



The official newspaper
of Rocky Mountain National Park
Summer - 2012
June 17 - September 3



Why Construction on Bear Lake Road?

Bear Lake Road is one of the most popular scenic roads in Rocky Mountain National Park and provides year-round visitor access to a variety of wonderful recreational opportunities. A two-year major construction project is occurring on the lower section of the road.

The construction encompasses Bear Lake Road from the junction of Trail Ridge Road/Highway 36 to the Park & Ride – Glacier Basin Campground intersection, covering 5.1 miles. The work will be similar in scope and impacts as the first phase of reconstruction which was completed in 2004, and took place on the upper 4.3 mile section of road. This major project will involve construction of significant retaining walls to improve safety and drainage. In addition, a 0.9 mile section will be rerouted away from Glacier Creek, in order to prevent impacts to wetlands and riparian habitat and reduce costs. Repairs will be made on the Big Thompson Bridge to improve safety. Structural deficiencies will be corrected in the roadway and inadequate parking and pullout design will be improved. This project will widen the road and improve the road surface to better accommodate park shuttle buses. Safety associated with winter snow removal will be enhanced by the wider road.

EXPECT DELAYS!

From May 29, through October 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bear Lake Road, approximately one mile southwest of Moraine Park Visitor Center to Bear Lake, will be accessible by free shuttle bus only, seven days a week. Private vehicles will be allowed both directions prior to 9 a.m. and after 4 p.m. Visitors in private vehicles, who make the 9 a.m. cutoff time, will be allowed to travel out of the area throughout the day. All visitors, in private vehicles or shuttle buses, should expect at least two 20-minute delays both directions through the construction area. There will be no construction delays between Park & Ride and Bear Lake. There may be night closures during the construction. Night closures will be announced at least two weeks prior to occurring.

More information on the Bear Lake Road Reconstruction Project is available at www.nps.gov/romo and a recorded road status line at (970) 586-1222.

SHUTTLE BUSES

The park's three shuttle routes will be modified during the construction. Please see the back page of this newspaper for shuttle route maps and information.



PARK FACILITIES

Most facilities along Bear Lake Road will be available to the public during the reconstruction project. However, Glacier Basin Campground and the Tuxedo Park picnic area and shuttle stop are closed. Numerous pull-off areas may be closed at times during the construction.

Moraine Park Visitor Center is open daily, however visitors should expect congestion and very limited parking. Visitors should also expect congestion and limited parking at the popular picnic and angler area in lower Moraine Park, north of the Big Thompson River.

SUGGESTIONS & OPTIONS

During the next two years, visitors who plan to go to the Bear Lake area will have easier access if they plan ahead, hike early or hike late, and carpool. All trailheads along the Bear Lake Corridor, the Park & Ride, Moraine Park Visitor Center and Beaver Meadows Visitor Center have limited parking spaces available. For those visitors who want to access the Bear Lake area between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., the best option will be to park in Estes Park at the parking lot near the Fairgrounds or the Estes Park Visitor Center and take the Hiker Shuttle in to Rocky Mountain National Park.

OUR FUTURE

Rocky Mountain National Park is approaching its Centennial anniversary in 2015. Bear Lake Road was completed in 1928 and no major road work has taken place on the lower section for more than 80 years. When this project is complete, just prior to the park's hundredth anniversary, it will conclude over 47 miles of critical improvements on park roads since 2003.

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.

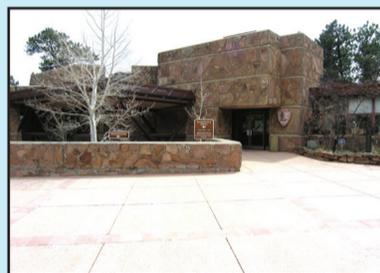
The tiny plants thank you.



Visitor Centers



East of the Divide – Estes Park Area



Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

Open daily 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Features spectacular free park movie, information, bookstore, large park orientation map, and backcountry permits in an adjacent building. Open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. starting Labor Day.



Fall River Visitor Center

Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Features life-size wildlife displays, a children's discovery room, information and a bookstore.



Moraine Park Visitor Center

Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Features interactive exhibits on the past and present landscape, and a bookstore. Great views of glaciated Moraine Park.



Sheep Lakes Information Station

Open 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. through August 19. Horseshoe Park is a good place to look for wildlife, including bighorn sheep and elk. Information & ranger programs.



Alpine Visitor Center

Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (weather permitting) Features extraordinary views of alpine tundra, displays, information, bookstore, adjacent gift shop and snack bar. Call (970) 586-1222 for Trail Ridge Road conditions.

West of the Divide – Grand Lake Area



Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Open daily 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Features free movies, exhibits on wonders of the park, information, a bookstore, and backcountry permits.

You Need to Know

Concessions Services

Horseback Riding

- **Wild Basin Livery**
Allenspark (303) 747-2222
- **Sombrero Ranch**
Estes Park: 1895 Big Thompson Ave.
(970) 586-4577
Allenspark: 211 Main St.
(303) 747-2551
Grand Lake: 304 W. Portal Rd.
(970) 627-1083
- **Winding River Resort**
Grand Lake: 1447 County Rd. 491,
(970) 627-3215
- **National Park Gateway Stables**
Rocky Mountain Gateway near the Fall
River Entrance on U.S. 34
(970) 586-5269
- **CowPoke Corner Corral Stables**
YMCA Road on Highway 66 at Glacier
Lodge (970) 586-5890
- **Hi Country Stables**
Located in Rocky Mountain
National Park
Moraine Park (970) 586-2327
Glacier Creek (970) 586-3244
- **Meeker Park Stables**
Meeker Park (303) 747-2266
- **Jackson Stables**
YMCA of the Rockies Livery
(970) 586-3341

Gifts and Food

- **Trail Ridge Store**
Gifts and cafe. (970) 586-2133 -
Open weather permitting 8:30 a.m. to
5:30 p.m.

