



The official newspaper
of Rocky Mountain National Park
Spring - 2011
March 27 - June 18

Visitor Centers



East of the Divide – Estes Park Area



Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

Open daily 8-4:30. Starting April 24, open daily 8-5. Features spectacular free park movie, information bookstore, large park orientation map, and backcountry permits in an adjacent building.



Sheep Lakes Information Station

Starting May 14, open daily 8:30-4. Horseshoe Park is a good place to look for wildlife, including bighorn sheep and elk. Information & programs.



Fall River Visitor Center

All services open daily 9-5. Features life-size wildlife displays, a children's discovery room with objects to touch, and information and a bookstore.



Alpine Visitor Center

Starting May 27, open daily (weather permitting) 10:30-4:30. Features extraordinary views of alpine tundra, displays, information, bookstore, adjacent gift shop and snack bar. Call 586-1222 for Trail Ridge Road conditions.



Moraine Park Visitor Center

Open for the weekend of April 23-24, 9-4:30. Open daily starting April 30, 9-4:30. Interactive exhibits on the past and present landscape, and a bookstore. Great views of glaciated Moraine Park.

West of the Divide – Grand Lake Area



Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Open daily 8-4:30. Starting May 1, open 8-5. Features free movies, exhibits on wonders of the park, a bookstore, and backcountry permits.

Weather and Road Conditions

Spring driving conditions can change rapidly. Trail Ridge Road will open fully on May 27, if weather permits. Old Fall River Road generally opens around July 4th. For current park road and driving conditions, please stop at a visitor center or call the Trail Ridge Road status line (970) 586-1222. The park Information Office operates seven days a week and can be reached at (970) 586-1206. You can also check www.twitter.com/RMNPOfficial, or the park website at www.nps.gov and click on road conditions.



Trail Ridge Road circa 1959

How Much Time Do You Have?

Rocky Mountain National Park has lots to offer, whether you only have a couple of hours, a couple of days, or longer. Here are some ideas:

If you only have 2 hours, take a drive!

- On the east side of the park:
 - Bear Lake Road is open year-round (weather permitting).
 - Loop through Horseshoe Park and take a side trip to the Alluvial Fan.
- On the east or west side of the park:
 - Drive as far as Trail Ridge Road is open! It varies, based on snow plowing operations and weather. Enjoy the overlooks.
- Visit a park visitor center! Plan your visit, ask a question, see the park movie, enjoy the exhibits, or browse the bookstore.
- Look for wildlife. Spring and early summer are great times to see elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep. Look for babies in spring.

If you only have 4 hours, stretch your legs!

Do any of the above, plus:

- Go sledding. Early spring can still have lots of snow at Hidden Valley Snowplay Area (it's on the east side and the only place sledding is allowed in the park).
- Try snowshoeing or cross-country skiing. April can still have good snow.
- Take a stroll on a self-guided nature trail. See page 6 for ideas.
- Stop at overlooks and read the wayside exhibits.
- Take a hike. Conditions vary this time of year so check with a ranger for updates.
- Go fishing. Streams and lakes are melting out. But, be careful around swift water!
- Ever tried bird watching!? A beautiful variety of birds migrate through the park each spring.
- Enjoy a horseback ride. Stables open for the season around mid-May.
- Attend a ranger-led activity or program. A list is on page 4.
- Have a picnic! Picnic areas are marked on the park map.

If you have a day or more, take it all in!

- Go farther. Take a longer drive, snowshoe, cross-country ski tour, or hike.
- Become a Junior Ranger! Designed for children 12 and younger, booklets (English or Spanish) include fun activities the whole family can enjoy. Pick up a book at a visitor center and earn a Junior Ranger badge.
- Visit other parts of the park! This is a big place and there is a lot to see.
- Find a restful place, sit and soak it in. Enjoy some solitude and the beauty of the park.

Walking On Alpine Tundra

With the exception of four Tundra Protection Areas surrounding Alpine Visitor Center, Forest Canyon, Rock Cut, and Gore Range overlooks, you can, with care, walk on the alpine tundra. In the four areas listed above you **must** stay on trails as you walk.

To help preserve alpine tundra:

- Stay on trails where they exist.
- Never walk single file off trail.
- Step on rocks or gravel where possible.

The tiny plants thank you.



You Need to Know



Concessions Services

Horseback Riding

- **National Park Gateway Stables**
Rocky Mountain Gateway near the Fall River Entrance on U.S. 34 (970) 586-5269 - opens around mid-May

- **CowPoke Corner Corral Stables**
YMCA Road on Highway 66 at Glacier Lodge (970) 586-5890 - opens around mid-May

- **Hi Country Stables**
Located in Rocky Mountain National Park Moraine Park (970) 586-2327 - opens around mid-May
Glacier Creek (970) 586-3244 - opens around mid-May

- **Meeker Park**
Meeker Park (303)747-2266

- **Jackson Stables**
YMCA of the Rockies Livery (970) 586-3341 opens around mid-May

Gifts and Food

- **Trail Ridge Store**
Gifts and cafe. (970) 586-586-1839 - opens the Friday before Memorial Day

Mountaineering

- **Colorado Mountain School**
Rock Climbing- opens around mid-May
Estes Park, (800) 836-4008

Food Storage

Do not attract wildlife: Keep a clean camp! Bear boxes for food storage are available in all five campgrounds; location symbols are on campground maps. Store food in airtight containers in the trunk or out of sight. Close vehicle windows completely, lock doors. Do not store food in tents or pop-up campers. Food, coolers, and dirty cookware left unattended, even for a short time, are subject to confiscation by park rangers; citations may be issued. Dispose of garbage in bear-resistant dumpsters and trash cans. Human-fed bears usually end up as chronic problems and need to be removed. "A fed bear is a dead bear."

