

Gunlock State Park



Utah State Parks

Located in the southwestern corner of Utah, Gunlock State Park offers a variety of year-round recreational activity. The sparkling blue water, combined with the red and white sandstone of Southern Utah, make Gunlock a popular destination for fishing, boating, waterskiing, camping, hiking, biking, and picnicking enthusiasts. The park is located approximately 15 miles northwest of St George and can be accessed by State Highway 18 or Highway 91, Old Dixie Highway.

What makes the park special is it's out-of-the-way location. It is a quieter Utah State Park in the Southern Utah area. Many of our guests have a genuine love for the night sky and its preservation. The park is rated highly on numerous camping sites for both cleanliness and friendliness, making Gunlock a more personal experience than many other larger state and national parks in the area.

Things to do.

- Gunlock State Park is home to some of the warmest water in the state during the summer, making the reservoir extremely popular for boating, kayaking, paddle boarding, waterskiing, sailing, sailboarding, scuba diving, and swimming.
- The reservoir is especially known as one of the best fisheries for largemouth bass. Other fish who occupy the reservoir include crappie, blue gill, and catfish. Fishing license are required.
- Hiking on the beach is a favorite for many. Trails can be found surrounding the falls area and within proximity to the park.
- Dogs are allowed in the park. Both on the beach, trails, and campground.
- Picnicking can be taken advantage of throughout the year.
- Mountain bike and OHV trails are near the park and are a perfect way to explore the area.
- Bird watching is always a fun activity at Gunlock State Park. Depending on the season you can see Bald Eagles, Great Horned Owls, Red-necked Grebes, herons, hawks, geese, ducks, and many other smaller fowl.



The Falls

The park includes the 266-acre Gunlock Reservoir that impounds the Santa Clara River. The reservoir dam was constructed in 1970 for irrigation water and flood control. The falls occur when the reservoir is at capacity and spills over the dam are seen here.

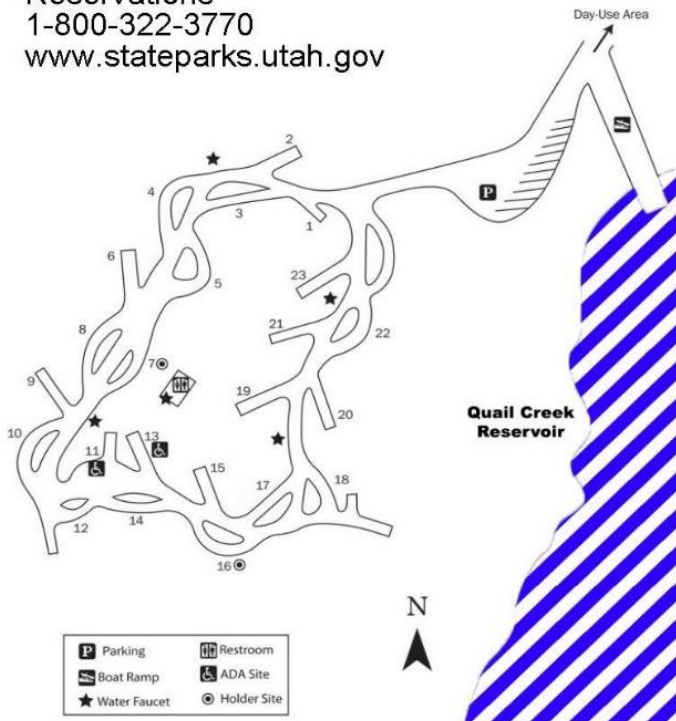
Please be aware that the falls are not continually active but

are only when local water levels are extremely high. Springtime is your best opportunity for seeing the falls active. But the falls are not guaranteed. The falls have gone dry for years at a time during droughts so always check conditions in the spring to see if you are lucky enough to see this rarity.

Special Features

The park boasts 30 developed campsites, two of which are handicap accessible. 25 are pull through sites and five are back in sites. Each site has its own parking pad, fire pit, grill, and picnic table. One large group area with picnic tables and grill are available on a first-come-first-serve basis on the beach area. Other facilities include modern restrooms, showers, developed beaches, concrete boat launch ramp, and loading docks. Water is available in the campground sites with power. A dump station is also located next to the campground for campers.