Mountaineering

- **Colorado Mountain School**
Rock Climbing- open year around.
Estes Park, (800) 836-4008

Bicycles in the Park

Bicycling is permitted on public roads, both paved and dirt, but not on trails. There are no bike paths and many roads are narrow and have little or no shoulders, so ride cautiously.

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.

Firearms

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.

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

Food Storage

Do not attract wildlife, including black bears, to your campsite. Keep a clean camp! Never leave food items unsecured or unattended. Improperly stored or unattended food items will result in a violation notice. "Food items" include food, drinks, toiletries, cosmetics, pet food and bowls, and odoriferous attractants. Garbage, including empty cans, food wrappers, etc., must be stored or disposed of in trash or recycling receptacles.

Hummingbird feeders and bird feeders are attractants for wildlife such as raccoons, elk, deer, and bears, and are not allowed in campgrounds. Coolers, dirty stoves, grills, non-disposable tableware and cookware must be washed and stored in the same manner as food. Camp kitchens must be kept clean and individual items properly stored.

See page 8 for food storage while camping.

Picnicking

Picnic areas are located throughout Rocky Mountain National Park. Check the park map for specific locations.

Campfires

Campfires are permitting in campgrounds and picnic areas where fire grates are provided. Campfires are not allowed in the backcountry. Collecting vegetation, living or dead, is prohibited. Firewood is for sale in summer at all park campgrounds. Campfires can be prohibited during periods of high fire danger.

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 Military Pass - Free unlimited entry to federal recreation sites (including National Parks) for active duty military personnel and dependents with required proper identification (CAC Card or DD Form 1173) for one year.

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.

Fees may be paid by check, cash, or credit card.

Watch For Down Trees

An unusually high number of down trees are still on trails due to last winter's wind storm, as well as recent high wind events. Use caution when passing through or around areas of down trees. Park Trail Crews are working hard to re-open park trails but it's a significant workload this year. Some trails may still be blocked to stock. When encountering trees or clusters of trees across trails, hikers should assess their ability to safely navigate through or around; don't hesitate to turn back if unsure.

Pets and Service Animals

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 protection of park wildlife and other visitors, pets and their food 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.

A Pet Brochure, available at visitor centers lists all regulations.

Service animals that have been individually trained to perform specific tasks for the benefit of persons with disabilities are allowed in the park. A service animal that is allowed in park facilities, trails, etc., must be doing so in the service of a disabled person. Emotional support ("therapy animals") are not service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), but are pets, and may not access trails or other non-motorized areas, nor park buildings. Service dogs-in-training are not service animals under ADA, but are considered pets.

Take Only Pictures

Regulations prohibit taking any natural features including pinecones, rocks, antlers, artifacts, or disturbing soil, rocks, or vegetation in the park. Use of metal detectors within the park is not allowed.

Viewing Wildlife

When viewing any wildlife, please:

- Obey wildlife closure areas and "no stopping" traffic zones.
- Use parking areas along the road. If not available, pull your vehicle completely off the road and don't park on vegetation.
- Approaching animals may cause them stress, leading to disease or illness. If you cause an animal to move or change its behavior you are too close!
- Wildlife can be unpredictable. For your safety and theirs, enjoy and photograph wildlife from a distance.
- Never feed wildlife, including birds and chipmunks.

You Are Responsible

You are responsible for knowing and obeying park rules. Check at visitor centers, at entrance stations, on trailhead bulletin boards, and on the park website <http://www.nps.gov/romo> to find out more. When in doubt, ask a ranger.

Park Phone Numbers

Bear Lake Road Reconstruction & 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.



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



Dial 911 to report emergencies

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, such as rabies and plague. Photograph animals from the roadside.



Please don't feed me!



For your convenience, free WIFI is available in and around the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center and the Kawuneeche Visitor Center.

The Official Park Website is <http://www.nps.gov/romo>

Follow us on Twitter @ RMNPOfficial

Like us on Facebook @ Rocky Mountain National Park

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

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. Ask for information before you climb or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/longspeak.htm>

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 existing 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) Leave immediately if bear cubs are present, a bear huffs, pops its jaw, stomps a paw, or if a bear or mountain lion doesn't leave the area.
- 6) **Stand Tall and Look Large**. Raise your arms. Protect small children by picking them up.
- 7) If approached, **make loud noises**, shout, clap hands, clang pots and pans.
- 8) If attacked by a mountain lion or bear, **Fight Back!**

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.

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 July. 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. Pets are not allowed on park trails.

Longs Peak Keyhole Route

The Keyhole Route is NOT a hike! It is a climb with exposure requiring scrambling where an unroped fall would likely be fatal. The route has narrow ledges, loose rock, and steep cliffs. A permit is not required. The best route follows red and yellow bulls-eyes. If you lose the bulls-eyes you are likely off route and will encounter more difficult climbing with more severe consequences. It is important to retrace your steps back to the bulls-eyes before continuing. The Keyhole Route can experience winter-like conditions at any time, requiring greater skill and judgment. Be prepared to turn back during sudden, drastic weather changes. The high elevation may affect your condition and judgment. Careful descent is the best treatment. Don't have summit fever: enjoy the experience, but be willing to turn around at any time.



Scan this with your mobile device to download the Keyhole Route Site Bulletin.

Swift Water

Mountain streams can be deadly dangerous, especially during high runoff. 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.

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!

