

Willard Bay State Park



Utah State Parks

Fish, camp, picnic, and bird watch at Willard Bay State Park, built alongside the Arthur Watkins Reservoir, one of the state's most popular destinations for water recreation. The wide, open country surrounding Willard Bay provides for panoramic views of Utah's majestic mountains and Great Salt Lake.



Park History

Willard Bay is a freshwater reservoir built on the flood plain of Great Salt Lake. A 15.5-mile rock dike surrounds the reservoir, separating the two water bodies. The reservoir was developed by the Bureau of Reclamation to provide irrigation water to farmers, but also provides recreation for more than 200,000 visitors annually. Construction of the dike, which is named after Utah Senator Arthur V. Watkins, began in the early 1950s and



was completed in 1964. Willard Bay was established as a state park in 1966.

Things to Do



Willow and Cottonwood campgrounds, two marinas, several day-use areas, and wide sandy beaches provide opportunities to enjoy the sun and water during warmer months. More than 10,000 surface acres of water provide for boating, waterskiing, and sailing. At an elevation of 4,200 feet, the reservoir is one of the state's best warmwater fisheries with walleye, crappie, catfish, wipers and smallmouth bass.

Winter day-use facilities are open for visitors viewing nesting eagles or ice-fishing on Watkins Reservoir. Cottonwood Campground remains open with full utilities for hearty campers. From Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, enjoy the annual Fantasy at the Bay holiday light display. Adults and children alike enjoy this spectacular holiday light festival.

Plants and Animals

Cottonwood, Russian olive, and willow trees provide shade and beauty, and a variety of native brushes and grasses fill the landscape. Watch eagles, hawks, herons, and owls, which are just a few of the 200 species of birds that live in or near the park. Some species are long-term residents while others rest briefly during their migration. In addition to birds and waterfowl, wildlife watchers may also view a variety of different animals including deer, fox, muskrat, and squirrels.

Reservations

Group-use reservations may be made up to 11 months in advance. Individual campsite reservations are accepted a minimum of two days in advance of arrival date and up to 16 weeks in advance from park check-out date. To make a reservation, call (801) 322-3770 within Salt Lake City or toll-free (800) 322-3770, or online at stateparks.utah.gov. Reservations are always recommended. Unreserved sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

User Fees

Day-use and camping fees are charged. An additional fee is charged for reservations.

Park Guidelines

Please observe the following park regulations to ensure everyone's visit is pleasant.

Camping – Camp only in designated areas. Each permit covers one vehicle and any attached recreational equipment. Up to eight people are allowed in a campsite. Boat ramp and picnic areas are for day-use only.



Fires – Campfires may be built in designated areas. All campsites provide fire pits and grills.



Firearms – The discharge of weapons or firearms, including air and gas-powered types, and all other devices capable of launching a projectile which could immobilize, injure, or kill any person or animal or damage property are prohibited in the park system unless: The weapon or device is being used for the legal pursuit of wildlife; authorized by a Special Use Permit or an authorized event; used in accordance with the Concealed Weapons Act; or used by authorized law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties. Hunting is prohibited within park boundaries.

Fireworks – Fireworks of any kind are prohibited.

Off-highway vehicles (OHV) - Contact park personnel for nearby riding opportunities. OHV riding is not permitted in the park.

Parking – Park only in designated areas.

Pets – Pets are allowed in most Utah state parks, but must be kept on a maximum six-foot leash. Only service animals are admitted in park buildings. Pets are not permitted on Eagle Beach. Please keep your pets under control, and be sure to pick up after them.

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

Vandalism - It is unlawful to mutilate or deface any natural or constructed feature or structure. Please help keep the park beautiful.

Wastewater – It is unlawful to dump or drain water from campers or trailers onto the ground. A sanitary disposal station is provided for registered campers.

Quiet Hours – 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Facilities

North and South marinas offer boat ramps, courtesy docks, fish cleaning stations, modern restrooms, and picnic and camping areas.

North Marina

Spend a day or camp under the stars at North Marina, located off I-15 at Exit 357 near Willard City. Pelican Beach, Wiper Cove, and Eagle Beach day-use areas feature sheltered picnic tables and barbecue grills. Popular Eagle Beach Group Site, which accommodates 125 people, may be reserved in advance. North Marina campgrounds provide restrooms with showers, picnic tables, fire rings and grills. Cottonwood Campground offers full hook-ups, while Willow Campground is ideal for tent camping. Pelican Beach Overnight Group Site can accommodate 200 campers and must be reserved in advance. Wi-Fi access is also available at North Marina.

South Marina

South Marina, located off I-15 at Exit 351, is generally open from April 1 to October 30, weather permitting. The Marina offers easy access for boat launching, a picnic area with pavilion, and campground with restrooms and showers.

WILLARD BAY STATE PARK



Map Legend

	Anchoring		Fee Station		RV Camping
	Boat Launch		No Dogs		RV Dump
	Camping		Office/Information		Wildlife Watching
	Day Use		Picnicking		
	Dogs on Leash		Restrooms		

Your park fees provide for the care, protection and enhancement of this park.

Park Location:

The park is located 50 miles north of Salt Lake City off I-15. The North Marina is two miles west of Willard on Highway 315. The South Marina is off exit 351 on I-15.

Operating Hours:

The park is open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. year-round.

Address Inquiries To:

Willard Bay State Park

900 West 650 North #A

Willard, UT 84430-9999

(435) 734-9494

or

Utah State Parks and Recreation

P.O. Box 146001

Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001

(801) 538-7220, (877) UT-PARKS

stateparks.utah.gov

For Reservations Call:

(800) 322-3770

For area information and attractions,
please visit boxeldercountyut.org

Utah State Parks Mission:

To enhance the quality of life by
preserving and providing natural, cultural
and recreational resources for the
enjoyment, education and inspiration of
this and future generations.

Information contained in this brochure was accurate
at the time of designing. Policies, facilities, fees,
hours and regulations, etc., change as mandated.
For updated information please contact the park.