Park Entrance Fees

Automobile Entrance Fee - Single-family vehicle entrance fee is valid for seven consecutive days, including date of purchase. \$20

Rocky Mountain National Park Annual Pass - Provides unlimited entry to this park for one year from the date of purchase. \$40

Rocky Mountain National Park/Arapaho National Recreation Area Annual Pass - Provides unlimited entry to both areas for one year from the date of purchase. \$50

America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass - Available to everyone which provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an entrance or standard amenity fee for one year from date of purchase. \$80

America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior Pass - A lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or older. \$10

America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Access Pass - A free lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with a permanent disability.

Firearms

- Hunting, recreational shooting, and target practice is not allowed in Rocky Mountain National Park.
- Firearms are permitted in Rocky Mountain National Park.

A federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, Colorado, and local laws, to possess firearms in Rocky Mountain National Park. It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable state and federal firearms laws.

- Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those buildings are posted with signs at public entrances.
- If you have questions, please contact the Park Information Office at (970) 586-1206.

Pets

Pets are allowed in the park, but only in picnic areas, campgrounds and along roadsides, never on trails or meadow areas. Pets must be on leashes no longer than 6' when outside vehicles.

For the safety of your pet and the benefit of park wildlife and other visitors, pets should not be left unattended. You may not leave your pet unattended in vehicles if it creates a danger to the animal or if it becomes a public nuisance. Pets may not be left tied to vehicles, trees or other objects.

In spring, leashed pets are permitted on some Rocky Mountain National Park roads while those roads are closed to motor vehicles. Check at a visitor center or call (970) 586-1206 for current status.

A Pet Brochure available at visitor centers list regulations and trails outside of Rocky Mountain National Park where pets are permitted.

Bicycles in the Park

Bicycles are not allowed on any foot trails in the park. Trail Ridge Road is open to bicycles as posted during the April/May time period prior to vehicle assess and each month thereafter until the winter closure. **Above Rainbow Curve 'No Travel Past Here' signs will be posted for safety while snow plowing operations are ongoing. Plowing starts mid-April.**

Old Fall River Road (OFFRR) is open to bicycles starting the first Saturday in April and open to bicycles as posted during spring maintenance operations. **Starting about June 1, OFFRR will be closed to all use Tuesdays through Fridays for maintenance. Closed means just that – no access for anyone Tuesdays through Fridays. OFFRR will be open to bicycles on Saturdays-Sundays-Mondays in June. The road is expected to open daily vehicle use around July 4th.**

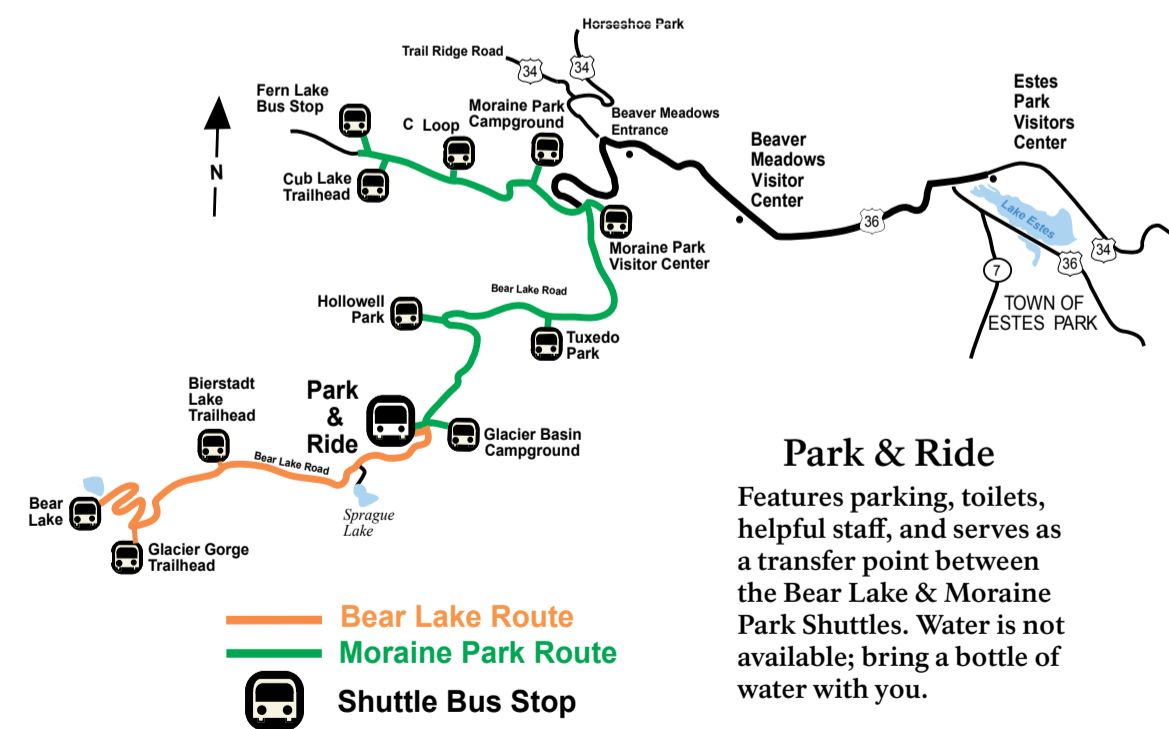
Fishing

Obtain specific park regulations at visitor centers or park entrance stations. To fish in Rocky Mountain National Park, you must have a valid Colorado state fishing license.