Rocky Mountain National Park Mileages and Elevations

Destination	Elev (feet)	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	Fall River Visitor Center	Kawuneeche Visitor Center
Alluvial Fan	8610	6.9	3.3	41.8
Alpine Visitor Center	11796	23	23	20.6
Aspenglen Campground	8220	8.2	0.4	47.5
Bear Lake	9475	10.5	16.3	51.3
Bear Lake Road Junction	8200	1.4	7.2	42.2
Beaver Meadows Entrance	8200	1.2	7.4	42.4
Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	7840	0	8.6	43.6
Deer Ridge Junction	8930	4.3	4.3	39.3
Estes Park Downtown	7522	2.5	4.4	48
Fall River Entrance	8280	8.3 thru park 6.0 thru town	0.3	43.3 49.3
Fall River Visitor Center	8250	8.6 thru park 5.7 thru town	0	43.6 49.3
Glacier Basin Campground	8500	6.3	12.1	47.1
Glacier Gorge Trailhead	9240	9.4	15.1	50.1
Grand Lake Entrance	8715	43.2	43.2	.4
Grand Lake (town)	8367	49.3	49.3	1.4
Holzwarth Historic Site	8884	35.7	35.7	7.9
Kawuneeche Visitor Center	8720	43.6	43.6	0
Milner Pass / Poudre Lake	10758	27.3	27.3	16.3
Moraine Park Campground	8160	3.2	9.0	44
Moraine Park Visitor Center	8140	2.7	8.4	43.4
Old Fall River Rd/Endovalley Turnoff	8540	6.1	2.5	41.4
Park & Ride	8770	6.3	12.1	47.1
Timber Creek Campground	8900	38	33	8.2
Wild Basin Entrance	8390	13.2	18.5	59



Leave No Trace

With 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/>

Free Summer Ranger Programs - Alpine & East Side



Normal programming will not be offered August 24 & 25, see the Bioblitz Newspaper for programs that Friday and Saturday.



All children must be accompanied by an adult
Note: Programs may be cancelled at anytime due to high winds or lightning

Alpine

Length Location SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Tundra To Trees - Hike an ancient Ute trail that leads from alpine heights down through old growth forest. Plan to carpool for this moderate 4-mile hike. Bring warm clothing, rain gear, water & snacks. Starts 7/2

4 hour hike

Milner Pass parking lot

9 a.m.

9 a.m.

High Country Geology - The park's spectacular scenery represents a chapter in a long history of geologic events. Join us on this hike over the tundra and experience the effects of these processes. Ends 8/8

3 hour hike

Alpine Visitor Center flagpole

9 a.m.

Tundra Nature Walk - Exhilarate your senses with alpine views and miniature wildflower gardens. Dress warmly, plan to caravan to the location. Ends 8/12

1.5-2 hour hike

Alpine Visitor Center

10 a.m.

All About Lightning - Learn why lightning can be a hair-raising experience and find out how to minimize your risk of being struck by lightning.



30 minute talk

Alpine Visitor Center

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

High Country Tails - Come learn about amazing alpine animals and what they can tell us about living life on the mountaintops.



30 minute talk

Alpine Visitor Center

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

Plants

Lily Lake Wildflower Walk - Take time to stop and smell the roses, and enjoy learning about the variety of flowers blooming this season. Easy walk. Ends 8/10



1.5 hour hike

Lily Lake parking lot

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

Children's Programs

Junior Ranger Program - Earn your Junior Ranger badge! Join a ranger for a variety of programs and activities at the Junior Ranger Headquarters. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ends 8/12



30 minute program

Junior Ranger Headquarters at Hidden Valley

10:00

10:00

10:00

10:00

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10:00

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Dead Trees are Full of Life - Who hangs out in dead trees and calls them home? Find out during this 20-minute puppet program. Ends 8/17



20-30 minute puppet program

Fall River Visitor Center

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

Discovery Day - Discover the amazing world of Rocky Mountain National Park with your family through hands-on activities, crafts, and stories. Each week there is something new to discover. Drop-in program; come anytime 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Ends 8/14



Drop-in program

Fall River Visitor Center

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wildlife

Bighorn Basics - Sheep Lakes in Horseshoe Park is a popular viewing area for bighorn sheep. Learn about this majestic symbol of Rocky. Ends 8/19



30 minute talk

Sheep Lakes Information Station

10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Amazing Beavers - Beavers drastically change their environment, and they have wonderful adaptations to do so.



30 minute talk

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

All About Elk - Learn about this magnificent animal and its current status in the park. Ends 8/19

1-1.5 hour walk

West Alluvial Fan parking lot

2:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m.

Ghost Cats - Seeing a mountain lion is rare. Come learn about the secretive life of lions and other wild cats found in the park. Ends 8/15



30 minute talk

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Little Critters of Rocky - Squirrels, rabbits and bats; find out about the lives of Rocky's smaller animals and the critical roles they play.



30 minute talk

Fall River Visitor Center

10:30 a.m.

2:30 p.m.

10:30 a.m.

Elk Echoes - Learn about elk adaptations, migration, and mating behavior. Programs are simultaneously held at both locations. Starts 9/1



30 minute talk

Sheep Lakes parking lot

6 p.m.

Birds of Upper Beaver Meadows - Join a ranger to seek bluebirds, woodpeckers, wrens, and flycatchers in a rich mixture of aspen and pine woodlands. Bring binoculars and a field guide.

1.5 hour hike

End of Upper Beaver Meadows Road

7 a.m.

Free Park Movie



See the stunning 23-minute park movie at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.-5 p.m., and at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center during normal business hours. Available in Español (translation headsets available upon request) and English at Beaver Meadows. English only

at Kawuneeche. Features spectacular aerial footage of the rugged high country of Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as wildlife and park history. Captioned version available at Kawuneeche Visitor Center. Captioned and Audio Description versions available at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center.

