



# Parker Canyon Lake

Cool off at this mile-high, 130-acre lake tucked in the Canelo Hills at the end of scenic State Route 83. Enjoy excellent fishing and boating year-round, as well as lakeside camping, a lakeshore trail, abundant wildlife, and spectacular scenery.



## Know before you go



### FISHING & BOATING:

Visit [www.azgfd.com](http://www.azgfd.com) for fishing and boating regulations, stocking schedule, fish consumption advisories, and to purchase licenses. All anglers 10 years and older need a valid fishing license.



**AMENITIES:** Paved boat launch, fishing piers, picnic area, vault toilets, and a lakeshore trail



**MARINA:** Boat rentals, fishing licenses and supplies, snacks, and cold drinks. Call (520) 455-5847 for current hours.



**WATER:** Drinking water is available near each bathroom at the campground or for purchase at the marina.



**PETS:** Pets are permitted on leash.



### DAY USE FEE AREA:

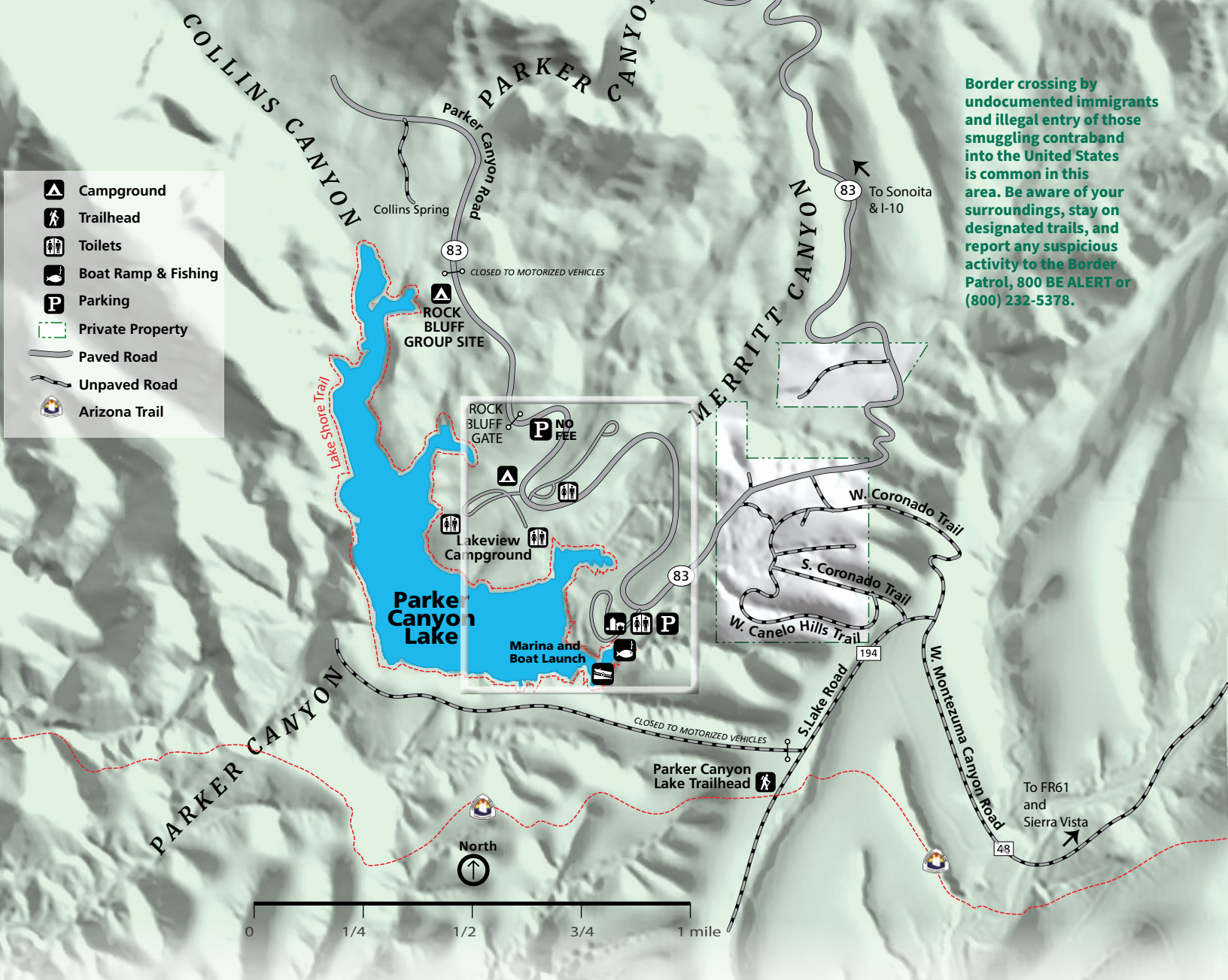
Scan the QR code or visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) to buy a digital pass for this day-use site, or buy one on site with cash or check. No pass required at one fee-free parking area prior to the Rock Bluff Group Site.

