and early engineering analysis. Based upon coordination and site visits over past years with Larimer County staff, the plan provides a description of the major recreation components discussed in those conversations that are being included as voluntary commitments as part of the project's 1041 Permit application and provides conceptual layout and details for how those components can be integrated at Glade Reservoir for review and consideration in the NISP 1041 Permit. The exact layout of and design of the recreation program will be completed in a future Recreation Development Plan with coordination between Larimer County staff, the public, and NISP Participants. This plan provides one possible depiction of the program options under consideration. Future design efforts are anticipated to include ongoing efforts in outreach, user engagement, program development, planning, and site design.

COORDINATION WITH LARIMER COUNTY

The development of program elements, from their earliest concepts, takes inspiration and guidance from the 2017 Reservoir Parks Master Plan (Larimer County Department of Natural Resources, Final Draft December 2017) and the Open Lands Master Plan (Larimer County Department of Natural Resources, June 2015). These guiding documents, along with direction from Larimer County Staff, are helping to shape early options considered for recreation at Glade. As these components are refined with the Recreation Development Plan, coordination with the County will be fundamental.





OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION

The experience of preserved open space at the Glade Reservoir Recreation Area intends to be one that seamlessly stretches from the immediate experience of exploring its network of trails, to broad vistas across the water, and into the horizon of the foothills beyond. This land, with its unique character of rolling hills and rock outcroppings, will have the protection and operation to preserve its character and welcome exploration for generations to come.



Supporting the Open Lands Master Plan values and initiatives, Glade Reservoir can exemplify these values to:

- Protect lakes, rivers, streams, and preserve water quality.
- Protect natural resources, wildlife habitat, and rare species.
- Provide more outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Create greenways or trail corridors that connect communities and parks.
- Conserve regional lands.
- Invest in additional paved and natural surface trails...trailheads, parking, shelters, and facilities.
- Conserve land with proximity to existing open space.
- Anticipate the future.
- Ensure a nationally-recognized park system.
- Provide a diversity of recreational experiences.
- Celebrate the natural environment.
- Integrate with a larger recreational network.
- Manage resources in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner.





COMPLEMENTARY AMENITIES

The recreation amenities provided by the Recreation Concept Master Plan commitments will be further complemented by areas along the west side of the reservoir. Mitigation requirements from the State aim to protect and preserve fish and wildlife resources and conceived of open space conservation planning efforts. Early planning efforts related to public lands surrounding Glade Reservoir included coordination with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The 2017 CPW Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (FWMEP), the 2007 USFWS Biological Opinion (BO) and the 2018 NISP Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Conceptual Mitigation Plan (CMP) establish both physical and operational considerations. Enhancements along the west side of Glade Reservoir noted in both the FWMEP and the CMP include establishing and conserving wildlife and big game habitat, and allowing access for big game, small game, turkey, and waterfowl hunting.

Although separate from the Recreation Concept Master Plan funding commitments, the habitat preservation areas and hunting and fishing opportunities along the west side of the reservoir will beneficially enhance the overall visitor experience at Glade Reservoir.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS AND EQUITY

The benefits and experiences at Glade Reservoir are intended for the use and enjoyment of all visitors and members of the community. Careful consideration will be made for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access to and within the recreation area.



The Glade Reservoir Recreation Area will be located near the mouth of the Poudre River Canyon, a very popular outdoor recreation destination and one known for river rafting, kayaking, fishing, and many other outdoor activities. There are several commercial river rafting operators that work the Poudre





River Canyon. In past discussions with commercial rafting operators, as well as public comments received during the environmental permitting and development of the project's Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan, there is a desire for a sizable parking area designated for Poudre River commercial operators and other recreators to be located within 1/2 mile of the U.S. Highway 287 and State Highway 14 intersection and Ted's Place. This parking area will be located at a public access location near the intersection, to serve as a gathering and carpool lot, as well as provide options for public transit and other mobility access.



