



Access Guide



Welcome to Rocky Mountain National Park!

This guide outlines services, facilities, and activities available for people with disabilities. Conditions change regularly due to weather, traffic, construction, and road conditions. Visit one of the park visitor centers for help planning your trip and the most up-to-date information.

For general park information, visit the park’s website, stop by one of the park’s visitor centers, or call the Information Office.

Contact Information

www.nps.gov/romo

romo_information@nps.gov

General Information: 970-588-1206 ext 9

Trail Ridge Road Conditions: 970-586-1222

Thank you!

This guide was made possible in part thanks to grants from the National Park Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Conservancy.



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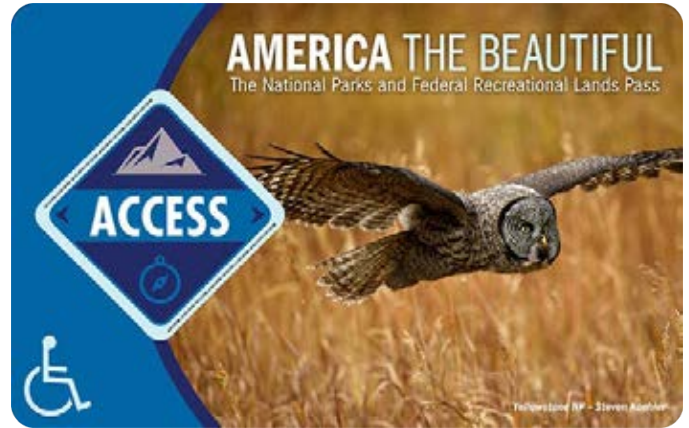
General Information

Access Pass

The Interagency Access Pass is a free, lifetime pass for US citizens or permanent residents that have a permanent disability that severely limits one or more major life activities.

The Access Pass is available at entrance stations and in visitor centers.

go.nps.gov/passes



Timed Entry Reservations

From late-May through mid-October, a timed entry reservation is required to enter Rocky Mountain National Park during certain hours of the day. There are two different types of reservations:

- Timed Entry (does not include access to Bear Lake Road)
- Timed Entry+ Bear Lake Road

For more information and to make a reservation, visit:

go.nps.gov/romo/timedentry



Bathrooms & Water

Throughout most of the park, drinking water is not available. Bathrooms in the park are vault toilets. Toilets have grab bars on the rear and side walls, toilet paper, turning room, and hand sanitizer. They do not have child-sized changing tables or running water. There are no adult-size changing tables within the park.



WiFi

WiFi is available at

- Beaver Meadows Visitor Center,
- Fall River Visitor Center, and
- Kawuneeche Visitor Center.

Safety

Altitude

Elevation ranges from 7,500 feet in the nearby towns to over 12,000 feet on Trail Ridge Road.

Altitude sickness affects many visitors every year. Symptoms include headaches, nausea, fatigue, dizziness, vomiting, and unconsciousness. Altitude can also aggravate pre-existing conditions like heart and lung diseases.

To help alleviate or prevent altitude sickness, take your time, drink water, eat, and rest. The only cure is to travel down to lower elevations.



Lightning

Lightning regularly strikes in the park. Check the forecast before heading out. If you see lightning or hear thunder, seek safety. Avoid open areas like lakes and meadows. Stay away from mountain tops, ridgelines, and isolated trees.

www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/lightning-safety.htm

Weather

Temperatures can vary wildly depending season, altitude, and time of day. Conditions can change rapidly and unexpectedly.

go.nps.gov/romo-weather
www.weather.gov/bou/rmnp

Seasonal Weather and Snow

A bright, sunny day can turn windy and wet in minutes. Be prepared for changing conditions.

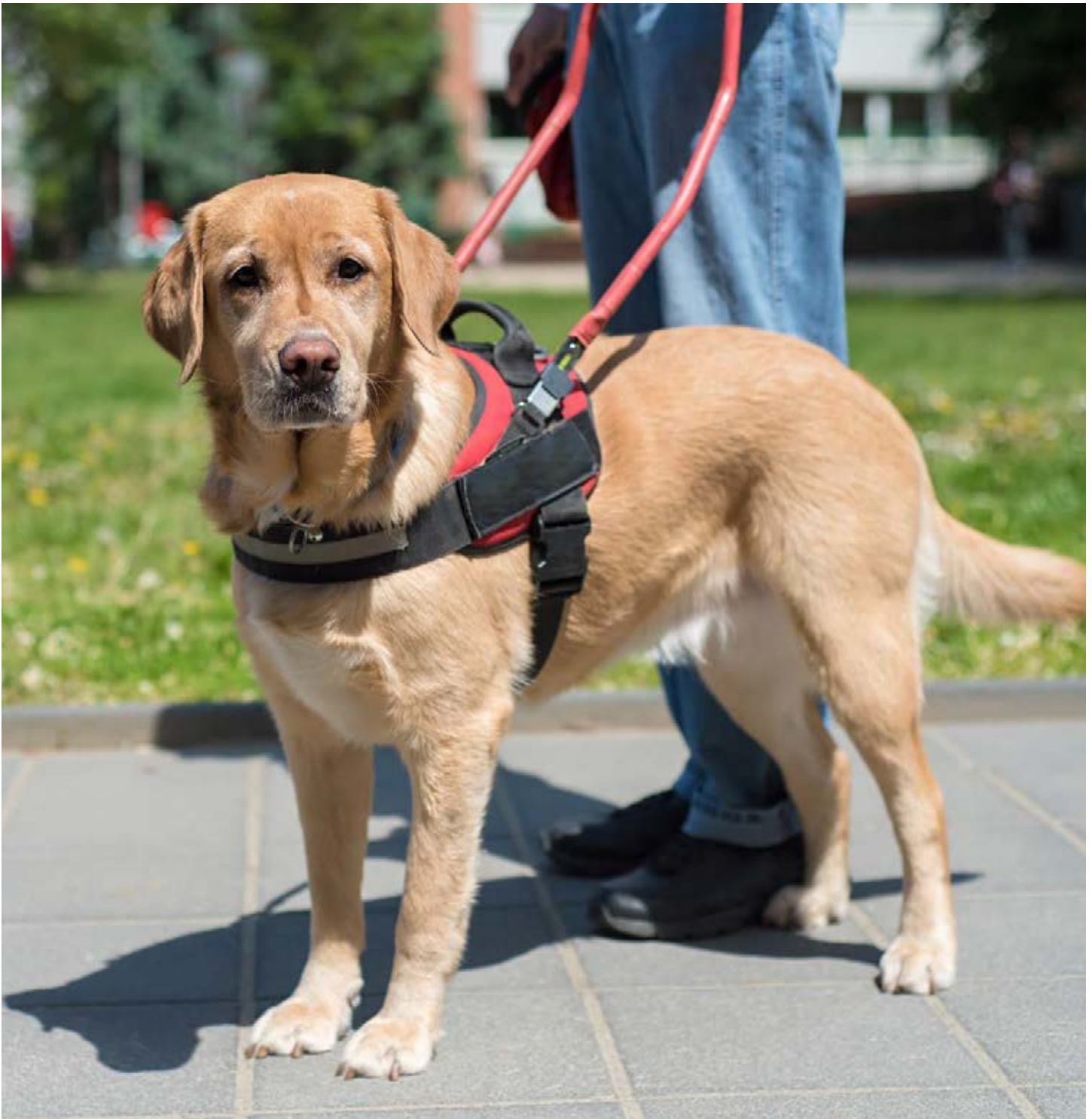
September and October bring clear, crisp air, blue skies, colder nights, and dry weather. Early snowstorms are always a possibility, especially on Trail Ridge Road. Be prepared. Road conditions can change drastically and impact visibility.



