Park Guidelines

Boat Capacity—Quail Creek State Park limits the number of vessels that can be on the reservoir at one time. Please contact the park for details.

Camping—Camp only in designated campgrounds. Each permit covers one vehicle and any attached recreational equipment. Up to eight people are allowed per campsite.

Drones—Drone permits can be purchased at the main gate.

Photography—Professional photographers are welcome, and no additional permitting fee is required.

Film—Professional videographers may use the park for different projects with the purchase of a Special Use Permit from the park manager. Filming must be scheduled and approved in advance.

Off-Highway Vehicles—Riding off-highway vehicles is not permitted in the park.

Fires—Campfires may be built in specified areas, but during some parts of the year there may be fire restrictions. Please contact the park with any questions.

Pets—Dogs are permitted on the beach, in the water, and on trails. Pets must be on a maximum six-foot leash and under control at all times. Please clean up after your pet.

Plants and Animals—All plants, animals, minerals, and other natural features in the state parks are protected. It is unlawful to remove, alter, or destroy them.

Fireworks—Explosives, fireworks, and firecrackers are prohibited.

Vandalism—It is unlawful to damage or deface any natural or constructed feature. Please help keep our parks beautiful.

Speed Limit—The speed limit on state park roads is 15 m.p.h. unless otherwise posted.

Wastewater—It is unlawful to dump or drain water from campers or trailers onto the ground or into lakes and streams. Speak with the entrance booth staff for nearest dump locations.

Quiet Hours—10 p.m. to 7 a.m.
Quail Creek State Park is a desert oasis iconic of the American Southwest. The park’s mild winters, vivid blue waters and dramatic red rock formations make it a popular year-round destination for photographers, boaters, and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

History

Ancestral Puebloans inhabited this area from approximately 600 A.D. to 1050 A.D. Remains of their ancient art can be found within the park. The Southern Paiute subsequently lived in the area for hundreds of years, until settlers usurped their tribal lands.

Previously a river valley, Quail Creek Reservoir was completed in 1985 to provide water to St. George. Most of the water in the reservoir does not come from Quail Creek, but is diverted from the Virgin River and transported through a buried pipeline.

Today, park visitors can witness billions of years of geologic history in technicolor. On clear, sunny days, the reservoir is a brilliant blue; in late afternoon and early evening, the rock formations radiate golden, crimson, pink, and chestnut hues.

Wildlife

Quail Creek is home to abundant wildlife. You may see coyotes, kit foxes, rabbits, desert tarantulas, squirrels, and raccoons. Red racers and rattlesnakes have been known to frequent the park, so watch your step during warmer months.

Quail Creek Reservoir is one of the best birding sites in Utah. View bald eagles, great horned owls, red-necked grebes, herons, quail, roadrunners, hawks, geese, ducks, and other birds on their migratory journeys.

Camping

The park has 24 developed campsites, including two accessible sites. Each site has its own paved parking pad, fire pit, grill, and covered picnic table. Water is available in the campground. There is one group campsite, as well as a large pavilion with picnic tables and a grill, reservable for day-use.

Things to Do

Water Activities

Home to some of the warmest water in the state, Quail Creek Reservoir is an extremely popular destination for boating, kayaking, paddle boarding, waterskiing, wakeboarding, sailing, sailboarding, scuba diving, and swimming. Beach volleyball is a great way to dry off! Facilities include modern restrooms, developed beaches, a concrete boat launch ramp, and loading docks. An additional ramp for personal watercraft and small boats is adjacent to the campground.

Fishing

Quail Creek Reservoir is a fishing dream! Its cool 120-foot depths can sustain stocks of rainbow trout, bullhead catfish, and crappie. Largemouth bass and bluegill thrive in the warmer upper layers of the reservoir. Fishing licenses are required.

Hiking/Biking

Hiking on the beach is a favorite for many. Hiking trails also surround the reservoir. Mountain bike trails adjacent to the park are a perfect way to explore the area. Please protect sensitive soils by staying on the trails.

Geology

Quail Creek State Park sits astride one of the most remarkable geologic features in southwestern Utah. Cradled in a long upwarp of folded rock, the park’s colorful layers of stone reveal clues of ancient landscapes, including a gently sloping coastal plain and tidal flats vastly different from the high deserts of today. Other clues point to the enormous forces that folded the rocks over 70 million years ago.