Elements designed for ADA and wheelchair access could include dedicated interpretive trail areas at and around the Visitor Center, campsite areas, and waterfront enjoyment areas. NISP Participants understand that great advances will likely be made during the recreation development planning phases until eventual opening. With intentional considerations toward equity and access, Glade Reservoir has an opportunity to be a regional and state example for future recreation areas to follow.

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE OF ECOLOGY AND WILDLIFE

Embodied within the value of Thoughtful Recreation, Glade Reservoir's commitment to the environment, sustainability, resiliency, and preservation will be part of every experience when visiting. From first arriving either to the public access parking lot or through the entry gate, the experience can be one that demonstrates this commitment in an immersive way. Educational narratives and descriptions can accompany any material communicated and be available to visitors, including maps, trail guides, resource brochures, and policy pamphlets. From the printed materials, to the friendly knowledgeable staff, to the facilities and amenities themselves, each element can reinforce this value set and not only preserve the quality and character of Glade Reservoir, but also advance the public's understanding, so as to benefit numerous other natural areas within the region.







Wildlife education unique to the Glade Reservoir Recreation Area could include sharing knowledge of the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (PMJM) and other Special Status Species, that may include the bald eagle, golden eagle, and Townsend's big-eared bat, among others. Plant species education could include information highlighting such species as the Uteladies'-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluviales*).

Adjacent to and downstream of the new reservoir dam embankment, further native planting areas could help with species habitat restoration, stormwater infiltration, and plant biodiversity advancement. The Visitor Center can be uniquely positioned at and among such riparian areas, bringing this message into the experience of this facility, and showing how facilities and amenities can be envisioned to enhance an environmental message, becoming part of the system that restores and enhances ecological habitats.

Educational programs stemming from the interpretive Visitor Center and waterfront program facilities could have a broad range of topics and special initiatives to share with visitors. For example, wildlife observation, bird watching, pollinator exploration, and other activities could be conducted on many platforms and experiences. Sessions and tours could be provided on the water by boat, canoe, or paddleboard, while those sessions on land could vary from boardwalk strolls through riparian areas to exploration of the terrain on single track primitive trails, where one can be guided or self-guided through an educational experience.







Glade Reservoir will provide numerous opportunities for educational outreach to the community as well. Such opportunities could include recreation staff engaging local schools, groups, and communities, to visit and inform them of the experiences unique to visiting Glade Reservoir. Science and research initiatives could be integrated into partnered programs at any educational level from grade school students through University-level research.

A RANGE OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A 170-acre recreation area is planned adjacent to and south of the left abutment of Glade Reservoir which is comprised of undeveloped agricultural rangeland found within varied terrain including gentlysloping to moderately-steep terrain including several natural escarpments. The recreation area will provide a network of trails including an accessible trail with interpretive overlooks and primitive multipurpose trails; several camping areas of varied use ranging from walk-in camping to car and recreational vehicle campgrounds; a visitor center; parking areas for day-use and trail access; as well as a boat ramp and boat specific parking.

Glade Reservoir, through its varied recreational opportunities, will promote healthy living and enjoyment of Larimer County's outdoors. Whereas existing nearby reservoir facilities are seeing crowding during peak times that may deter visitors and decrease user experience and associated levels of service, Glade Reservoir expands options for outdoor enjoyment, exercise, and mindfulness. The





recreational facilities are intended to serve a variety of patrons, such that benefit can be gleaned by many.

Due to its being nearly equal in size to Horsetooth Reservoir west of Fort Collins, Glade Reservoir will provide another unique option for County residents for many types of recreation, including several available year-round. Glade Reservoir is especially important as it will provide a new sizable water body for boating, a rare resource in Colorado. Boaters and recreators living north of Fort Collins that now travel to Horsetooth Reservoir or beyond to recreate will have an option much closer to home, resulting in an increase of use by a wider cross section of County residents serving those that may not make routine visits to more distant recreational opportunities to the south.