Service Animals

Service animals are dogs that are individually trained to perform specific tasks to assist a person with a disability. Service dogs are legally permitted anywhere that visitors can go. They must not disturb wildlife or other visitors, and their waste must be disposed of properly.

Emotional support, therapy, and companion animals are not considered service animals and are not allowed in visitor centers, on trails, or in other non-motorized areas. Pet owners violating park regulations are subject to fines and citations.



Mobility Devices

Mobility devices are allowed anywhere visitors are allowed, including on trails and in wilderness. Mobility devices must be designed for people with disabilities and must be suitable for use in an indoor area. This includes battery-powered wheelchairs.

Mobility Devices Available for Loan

- A mobility scooter is available at Junior Ranger Headquarters at Hidden Valley in summer, first-come, first-served. The scooter can only be used at Hidden Valley. There is no cost.
- All-terrain wheelchairs are available by reservation at no cost. For questions or to reserve the all-terrain wheelchair, please contact Estes Park Mountain Shop at 970-586-6548.



Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs)

These do not meet the legal definition of a wheelchair. Electric OPDMDs used as assistive devices by persons with disabilities are permitted on

- sidewalks and parking areas,
- roads closed to motor vehicles unless otherwise posted,
- Lily Lake Trail,
- Sprague Lake Trail,
- Coyote Valley Trail, and
- Holzwarth Historic Site Access Road.

Gas-powered OPDMDs are not permitted in the park. Rangers may inquire if the device is being used as an assistive device for a disability. Contact the park for information: romo_information@nps.gov

Blind / Low Vision



Audio Description

Audio description is provided for the park film at Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche Visitor Centers. Borrow an audio description device at the information desk.



Braille and Large Print

Available for the park brochure at Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche Visitor Centers.

Tactile Maps

The following locations have tactile maps of the park and nearby area:

- Alpine Visitor Center: small scale, plastic relief map, located on the information desk
- Beaver Meadows Visitor Center: large scale, bronze, located just outside the entrance
- Fall River Visitor Center: small scale, plastic relief map, located on the information desk
- Kawuneeche Visitor Center: large scale, composite relief map, located across from the information desk

Tactile Models

- Fall River Visitor Center: life-size bronze tactile models of animals



Deaf / Hearing Loss



American Sign Language Interpretation

Available upon request. To request an interpreter for ranger-led activities, contact the park at least a month in advance at romo_information@nps.gov or 970-586-1206.



Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs)

Available for the park film at Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche Visitor Centers. Borrow an ALD at the information desk. To request assistive listening for park programs, contact the park at least a month in advance at romo_information@nps.gov or 970-586-1206.



Captioning

Captioning is provided on the park film at Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche Visitor Centers.




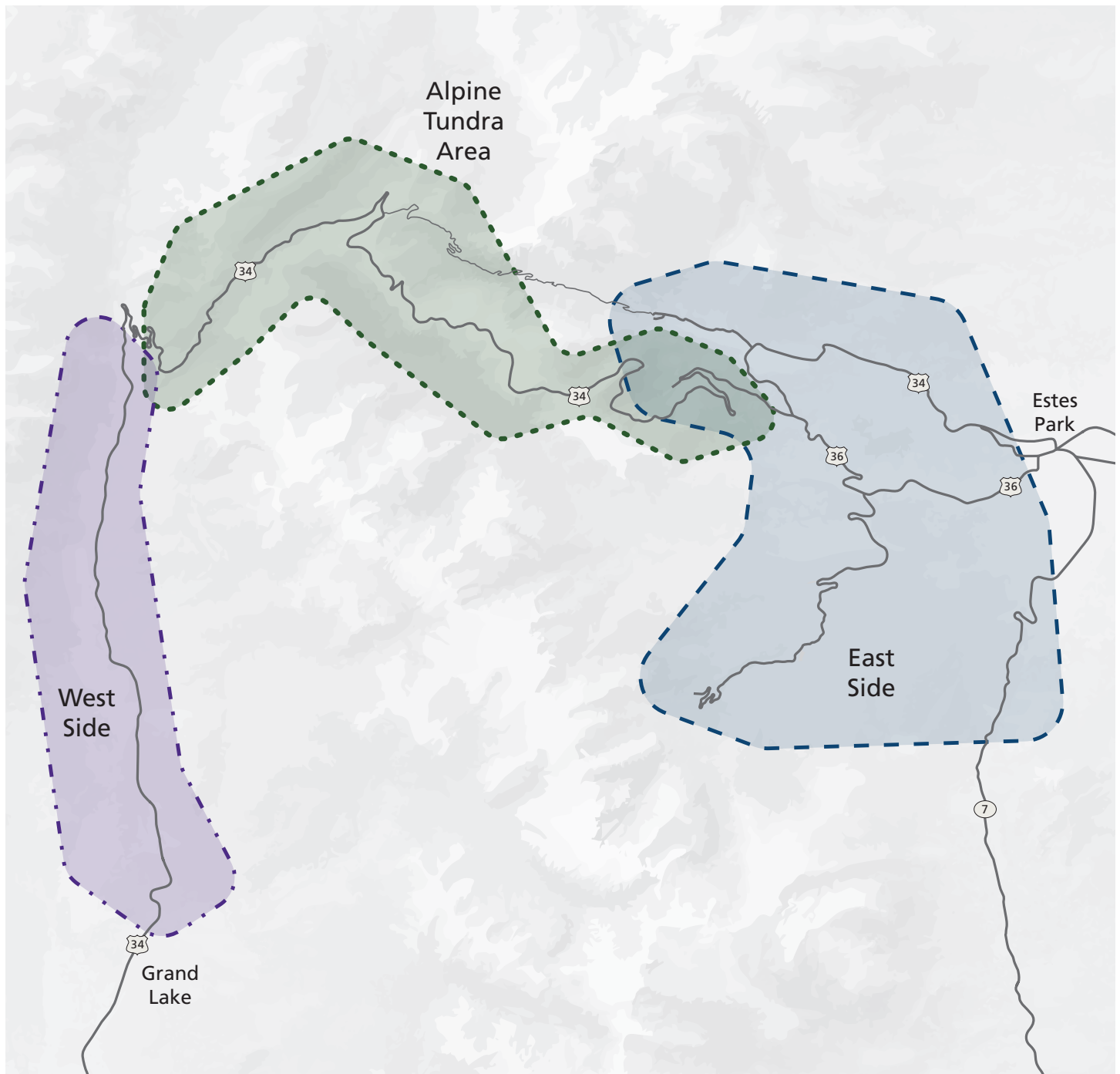
Areas of the Park

Generally the park is divided into three sections:

