

THE HISTORY

Native Americans named the river Quee-ya-paw for a tobacco root that grew along its banks. Trappers called it “Bear River” because of the many bears that frequented the area. Indians and trappers often held rendezvous in this area, including one in 1825 near Burnt Fork, just 50 miles southeast of the park.

The nearly 300 acres that make up Bear River State Park were opened to the public in 1991. The park is connected to the BEAR Project, a greenbelt activity offered by the city. Although the BEAR Project is not in the state park, it allows visitors to connect easily to downtown Evanston via an interconnecting trail system.

SUMMER & WINTER TRAILS

Nearly 3 miles of foot trails are within park limits. This includes 1.2 miles of paved trail and an arched footbridge that crosses the Bear River, allowing access to a natural area. Another 1.7 miles of packed gravel trails are on the west side of the river.

The foot trails in the park also double as cross-country ski trails in the winter. Evanston’s Parks and Recreation Dept. and Bear River State Park staff combine forces to provide high quality, cross-country ski trails as an excellent way to dump the “winter blues.” When weather permits, the park road is closed to vehicles and open to skiing and hiking. Numerous other trails are maintained for those who ski and snowshoe.

THE ELK AND BISON

Bear River State Park is home to a small head of captive bison and elk, kept for public viewing.

Bison are wild animals and can be aggressive. They are unpredictable and may become aggravated when dogs are near or when they have young calves. Please respect their territory. Ask for a bison information sheet at the Travel Information Center.

Bear River State Park offers ideal areas for picnicking, hiking, wildlife viewing, group activities, bicycling, skiing, rollerblading, remote control cars and many other activities. The park is for day use only, no overnight camping is allowed.

HAVE AN EVENT AT OUR PARK

Many groups hold events at the park. Scouts use the Rendezvous Area as a training site to hone their skills and to stage ceremonial camp-outs. Businesses, churches and families reserve shelters for picnics and meetings. The park provides an ideal environment for the annual Learn to Cross-Country Ski Day.

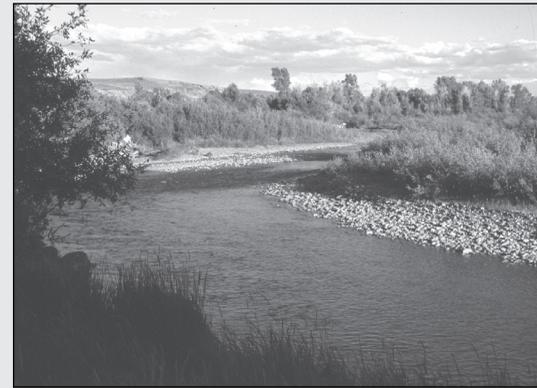
The annual Bear River Rendezvous, which takes place on the weekend prior to Labor Day at the far south end of the park, provides spectators with a window to Wyoming’s past. Mountain men and women compete with black powder rifles, hawks and knives, recreating a rendezvous typical of those in the mid-1800s. Concessions help visitors “make a day of it.”

“ADOPT-A-TRAIL” PROGRAM

Help us keep Bear River State Park in the best possible condition and provide us all with a clean facility. Adopt-a Trail is available for groups interested in an on-going service project. If you are interested, contact the park headquarters.

ENJOY A VOLKSMARCH!

Bear River State Park hosts a summer long sanctioned Volksmarch walk. It is rated as a “2” along the Bear River where walkers can view the wildlife. Register at the Travel Information Center.



PARK RULES

- Park dumpsters are for park use only. Litter must be disposed of in provided containers.
- Keep motorized vehicles on designated roads and trails. A valid driver’s license is required.
- All pets must be kept on a leash at all times.
- Firearms and fireworks are not allowed.
- Obey posted signs, traffic barriers & speed limits.
- Quiet must be maintained between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- Digging or leveling of ground is prohibited.
- Metal detectors are prohibited.
- For a complete listing of park rules, visit the nearest park headquarters.

TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTER

The Bear River State Park Travel Information Center provides a convenient rest stop for travelers on I-80, and is a distribution point for information about Wyoming’s many aspects and events that make our state a splendid place to visit.