A variety of recreational opportunities could be supported and developed at the Glade Reservoir Recreation Area including boating, camping, fishing, mountain biking, horseback riding, and hiking. Of the 32 activities listed in the County's Open Space Master Plan as "Desired Activities at the Reservoirs," Glade Reservoir could provide a majority of the potential recreational activities as listed in the below table.

POTENTIAL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES	
Mountain biking	Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing
Hiking	Youth Programs
Educational Programming	Horseback Riding
Kayaking and Canoeing	Backcountry and Boat-In Camping
Rock Climbing	Tent Camping
Road Biking	Picnicking
Stand Up Paddle Boarding	Guided Tours
Wildlife Viewing	Boat Ramps
Fishing	Festivals or Events
Jogging / Running	Developed / RV Camping
Sailing	Scuba Diving
Large Group Picnicking	Water Skiing
Power Boating	Jet Skiing

POTENTIAL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES





RECREATION CONCEPT MASTER PLAN COMPONENTS

An illustrative site plan of the Recreation Concept Master Plan elements is provided in Appendix A. These recreation features are described in the following sections.

TRAILS

Biking at Glade Reservoir will allow exploration of the recreational area and other natural areas. As the Recreation Concept Master Plan develops, internally networked looping trails can help differentiate trail use, to safely designate trails for bicycles and hiking. Management of the trails can allow for many technical abilities, from beginners on more ADA compliant less-steep trails, to experienced riders looking for challenges along steeper and more rocky terrain.





Hiking and trail running are gaining momentum worldwide as fitness and endurance sports are being embraced by today's younger generations. Colorado is a hotspot for this kind of activity, for athletes and physically-active hikers and runners to improve endurance with training at altitude. Glade Reservoir, at approximately 5 miles in length north to south, would offer exciting opportunities for longer trail running systems, which could be utilized for sporting events or half marathon trail endurance events.

Such activities could utilize the recreation area as a gathering and organizing point for such events. Additionally, the recreation area could offer families and children the opportunity to experience trail hiking and running in a smaller and safer context, with support amenities like bathrooms, water fill-up facilities, and stopping areas so that even beginners can practice and learn the sport. Stopping areas could include benches, area map exhibits, and interpretive kiosks.





The trail opportunities at the Glade Reservoir Recreation Area will be flexible and dynamic enough to offer a host of different trail uses, managed and operated safely to avoid conflict. As the trail use program is developed with the final design of the recreational area, existing operators and experts will be consulted to determine viability and requirements. Casual trail hiking, biking, or horseback riding could be an educational, instructor-led introduction to the trails. Programs could speak toward proper trail stewardship, management of conflicting trail uses, and historic precedents of mobility in the region.

Trail experiences are anticipated to be multi-seasonal at the Glade Reservoir Recreational Area. Such experiences in Colorado are often only able to be experienced by expert mountaineers or are long distances away into the mountains. Glade will offer a uniquely accessible and safe way for beginners and families to enjoy this experience, with the help and support of staff or instructors leading possible educational tours.



Extending beyond the recreational area, the East Shoreline Trail, an unpaved, primitive trail, will be developed along the east shoreline that could serve a variety of recreational uses such as hiking, snowshoeing, mountain biking, camping, rock climbing and fishing activities. The East Shoreline Trail will be approximately 5 miles in length and is intended to connect to a North Trailhead located at the northerly limit of Glade Reservoir. By vehicle, access to the North Trailhead will be available from the future section of U.S. Highway 287 being realigned as part of NISP.

In Appendix B, Exhibits B-1 and B-2 illustrate concepts for trails at Glade Reservoir.





EDUCATIONAL VISITOR CENTER

The Glade Reservoir Recreational Area Visitor Center is envisioned to be a key amenity for the nearby community and the general public. This facility could provide information and exhibits related to the available recreational opportunities, historic and cultural education, endangered and protected native wildlife species, regional geology, water stewardship and conservation, agricultural interests including the preservation of irrigated lands, and reservoir operations.