 West Side

 Alpine Tundra Area

 East Side



Shuttle Buses

There are three free shuttle bus routes during the summer:

- Bear Lake shuttle runs every 10–15 minutes.
- Moraine Park shuttles runs every 60 minutes.
- Hiker shuttle (stops only at Park and Ride and Estes Park Visitor Center)

All shuttles are wheelchair accessible. Each bus can accommodate up to two wheelchairs per bus. The buses kneel and have ramps. Please let your driver know if you need assistance.

Want to avoid crowds? Buses are busiest on weekends and daily from 10 am to noon.

While the buses are accessible, the bus stops and trailheads along Bear Lake Road have barriers and challenges. For help planning the best places to visit, talk to a ranger at one of our visitor centers.

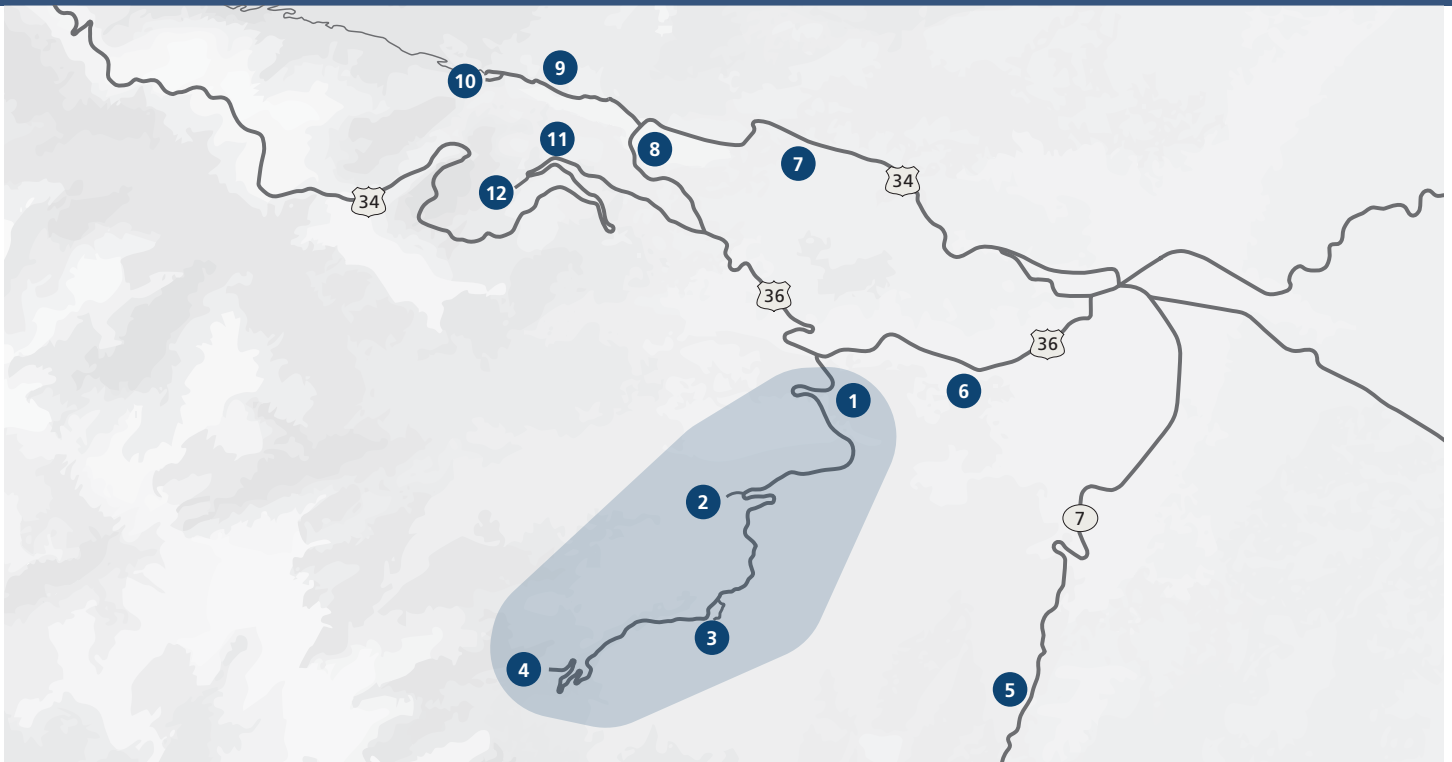
go.nps.gov/romo/shuttles

Visiting Sprague Lake?

Shuttle buses do not typically stop at locations at Sprague Lake that are accessible to those using mobility devices. For those with mobility devices, please let your driver know the desired destination and approximately what time you would like to be picked up.



East Side



Bear Lake Corridor (blue shaded area on the map)

Timed Entry+ passes are required from mid-May through mid-October.

- 1 Moraine Park Discovery Center
- 2 Hollowell Park
- 3 Sprague Lake
- 4 Bear Lake

Other Sites on the East Side

- 5 Lily Lake
- 6 Beaver Meadows Visitor Center
- 7 Fall River Visitor Center
- 8 Sheep Lakes
- 9 Alluvial Fan
- 10 Endovalley Picnic Area
- 11 Beaver Boardwalk
- 12 Hidden Valley

1 Moraine Park Discovery Center

Elevation: 8,140 feet (2,481 m)

Moraine Park Discovery Center is open late May through mid-October. Visitors are required to have Timed Entry+ passes for peak hours of the day during summer. The center features interactive natural history displays and exhibits about the flora and fauna. Enjoy photographs and mounted/preserved animals. From the second floor, there are views of the Big Thompson River and surrounding meadows. There is an elevator to the second floor.

Directions

Located on Bear Lake Road, 1.4 miles from the intersection of Bear Lake Road and US 36.

Parking

- 4 accessible spaces
- 1 van-accessible space
- This area is very popular, and parking can be limited.