Walks, Talks, and Hikes			All children must be accompanied by an adult							
	Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
Ranger Rendezvous at Bear Lake - Drop in anytime to talk with the Ranger and learn about the area's wildlife. Ends 8/19	 Drop in program	Bear Lake	10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.						9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.	
Lumpy Ridge Hike - Explore the history, dramatic views, and diverse ecosystems found in this unique corner of the park on a moderate 2 mile hike.	2-2.5 hour hike	Lumpy Ridge Trailhead			8:30 a.m.	9 a.m.	9 a.m.			
Life on the Edge - From elk to pikas, forest trees to tiny alpine flowers, park life comes in all shapes and sizes. Discover how this diversity of life is changing. Ends 8/25	 30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center				2:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.		2:30 p.m.	
Navigating Rocky with GPS & Maps - Discover how to use a GPS, map, and compass to safely journey into the park. We provide a map/compass/GPS (or bring your own). Family fun!	2 hour activity	West Horseshoe Park parking lot			1:30 p.m.	9:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m.			
Lily Lake Stroll -Enjoy an easy walk around a lovely lake beneath Longs Peak while exploring the natural and human forces that have shaped this landscape.	 1- 1.5 hour walk	Lily Lake parking lot	10 a.m.	10 a.m.			10 a.m.		10 a.m.	
Here Come the Beetles! - Pine bark beetles are rapidly transforming our forests. Learn what this means for all species who share the park.	 20-30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center	2:30 p.m.		2:30 p.m.					
Discovering Horseshoe Park - Enjoy a 3/4 mile walk through the Horseshoe Park landscape. Encounter the dynamic forces that created this valley and discover what lives here today.	1 hour walk	West Horseshoe Park parking lot		2:30 p.m.	10 a.m.				10 a.m.	
Hot Topics in the Park - Want to hear the very latest news about bear and beetle or other management challenges in the park? Join us for two short movies and a Ranger to answer questions.	 30- 45 minute discussion	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	
Burns, Beetles, & Blooms - As the forest canopy opens big changes occur on the forest floor. Discover the colorful results of changes past and present on this easy hike. Ends 8/9	1 -1.5 hour walk	Wild Basin Trailhead				9 a.m.	9 a.m.			
Critter Clues - Put your detective skills to the test, uncover clues, and learn about the animals that call Upper Beaver Meadows home. Ends 8/18	1 -1.5 hour	End of Upper Beaver Meadows Road			3 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.		2:30 p.m.	
Evening Programs										
Aspenglen Evening Program - Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. See weekly schedule at a visitor center for program topics. Dress warmly.	 45 minute talk	Aspenglen Campground Amphitheater	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/26	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/27	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/28	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/29	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/30	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/31	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-9/1	
Beaver Meadows Evening Program Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. Through Artist Eyes: Program given by the park's Artist-In-Residence every Wednesday. This programs ends August 22 Science Behind the Scenery: Program given by a different park researcher each Tuesday. This program ends August 21	 45 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	
Moraine Park Evening Program - Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. See weekly schedule at a visitor center for program topics. Dress warmly.	 45 minute talk	Moraine Park Campground Amphitheater	7:30 p.m.	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/27	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/28	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/29	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/30	9 p.m. 6/17-7/14 8:30 p.m. 7/15-8/31	7:30 p.m.	
Night Sky Programs										
Astronomy in the Park - Join a park ranger and local astronomers to discover the magic of the night sky. Dress warmly, bring binoculars and a flashlight.	1/2 hour program followed by viewing	End of Upper Beaver Meadows Road			8:30 p.m. June 29	8:15 p.m. July 13 & 27	8 p.m. August 10 & 24	All Astronomy in the Park Programs are on a Friday evening at the times and dates above.		
Stories Behind the Moon & Stars - The night sky comes alive through storytelling and fun activities. Celebrate darkness at the Estes Park Memorial Observatory. The observatory is located at 1600 Manford Avenue near the Estes Park High School and Stanley Park Fairgrounds. Dress warmly, bring binoculars and a flashlight.	 1-1.5 hour activity	Estes Park Memorial Observatory			8:30 p.m. June 22	8:15 p.m. July 6 & 20	8 p.m. August 3	All Stories Behind the Moon & Stars Programs are on a Friday evening at the times and dates above.		



Essentials to Wear and Carry

- Lots of water
- High-energy food
- Layers of clothing (jackets & pants), including insulating, windproof clothing like synthetic or wool
- Sturdy footwear & extra socks
- Storm gear
- Hat and gloves
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Sunscreen
- First aid kit
- Topographic map & compass/GPS
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Waterproof matches
- Pocket knife
- Whistle
- Common sense!

Free Summer Ranger Programs - West Side



Normal programming will not be offered August 24 & 25, see the Bioblitz Newspaper for programs that Friday and Saturday.



All children must be accompanied by an adult
Note: Programs may be cancelled at anytime due to high winds or lightning