Lost and Found

Please turn found items in at any park visitor center. To inquire about lost items, call the Backcountry Office at (970) 586-1242.

Shuttle Bus Information



Park & Ride
Features parking, toilets, helpful staff, and serves as a transfer point between the Bear Lake & Moraine Park Shuttles. Water is not available; bring a bottle of water with you.

Bear Lake Shuttle

The buses run weekends starting Memorial Day Weekend (May 28, 29, 30 and June 4 & 5).

June 11 to October 2: buses operate daily between Park & Ride and Bear Lake, leaving Park & Ride every 10-15 minutes from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Moraine Park Shuttle

The buses run weekends starting Memorial Day Weekend (May 28, 29, 30 and June 4 & 5).

June 11 to October 2: buses operate daily between Park & Ride and Fern Lake Trailhead Bus Stop, leaving Park & Ride every 30 minutes from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Park Phone Numbers and Website



Trail Ridge Road status: (970) 586-1222

Call Park Information (970) 586-1206 with your questions. We are available to assist you from 8 to 4:30 daily.



The Official Park Website is <http://www.nps.gov/romo>
Follow us on Twitter @ RMNPOfficial
Like us on Facebook @ Rocky Mountain National Park



Hearing impaired persons may call the TTY at (970) 586-1319 from 8 to 5 daily



Dial 911 or (970) 586-1203 to report emergencies

Surviving The Park



Falling Trees

Falling trees are an ever-present hazard. When traveling or camping in the forest, trees can fall without warning. Be particularly watchful when it's windy, or following a snowstorm when branches are heavy with snow. Avoid parking where trees could fall.

Mountain Climbing

Many visitors enjoy "bagging-a-peak" while in the park. Specialized skills and equipment may be required to safely reach a summit. Spring and early summer climbing can present unique challenges since lingering snow and ice are present. Summiting Longs Peak is not a hike, but a climb, especially in early season. Ask for information before you climb or visit the park website at nps.gps/romo.

High Elevation

A large number of the visitors to this park each year experience symptoms of altitude sickness. Symptoms range from headache and dizziness to nausea and eventually unconsciousness. Rocky Mountain has the highest average elevation of any national park -- even the main road climbs to 12,183 feet! The road is higher than most U.S. mountains. High altitude can also aggravate medical conditions such as heart and lung diseases. Take your time and be sure to drink plenty of water. The only cure for altitude sickness is to go down to a lower elevation.

Mountain Lions and Bears

Mountain lions and black bears are powerful and potentially dangerous. Some general guidelines for traveling in backcountry areas of Rocky Mountain where wildlife may be encountered:

- 1) **Travel in Groups** and make noise as you hike. Keep your group, especially children, close together.
- 2) **Do Not Approach** a mountain lion or bear.
- 3) **Stay Calm** when you see a mountain lion or bear.
- 4) **Stop**; back away slowly. Never turn your back and run.
- 5) **Stand Tall and Look Large**. Raise your arms. Protect small children by picking them up.
- 6) If approached, **make loud noises**, shout, clap hands, clang pots and pans.
- 7) If attacked by a mountain lion or bear, **Fight Back!**

Swift Water

Mountain streams can be deadly dangerous, especially during high runoff in May and June. Remain back from the banks of streams and rivers. Provide proper supervision for children, who by nature, tend to be attracted to water. Rocks at streamside and in the stream are often slippery, and water beneath them may be deep. Powerful currents in park streams can quickly pull a person underwater and pin him/her below the surface. Melting snow feeds our streams resulting in extremely cold water temperatures.

Avalanches

Colorado has more known avalanches than any other state. Avoid skiing or snowshoeing in steep gullies where avalanches could occur. Open slopes of 30 to 45 degrees can be loaded with dangerous masses of snow, easily triggered by backcountry travelers. Wear an electronic transceiver when traversing avalanche terrain. If you are caught in an avalanche, make swimming motions and try to stay on top of the snow.

For current avalanche conditions, check at a visitor center or call (970) 586-1206.

You can also check the Colorado Avalanche Information Center @ <http://avalanche.state.co.us/index.php>

Wood Ticks

Spring is synonymous with wood ticks. Starting each April hikers become reacquainted with one of our most persistent parasites. Ticks don't jump onto you from trees, in fact they don't jump at all. They usually hang onto low-lying vegetation with two legs while holding the other six out like tiny grappling hooks. As you walk by, they hitch a ride and then begin to search for a nice spot to attach themselves. Take the time to inspect yourself before you consider your day's activity done. Their favorite spots include any warm, moist area they can find. Protect yourself with an insect spray designed to discourage ticks. Some hikers tuck their pant legs into their socks, or wear gators to keep ticks away from their skin.