This facility offers great potential for community learning and gathering. School groups, clubs, scouts, and families could all access potential programmed educational and exploration activities. In addition to interpretive exhibits, specialized educator-led programs are possible. Staffing and use of the Visitor Center will ideally be tied to recreational uses at the Glade Reservoir with Larimer County, the anticipated management agency, providing staffing. The NISP Participants recognize this facility and its program represent a strategic opportunity to align with partner agencies and public initiatives.

In Appendix B, Exhibit B-3 provides a vicinity enlargement for the concept Visitor Center with adjacent interpretative trails and parking.

DIVERSE CAMPING OPTIONS

One of the most exciting activities for the recreation area will be camping. Campground use areas are being studied for diverse locations, to allow for a mix of camping experiences and programs. The NISP Participants are actively seeking to acquire the existing KOA Campground at the U.S. Highway 287 and State Highway 14 intersection for incorporation into the Recreation Concept Master Plan. This existing facility allows for a range of camping options, containing primary service hookups for larger scale and RV camping. Such services include water, power, and sewer, as well as an office and shop to serve those staying in this camping area.

As a visitor drives further into the recreational area, camping areas are intended to scale down in intensity, starting in the KOA Campground with RV and assorted uses, to, further along the access road, drive in trailer camping, then drive-in tent camping, and finally hike-in tent camping.





In Appendix B, Exhibits B-4 through B-8 illustrate typical layout concepts for a range of campsite types at Glade Reservoir.

The intent is to create an experience wherein the camping options are diverse, and generally scale from more intensive (RV and trailer) near the entry, to lesser and more passive forms of camping more inland into the recreational area. In this way, the trail systems are envisioned to be experienced as a hike through the vast rolling natural terrain and rock outcroppings, without the visual impact of vehicles, trailers, and the light and noise of more formalized camping arrangements.

A range of camping experiences will be accommodated by groups of campgrounds with vehicular access to include recreational vehicles, car/camping trailers, car camping, tent camping and limited walk-in camping. Each campground within the recreation area will be provided access from an improved one-way or two-way roadway as well as access to full-service restroom facilities and potentially shower facilities that will be serviced and maintained by the management agency.

The limits of the campground use areas will be defined to preserve as much existing native woody vegetation as possible. Campground limits will be positioned with consideration to rock fall setback/buffer zones. Camping closer to rock areas is anticipated to be desirable, largely due to the seasonal winds and summer sun exposure on the site. With additional analysis of these areas, and potential mitigation, campgrounds may be permitted closer to these zones.







Camping in view of Glade Reservoir, or even waterside, will be an incredible and highly-desirable activity. Whether this means hiking to access areas further north along the reservoir or accessing more remote areas by low-powered or non-motorized craft, the project anticipates high demand for this type of experience. The operation and organization of this program can be studied as part of the future Recreation Development Plan to understand the proper amount of program versus passive support for spontaneous activity of this kind. The opportunities for such program elements can range from simple laydown areas for tent camping, up to more formalized tent-cabin installations that would invite visitors that are perhaps not as accustomed to assembling tents and campsites themselves.







Campfire control and fire incident mitigation will be central to the campsite operational policy and program requirements. Working in close coordination and cooperation with the County, State, and Federal regulations on campsites and campfires, the Glade Reservoir Recreation Area will consistently strive to develop policies and best management practices to control and regulate fire burning, so that high wind conditions won't compromise fire control, and native brush surroundings do not fall victim to avoidable incident.

Other improvements under consideration with the campsite recreational program include planting and

growing vegetative buffers to screen large or more intensive camping areas, restrictions on large-scale camping vehicles away from areas upslope or nearing the reservoir, and the use of downcast, full cutoff light fixtures to meet Dark Sky criteria.