Walks and Hikes	Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
Beyond The Falls - Join a ranger for a stroll to Adams Falls and a spectacular view just beyond. One-mile round trip.	1.5 hour program	East Inlet Trailhead			6:30 p.m. 7/2 -8/6				10 a.m. 8/18 -9/1	
Wilderness Connections - Take a moderate hike with a ranger on a brand new section of the Continental Divide Trail featuring a lovely meadow along the Onahu River.	1.5 to 2 hours 2 miles	Onahu Trailhead						9:30 a.m.		
Hike Through History - Hike along the Colorado River to discover what led people to try mining, homesteading, and early dude ranching.	3 hours - 3 miles	Colorado River Trailhead					9:30 a.m.			
Mountain Wildflowers - Lovely montane flowers have amazing adaptations. Caravan to this week's flowers. Ends 8/10	2 hour walk	Kawuneeche Visitor Center flagpole			2 p.m. Starts 7/3			2 p.m. Starts 6/22		
Coyote Valley River Walk - Explore the valley ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River. Sundays only after 8/14	1 hour walk	Coyote Valley Trailhead	10 a.m.		7 p.m. 7/3-8/14					
Rocky Mountain Heritage Walk - Learn about Native Americans, miners and valley settlers while revisiting the Old West at an historic guest ranch.	1 hour plus time to explore 1 mile walk	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area				2:30 p.m.			2:30 p.m.	
A Glimpse of Paradise - This easy 3-mile round trip hike passes Adams Falls and leads to spectacular views of mountains surrounding the meadows of the East Inlet. 7/1 to 8/12	2.5 hour walk	East Inlet Trailhead	9:30 a.m.							
The Long and the Short - Visit a research enclosure to learn about elk, moose, and beaver. Starts 6/24	1.5 hours, 1 mile walk	Colorado River Trailhead	2:30 p.m.							
Children's Programs										
A Walk Backwards - Step back in time and experience life on a 1920s dude ranch...chores, games, period costumes. For children 6-12. Registration required at Kawuneeche Visitor Center or (970)627-3471. Ends 8/10	2 hour activity	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area						9:45 a.m.		
Come Bug a Ranger - Learn fun facts about insects. Puppets, stories and activities for children 4-10 years old. Ends 8/8	1 hour activity	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area				10:30 a.m.				
Web Walkers - Explore a section of the Colorado River. Activities are designed for children 6-12 years old. Ends 8/21	1 hour activity	Coyote Valley Trailhead			10 a.m.				10 a.m.	
Junior Ranger Program - Join a ranger for a short program and activities to earn your Junior Ranger badge. 6/20 to 8/17	1 hour program	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	
Talks & Activities										
Ranger's Flyfishing School - Learn about the park's fish management program, stream ecology, and flycasting. Bring your flyfishing gear or borrow the ranger's. Ends 8/13	3 hour activity	Timber Creek Campground amphitheater		8:30 a.m.					8:30 a.m.	
Holzwarth Historic Site - Buildings are open 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily. Discuss early settlement with staff. This is a great family activity!	Drop-in tour	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily							
Skins and Things - Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals.	40 minutes	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	
Exploring with a Camera - Join a ranger for a photography walk. Focus on composition, light, and basic tips to improve your pictures. Ends 8/2	1-1.5 hour activity	Timber Lake Trailhead					3 p.m.			
The Colorado: Secrets At The Source - This film tells the magnificent story of the Colorado River which flows through some of America's most dramatic high country and canyon country.	50 minutes	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	
Behind the Scenes - Join a ranger to view and discuss a series of short videos documenting how specialists at the park address challenges like elk management, pine beetles, and air quality.	1 hour discussion	Kawuneeche Visitor Center			10:30 a.m. starts 7/3	10:30 a.m. starts 6/27	10:30 a.m. starts 6/21	10:30 a.m. starts 6/22		
Sisters of Courage - Learn about the pioneer experience through the story of the remarkable Harbison sisters and their family. Includes a 1/2 mile walk to the homestead site.	2.5 hour activity	Kawuneeche Visitor Center flagpole		1 p.m.						

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Evening Programs



Length Location SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Old Ranch Campfire Stories - Roasting marshmallows (bring 'em), tall tales (the old wrangler will tell 'em) and campfire songs bring back the old days. Dress warmly. Ends 8/10



2 hours, 1 mile walk

Holzwarth Historic Site parking area

7 p.m.

Saturday Night in the Park - Enjoy an evening program in the auditorium. For topics, inquire at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center.



1 hour presentation

Kawuneeche Visitor Center auditorium

7 p.m.

Walk Into Twilight - Enjoy a leisurely stroll as darkness, night sounds and wildlife fill the valley. Bring warm clothes, good hiking shoes, and a flashlight. 6/24 to 8/8

2 hour walk

Onahu Creek Trailhead

8 p.m. Ends 7/29

8 p.m.
6/27 - 7/25
7:30 p.m.
8/1 - 8/8

Timber Creek Evening Program - Presentation nightly at Timber Creek. Check at the campground or Kawuneeche Visitor Center for topics.



1 hour presentation

Timber Creek Campground amphitheater

9 p.m.
6/17 - 8/11
8:45 p.m.
8/12 - 9/3

9 p.m.
6/17 - 8/11
8:45 p.m.
8/12 - 9/3

9 p.m.
6/17 - 8/11
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8:45 p.m.
8/12 - 9/3

9 p.m.
6/17 - 8/11
8:45 p.m.
8/12 - 9/3

Celestial Wilderness - Explore the universe and the astronomy of Rocky's night sky. Meet at Harbison Meadow parking area. If overcast, meet at Kawuneeche Visitor Center for indoor presentation. Ends 8/16

1-1.5 hour activity

Harbison Meadow parking area. If overcast, Kawuneeche Visitor Center

9:15 p.m.
June
9:00 p.m.
July
8:45 p.m.
August

Junior Ranger

Hey, Kids! Come To The Junior Ranger Headquarters!

This summer, there is a place just for you – the Junior Ranger Headquarters located at Hidden Valley along Trail Ridge Road. Join a program and get started or complete your Junior Ranger Book. The Rocky Junior Ranger programs are offered for kids ages 6 to 12, from June 17 – August 12, several times a day, 7 days a week! The activities are created and presented with a young person's level of learning and interest in mind. The programs are free. Parents and adults, please remember - you must be present for your children to participate.



Headquarters is open 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily.

Jr. Ranger Programs are at 10, 11:30, 1:00 & 2:30 daily.

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!



Rocky Mountain Nature Association

Love Rocky Mountain National Park? Help us make it even better!



If you've walked the Lily Lake Trail, explored the Fall River Visitor Center, or introduced a child to nature through the park's Junior Ranger Program, you know our work.

Rocky Mountain Nature Association
Supporting the park since 1931.



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.

Page 1 banner photo courtesy Louis Viggio

LEARN AND EXPLORE!
An Experience Like None Other...