## Activities

<b>Fishing</b>	Quiet coves and rocky outcrops provide ideal habitat for a variety of fish, including catfish, bass, and sunfish. Rainbow trout are stocked during the cooler months. All anglers 10 years and older need a valid fishing license. Bag limits and fish consumption advisories are posted on site. Purchase licenses and fishing gear at the marina.
<b>Boating</b>	A paved boat ramp and 130 acres of lake to explore make this a perfect destination for a day on the water. All boats with motors must be licensed and are limited to one 10 horsepower motor or less. Kayaks, paddle boards, pedal boats, and fishing boats are available to rent from the marina.
<b>Swimming</b>	Swim at your own risk. There is no designated swimming area and no lifeguard on duty. Swimming is prohibited at the boat ramp.
<b>Camping</b>	The Lakeshore Campground, perched on a hill overlooking the lake, has 65 first-come, first-serve sites. Pay on site with cash or check. Maximum vehicle length is 36 feet. No hookups. Toilets and drinking water are available. Store and dispose of all food in bear-safe containers and trash receptacles. Reserve the Rock Bluff Group Site for up to 50 people at <a href="http://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a> .
<b>Hiking</b>	<b>Parker Lakeshore Trail #128:</b> This 5-mile easy trail passes through oak forest and over rocky ledges as it follows the shore around the lake. A short section of trail north of the marina is paved.
	<b>The Arizona Trail:</b> The Parker Canyon Lake Trailhead is located 0.5 mile south of FR 48 on South Lake Drive. The trail leads northwest through the Canelo Hills or northeast into the Huachuca Mountains. Visit <a href="http://www.aztrail.org">www.aztrail.org</a> .
<b>Wildlife viewing</b>	Parker Canyon Lake attracts many animals. White-tailed deer and black bear frequent the lakeshore. Numerous species of waterfowl winter at the lake, bald eagles and osprey soar the skies overhead, and many migratory and resident birds seek shelter and food in the pine-oak woodlands. Fall and spring are excellent seasons for birding.

**EMERGENCY OR FIRE: DIAL 911**

**SIERRA VISTA RANGER STATION: (520) 378-0311**



Border crossing by undocumented immigrants and illegal entry of those smuggling contraband into the United States is common in this area. Be aware of your surroundings, stay on designated trails, and report any suspicious activity to the Border Patrol, 800 BE ALERT or (800) 232-5378.

## About Parker Canyon Lake

Tucked among towering oaks, Parker Canyon Lake is a hidden oasis at the base of the Huachuca Mountains. This out-of-the-way destination, located twenty-five miles south of Sonoita through the rolling grasslands of the Canelo Hills, offers a superb setting for fishing, boating, and camping, or a picnic and hike after a scenic drive.

The oak woodland around the lake attracts wildlife, including Coues' white-tailed deer, which are frequently seen along the shore, mountain lions, coatimundi, black bear, and four species of skunks. Numerous birds are seen on and around the lake, such as great blue herons, belted kingfishers, American coots, ruddy ducks, and mallards. Osprey are common in the area. The lake is a hotspot for birding; spring and fall are good seasons for seeing migratory songbirds and hummingbirds.

The canyon is named for William Parker, who was born in Tennessee and passed through the area on his way to California in search of gold. He returned to settle in the canyon with his family in 1881. In 1966, the Arizona Game and Fish Department constructed a dam to impound the waters of Parker Canyon and create the lake for recreational fishing. Today the Department manages the lake as a high-quality bass water, and stocks 12-inch rainbow trout from October through March, as well as channel catfish when possible.

