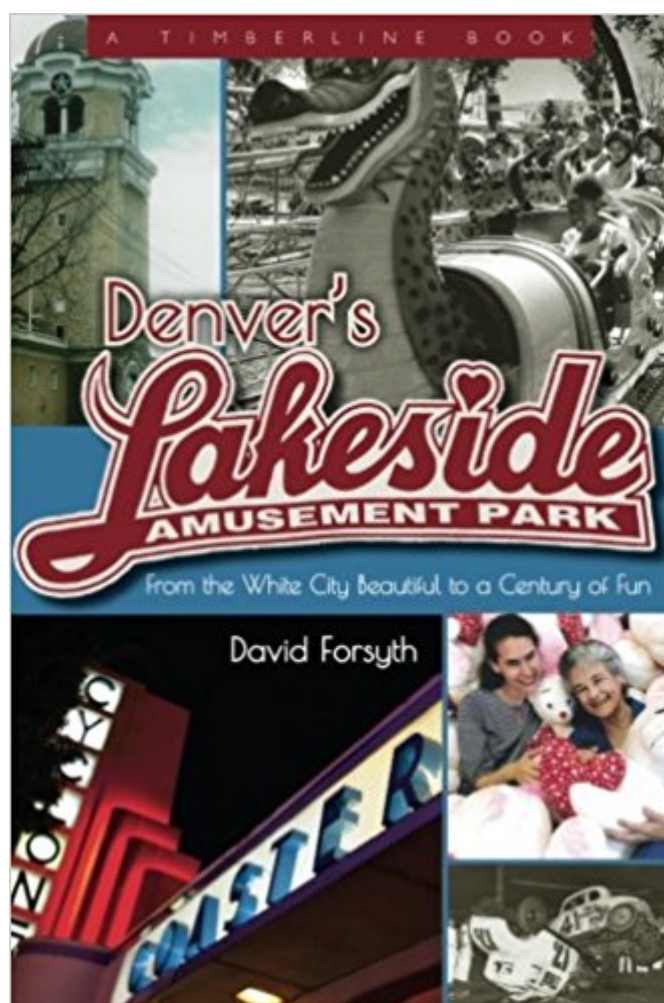


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Denver's Lakeside Amusement Park: From The White City Beautiful To A Century Of Fun (Timberline Books)



Synopsis

Denver's Lakeside Amusement Park details the history of Lakeside, exploring how it has managed to remain in business for more than a century (something fewer than thirty amusement parks have accomplished) and offers a unique view on larger changes in society and the amusement park industry itself. ã ã Once nicknamed White City in part for its glittering display of more than 100,000 lights, the park opened in 1908 in conjunction with Denver's participation in the national City Beautiful movement. It was a park for Denver elites, with fifty different forms of amusement, including the Lakeshore Railway and the Velvet Coaster, a casino, a ballroom, a theater, a skating rink, and avenues decorated with Greek statues. But after metropolitan growth, technological innovation, and cultural shifts in Denver, it began to cater to a working-class demographic as well. Additions of neon and fluorescent lighting, roller coasters like the Wild Chipmunk, attractions like the Fun House and Lakeside Speedway, and rides like the Scrambler, the Spider, and most recently the drop tower Zoom changed the face and feel of Lakeside between 1908 and 2008. The park also has weathered numerous financial and structural difficulties but continues to provide Denverites with affordable, family-friendly amusement today. To tell Lakeside's story, Forsyth makes use of various primary and secondary sources, including Denver newspapers, Denver's official City Beautiful publication Municipal Facts, Billboard magazine, and interviews with people connected to the park throughout its history. Denver's Lakeside Amusement Park is an important addition to Denver history that will appeal to anyone interested in Colorado history, urban history, entertainment history, and popular culture, as well as to amusement park aficionados.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"David Forsyth's history of Lakeside Amusement Park is a wild roller coaster ride! Forsyth shows how the park survived for more than a century by making itself 'a mirror of the world around it.'" —James Whiteside, author of *Old Blue's Road* "The history of this most interesting place is revealed in David Forsyth's *Denver's Lakeside Amusement Park*. Abundant in detail and rich in anecdote, this carefully researched history is also a wide-ranging and thoughtful study of the twentieth-century history of Denver, viewed creatively by Forsyth through the lens of Lakeside. For those who consider themselves well-informed about Denver's past, as well as those whose interest in the city's history is just beginning, this book is a rewarding read." —Robert Ferry, University of Colorado, Boulder "[A] fun read that uncovers Lakeside's untold stories." —Westword

David Forsyth is an award-winning historian and Denver native who has worked in the museum field for several years. He is the author of *Images of America: Black Hawk and Central City*, and his articles on diverse subjects such as bars, murders, and bowling alleys have appeared in *Colorado Heritage*, *International Bowling Industry*, and other publications.

I've been waiting for a book on Lakeside. This one is pretty good!

GREAT history, but for how colorful the park is, especially at night, I was disappointed there are no color pictures showcasing this

I grew up in Lakewood Colorado. Lakeside is where we spent at least 1 Saturday every month, more when we were teenagers. This was a real trip down memory lane. I wish it had more pictures.

Living just a mile away from lakeside Amusement Park, I found this book of great interest. A great history.

I checked this book out at the library and liked it so much I had to buy it.

Wish it had more pictures but it was still a good read.

This is an extremely overpriced book for what you get. I was surprised to see it was in cheap paperback print with a smattering of black and white photos which are close to newsprint quality. No glossy type pages here. While the text content might be thorough, the format is cheap. So disappointed.

My goodness!!! This book is incredible! The historic detail in every aspect of Lakeside and Denver beginnings is remarkable. I am a Denver native and could easily visualize the descriptions that David included in this book. The lovely old pictures were a plus! I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in Denver roots and Lakeside Amusement Park.

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