Pelican Ponds Open Space

Pelican Ponds is a 200-acre open space property located along the west bank of the South Platte River between 88th Avenue and 96th Avenue in Thornton.

This project is supported and funded by:

- Adams County
- Colorado Natural Resource Trustees
- Urban Drainage and Flood Control District
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (Fishing is Fun grant)
- Metro Wastewater Reclamation District

Project Goals

The Pelican Ponds Open Space restoration and enhancement project restores and enhances surface water, wetlands, groundwater, riparian, and grassland habitats. The developed public access facilities and recreation opportunities will allow Adams County residents to enjoy the South Platte River and the restored natural habitat.

Site Improvements During Construction Period

- Fishing Pier
- Secondary channel
- Trailhead plaza
- Eco slab placement

Restoration and enhancements include:

- South pond improvements
- Rerouting of South Platte River Trail
- South Platte River flood control and water quality improvements
- South Platte River channel improvements
- Riparian forest and upland habitat improvements
- Surface water and shoreline wetlands
- Gravel pit restoration
- Biological resources (benefits to all forms of wildlife)

Site improvements include a parking lot, restroom, picnic shelters, fishing access improvements, trails, signage, wildlife viewing, and an enhancement to the public’s understanding of the importance and value of wildlife. Public accessibility of the restored natural resource areas will increase recreational opportunities, including wildlife viewing.