Restrooms

Available when the building is open. Each restroom includes an accessible stall, running water, and child-sized changing tables.



2

Hollowell Park

Elevation: 8,300 feet (2,530 m)

Visitors are required to have Timed Entry+ passes for peak hours of the day during summer. This is a great area for picnicking. This area is generally less busy and is on the Bear Lake shuttle route.

Directions

On Bear Lake Road, 3.8 miles southwest of the Bear Lake Road and US 36 intersection.

Parking

Unstriped paved parking lot with no designated accessible spaces

Restrooms

- 2 single-user vault toilets

Paths

Paths to the picnic tables are made of compacted gravel, and the edges of the paths are marked with logs. The picnic tables are on compacted gravel.

Picnic Area

There are picnic tables in two areas next to the parking lot with views of the surrounding meadow. All picnic tables have an extended top, though some do not have enough room under the extension for someone in a wheelchair. Some of the picnic tables are in the shade. No grills are provided.

Barriers

- The compacted gravel paths and picnic areas can be uneven and impacted by weather.



3

Sprague Lake

Elevation: 8,690 feet (2,649 m)

Sprague Lake offers scenic views of an alpine lake with mountain peaks in the distance. It is a popular place to go fishing and have a picnic. Visitors are required to have Timed Entry+ passes for peak hours of the day during summer.

Directions

On Bear Lake Road, about 6 miles from the Bear Lake Road and US 36 intersection.

Parking

- 3 accessible spaces
- 1 van-accessible space

Restrooms

- Summer: restrooms with accessible stalls and running water
- Rest of the year: 2 single-user vault toilets

Picnic Area

- 25 picnic tables with extended tops
- 19 fire rings/grills
- Paths are made of compacted gravel, 36 inches wide, and mostly flat and level.

Sprague Lake Trail

Stunning views of the Continental Divide and an excellent place to view wildlife. Moose are frequently spotted here, especially at dawn and dusk. There are numerous benches along the trail and a fishing pier (marked on the map).

Trail Information

- Length: 0.8 miles
- Surface: compacted gravel, boardwalks
- Average width: 65 inches
- Minimum width: 40 inches
- Average running slope: <3%
- Maximum running slope: 11%
- Average cross slope: 3%
- Maximum cross slope: 14.6%

Barriers

- 3-inch rise from the trail to the bridges, fishing pier, and boardwalks
- large puddles after rain
- snow and ice on the trail sometimes through mid-June
- 5-foot section with several protruding rocks and tree roots approximately 0.3 miles from the trailhead when going counterclockwise around the lake.

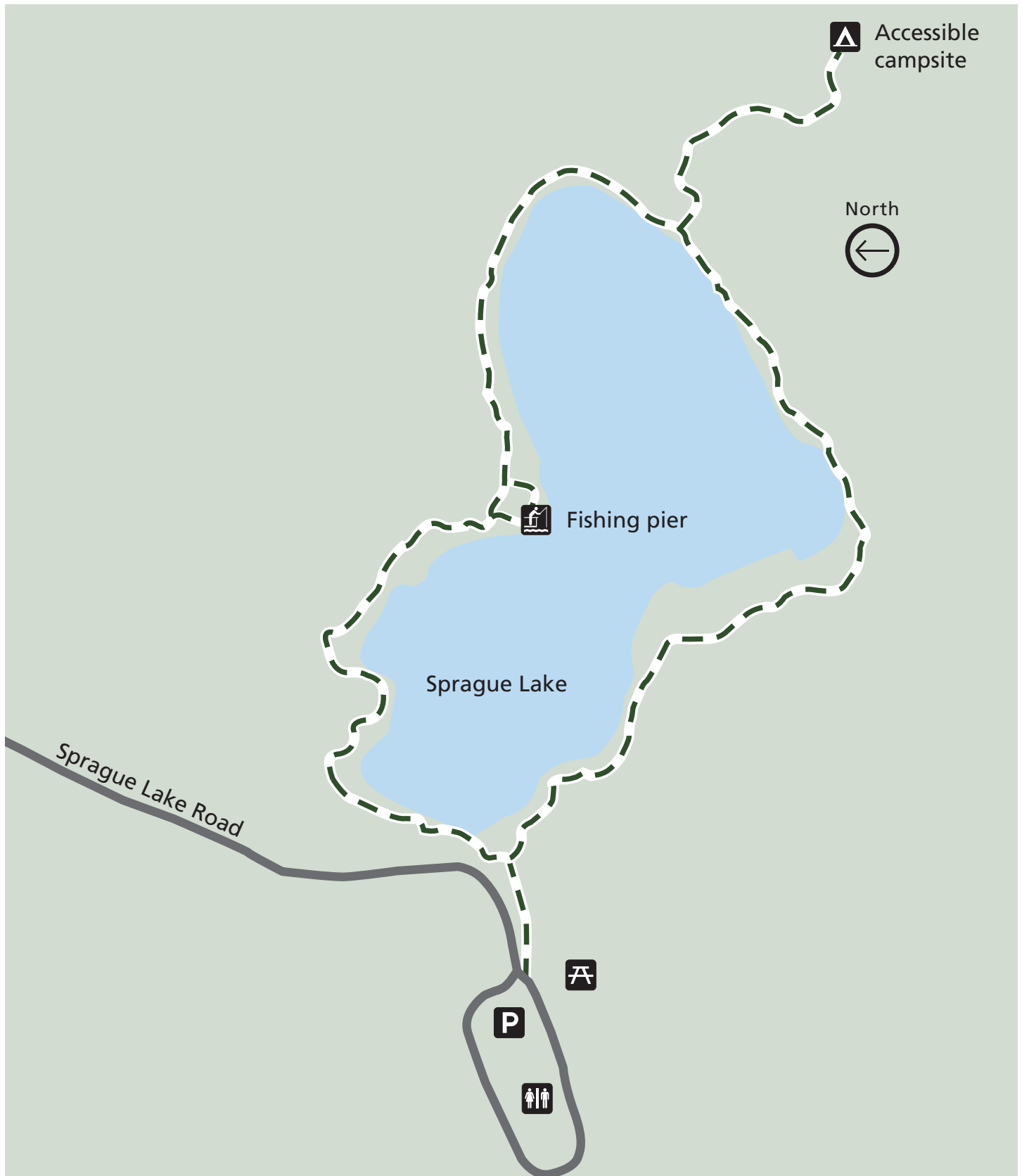
Fishing Pier

- Located 0.25 miles from the trailhead when going clockwise around the lake
- 20 feet long by 7 feet wide

Sprague Lake Accessible Campsite

There is an accessible backcountry campsite (marked on the map below) approximately 0.5 miles from the trailhead when going clockwise around the lake. Reservations are required.