WYOMING STATE PARKS, HISTORIC SITES & TRAILS

Bear River State Park



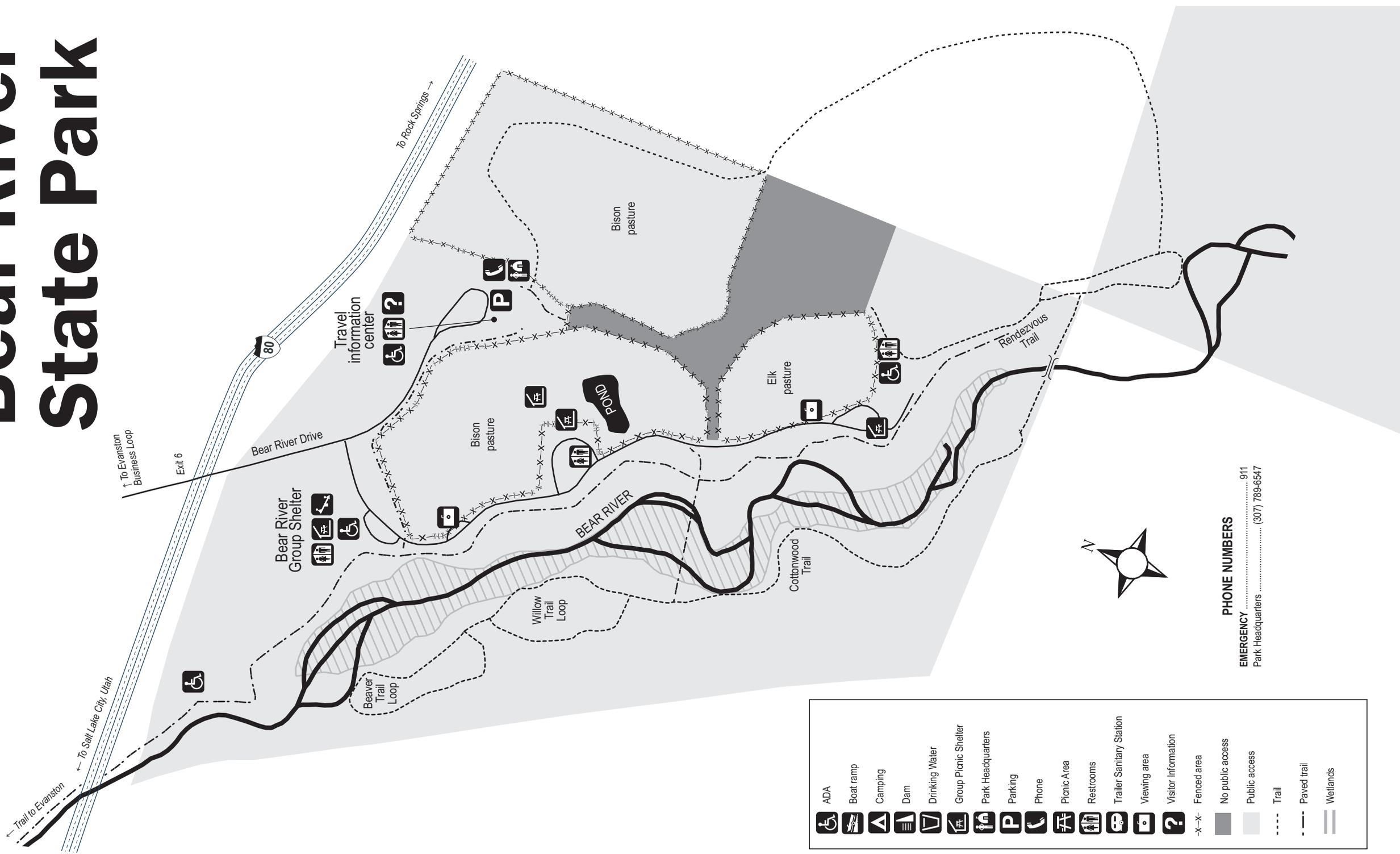
Abundant wildlife, such as bison and elk, afford rare viewing opportunities and give visitors a taste of wild Wyoming.

ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

Bear River State Park is administered by the Division of State Parks and Historic Sites, Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources. <http://wyoparks.state.wy.us/>

Bear River State Park



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| | ADA |
| | Boat ramp |
| | Camping |
| | Dam |
| | Drinking Water |
| | Group Picnic Shelter |
| | Park Headquarters |
| | Parking |
| | Phone |
| | Picnic Area |
| | Restrooms |
| | Trailer Sanitary Station |
| | Viewing area |
| | Visitor Information |
| | Fenced area |
| | No public access |
| | Public access |
| | Trail |
| | Paved trail |
| | Wetlands |

PHONE NUMBERS
 EMERGENCY 911
 Park Headquarters (307) 789-6547