Enjoy your visit to Rocky Mountain National Park and remember to check for hitchhikers.

Lightning

People are killed by lightning every year in Colorado. Afternoon storms are frequent and can bring an unhappy end to a hike. Watch for approaching storms and be well below treeline or back in your car before the storm hits. If you are caught out in the open during a lightning storm, do not seek shelter under a tree or rock overhang. You want to squat down as low as you can, keeping both feet together and avoid being the tallest thing around you. Keep your pack, hiking poles, and all metal away from you while you are exposed.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is a serious and sometimes fatal condition brought on by exposure to wet and cold. The core body temperature drops to a level that impairs normal muscle and brain activities. Symptoms include drowsiness, loss of judgment or coordination, slurred speech, and uncontrolled shivering. If these symptoms occur, warm the chilled person with dry clothing and warm, nonalcoholic liquids. Get back to your car and seek medical attention.

Carry a windproof/snowproof outer shell and extra layers of clothing. Drink plenty of water; high elevation, wind, and cold can dry us out and chill us. Most importantly, stay dry!

Hiking Safety

With over 350 miles of trails, the park offers a vast array of choices. Many higher trails and shaded areas can hold snow well into late June. Please check at a visitor center for current conditions before hiking. Even for short day trips, be sure to pack gear for all types of weather (sun, rain, snow, wind). Windproof/waterproof clothing is essential gear to wear or carry.

Trail Tips: stay together. This is the most important tip that comes from the experience of park search and rescue teams! Be prepared for the rigors of high elevation -- drink plenty of water, and travel at a pace where you can still talk and breathe easily. If you feel poorly, descend to a lower elevation. Pack it in, pack it out, including remains of all your food (pits, peels, etc.), and facial tissues. Let nature's sounds prevail; avoid loud voices and noises. No pets are allowed on any park trails.

Leave No Trace

With approximately 3 million visitors every year, the wild lands of Rocky Mountain National Park are heavily used. While hiking, camping, and all your park activities, do your part to preserve this national treasure by following the seven easy Leave No Trace Ethics:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors

For more information visit <http://www.lnt.org/>



Keep Wildlife Wild

Never feed wildlife. A fine may be issued to violators. Animals can kick, bite, or gore you. They can become dependent on human food and lose the ability to feed naturally.

Wildlife also carry diseases which can be transmitted to humans, like rabies and plague. Photograph animals from the roadside.



Please don't feed me!

Free Ranger-Led Programs



All children must be accompanied by an adult

Note: Programs may be cancelled at anytime due to high winds

| Talks & Walks - East Side | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Bighorn Basics - 30 minutes, starts May 14 Sheep Lakes is a popular viewing area for bighorn sheep. Meet at the Sheep Lakes Information Station in Horseshoe Park to learn about this majestic symbol of Rocky. | | 10:30 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. |
| Moraine Park Nature Walk - 1 hour, starts April 30 Enjoy an easy 1/2-mile walk through the magnificent Moraine Park landscape. Meet at the Moraine Park Visitor Center. | | 10 a.m. | 10 a.m. | | 10 a.m. | 10 a.m. | 10 a.m. |
| Spring Bird Walk - 1.5 hours, starts April 1 Join a local expert for birding at one of the best times of the year. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Meet at the Cub Lake Trailhead. | | 8 a.m. | 8 a.m. | 8 a.m. | 8 a.m. | 8 a.m. | 8 a.m. |
| Skins and Skulls - 20 - 30 minute talk Want to pet an elk or cuddle up to a bear? Come to Beaver Meadows Visitor Center to safely feel skins and skulls while learning about park wildlife. | | 3 p.m. | | | | | 3 p.m. |
| Portraits of the Past - 45-60 minute walk, starts May 10 Moraine Park was once a thriving community of early-day ranchers, innkeepers and influential residents. Join a park ranger on this walk for a glimpse into the lives of those who came before us. Meet at the Moraine Park Visitor Center. | | | | 10 a.m. | | | |

| Talks & Walks - West Side | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|-----|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Skins and Things - 40 minute activity Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of park mammals. Meet at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center. | | 2:30 p.m. June 5 | | | | 2:30 p.m. June 3 & 10 | 2:30 p.m. May 28 June 4 & 11 |
| Coyote Valley River Walk - 1 hour walk Explore the valley ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River. Meet at the Coyote Valley Trailhead. | | 10 a.m. June 5 | | | | | |
| Beyond The Falls - 1.5 hour walk Join a ranger for a stroll to Adams Falls and a spectacular view just beyond. One mile round trip. East Inlet Trailhead | | | | | | | 9:30 a.m. June 4 & 11 |

| Evening Programs | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----|--|
| Beaver Meadows Evening Program 1 hour, every Saturday | | 7 p.m. |
| Timber Creek Campground Evening Program 1 hour presentation | | 9 p.m. June 3 & 10 9 p.m. June 4 & 11 |
| Saturday Night in the Park Evening Program 1 hour presentation | | 7 p.m. May 28 |

| Special Activities & Events - East Side | FRI | SAT |
|---|-----|---------------------|
| Astronomy in the Park - 8:30 p.m. Observe the night sky with the help of a park ranger and expert volunteer astronomers. Dress warm, bring binoculars and a flashlight, and meet at the Upper Beaver Meadows Trailhead parking area. | | June 10 Friday |
| International Migratory Bird Day Event - 8 a.m. 4 hour walk Bring binoculars and a field guide for this ranger-led birding excursion. Come for part or all of this multi-location event. Meet at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center. Call (970) 586-1206 for information. | | June 11 Saturday |