Sprague Lake Trail Map



4

Bear Lake

Elevation: 9,475 feet (2,888 m)

Bear Lake is one of the most popular destinations in the park. Visitors are required to have Timed Entry+ passes for peak hours of the day during summer.

Directions

At the end of Bear Lake Road, about 9 miles from where it intersects with US 36.

Parking

- 5 accessible spaces
- 2 van-accessible spaces

Restrooms

- 8 single-user vault toilets at the trailhead
- The toilets closest to the trailhead have the least steep slope to enter (<3.5%).



Bear Lake Loop Trail

This is the most popular hike in Rocky Mountain National Park. The trail leads you around a small mountain lake, giving you several stunning views of the surrounding mountains. A section of the trail enters the subalpine zone.

Mobility Devices: Please be aware the Bear Lake Loop Trail is not designed for mobility devices. The trail has many barriers including log steps and steep running and cross slopes.

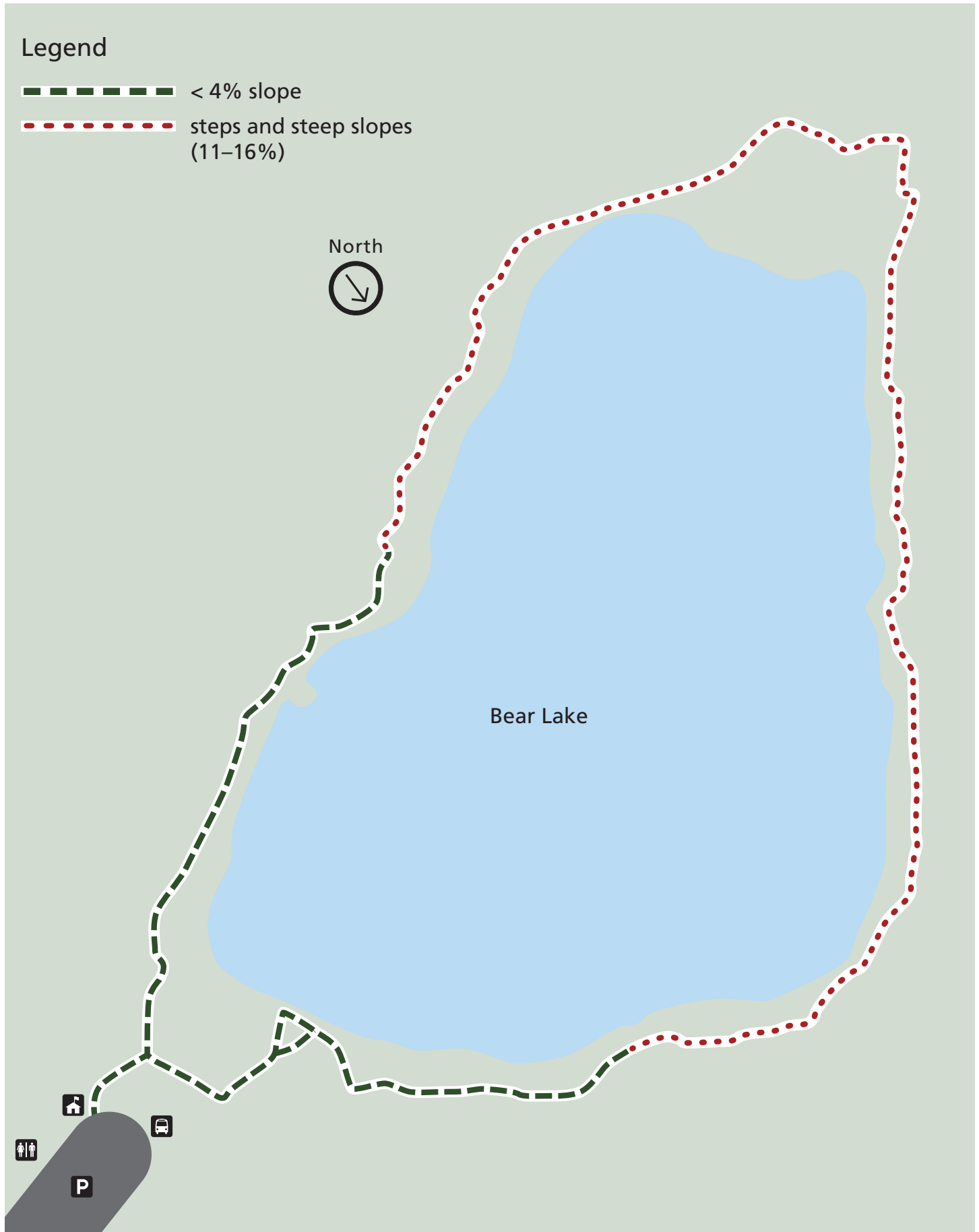
Trail Information

- Length: 0.6 miles
- Surface: firm packed gravel, wooden bridges
- Average width: 60 inches
- Minimum width: 32 inches
- Average running slope: 5.3%
- Maximum running slope: 23% for 125 feet
- Average cross slope: 3.7%
- Maximum cross slope: 25.7% for 12 feet



Barriers

- 25 log steps
- 3-inch rise from the trail to the wooden bridges
- large puddles after rain
- snow and ice on the trail sometimes through mid-June

Bear Lake Loop Trail Map



Legend

-  < 4% slope
-  steps and steep slopes (11-16%)

North



Bear Lake

5

Lily Lake

Elevation: 8,931 feet (2,722 m)

Visitors are required to have Timed Entry passes for peak hours of the day during summer.

Directions

Off US 7 approximately 6 miles south of Estes Park

Parking

There are two parking lots: a smaller one next to the trail and a larger lot across the highway. There is a crosswalk with flashing signs to cross the highway.

Smaller Lot

- 1 accessible space
- 1 van-accessible space

Larger Lot

- dirt lot
- no designated spaces

Restrooms

- 2 single-user vault toilets

Lily Lake Trail

This trail has stunning views of Longs Peak and is a great place to view wildlife and birdwatch. The trail takes you through a wetland area. There are benches along the trail as well as a viewing pier.