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS
IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK



Journey to the Top! A Trail Ridge Road Bus Adventure (all ages)

Every Wednesday and Thursday June 13 - September 6, 2012

Lily Lake Nature Hunt: A Virtual Geocache Adventure (kids 9-13)

June 26; July 10, 24; August 7

Secret Places in RMNP (adults) June 29; July 20; August 17

Night Creatures & Evening Adaptation (adults) August 2

Finding Fine Art in Nature Photography (adults) August 9-11

When Ice Ruled the Park (adults) August 25

Sketchbook Journaling (adults) August 13-14

Ask at any park visitor center for more information. Or, call 970-586-3262



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. 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



Camping 2012

PARK CAMPGROUND	Elev (feet)	# sites in summer	Reservable	Summer Firewood & Ice	Max RV/Trailer Length	Summer Dump Station	Notes
Aspenglen Open 5/23- Last night to stay is 9/29 Glacier Basin	8220	54	Yes	Yes	30'	No	Located on US Highway 34 by the Fall River Entrance.
Closed 2012							
Longs Peak Open year-round	9405	26	Always first-come, first-served	Firewood only	Tents only	No	Located off Highway 7 south of Estes Park. Flush toilets summer; vault toilets winter.
Moraine Park Open year-round. Reservable for 5/23 thru 10/8	8160	244	Yes Exception in summer 2012: B Loop is 1st-come, 1st-served	Yes	Limited # of RV/trailer sites up to 40'	Yes	Located via Bear Lake Road •Flush toilets, except B & E Loops have vault toilets year-round. •D Loop: no generators allowed. •Pay phones. •On summer shuttle route.
Timber Creek Open year-round	8900	98	Always first-come, first-served	Firewood only	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 on (summer), all campgrounds are \$20.00/site/night.
- When the water is off (winter), Longs Peak, Timber Creek, and Moraine Park Loop B campgrounds are \$14/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.
- Shared food storage lockers are available throughout all campgrounds.
- 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.
- Showers - NEW in 2012: bring a solar camp shower bag to hang in the newly-constructed stall facility (no running water) at Moraine Park Campground. There are no other shower facilities in the park, but showers are available in nearby communities. Portable showers are prohibited. Remember, toiletries attract wildlife and need to be properly stored when not in use.



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 and their food should never be left unattended. Keep a clean camp! Never leave pet food unsecured or unattended.

Food Storage

Do not attract wildlife, including black bears, to your campsite. Keep a clean camp! Never leave food items unsecured or unattended. Improperly stored or unattended food items will result in a violation notice. "Food items" include food, drinks, toiletries, cosmetics, pet food and bowls, and odoriferous attractants. Garbage, including empty cans, food wrappers, etc., must be stored or disposed of in trash or recycling receptacles. Hummingbird feeders and bird feeders are attractants for wildlife such as raccoons, elk, deer, and bears, and are not allowed in campgrounds. Coolers, dirty stoves, grills, non-disposable tableware and cookware must be washed and stored in the same manner as food. Camp kitchens must be kept clean and individual items properly stored. In campgrounds, store all food items in food storage lockers; if full, store food items 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 locked.
- Visitors with convertibles or motorcycles are encouraged to use bear boxes. Bear boxes for food storage are available in all park campgrounds, and location symbols are on campground maps. Food storage lockers, which are approximately 3' x 4' x 3' are shared with other visitors 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.



Scan this with your mobile device to download the Backcountry Camping Guide.



For your safety and the protection of park wildlife, carry in/carry out, commercially-made, 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.

New This Summer!

Moraine Park Campground Solar Camp Shower Bag Facility

This facility while promoting conservation of water, gives visitors a private environment to enjoy a quick refreshing shower using their own shower bag.

Located between sites #53 & #49




Concession Services

The End of This Trail Has Great Rewards



ELEVATE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Take the trail to the clouds and not only will you find breathtaking vistas, you'll find the best selection of park souvenirs including an amazing selection of authentic Native American gifts. Plus, enjoy a bite to eat at our café and coffee bar.



VISIT US AT THE TOP OF
TRAIL RIDGE ROAD

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL PARK

ONE OF Xanterra's LEGENDARY PLACES

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.

Must Do's While Here in Rocky!

Rocky Mountain National Park has so much to offer, whether you have a couple of hours, a couple of days, or more. Things you need to do:

- Stop at a visitor center and explore the exhibits, or talk to a ranger.
- Attend a ranger-led activity or program. Lists are on pages 4-7.
- Be a Junior Ranger. Designed for children 12 and younger, booklets (Spanish and English) include fun activities the whole family can enjoy. Pick up a booklet at a park visitor center and earn a Junior Ranger badge.
- Enjoy a picnic. Picnic areas are marked on the park map.
- Loop through Horseshoe Park and drive up to the Alluvial Fan.
- Look for wildlife. Year-round, elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep may be seen.
- Go as far as you want on Trail Ridge Road. Every one of the many overlooks provide spectacular views.
- Visit Holzwarth Historic Site and get a taste of early tourism at one of the first dude ranches in Colorado.
- Look for moose in the Kawuneeche Valley.
- Experience the wilderness of the park's backcountry on a hike. Check with a ranger for trail suggestions.
- Take time for yourself to soak in the magnificent scenery. Unwind and detach from the world (cell phones don't work in most of the park).