Camping 2011



| PARK CAMPGROUND | Elev (feet) | # sites in summer | Reservable | Summer Firewood & Ice | Public Phone | Max RV/Trailer Length | Summer Dump Station | Notes |
|--|-------------|-------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Aspenglen Open 5/25-noon 9/25 | 8220 | 54 | Yes | Yes | No | 30' | No | Located on US Hwy. 34 by the Fall River Entrance. |
| Glacier Basin Open 5/25-noon 9/13 | 8500 | 150 | C & D Loops only Loops A & B first-come, first-served | Yes | Yes | 29' (a few sites up to 35') | Yes | On Bear Lake Road opposite the Park & Ride. No shade in C & D Loops due to hazard tree removal. |
| Longs Peak Open year-round | 9405 | 26 | Always first-come, first-served | Firewood only | No | tents only | No | Located off of Highway 7 south of Estes Park. Flush toilets summer; vault toilets winter. |
| Moraine Park Open year-round. Winter: First-come, first-served (Loop B) | 8160 | 245 | Summer reservations start 5/25; last night to stay by reservation is 10/4 | Yes | Yes | Limited # of RV/trailer sites up to 40' | Yes | On Bear Lake Road. Flush toilets, except B Loop where there are vault toilets year-round. |
| Timber Creek Open year-round | 8900 | 98 | Always first-come, first-served | Firewood only | No | 30' | Yes | The only west side campground. No shade due to hazard tree removal. |

Overnight stays in Rocky Mountain National Park must be in a campground (or a backcountry site). You may not stay overnight in your car or RV along a road or at a trailhead.

It is common for all park campgrounds to fill on most summer days and fall weekends.

Reservations for late-May through September can be made six months to one day in advance and are highly recommended. To make a reservation: www.recreation.gov or 1-877-444-6777.

Fees to Camp

- When the water is off (winter), Longs Peak, Timber Creek, and Moraine Park Loop B campgrounds are \$14/site/night.
- When the water is on (summer), all campgrounds are \$20.00/site/night.
- America the Beautiful Senior and Access Pass holders receive a 50% discount on camping fees.
- Park entrance fees and camping fees can be paid by cash, check or credit card any time of year.

STAY LIMITS

The maximum length of stay is seven nights total between June 1 and September 30, plus an additional 14 nights between October 1 and May 31. Stay limits are on a parkwide basis rather than on a per campground basis.

At All Standard Campsites

- No more than eight people may camp at a given site.
- All campsites, including RV sites, have a tent pad, picnic table and fire grate.
- Tents must fit on the tent pad; two or three tents are allowed, as long as they fit.
- There are no electric, water or sewer hookups at any park campsites.
- None of the campgrounds have showers. Portable showers are prohibited. Public showers are available in nearby communities.

Pets

All campgrounds allow pets with certain restrictions: they must be on a leash no longer than six feet; pet owners must pick up and dispose of pet excrement in trash receptacles; pets may not make noise that impacts visitors or wildlife. Pets are never allowed on any park trails or in meadow areas. Pets should never be left unattended.

Food Storage

Do not attract wildlife, including black bears, to your campsite. Keep a clean camp! Never leave food items unattended. Improperly stored or unattended food items will likely result in confiscation and/or issuance of a citation by a park ranger.

In campgrounds, all food items must be stored by one of the following methods:

- Inside vehicle trunks. Be sure windows are closed and doors are locked.
- In vehicles without trunks, items should be placed as low in the vehicle passenger compartment as possible and covered from sight, with windows closed and doors closed & locked.
- In park-provided bear boxes. Boxes are shared and cannot be locked.



Backcountry Camping

Permits are required for all overnight backcountry camping, and reservations are recommended for summer. Camping is allowed only in designated sites and areas. Permits may be obtained at the Beaver Meadows Backcountry Office or Kawuneeche Visitor Center. For further information write to: Backcountry Office, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado 80517 or phone (970) 586-1242.

The administrative permit fee of \$20 is required for backcountry permits between May 1 and October 31; there is no charge in winter.

Sprague Lake Accessible Backcountry Campsite

Reservations and information are available through the Backcountry Office at (970) 586-1242. This site accommodates 12 campers with a maximum of five wheelchair users at the camp. The administrative permit fee is \$20 from May 1 to October 31.



For your safety and the protection of park wildlife, carry in/carry out hard-sided, bear-resistant food storage canisters are required of all backcountry campers parkwide between May 1 and October 31. Canisters may be rented or purchased at outdoor shops in surrounding communities. Pack out all garbage.

Toward a Greener Park

Recycling Available in Major Park Locations



Glass, plastic #1 and #2, and aluminum may be recycled in park campgrounds and at major park locations. Look for our distinctive recycling containers or ask at any visitor center or campground for their locations.

The park is actively engaged in green practices, including using hybrid/alternative fueled vehicles, a bicycle for mail delivery, low-wattage compact fluorescent lights bulbs, and active recycling of office materials.

