

COOT LAKE

Modified 4/22/11

Rating:	easy - difficult
Length:	1.16-mile loop
Surface:	crusher fines, road base, dirt
Width:	Avg: 6' Min: 3'
Cross slope:	Avg: 0% Max: 16%
Grade:	Avg: 0% Max: 13% for 8'
Picnic:	7 tables (most are easy)
Other users:	birders, anglers, runners, dogs (voice/sight control)
Parking:	2 flat designated spots (many more at Tom Watson Park across the street)
Structures:	bridge, fishing pier (easy)
Restrooms:	1 set (easy)
Shade:	Very little, trees cover a bench ¼ of a mile north of parking lot.
Location:	Coot Lake Trailhead is on N. 63 rd St. just west of Hwy. 119 near the Boulder Reservoir.

Description

A wheelchair accessible fishing pier is adjacent to the parking lot. All Colorado Parks and Wildlife Fishing Regulations apply, including fishing license requirements. For more info on regulations, go to <http://wildlife.state.co.us/fishing/Pages/Fishing.aspx>.

A crusher fines trail starts from the parking lot and heads in both directions around the lake. If you head southwest, 150 feet down the trail there is a 30-foot wooden foot bridge with a four percent grade for about eight feet to begin. In another 20 feet, the trail splits. The trail to the right takes you towards five picnic tables, connects into the gravel service road and continues around the lake.

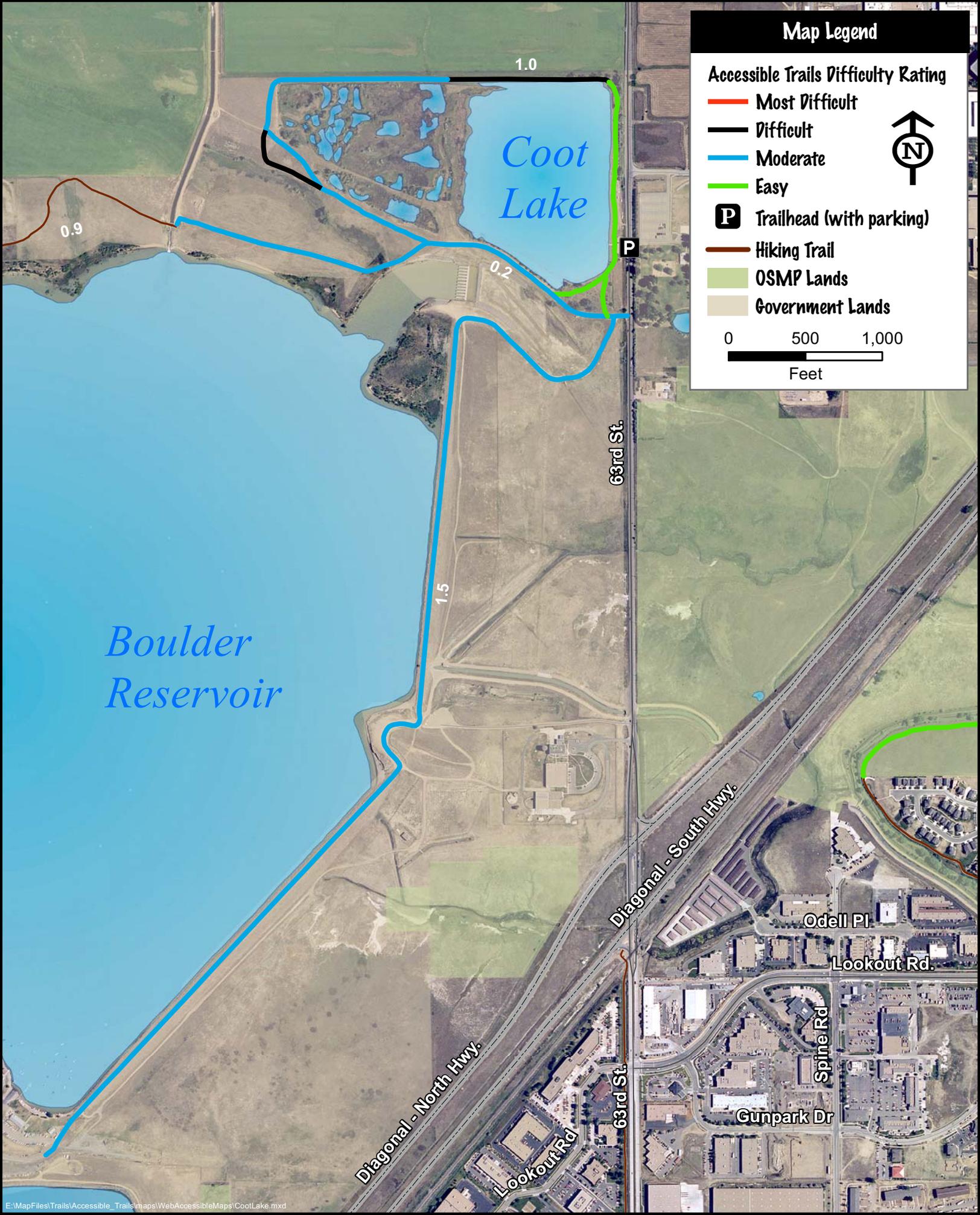
The trail to the left also takes you to the service road, but avoids the picnic tables. If you follow the service road to the left, it will take you across the Boulder Reservoir Dam and to the south/recreational side of the Boulder Reservoir. If you follow the service road to the right it will go past a former gravel weigh station and connect up with the path around Coot Lake. During sweltering summer afternoons in the 1980's, this small building was used as a station for rangers to identify and ticket illegal naked bathers along the Coot Lake shoreline. These illegal naturists are gone, but the beautiful natural scenery is still here. Prickly poppy, birdfoot trefoil, cowboy's delight, and dwarf leadplant are all flowers that inhabit the area.

The gravel service road comes to another junction in 1,000 feet. You may follow the service road to the left for 0.6 mile to the canal or the Coot Lake trail to the right. The canal trail continues west from the canal, but the width of the canal crossing is only 27 inches. This, along with a step on each side of the bridge, makes it hard to negotiate with a wheelchair.

The Coot Lake trail to the right is an accessible crusher fines trail heading northwest. This trail encircles Coot Lake and some highly developed wetlands, so there is a wide variety of vegetation and birds in the area. Mid-March is a great time to see migrating waterfowl. At 750 feet along the trail you come to another junction. The narrower trail to the left has two steep 13%-sloped hills. It loops around and reconnects to the flatter, wider trail to the right.

After the two trails merge, this combined flat trail follows the north side of the lake, eventually reaching the shade of trees after 0.4 miles. The trail has a 7% cross slope here. A bench sits under the trees offering respite from the sun. The trail goes for another quarter of a mile back to the parking lot.

Coot Lake



Map Legend

Accessible Trails Difficulty Rating

— Most Difficult

— Difficult

— Moderate

— Easy

P Trailhead (with parking)

— Hiking Trail

— OSMP Lands

— Government Lands

0 500 1,000

Feet



Coot Lake

Boulder Reservoir

63rd St.

Diagonal - South Hwy.

Diagonal - North Hwy.

Lookout Rd.

63rd St.

Odell Pl.

Lookout Rd.

Spine Rd.

Gunpark Dr.