WATER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Without question, water recreation is anticipated to be the strongest draw for recreation and outdoor enthusiasts in the area. The demand for and use by visitors to Horsetooth Reservoir is a clear indicator that residents of the County and visitors have the ability, means, and desire to recreate on the water. For Glade Reservoir, this represents a sensitive challenge, that is under careful ongoing consideration in the development of its recreational program. What types of boating will the recreation program allow or limit? What about noise and light pollution on the water? How will the recreation program affect those wishing for quiet enjoyment of the conservation areas? How does the program affect the success of ecological and wildlife initiatives? How can we predict how water recreation trends will change in the decade, or decades, ahead?

These questions are all under consideration as the Recreation Concept Master Plan and Program take shape. Through public outreach and stakeholder engagement, NISP Participants understand that differing value sets and desires related to the type and extent of motorized boating exists, and yet Glade holds many opportunities to bring these values together in a place for recreation that can be successful across several, seemingly conflicting, interests.

One key component in managing the possible conflicts between motorized and non-motorized water recreation, as well as noise and light concerns associated with motorized boating, is in the effective management and program of boating areas within the reservoir. Advantages could be leveraged wherein portions of the reservoir, easily isolated, could be identified and controlled for specific types of





watercraft. Additionally, the natural topography that will one day be the reservoir floor, will naturally control boating possibilities. For instance, the northern extents of the reservoir will be considerably shallower and likely to recede from the northern limits occasionally while the reservoir is in use. This limitation, on its own, will limit boating to types that can operate in shallow water.

Additionally, as technology advances in the years before the reservoir's fill and start of boating access, it can be predicted that boat technology, sound mitigation, and advancement in electric boating will become more prevalent and available.



Boating options are being considered, from powered to low-powered and non-motorized watercraft. Additionally, low-wake activities such as paddle-boarding, bird watching, and fishing bring the opportunity for a quiet experience on the water, to reconnect with the area, wildlife, and preservation areas surrounding the reservoir.

In Appendix B, Exhibit B-9 illustrates a conceptual layout for reservoir water access with accessible fishing area at Glade Reservoir.

FISHING

Fishing at Glade Reservoir is intended to provide universal access opportunities, where people of all skill levels and physical capabilities can learn to and participate in fishing activities. To strengthen ADA access, the entry road configuration is being studied to include accessible parking and drop-off at the boat launch area, with easy access to a boardwalk area, accessible to mobility wheelchairs or scooters, to experience waterfront enjoyment.







In partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and as defined in the 2017 CPW Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (FWMEP) and the 2018 NISP FEIS Conceptual Mitigation Plan (CMP), NISP Participants have committed to establishing and maintaining a cool water fishery at Glade, similar to those at Horsetooth Reservoir and Carter Lake. Due to CPW fish hatchery production currently being near capacity, implementation of the cool water fishery will also require and include expansion of current CPW fishery facilities. A non-motorized/mechanized fishing access trail will also be provided along the west and north sides of Glade.

As with the possible educational programs of the Visitor Center and interpretive trail systems, water and boating educational programs could be provided from the facilities and staff of the recreational area. Here there are opportunities for partner programs to bring residents or school classes to teach responsible fishing, conscientious recreation, and how water affects ecology and wildlife. In the years to come, the project anticipates that these issues will become increasingly important to our communities, and Glade Reservoir can be poised to be a leading voice in responsible educational water recreation.







BOAT RAMP

The Glade Reservoir Boat Ramp, at the south abutment of the Glade Reservoir dam, will provide controlled access to the reservoir for a range of watercraft. The expansive configuration of Glade Reservoir will allow for boating over a wide range of reservoir levels. During a typical recreation season (May to September), Glade Reservoir will provide 1,500 acres of boating water area. Even during drier times when the reservoir is around half full (about 5% of the time) 1,040 acres for boating is available. By comparison, when Glade Reservoir is full (about 10% of the time) there will be 1,640 acres of boating water.