The picnic and restroom facilities at Hidden Valley were constructed using recycled lumber and materials. All new construction and rehabilitation projects are designed using energy-efficient LEED standards. Recycle containers are available throughout the park.

Help us reduce the use of plastic water bottles! There is limited potable drinking water in the park. Please remember to bring your own reusable water containers and refill them at park visitor centers.

Early Season Hiking Trails



| Trail | Location | Round Trip Distance | Elevation Gain | Highlights |
|--|---|------------------------|----------------|--|
| Featured Hikes West Side Trailheads | | | | |
| LuLu City/Colorado River Trail | Colorado River Trail | 7.4 miles | 350 feet | The trail parallels the Colorado River and passes beautiful meadows on this easy to moderate hike. |
| Cascade Falls | North Inlet Trail off Tunnel Road in Grand Lake | 6.8 miles | 300 feet | A relatively level walk to a rocky cascade. |
| Granite Falls | Green Mountain Trailhead | 10.4 miles | 1046 feet | Quiet forest and flowing mountain waters await. A longer loop (13.6 miles) is possible, coming out on the Onahu Creek Trail. |
| East Shore Trail | East side of Shadow Mountain Lake, just south of Grand Lake | 5.2 miles | 100 feet | 2.6 miles to Green Ridge Campground; a side loop trail to Ranger Meadows reconnects with main trail, adding 1.4 miles. |
| Shadow Mountain Lookout | East side of Shadow Mountain Lake, just south of Grand Lake | 9.4 miles | 1533 feet | A strenuous hike to a historic fire lookout with spectacular views. |
| Featured Hikes Central and East Side Trailheads | | | | |
| Deer Mountain | Deer Ridge Junction | 6 miles | 1083 feet | Great views of beautiful peaks and deep valleys as you hike to the top of a peak. |
| Gem Lake | Lumpy Ridge Trailhead | 3.2 miles | 1000 feet | A rocky hike to a small lake, providing outstanding views along the way. |
| Nymph Lake | Bear Lake Trailhead | 1 mile | 225 feet | Beautiful views abound on this hike to a small lake. |
| Cub Lake | Cub Lake on Fern Lake Road near Moraine Park Campground | 4.6 miles | 540 feet | Meadows, aspen groves, beaver ponds and conifer forests highlight this hike. |
| Alberta Falls | Glacier Gorge Trailhead | 1.6 miles | 210 feet | Hike to this beautiful and powerful waterfall. From either Glacier Gorge or Bear Lake trailheads. |
| The Pool | Fern Lake Trailhead Bear Lake Trailhead | 3.4 miles 1.8 miles | 245 feet | An easy, shaded hike along a stream. Continues up to Fern and Odessa lakes. |

Family-Friendly Trails

Tight on time? Try one of these short easy walks. Some are accessible. Some allow strollers. Most have educational brochures or exhibits. Pets are not permitted on any park trails.



On the West Side

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|---------|---|
| Coyote Valley Trail | Coyote Valley on Highway 34, north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center | 1 mile   | 10 feet | Follows the bank of the Colorado River, with views of the Never Summer Mountains. Look for moose, songbirds, and wildflowers. Packed gravel, level grade. |
| Adams Falls | East Inlet, located on the far east end of Grand Lake | .6 mile | 80 feet | A beautiful short hike near Grand Lake. The trail continues beyond the falls to lush meadows. |
| Holzwarth Historic Site | 8 miles north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center on Highway 34 | .5 miles  | 10 feet | Explore a historic homestead cabin and 1920s dude ranch. |

On the East Side

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|----------|--|
| Lily Lake | On Highway 7 south of Estes Park | .8 miles   | 20 feet | Wildflowers, waterfowl, and greenback cutthroat trout may be seen on a level walk around the lake. |
| Sprague Lake | On Bear Lake Road | .25 mile   | 10 feet | ½ mile packed gravel, level grade around Sprague Lake. |
| Moraine Park Visitor Center Nature Trail | On Bear Lake Road | .8 mile | 20 feet | Self-guiding trail, booklet available. |
| Bear Lake Nature Trail (partially accessible) | At end of Bear Lake Road | .5 miles   | 20 feet | Trail around Bear Lake. ½ mile packed gravel, level grade with occasional steep sections. |
| Alluvial Fan | Horseshoe Park on the road to Endovalley Picnic Area | .25 mile  | 20 feet | ¼ mile paved, relatively steep grade from east & west parking lots. |
| Tundra Communities Trail | At Rock Cut on Trail Ridge Road (opening Memorial Day Weekend) | .5 mile  | 260 feet | View the miniature world of the Alpine Tundra and enjoy sweeping views of the park. |

More Park Happenings

Junior Rangers

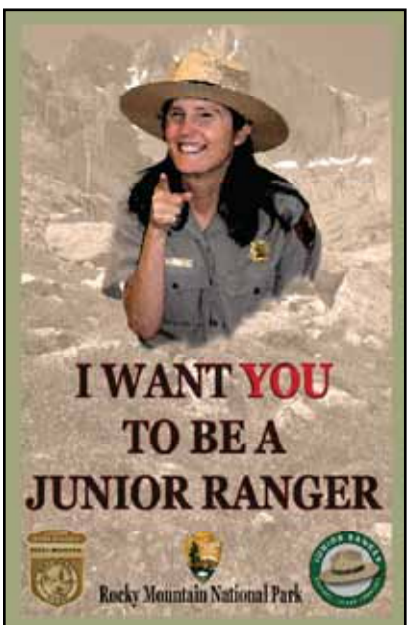
Free Junior Ranger books are available at park visitor centers for children ages 12 and under. A successfully completed book earns a badge!

