

# River Information & Rules

To ensure a pleasurable experience and protect the Animas River Greenway:

## Watch For This Sign



**Respect  
Private Property  
and Do Not Trespass**

- **Be Safe** - Wear a Coast Guard Approved life vest and secure foot gear.
- **Be Prepared** - Dress for cold water swim and changing weather (no cotton).
- **Be Careful** - You will encounter rocks, logs, man-made obstacles, and strong currents.
  - **Know your limits and be a strong swimmer**
  - **Scout and portage if necessary, especially at Smelter Rapids**
  - **Seek river safety training**
- **Please Remember -**
  - **No open containers of alcohol**
  - **Smoking any substance is prohibited**
  - **No glass containers**
  - **Pack out all trash**
  - **No dogs off leash or off water craft (except at the Off-Leash Area)**
  - **Pick up dog waste**
  - **Respect private property and do not trespass**
  - **Be polite and courteous to others on and near the river**
  - **When approaching anglers, move away to the opposite side of the river to pass by**
  - **Do not use the river bank as a toilet**
  - **No amplified music or sound systems**
- **Practice Leave-No-Trace Techniques**

# Tubing

Tubing is only recommended in lower water (under 500 CFS) on the Animas River in July and August. The water is very cold, even in the summertime.

For current data on the Animas River flow:  
<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/rt>



## Contact Information

Illegal activities requiring law enforcement should immediately be reported to:

**Durango Police Department  
Central Dispatch at (970) 385-2900.**

Concerns or suggestions for Animas River management should be reported to:

**Durango Parks and Recreation  
2700 Main Avenue  
(970) 375-7321  
[email: rec@durangogov.org](mailto:rec@durangogov.org)**

More information about the Animas River and a list of permitted Commercial River Outfitters can be viewed at:

[www.durangogov.org](http://www.durangogov.org)



# Animas River Floating Information



Photo by Matt Bradley

“A river seems a magic thing. A magic, moving, living part of the very earth itself.”

- Laura Gilpin

# The Culture of the Animas River

## Vital Community Asset:

- In town and high level of scenic quality
- Gold Medal Water trout fishery
- Broad range of recreational opportunities

## Respect Animas River Greenway:

- Enjoy river amenities without impacting other users and private property owners
- Protect the river environment
- Comply with existing laws and regulations

## Designated Nature Paddling Trail:

- Between Oxbow Park and Preserve and the 33rd Street River Access there is only private property
- Stay on your water craft
- Respect nature and leave no trace
- Engage in quiet use of the river
- All water craft should be propelled in this section with a paddle, swim flippers or swim hand paddles, due to the length of time to reach the next public river access

## Rapids:

- Depending upon the flow, the Animas River can have Class I, II, III or IV rapids.
- Vessels surfing the rapids must yield to boats traveling downstream.

## In Colorado:

- Private property includes the shore, beaches and even the bottom of the river

# Alleviate Parking Issues

Use alternative transportation modes to minimize the impact of parking in the neighborhoods. Use the Trolley to access the multiple river access points. Air pump station is located behind the Durango Community Recreation Center.

The Transit Schedule can be viewed at:  
[www.durangogov.org](http://www.durangogov.org)

# River Access Locations

River users should access the Animas River at the designated public river access locations. These river access sites are located on city property and are managed by the Parks and Recreation Department.

- 1. Oxbow Park and Preserve**  
500 Animas View Drive
- 2. 33rd Street**  
3301 East Third Avenue
- 3. 29th Street in Memorial Park**  
2901 East 3rd Avenue
- 4. Fairgrounds/Recreation Center**  
2700 Main Avenue
- 5. Schneider Park (9th Street)**  
950 Roosa Avenue
- 6. Off Leash Area (dog park)**  
21850 Hwy 160 West
- 7. Whitewater Park** at Smelter Rapids  
107 S. Camino del Rio
- 8. Santa Rita Park**  
149 S. Camino del Rio
- 9. Cundiff Park**  
460 S. Camino del Rio
- 10. High Bridge**  
1065 S. Camino del Rio
- 11. Dallabetta Park**  
13616 La Posta Rd (C.R. 213)

