

Memorandum

Date: December 2, 2025

To: Douglas County Advisory Boards

From: Amy Knopp, Manager of Rueter-Hess Recreation

CC: Steven Shoultz, CPRE, Assistant Director of Parks, Trails, Building Grounds, and Rueter-Hess Recreation

Subject: **Rueter-Hess Recreation Update for November 2025**

UPDATES

Natural Resource Stewardship

Rueter Hess Park Rangers cleanup of fishing lines in a heavily used fishing area of the reservoir. They removed eight fishing lures and approximately fifty yards of fishing line, much of which was entangled in willow trees along the shoreline. The removal of this debris not only addressed the immediate hazard to local wildlife but also enhanced the overall safety and environmental quality of the reservoir for water quality and public use.



Enhancing Visitor Experience Through Trail Maintenance

Maintaining our trails is essential not only for safety but also for creating an enjoyable experience for every visitor. Proper vegetation control plays a key role in this process. By managing overgrown plants and shrubs, we can ensure clear pathways, allowing visitors to fully immerse themselves in the beauty of nature.

Maintaining clear, accessible trails is an essential part of providing a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors. These improvements made our trails more welcoming while ensuring the long-term health of the surrounding landscape.

Continued vegetation management supports the health of the local ecosystem by allowing more sunlight to reach the forest floor, encouraging the growth of native grass and wildflowers while helping to control invasive plant species.

Trail users are reminded to stay on designated paths and follow all posted signage. Maintenance operations are planned for minimal disruptions so hiking and recreation can continue safely. Once completed, the improved trails will offer smoother passage and a more enjoyable outdoor experience.



Master Anglers

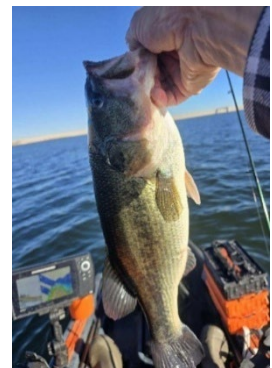
Just before closing for the season to watercraft usage on Rueter Hess Reservoir, we had multiple anglers reel in some impressive award-winning fish.

Race, an avid youth angler who has spent countless hours on the water searching for big walleye happened to catch a 12-inch yellow perch. A fish of that size was able to secure Race the title of Master Angler, awarded by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW).



On the same note, another one of our frequent anglers, Jim, came out looking for trophy walleye but instead found himself catching his first ever largemouth bass, and a big one at that. His bass measured 19 inches and netted him a master angler title with the CPW as well.

With so many of our anglers focusing on walleye it is so promising to see that our fishery is holding incredibly sizeable fish of all species. As we begin to pivot to shoreline fishing until ice forms on the reservoir, we are pleased with the quality of fish within our waters and are already looking forward to next paddle season with larger fish waiting to be caught.



SPECIAL USE CALENDAR

Calendar of Events 2025		
Date	Special Event	Location
5/11 & 12/2025	PWSD Student Visit to the Reservoir	Reservoir
5/14/2025	South Metro Fire Training	Reservoir
5/31/2025	Runuphill Racing	Incline
6/7/2025	Fransen Pittman Company 5K	Incline
6/7/2025	Journey Church Fishing	Reservoir
6/6/2025	Celebration of Life	Pavilion/Obs
6/7/2025	Colorado Gun Dog Association	Hess Rd. Access
6/9/2025	Lone Tree Rec. Committee Tour	Reservoir
7/4/2025	Jaegger Family Visit to Rueter-Hess	Reservoir
7/19/2025	South Metro Dive Rescue Training	Reservoir
TBD	Women Inspiring Leadership	Incline
7/21/2025	South Metro Dive Rescue Training	Reservoir
7/23/2025	South Metro Dive Rescue Training	Reservoir
7/24/2025	South Metro Dive Rescue Training	Reservoir
8/9/2025	Ashley Elfeld Wedding	Pavilion
9/11/2025	Lone Tree Brewery 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb	Incline
9/13/2025	WICT Network Rocky Mountain	Incline
6/1 to 8/15/25	Avid4Adventure Summer Season Day Camp	Reservoir
6/26 to 6/28/25	Amateur Radio Emergency Service	Reservoir
7/14 to 7/18/25	Girl Scouts of Colorado Camp Days	Reservoir
8/23/2025	Douglas County Sheriff's Office	Reservoir
RAB /Partner Days		
7/19/2025	Lone Tree Partner Day	Reservoir
7/27/2025	Castle Rock Partner Day	Reservoir
8/6/2025	PWSD Family Day 3-6 pm	Reservoir
8/10/2025	Castle Pines Partner Day	Reservoir
8/16/2025	Parker Partner Day	Reservoir
Partner Programing		
6/14/2025	Dash Across the Dam - Parker 5K	Reservoir

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Throughout November, park rangers focused on completing seasonal maintenance of rental equipment to ensure everything is in top condition for the 2026 summer season.