Trail Information

- Length: 0.8 miles
- Surface: compacted gravel and boardwalks
- Average width: 72 inches
- Minimum width: 24 inches for 12 feet due to vegetation at certain times of year, 42 inches for 18 feet due to terrain
- Average running slope: <5%
- Maximum running slope: 10%
- Average cross slope: 4%
- Maximum cross slope: 6%

Barriers

- three-inch rise from the trail to the bridges, fishing pier, and boardwalk
- large puddles after rain

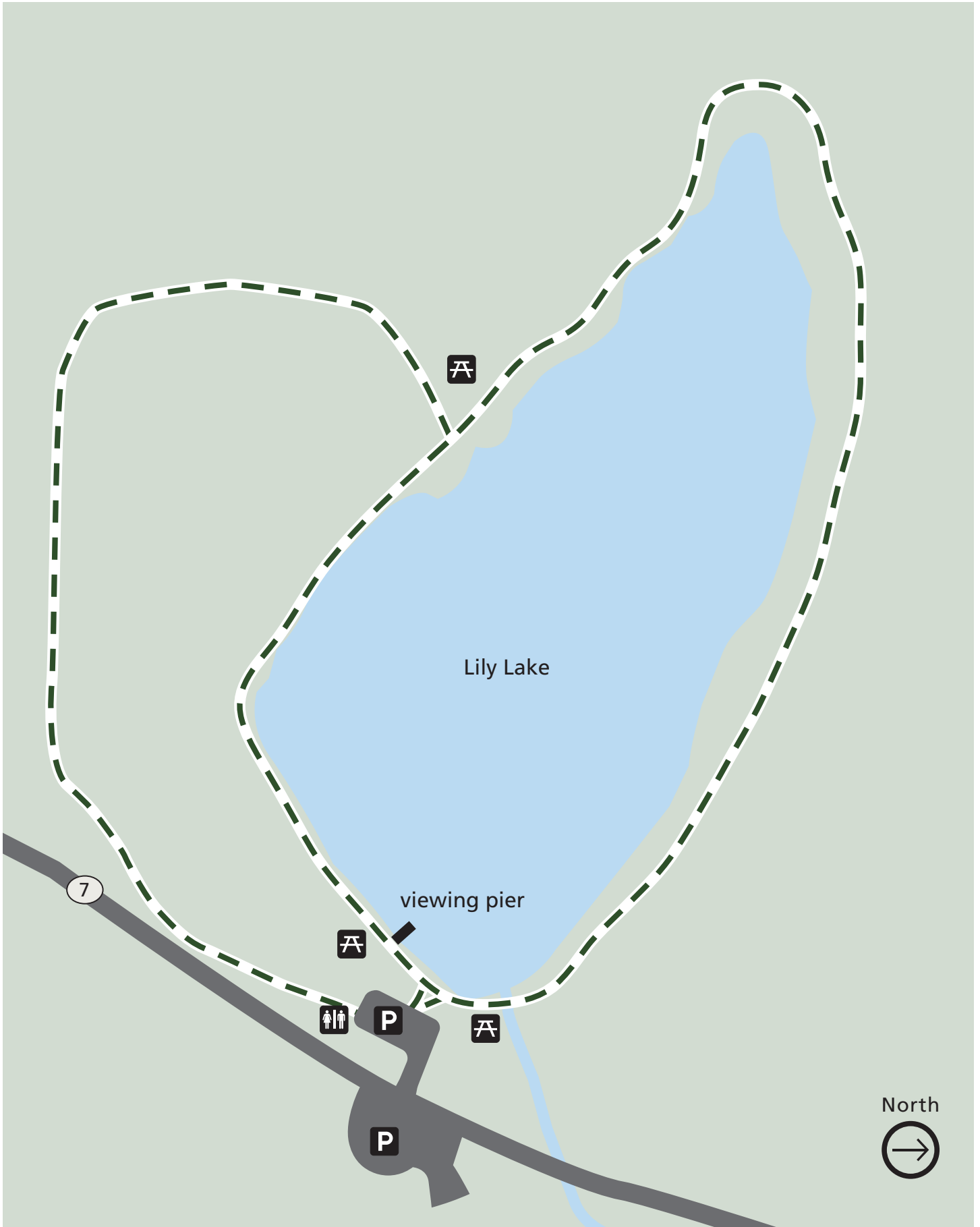
Picnic Area

- 3 picnic tables with extended tops within the first 0.2 miles of the trail
- Paths to the picnic tables are at least 36 inches wide, mostly flat and level, and made of compacted gravel.

Viewing Pier

- Near the parking lot, there is a pier with a low railing.
- The pier is 8 feet wide by 12 feet long.

Lily Lake Trail Map



6 Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

Elevation: 7,840 feet (2,390 m)

Watch the park film in English and with Spanish translation. The large interactive map and theater on the lower level are reachable by lift. Open year-round.