The Recreation Concept Master Plan exhibit illustrates a four-lane boat ramp with two floating docks that will allow for fluctuating water levels. The boat ramp length is being evaluated to accommodate fluctuating water levels of the reservoir and allow for boating enjoyment. Lengths being considered include a 520-foot long boat ramp that will accommodate boating when the reservoir is half full or more (90% of the time), while a 370-foot long boat ramp option would serve boaters when the reservoir is at least 60% full (80% of the time). The length and orientation of the boat ramp will be optimized to maximize boating opportunities over time, while remaining reasonable on construction costs.





Additional boat ramp improvements could include short-term boat trailer parking and tie down areas, a restroom/shower building, a rental/concession building with parking, and an accessible fishing pier with accessible parking and trails.

ACCESS, SAFETY, AND SECURITY

While the public parking lot at the lower portion of the site will allow for visitors to meet and access the Visitor Center, a controlled entry station to the extended Glade Reservoir Recreation Area will be located a short distance north of the U.S. Highway 287 and State Highway 14 intersection along the current alignment of U.S. Highway 287. This access point will help provide safety and control over vehicles, equipment, watercraft, and persons entering the area, while also providing an informational stopping point for visitors in search of camping, hiking, or boating access areas. The location for the entry station will allow for organized entry of vehicles and trailers in anticipation of above-average/holiday weekend usage of the recreation area.

The Glade Reservoir Recreation Area Access Road is a two-lane paved roadway engineered to allow for vehicular access into the campgrounds, Visitor Center parking lot, and boat ramp areas, as well as to accommodate a range of vehicles with or without camping/boat trailers. While the access road climbs nearly 300-feet vertically, it has been configured so the maximum road gradient will not exceed 9%, including reduced grades at access points in the campgrounds, Visitor Center, and parking areas. The horizontal alignment of the access road will make efforts to preserve significant natural landforms and vegetation and minimize site disturbance to preserve the natural character of the recreation area hillside.

At this stage, the Recreation Concept Master Plan provides a general description of the types and scale of recreation options, which will be refined as part of the development planning. The eventual operator of the recreation area, in cooperation with County policies, will be responsible for the safety and security of those enjoying Glade Reservoir. Such safety measures could include mobile security personnel, emergency call phones located near restrooms, cameras or announcement systems.





APPENDIX A

GLADE RESERVOIR RECREATION AREA

ILLUSTRATIVE SITE PLAN





NOTE: Plan depicts a conceptual range of options and is subject to change.

GLADE RESERVOIR RECREATION AREA - ILLUSTRATIVE SITE PLAN JANUARY 2020

- CAMPING AREA 1: 15-20 CAMPSITES
 CAMPING AREA 2: 10-15 CAMPSITES
 CAMPING AREA 3: 10-15 CAMPSITES
- **CAMPING AREA 4:** 10-15 CAMPSITES
- **5** CAMPING AREA 5: 5-15 CAMPSITES
- A FULL SERVICE CAMPING AREA: 70-80 RENTAL UNITS
- **B POUDRE CANYON PUBLIC PARKING:** 125-145 SPACES
- **C** VISITOR CENTER: 8,000-10,000 SF BUILDING + 40-50 SPACES
- **D** BOAT RAMP PARKING LONG TERM: 20-30 SPACES + 40-50 TRAILER SPACES
- **E** BOAT RAMP PARKING SHORT TERM: 15 SPACES + 18 TRAILER SPACES





APPENDIX B

GLADE RESERVOIR RECREATION AREA

ENLARGEMENT EXHIBITS





MULTI-USE ADA TRAIL









PRIMITIVE TRAIL - SINGLE TRACK









Visitor Center, Interpretive Trails, & Parking

GLADE RESERVOIR Northern Integrated Supply Project







RV Camping with Electric Hookup





EXHIBIT B-4



Pull-Through Campsite





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EXHIBIT B-5



Pull-Through RV Campsite



EXHIBIT B-6





Back-In Campsite









Pull-In Camp Spur: Tent/Car Camping









Reservoir Water Access & Accessible Fishing Area