Reservations
1-800-322-3770
www.stateparks.utah.gov



Reservations are not required but advised through www.stateparks.utah.gov. Camping reservations can be made three days in advance of arrival date and up to 16 weeks in advance. Sites purchased at the park are on a first-come-first-serve basis and can only be purchased the day of arrival if available. There are no advanced purchases at the park. To call for reservations, date changes, and/or cancelations, call 1-800-322-3770.

Area History and Culture

The Shivwits Band of Paiutes is a sovereign, federally recognized tribe located in southwestern Utah. The Shivwits Band is one of five Bands comprising the inter-Tribal government of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah. The Shivwit Reservation, borders Gunlock State Park.

The word Shivwit comes from a Southern Paiute word, sipicimi. Roughly meaning "people who live in the east." Today, the Shivwits Band of Paiute Indians of Utah identify as See'veets eng, meaning "Whitish Earth People". Please be aware these are private lands near the park and travelers should show respectful movement through the area.

North of the park resides the small community of Gunlock. The reservoir, community, and park are named after William "Gunlock Will" Hamblin, its first settler.

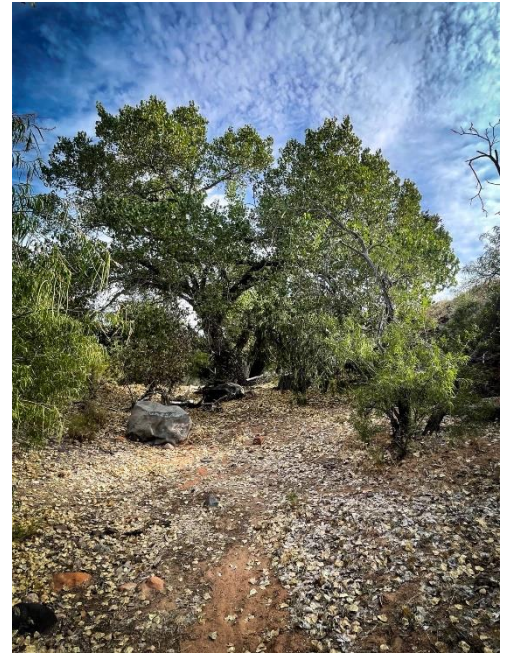


Hamblin was a Mormon pioneer born in Ohio who settled in the area in 1857. Gunlock Will was a good hunter and sharpshooter, and was skillful in repairing gunlocks, which are the firing mechanisms for muzzleloaders.

The county road to the park is the Old Spanish Trail used by horsemen and raiders from Santa Fe, New Mexico to Los Angeles, California from the 1820s until 1849, when the gold fields of California became the destination, and a shorter route was taken.

Geological Information

Gunlock State Park lies near the eastern edge of the Basin and Range Province of North America, close to where it ends against the Colorado Plateau. The Basin and Range Province is noted for its large number of north-south-oriented faults, and Gunlock State Park is sandwiched between two of these: the Hurricane Fault to the east, and the Gunlock-Grand Wash Fault to the west. Several thousands of feet of layered sedimentary rocks are exposed in the "transitional zone" between the Basin and Range Province and the Colorado Plateau, some of which are brightly colored and create a dramatic and exquisite scene. Most visibly around the reservoir, the layers of rock are pink and red sandstones



of the Navajo Sandstone, which were deposited in a vast desert of large sand dunes about 180 million years ago, and white, yellow, and tan limestones belonging to the Carmel Formation, which were deposited at the edge of a shallow ocean about 160 million years ago.

Drones/Film and Photography

Professional photographers are welcome, and no fee is required to take pictures other than a day use fee or camping fee to enter the park depending on circumstance.

Drone permits can be purchased at the main gate daily. A small fee for 5 days will give operators access to some of the most beautiful scenery in Southern Utah. Regular fees apply in addition to the drone permit.



Film makers are welcome to use the park for different projects. However, you must purchase a special use permit and get approval from our park manager. There may be a waiting period for approval as well. Filming must be scheduled in advance and approved before filming begins otherwise a permit may not be authorized.



