

## SAWHILL PONDS

*Revised 3/2/11*

<b>Rating:</b>	moderate
<b>Length:</b>	1.85 miles
<b>Surface:</b>	pea gravel, road base, dirt, gravel
<b>Width:</b>	Avg: 8' Min: 1'
<b>Cross slope:</b>	Avg: 0% Max: 3%
<b>Grade:</b>	Avg: 1% Max: 5%
<b>Picnic:</b>	1 moderate table and picnic shelter with 2 tables
<b>Other users:</b>	dogs on leash, anglers, birdwatchers, horses
<b>Parking:</b>	1 designated spot plus general parking
<b>Structures:</b>	fishing pier (easy), bird blind (easy)
<b>Restrooms:</b>	1 set (easy)
<b>Shade:</b>	Trees scattered along trail provide good shade stops
<b>Location:</b>	The Sawhill Ponds Trailhead is located on the west side of 75 <sup>th</sup> St. between Jay Rd. and Valmont Rd. Turn off just north of railroad tracks. Follow the gravel road 0.25 miles until it ends at the Sawhill Ponds parking lot.

### Description

This old gravel quarry has been converted to wetlands with a multitude of ponds scattered about. Sawhill Ponds provides pond fishing for bass, sunfish, blugill, and carp. Live bait is allowed in the first two ponds. The rest are lure only. Bird watching and just strolling along the trail are other enjoyable recreational activities in the area. A wheelchair accessible fishing pier extends onto the pond adjacent to the gravel parking lot. Accessible restrooms are also nearby.

The trail is approximately 1.85 miles. It is a loop that winds among the ponds and is a combination of pea gravel, road base dirt/gravel and sandy, fine gravel. The trail is 8 feet wide, but some sections turn into two or three gravel tracks with plant growth between. The tracks can get as narrow as 12 inches but are negotiable with a wheelchair by riding one wheel in the plant growth beside the track. The trail is generally flat with most grades not exceeding 2%. The steepest grade is 5% for 50 feet along the backside of the loop. Cross slope is negligible with the worst being 3% for about 20 feet.

About 0.25 miles down the trail is an accessible bird blind for viewing birds. The entrance is 7 feet wide with a ½ inch lip to get in. There is a 3 to 4-foot wide passageway and windows for viewing 33 inches off of the ground.

The area has wetland vegetation and various trees scattered around the ponds offering shade during excessively hot days. Small picnic tables and benches with no shade are also available in the area. A variety of wildlife dwells at Sawhill Ponds including muskrats, beavers, herons, ducks, birds of prey, egrets, and geese. Anglers fish the ponds for bass and sunfish. All Colorado Parks and Wildlife Fishing Regulations apply, including fishing license requirements and special catch size limits posted on-site. For more info on regulations, go to: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/fishing/Pages/Fishing.aspx> .

# Sawhill Ponds

## Map Legend

### Accessible Trails Difficulty Rating

Most Difficult

Difficult

Moderate

Easy

**P** Trailhead (with parking)

Hiking Trail

OSMP Lands

Government Lands

0 250 500

Feet