You are an important part of this park. Stay in touch.

Contact us anytime at:

romo_junior_ranger@nps.gov

Los libros de guardaparque juveniles son para niños que tiene 12 años o menos. se pueden obtener sin costo en el centro de visitantes del parque. Si se completa el libro con éxito puede recibir una insignia!



International Sister Parks

Rocky Mountain National Park and the Tatra National Parks in Slovakia and Poland have formally become sister parks. With similar mountain terrain and ecosystems, and sharing common issues, the three parks are exchanging information and expertise to better manage these great preserves for the benefit of all.



Tatra National Park of Slovakia and Poland



Free Park Movie



See the stunning 20-minute park movie at the Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Available in español and English. Features spectacular aerial footage of the rugged high country of Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as wildlife and park history.

This Park Paper

The park newspaper is produced by Rocky Mountain National Park in cooperation with -- and funding provided by -- the Rocky Mountain Nature Association. Printed on recycled paper.

Park Bookstores

At RMNA Bookstores, Your Purchase Makes A Difference

A premier selection of Rocky Mountain National Park books, maps and other interesting items can be found right here at one of the Rocky Mountain Nature Association (RMNA) bookstores located in park visitor centers. And when you make a purchase from our non-profit organization, proceeds are returned to the park, supporting important educational, interpretive and research programs. Drop by today.

Visit the Rocky Mountain Nature Association bookstores at:

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center • Alpine Visitor Center
Moraine Park Visitor Center • Fall River Visitor Center
Kawuneeche Visitor Center



Rocky Mountain Nature Association • P.O. Box 3100, Estes Park, CO 80517 • (970) 586-0108 • rmna.org

Park Fees Enhance Visitors' Experiences

When you pay your park fees, you get so much more than just entrance into the park or a night of camping. You are helping improve your experience to Rocky Mountain National Park.

Rocky Mountain National Park has focused Recreation Fee Program efforts on projects which directly benefit park visitors. Some recent examples include:

Campgrounds: A multi-year project is currently underway to completely renovate restroom facilities throughout the park's campgrounds. The renovated and redesigned facilities will better address visitor needs. These facilities will be handicap accessible and incorporate integrated sustainable practices and design into the construction.

Hazard Tree Mitigation: Rocky Mountain National Park is just one relatively small area where trees are dying from a mountain pine beetle epidemic. Because the task is enormous, the park's priorities for mitigation of the effects of beetles are focused on removing hazard trees and hazard fuels related to the protection of life and property. The goal is to mitigate hazard tree threats in or near park facilities such as campgrounds, parking lots, road corridors, housing areas and visitor centers. Mitigation efforts include Carbaryl spraying, removal of hazard trees, and implementing temporary closures in a variety of park locations

Sustainable Concrete Picnic Tables: Currently there is a multi-year project to improve picnic areas throughout the park. These improvements will enhance the visitor experience by providing designated improved picnic sites using sustainable concrete picnic tables. These same picnic tables will also be installed in all park campgrounds. In addition, a new picnic shelter has been constructed at Harbison Meadows near the Grand Lake Entrance.

Exhibits and Technology: The park has enhanced the visitor experience through improved projects such as printed information, wayside exhibits, and replacement of projection equipment used for ranger programs.

Infrastructure Improvements: Often unseen by visitors, repairs and upgrades to water and waste water systems directly affect visitors by providing safe and reliable facilities such as campgrounds and visitor centers. The park has completed and is currently working on improvements to sewer and water delivery systems throughout the park.

As you see work in Rocky Mountain National Park this year, you can feel proud knowing your fees are helping improve the park for decades to come.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

LEARN -- EXPLORE -- ADVENTURE

Spring Ecology
April 16

Springtime Birds of Prey
April 21

Behind the Scenes in RMNP
May 13

Nature's Engineers: Beavers
May 14

Life Signs: Tracking the Invisible
May 18

Wings at Dusk
May 26

Map & Compass Basics in RMNP
June 4

More kids classes and custom seminars available! Call 970-586-3262 or visit us at www.rmna.org for more information!

Waterfall Hike with Poles
June 11

Native Plants in RMNP:
A Service Learning Seminar for Families
June 13 (all ages)

20 Things You Don't Know About Herpetiles
June 15

Naturalist Camp: A Birding Adventure
June 16-18 (ages 9-13)

Intro to Outdoor Digital Photography
June 17-19

www.rmna.org

Ask at RMNP visitor centers for more information, or call: 970-586-3262

Join the Million Dollar Challenge

to raise \$1,000,000 for Educational Programs for Kids in Rocky Mountain National Park!

Learn more at www.rmna.org

GIVE TODAY, AND YOUR DONATION WILL BE MATCHED!

Thanks to a generous donor, every gift will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000,000, in 2011.

Help us raise \$1,000,000 for the Next Generation of conservationists!

A fundraising campaign of the Rocky Mountain Nature Association

Information available at any RMNP visitor center bookstore - just ask!