Hiking/Biking

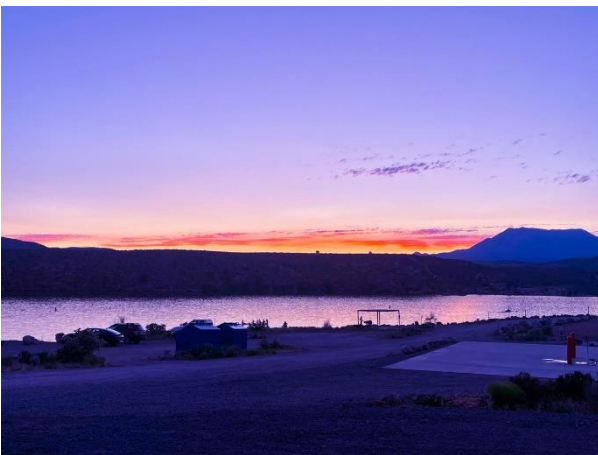
Trails can be found along the falls area. We ask that all hikers/bikers use customary trail etiquette as outlined below.

- Keep in single file.
- Stay on the trail. Going off trail can damage sensitive soil.
- Share the trail and be mindful of other trail users.

- Walk or ride to the edge of the trail but stay in control.
- Know the direction of the trail and be courteous.
- Leave no trace-be a steward of these beautiful places.
- Consider donations to State Parks for the creation of new trail systems and to maintain the ones you enjoy.

Animals

Gunlock is home to a diverse group of birds and animals. Coyotes, kit foxes, rabbits, Desert Tarantulas, squirrels, and raccoons are some of the animals that are seen more frequently. Bald Eagles, Great Horned Owls, Red-necked Grebes, herons, quail, roadrunners, a variety of hawks, geese, and ducks, can be seen depending upon the season. Some of our guests have seen snakes here. Red racers, King snakes, and rattlesnakes are known to frequent our park, so watch your step during warmer weather months.



Events and Parties

Planning a get together (wedding, birthday party, scouting event, business retreat or family reunion)? Special use permits are available through our park manager. Please call the park for more information to reserve your date/s. Advanced reservations required and cannot be made online.

Park Map

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Guidelines

Camping- Camp only in the designated camping sites. Each permit covers two vehicles and any attached recreational equipment. There is an extra fee for additional vehicles or camping equipment. Up to ten people allowed per campsite.

Off-highway vehicles- Contact a ranger for information on riding areas. Off-highway vehicles are not permitted to be ridden in the park.

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

Pets- Pets are allowed at most Utah State Parks but should be on at least a 6-foot leash. For safety and courtesy, please keep your pets under control.

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.



Firearms- Possession or use of firearms, traps, or other devices capable of launching a projectile that can immobilize, or kill a person or animal is prohibited unless the weapon or device is 1) unloaded and packed away to prevent its use, 2) being used in the legal pursuit of wildlife, or 3) being used by authorized enforcement officers in the performance of official duties.

Fireworks- Unless authorized by park manager, explosives, fireworks, and firecrackers are prohibited in state

parks.

Vandalism- It is unlawful to mutilate or deface any natural or constructed feature or structure. Please help keep our state parks beautiful.

Speed limit- The speed limit on state park roads is 15 mph unless otherwise posted.

Waste water- It is unlawful to dump or drain water from campers or trailers onto the ground or into lakes and streams. You are responsible for containing your own gray water sewage. Campers staying at Gunlock State Park are allowed to use the dump station on site. All others will be required to pay a fee for use. For questions or concerns talk to staff onsite.

Quiet Hours- 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily.

Boat Capacity- Gunlock State Park has a boating capacity limiting the number of vessels on the reservoir at any time. Please contact the park for details.

Weather- There are no returns or exchanges due to inclement weather. The park has no control over Mother Nature and its unpredictability. We apologize for any inconvenience that it might cause.

Address inquiries to:

Gunlock State Park

Gunlock Rd.

Gunlock, UT 84733

(435) 218-6544

<https://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/gunlock/>

Reservations:

(801) 322-3770 or toll-free (800) 322-3770

Utah State Parks and Recreation

P.O. Box 146001

Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001

(801) 538-7220

(801) 538-7458 (TTY)

stateparks.utah.gov