Directions

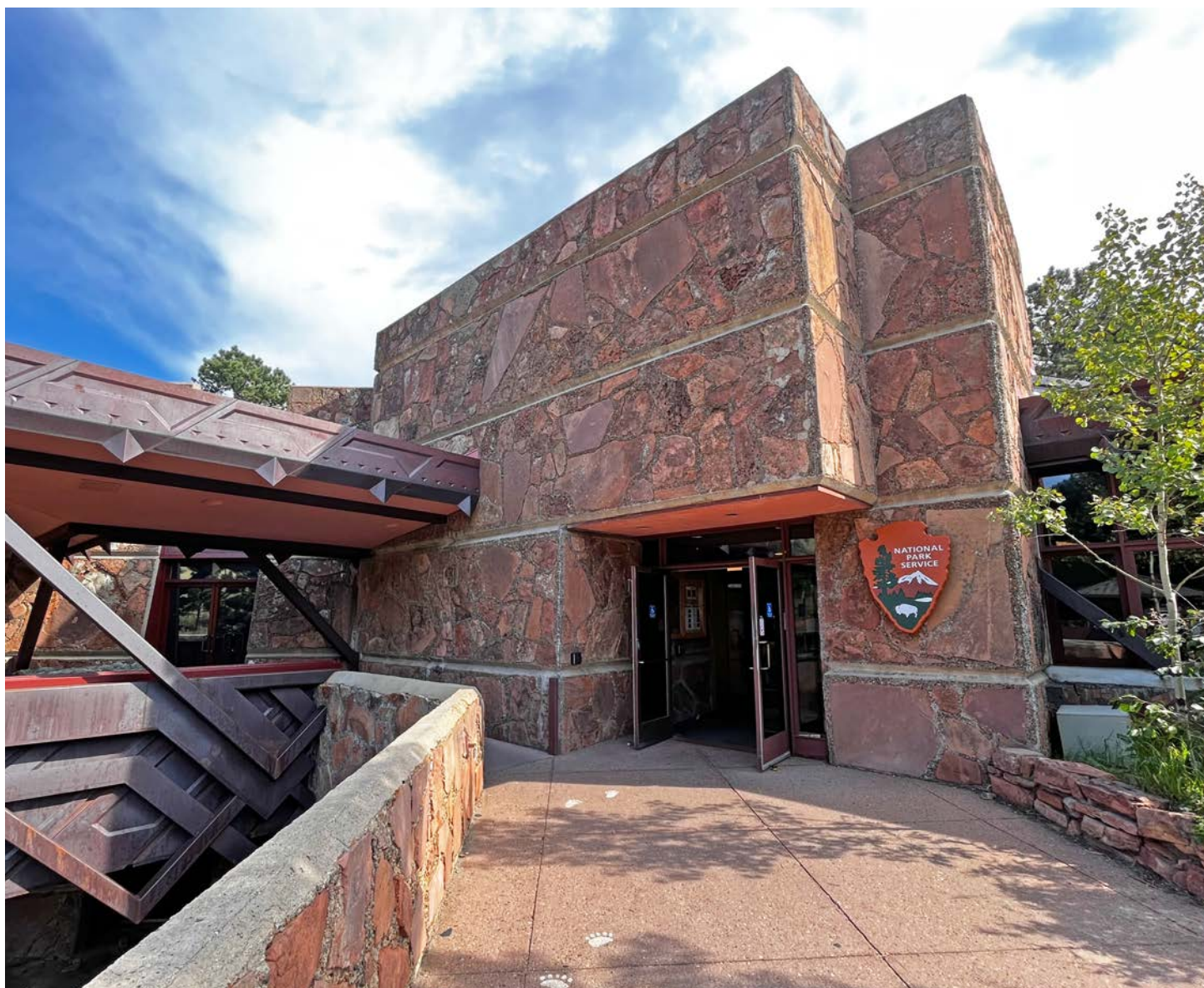
1000 US Highway 36
Estes Park, CO 80517

Parking

3 accessible spaces
1 van-accessible space

Restrooms

Restrooms are located outside the visitor center. Additional restrooms are available on the lower level of the visitor center. All restrooms have flush toilets and running water.



7 Fall River Visitor Center

Elevation: 8,250 feet (2,515 m)

Learn about the seasons at the park and the animals that call this area home with full-scale bronze models and some taxidermy animals. Open year-round.

Directions

3450 Fall River Road (US 34)
Estes Park, CO 80517

Parking

- 5 accessible spaces

Restrooms

Restrooms with running water are available at the gift store next to the visitor center. A sidewalk connects the visitor center with the gift shop.



8

Sheep Lakes

Elevation: 8,524 feet (2,598 m)

Sheep Lakes consists of two small bodies of water with a stunning view of Endovalley. This is an excellent place to view wildlife. Bighorn sheep are common during the daytime, moose visit during dawn and dusk, and elk can be seen anytime. There are benches just off the parking lot to sit and enjoy the view. The meadow itself is closed in summer to protect wildlife.

Directions

From Fall River Entrance Station, follow Fall River Road (US 34) for about 2 miles. Just beyond the opening of a large meadow, there is a pull-off for Sheep Lakes.

Parking

- 1 accessible space
- 1 van-accessible space

Restrooms

There are no restrooms here. The nearest vault toilet is 3 miles west on Fall River Road at Lawn Lake Trailhead.

Barriers

- This area is popular, and parking is limited.
- Benches are made of natural logs and are sometimes on uneven surfaces.



9

Alluvial Fan

Elevation: 8,610 feet (2,624 m)

Directions

Drive two miles west on Trail Ridge Road (US 34) from the Fall River entrance station. Turn onto Endovalley Road and drive 0.75 miles to the west parking lot for the Alluvial Fan Trail, passing the east parking lot on the way.

Parking

- 1 accessible space
- 1 van-accessible space
- There is additional parking in the east Alluvial Trail lot.

Restrooms

- 2 single-user vault toilets

Picnic Area

- Picnic tables on gravel pads. A hardened, crushed stone trail leads to the picnic area.
- 5 picnic tables with extended tops near the accessible parking spaces
- 2 other picnic tables with extended tops near the western end of the parking lot

West Alluvial Fan Trail

The alluvial fan is a beautiful cascade of water flowing down through a boulder field. The trail offers access along the Roaring River and provides stunning views of the Mummy Range, Horseshoe Falls, and Endovalley.