Resources and More



Tell Me More About the Fences

Research has shown that the elk herd in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Estes Valley, is larger, less migratory and more concentrated than it would be under natural conditions. As a result, willow and aspen stands were declining, depriving other wildlife of the important habitat they need. Fences are one of the many tools we are using in the implementation of the park's Elk and Vegetation Management Plan.

Each fall since 2008, we have installed exclosure fences on elk winter range in the Moraine Park, Beaver Meadows, and Horseshoe Park areas. These exclosures are protecting important riparian willow and aspen habitat from elk browsing.

Elk winter range totals approximately 3,400 acres and we are protecting approximately 144 acres of willow habitat and 48 acres of aspen. This represents a little more than 5% of the elk winter range and just over half of the 365 acres of willow and aspen that could be protected as part of the management plan.



The exclosures are approximately 76 inches tall (a little more than 6 feet), enough to keep elk and moose out while allowing smaller animals such as deer, coyotes, badgers, bobcats and others to enter using the 16 inch gap at the bottom. Gates are built into these exclosures, allowing visitors to enter and recreate within the exclosures.

The management decision calls for increasing the number of fences and acres of aspen and willow to be protected and managing for an overall population of 600-800 elk on Rocky's winter range, reducing the number of elk to be culled. These fences are temporary and will be assessed every five years to determine if our management actions are achieving the objectives called for in the plan.



Elk exclosure fence in Moraine Park

Pine Beetle Epidemic From Canada to Mexico Park Takes Local Actions

Bark beetles are native insects that have shaped the forests of North America for thousands of years. Bark beetles range from Canada to Mexico and can be found at elevations from sea level to 11,000 feet. Rocky Mountain National Park is just one relatively small area where trees are dying from the beetle epidemic. Because the task is enormous, the park's priorities for mitigation of the effects of beetles are focused on removing hazard trees and hazard fuels related to the protection of life and property.



An infected tree will have pitch tubes on its trunk and boring dust (frass) at the base of the tree. Sometimes the tree will be successful in repelling or "pitching out" beetles and they are occasionally found imbedded in a pitch out.

The goal is to mitigate hazard tree threats in or near park facilities such as road corridors, campgrounds, parking lots, housing areas, trailheads, and visitor centers. Temporary closures may occur until hazards are reduced. The other goal is to protect high value trees on both east and west sides of the park by spraying with Carbaryl. High value trees are in locations such as campgrounds, historic landscapes, picnic areas and visitor centers. They are important for shade, visual screening, cultural significance, and outstanding visual quality. Park staff are selective and limit use of chemical spraying to minimize any adverse impacts. Spraying does not take place near water courses or wetlands.

There is no effective means of controlling a large beetle outbreak in such a vast area as the park's backcountry, which comprises about 95% of the park. Therefore, in the backcountry, bark beetle populations are allowed to fluctuate under natural processes with some limited mitigation work occurring around designated backcountry campsites.

For several years, Rocky Mountain National Park has had a proactive bark beetle management program, spending over \$1 million on mitigation work since 2006.

The beetle infestation and resulting changing forests of the western United States and Canada, are reminders to us all of nature's ability to change beyond human control. As you explore the park, look for young seedlings starting to take hold -- a new forest is emerging.

Throughout spring and summer the 2011 forestry crews and contractors will be removing dead and dying trees at trailheads, parking areas, picnic areas, roadside pullouts, campgrounds and visitor centers. Please heed signs and directions from crews to ensure a safe and enjoyable visit.

Park Volunteers Make the Difference!



Rocky Mountain National Park is blessed with almost 2,000 volunteers who consistently donate over 100,000 hours of their time every year. They are involved in almost every aspect of the park's operation, and what a difference they make.

Some of the park's volunteers are very visible. They staff the trailheads at Bear Lake and Wild Basin assisting visitors by suggesting appropriate trails, handing out trail maps, and making sure they have the appropriate gear. Other volunteers work behind the scenes. Monthly elk counts are conducted in the winter months primarily by volunteers. Twenty-five volunteers arrive at 6:30 a.m., that's before sunrise, receive their routes and assignments, and finish counting elk usually by 10 a.m.

On Mondays look for the Road Hogs assisting the road crew by directing traffic, building fences, and cleaning road ditches in the summer, or helping the fire crew remove hazard trees in the winter. The Bighorn Brigade gives out information and ensures the bighorn sheep have the right of way on the roads near Sheep Lakes in the Horseshoe Park area in the summer. In the fall during the elk rut the 75 members of the Elk Bugle Corps are out helping visitors safely view and listen to the elk bulls' bugles.

Throughout the year citizen scientists assist with research involving butterflies, hummingbirds, mountain lions, and even slime molds, just to name a few. They help conduct the Water Blitz and Beaver Blitz, one-day, parkwide, specimen collecting and fact-gathering missions to test the health of the park's water and beaver populations.

Volunteers donate their precious time for a number of reasons, but the one most often cited is the desire to give back to a park which has brought them so much enjoyment over the years.

Whatever the job is or the motivation for doing it, Rocky's volunteers are invaluable. They are essential to the park's well-being and management. Look for park staff in the gray and green uniforms, but also keep watch for the volunteers in their tan and brown uniforms. They make a huge difference and are here working for the sheer joy of it. For more information on volunteering in the park contact the Information Office at (970) 586-1330.