

Water Flows

Excitement at the WSP is fueled by the Uncompahgre River, a tributary of the Gunnison River. Flows through the WSP are determined by releases from Ridgway Reservoir south of Montrose and by agricultural flows from the Gunnison Tunnel Diversion that join the river via the South Canal near Chipeta Lake.

Sustained flows on the Uncompahgre River make the WSP an enticing destination through early fall, long after other parks have lost their luster. See VisitMontrose.com/WSP for real-time and historical water flow data.



Photo by Phil Nesius

Additional Activities

Montrose is home to some of the best and most diverse terrain, scenery, and activities in Western Colorado. A variety of fun water activities have been designed to enhance your Black Canyon visit. Take your time, and explore some of the wonders that make water sports around Montrose special.

- Book a guided float trip through the Gunnison Gorge.
- Experience the Morrow Point Boat Tour.
- Tool around Blue Mesa Reservoir.
- Float the San Miguel River.
- Explore the Ridgway Reservoir.
- Play in the Ridgway Water Sports Park.

Discover more about these and other local attractions and activities at the Montrose Visitor Center or by taking a trip to VisitMontrose.com.

Precautions

While the following few precautions are not exhaustive, they will help ensure a delightful adventure.

By using the WSP, a person assumes all inherent risks of water sports and activities. The Uncompahgre is a naturally flowing river with cold water, obstacles, and changing currents and conditions.

Personal Responsibility

- Understand the risks, and know your limits.
- There are no life guards; you are responsible for yourself and the minors you bring to the WSP.

Proper Equipment

- A well-fitting personal flotation device (PFD) is recommended.
- Helmets and cold water gear are strongly suggested.
- Make sure your equipment is adequate for river conditions.

Know the River

- Pay attention. Not all hazards are easily recognized.
- Watch for high water and strong currents.
- Cold water can be debilitating in less than 2 minutes.
- Brush, fallen trees, bridge pilings, and undercut rocks can pin boats, swimmers, and tubes against obstacles.

Have a Plan

- Be aware of hazards downstream.
- Plan your float and know where the river goes.

Be a Good Neighbor

- Share the water! All users, boaters, anglers, and rafters should respect each other while enjoying the WSP.
- Keep the WSP clean! Maintain your trash and minimize your impact in and around the WSP.
- Pets must be on a leash.

Montrose Visitor Center

107 S Cascade Ave
970.497.8558 or
855.497.8558

Get your app!

VisitMontrose.com/mobileapp



MONTROSE WATER SPORTS PARK



Photo by Phil Nesius

WATER RECREATION

The Montrose Water Sports Park (WSP), consisting of 1,000 feet



of river is one of the first in the U.S. to be accessible by ADA standards. The park has been designed with all citizens in mind – from ankle waders to expert kayakers. It includes six-drop structures and a gradient of 11 feet for 0.2 miles supporting a leisurely run with natural obstacles.

The WSP is complemented with terraced viewing areas, allowing streamside spectators to enjoy the action from a safe space right on the river. There are also beach areas and ADA-accessible put-in and take-out ramps.

Adjacent to the WSP are picnic and pavilion areas, restrooms, playgrounds, miles of concrete and soft-surface trails, disc-golf course, a skate park, ball fields, a doggie playground, ample on-site parking, and other attractions.

Most stretches of the WSP are ideal for beginners and novice floaters and can be enjoyed during any season of the year; however, peak season runoff flows may increase the level of difficulty and quickly turn an intermediate run into an advanced adventure.



DIRECTIONS

Montrose Water Sports Park
1036 Riverbottom Dr
Montrose, CO 81401

Put-in at Riverbottom Park

Directions from the Montrose Visitor Center
(107 S Cascade Ave)

- Head southeast on S Cascade Ave toward S Second St for 243 ft.
- Turn right at the first cross street onto S Second St.
- Stay on S Second St though the light and follow for 0.2 miles.
- Turn left onto S Rio Grande Ave and follow for 0.9 miles. Turn right onto Apollo Rd.
- Turn left at the fork in the road. Destination will be on the left in 0.3 miles.

Take-out at the Main Street Bridge

The take out at the Main Street Bridge is one mile down river from the WSP. It is located about a half mile west of the Montrose Visitor Center and historic downtown.

- Head northwest on S Cascade Ave toward E Main St for 476 ft.
- Turn left onto E Main St and head east 0.6 miles.
- Turn left into the *West Main Street Trailhead* parking area just before the bridge.

Complete your urban paddling experience by dropping into a local pub, cafe, or ice cream shop, to refuel after a day of playing in the Uncompahgre River. Stop by the Visitor Center and check out a complimentary town bike for a few hours of cycling before your day ends, or stroll into the Montrose County Historical Museum and immerse yourself in local history.