THE RIDES OF A LIFETIME



NATIONAL PARK GATEWAY STABLES

- ◆ All rides are in Rocky Mountain National Park
- ◆ Two-hour, half-day and full-day rides on scenic trails
- ◆ Beautiful, well-kept horses for all riding abilities

Rocky Mountain Gateway
near the Fall River
Entrance on U.S. 34

(970) 586-5269

cowpokecornercorral.com
or, nationalparkgatewaystables.com

COWPOKE CORNER CORRAL

- ◆ Extended half-day to full-day rides in beautiful Rocky Mountain National Park

- ◆ Friendly and family oriented

YMCA Road on Highway 66
at Glacier Lodge

(970) 586-5890



37 YEARS
EXPERIENCE!

Open until Oct. 14
Visa, MC and Discover accepted

Hiking Trails

With over 350 miles of trails, the park offers a vast array of hikes. A small selection of trails is described below. Check at a visitor center for current conditions. Additional hiking guides, books and maps are available for purchase at all park visitor centers. See page 3 for safety tips.

Trail	Location	Round Trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Highlights
<u>East Side Trailheads</u>				
Deer Mountain	Deer Ridge Junction	6 miles	1083 feet	The summit offers great views of beautiful peaks and deep valleys.
Gem Lake	Lumpy Ridge Trailhead	3.3 miles	971 feet	The trail climbs steeply through mature ponderosa and aspen all the way to Gem Lake. Great panoramas of Longs peak.
Estes Cone	Lily Lake Trailhead	7.4 miles	2369 feet	Great views are a reward of this strenuous hike to the top of a peak.
Eugenia Mine	Longs Peak Trailhead	2.8 miles	508 feet	Hike to an abandoned mine site.
Twin Sisters	Lily Lake Trailhead	7.4 miles	2338 feet	Hike to a mountain top for great views of mountains and plains.
Sandbeach Lake	Sandbeach Trailhead off Highway 7, near Wild Basin	8.4 miles	1971 feet	A steady uphill trail leads to a lake with beautiful views.
Trail	Location	Round Trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Highlights
<u>West Side Trailheads</u>				
Onahu Creek/Green Mountain Loop	Onahu Creek Trailhead or Green Mt. Trailhead in Kawuneeche Valley	7.6 miles	1100 feet	Excellent loop trail through quiet forest and meadow along flowing mountain creeks.
Granite Falls	Green Mountain Trailhead in Kawuneeche Valley	10.4 miles	1406 feet	Quiet forest and flowing mountain waters await. A longer loop (13.6 miles) is possible, coming out on the Onahu Creek Trail.
Timber Lake	Timber Lake Trailhead in Kawuneeche Valley	10.6 miles	2060 feet	Lots of elevation gain on hike to a beautiful backcountry lake.
Lulu City	Colorado River Trailhead, north of Timber Creek Campground	7.4 miles	350 feet	A gentle trail to an historic site. A longer return loop is via the Grand Ditch to Red Mountain Trail.
Little Yellowstone Canyon	Colorado River Trailhead, north of Timber Creek Campground	9 miles	990 feet	An extension of the Lulu City hike, deeper into park wilderness.
Red Mountain	Colorado River Trailhead, north of Timber Creek Campground	11 miles	2565 feet	A steep trail featuring some great views of mountains and valleys in the park.
Lone Pine Lake	East Inlet, on the far east end of Grand Lake	11 miles	1494 feet	A longer hike near Grand Lake to a high lake. The trail continues beyond to other lakes.
Cascade Falls	North Inlet Trail off Tunnel Road in Grand Lake	6.8 miles	300 feet	A relatively level walk to Cascade Falls.
Shadow Mountain Lookout	East side of Shadow Mountain Lake, just south of Grand Lake	9.4 miles	1533 feet	Steep hike to an historic fire lookout with spectacular views.
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 re-connects with main trail, adding 1.4 miles.
<u>Trail Ridge Road Trailheads</u>				
Alpine Ridge Trail	Near Alpine Visitor Center	.5 miles	200 feet	CLOSED SUMMER 2012 for reconstruction
Ute Trail	Across the road from Alpine Visitor Center, as well as other access points	1-8 miles	up to 1038 feet	Tremendous, open views above treeline; start and finish early before lightning and thunderstorms!



Wood Ticks

Summer is synonymous with wood ticks. Starting each summer season 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 gaiters to keep ticks away from their skin.

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

Family-Friendly Trails

Pets are not permitted on any park trails.

Tight on time? Try one of these short easy walks. Some are accessible. Some allow strollers. Most have educational brochures or exhibits.

East Side Trails	Location	Round Trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Highlights
Lily Lake	On Highway 7 south of Estes Park	.8 mile loop  	20 feet	Wildflowers, waterfowl, and greenback cutthroat trout may be seen on a level walk around the lake.
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. See nature at work repairing scars from a 1982 flood. Interpretive signs.
Tundra Communities Trail	At Rock Cut on Trail Ridge Road	.5 mile 	260 feet	View the miniature world of the Alpine Tundra and enjoy sweeping views of the park. Paved trail & interpretive signs.
West Side Trails	Location	Round Trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Highlights
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. Interpretive signs.
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	1 mile 	10 feet	Explore a historic homestead cabin and 1920s dude ranch. Brochures, interpretive signs & tours available.

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, the park has installed enclosure fences on elk winter range in the Moraine Park, Beaver Meadows, Kawuneeche Valley and Horseshoe Park areas. These enclosures are protecting important riparian willow and aspen habitat from elk browsing.



Pine Beetle Epidemic From Canada to Mexico



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.

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.

To make park roads, trailheads, picnic areas & campgrounds safe for visitors, dead & dying trees are cut and stacked. Each winter, when snows are deep, teepee shaped piles of slash are burned while some of the wood is made available to the public through firewood sales.

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.

Shuttle Bus Information

The park's three shuttle routes are modified during the Bear Lake Road Reconstruction Project.