The watercraft season officially ended on November 16, marking the start of dock removal operations. Over the following two days, rangers (supported by five staff members and a skid steer) safely removed the docks from the reservoir. Favorable weather was critical during this process, as staff were required to work in the water and operate machinery on natural surfaces. Once the docks were removed, impacted areas were restored to their natural state. Dock maintenance, organization, and minor repairs will continue throughout the winter months.

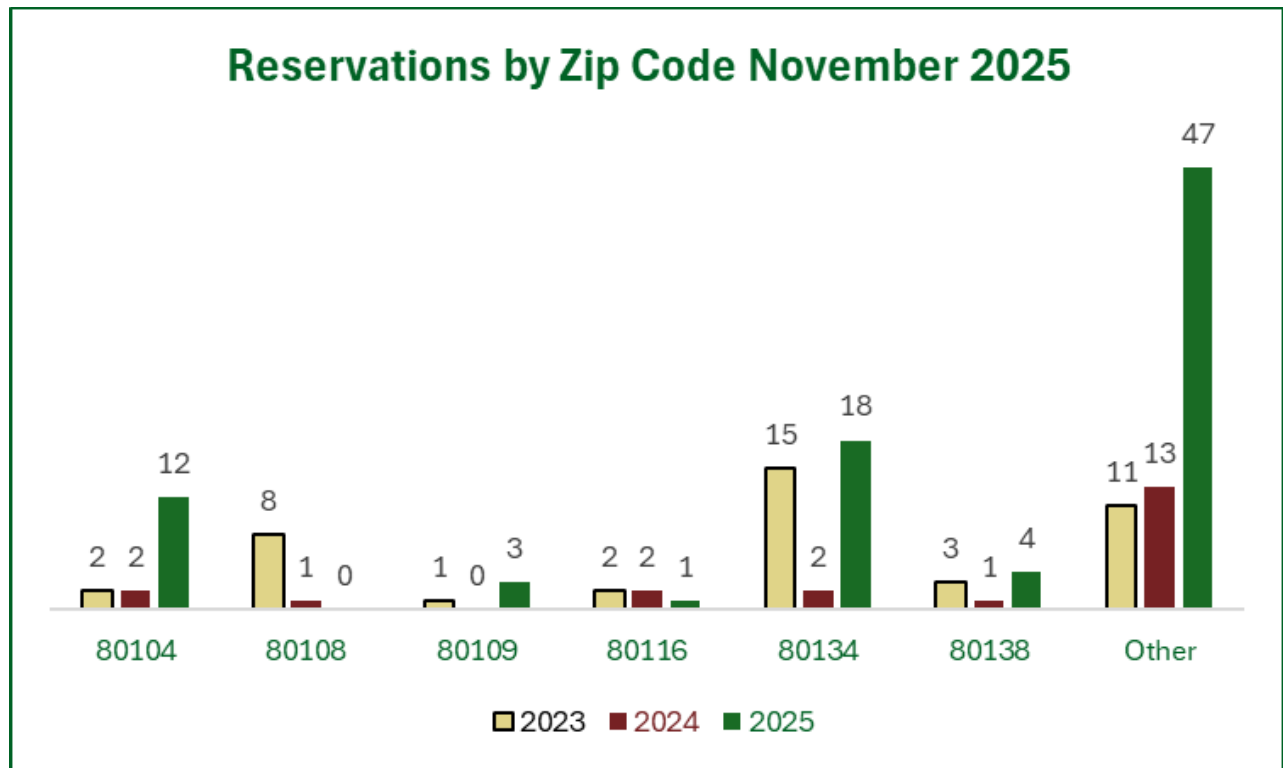
On November 21, Parks Technicians teamed up with the rangers to lay nearly 700 feet of road base, significantly improving access to the fishing dock below the E Lot parking area. Staff will continue refining the trail over the winter by hand—cleaning edges, compacting the surface, and filling low spots to ensure it’s ready for public use next year.