Beginning Tuesday May 29, through October 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bear Lake Road, from approximately one mile southwest of Moraine Park Visitor Center to Bear Lake, is accessible by free shuttle bus only, seven days a week. Private vehicles are allowed both directions prior to 9 a.m. and after 4 p.m. Visitors in private vehicles who

make the 9 a.m. cutoff time are allowed to travel eastbound throughout the day. All visitors, in private vehicles or shuttle buses, should expect at least two 20-minute delays both directions through the construction area. There are no construction delays between Park & Ride and Bear Lake. There may be night closures during the construction; night closures will be announced at least two weeks prior to occurring.



Buses on the Moraine Park Route run between the Moraine Park Visitor Center and the Fern Lake bus stop with stops at Moraine Park Campground, Cub

Lake Trailhead and Fern Lake bus stop. Moraine Park Route buses run every 20 minutes.

The first bus on the Moraine Park and Bear Lake routes departs from the Moraine Park Visitor Center at 7 a.m. and the last bus leaves at 7 p.m.

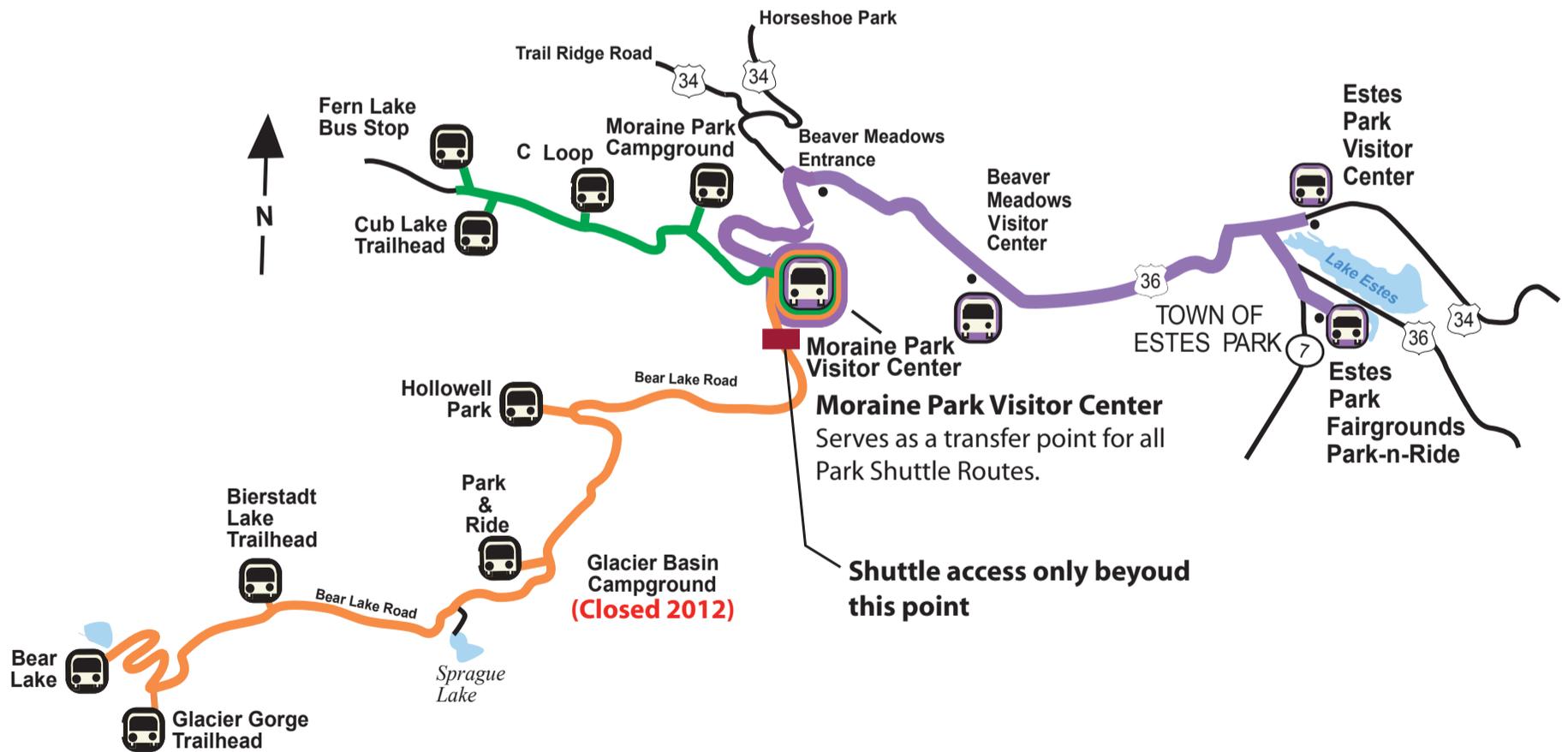
The last buses of the day on the Moraine Park and Bear Lake routes leave Bear Lake and Fern Lake trailheads at 7:30 p.m.

Buses on the Bear Lake Route run between Moraine Park Visitor Center and Bear Lake with stops at Hollowell Park, Park & Ride, Bierstadt bus

stop, Glacier Gorge Trailhead and Bear Lake. Bear Lake Route buses run every 15 minutes but may be delayed during periods of road construction.

Buses on the Hiker Shuttle Route make stops at the Estes Park Fairgrounds Park-n-Ride, the Estes Park Visitor Center, the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, and the Moraine Park Visitor Center where passengers transfer to buses on either the Bear Lake

Route or the Moraine Park Route. The first bus leaves the Fairgrounds Park-n-Ride at 6:30 a.m. and the last bus leaves the Moraine Park Visitor Center bound for Estes Park at 8 p.m. The Hiker Shuttle runs on an hourly schedule early and late in the day, switching to a half-hour schedule from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Hiker Shuttle Express Route

Stops at Moraine Park Visitor Center, Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, the Estes Park Visitor Center, and the Fairgrounds only

Bear Lake Route Expect major delays

Moraine Park Route Expect some delays



Shuttle Bus Stop