RUETER-HESS VOLUNTEER HOURS

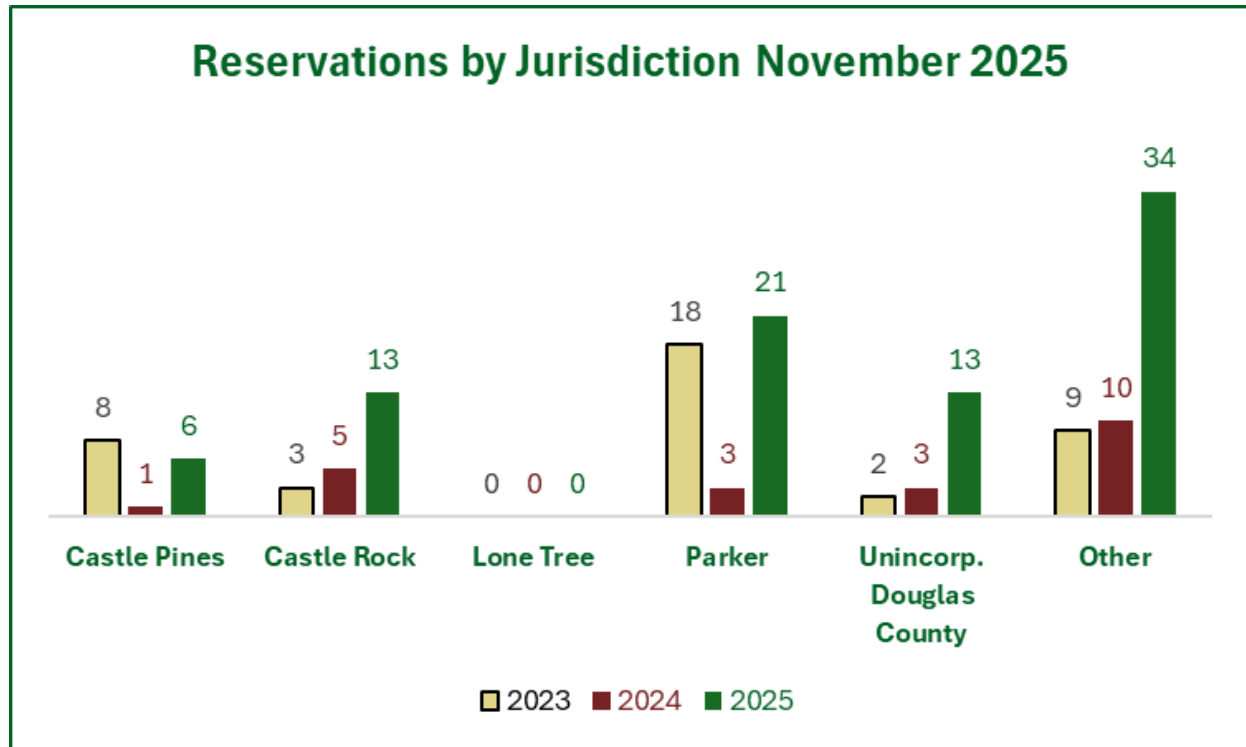
RUETER-HESS VOLUNTEER HOURS 2025								
Month	Number of Hosted Events	Number of Volunteers	Hours of Service	Hours of Check-Ins & Inspections	Bags of Trash Collected	Feet of Shoreline Maintained	Bags of Weeds Pulled	Miles of Trail Maintained
March	8	8	24	24	0	0	0	0.00
April	11	11	33	33	0	0	0	0.00
May	19	19	57	50	3	20	1	0.25
June	10	10	30	26	3	0	1	0.00
July	8	8	24	10	3	200	0	0.25
August	2	2	6	6	0	0	0	0.00
September	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	0.00
October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Totals	58	58	174	149	9	220	2	0.50

RUETER-HESS RECREATION STATS (UPDATED 12/01/25)[illegible]

[illegible]



Rueter-Hess Usage by Zip Code November 2023 - 2025			
Zip Code	2023	2024	2025
80104	2	2	12
80108	8	1	0
80109	1	0	3
80116	2	2	1
80134	15	2	18
80138	3	2	4
Other	9	10	49



Usage By Jurisdiction November 2023 - 2025					
City	2023	2024	2025	Partner Day 2024	Partner Day 2025
Castle Pines	8	1	6	110	72
Castle Rock	3	66	13	101	35
Lone Tree	0	5	0	59	42
Parker	18	3	21	69	74
Unincorporated Douglas County	2	3	13	--	--
Other	9	10	34	--	--