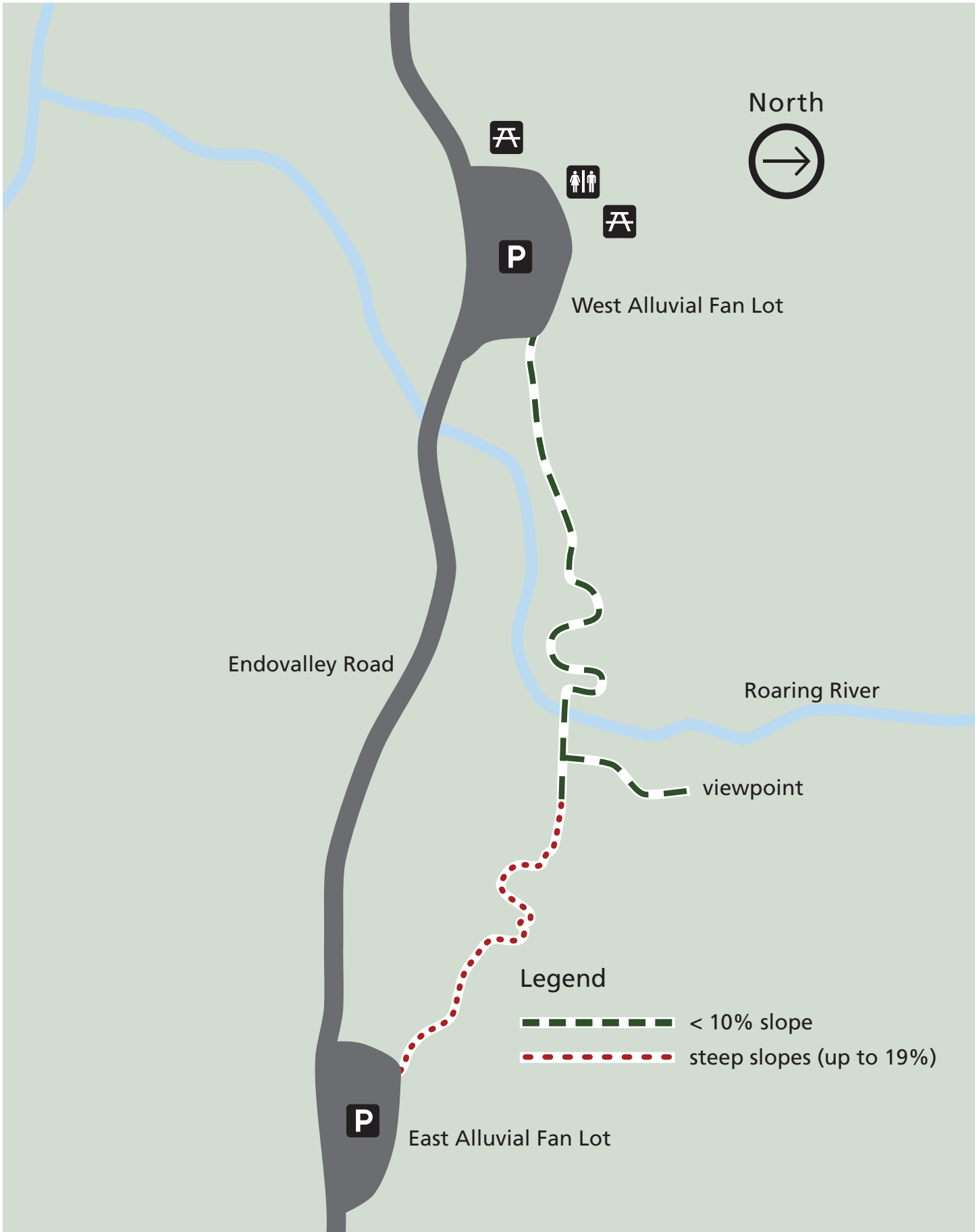
Trail Information

- Length: 0.3 miles from the parking lot to viewing area and back
- Surface: paved with permeable gravel and a wooden bridge
- Average width: 60 inches
- Minimum width: 54 inches for 25 feet
- Average running slope: 6%
- Maximum running slope: 10% for 12 feet
- Average cross slope: 2%
- Maximum cross slope: 3% for 6 feet

Barriers

- The trail leads to a view of the waterfall and connects the west and east parking lot.
- The trail starting from the east parking lot has a very steep section where the slope exceeds 19%. This is not recommended for those with mobility devices.
- From the west trailhead, there is a 12-foot section where the grade is 10%.

Alluvial Fan Trail Map



10

Endovalley Picnic Area

Elevation: 8,638 feet (2,633 m)

There are many private picnic areas within this area. This is a great place to have a picnic in the sun or shade along a stream with fishing access.

Directions

Drive 2 miles west on Trail Ridge Road (US 34) from the Fall River entrance station. Turn onto Endovalley Road and drive 2 miles to the intersection of Old Fall River Road and Endovalley Road. Keep left on Endovalley Road, and you will arrive at the picnic area.

Parking

- 2 van-accessible spaces; near the most accessible locations for picnicking
- gravel and dirt lot

Restrooms

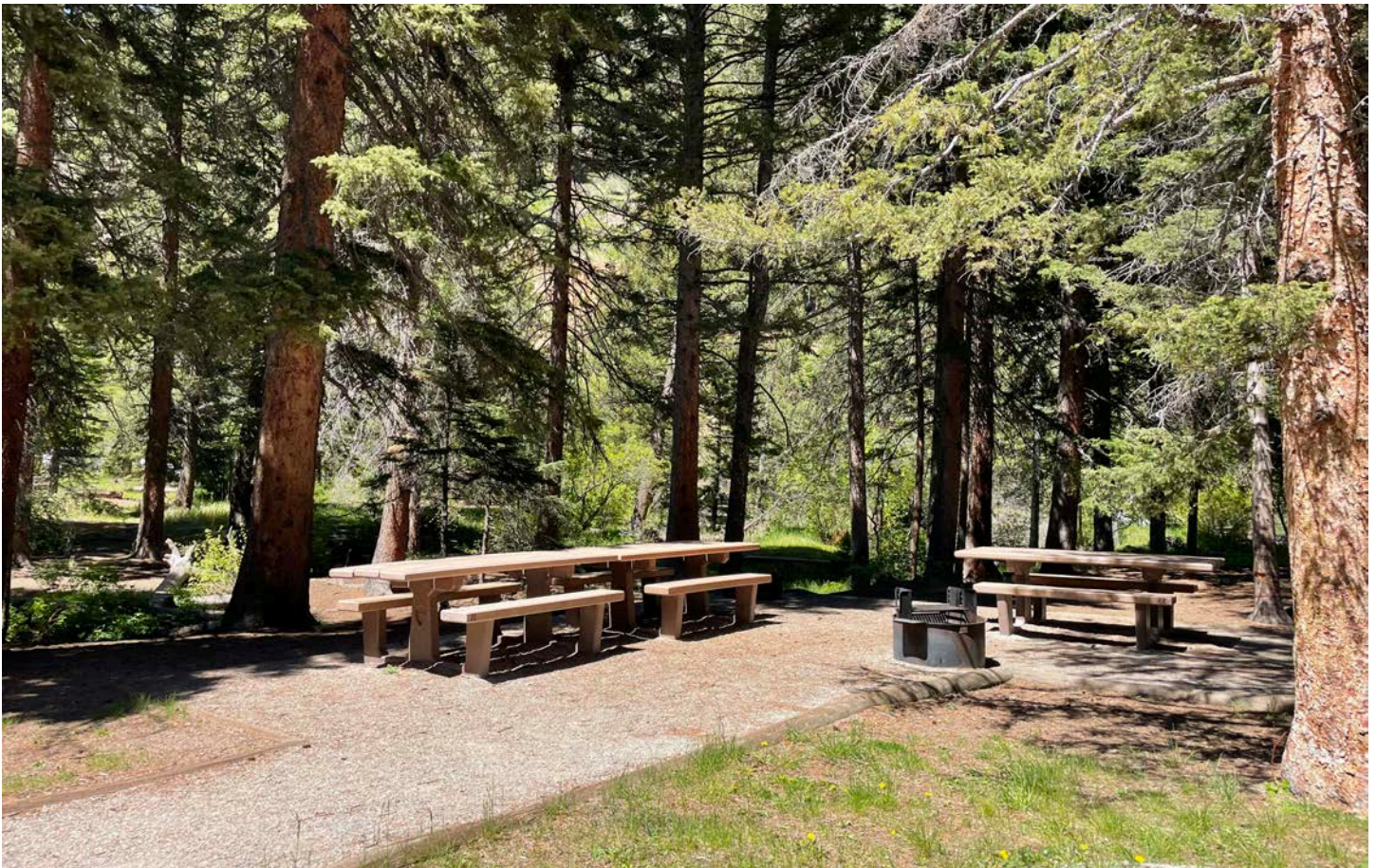
- 4 single-user vault toilets

Barriers

- To get close to the water, you may need to cross over uneven earth and tree roots.

Picnic Area

- The sites with easier access are on the south side of the loop, nearest to the accessible parking.
- Picnic tables have extended tops and raised fire rings with grills.



11

Beaver Boardwalk

Elevation: 9,016 feet (2,748 m)

This 350-foot long boardwalk and asphalt trail leads to an overlook. The trail is surrounded by willows and a stream. This is a common place to see wildlife, especially at dawn and dusk. There are benches at the end of the trail.

Directions

On Trail Ridge Road (US 34) between Deer Ridge Junction and Hidden Valley.

Parking

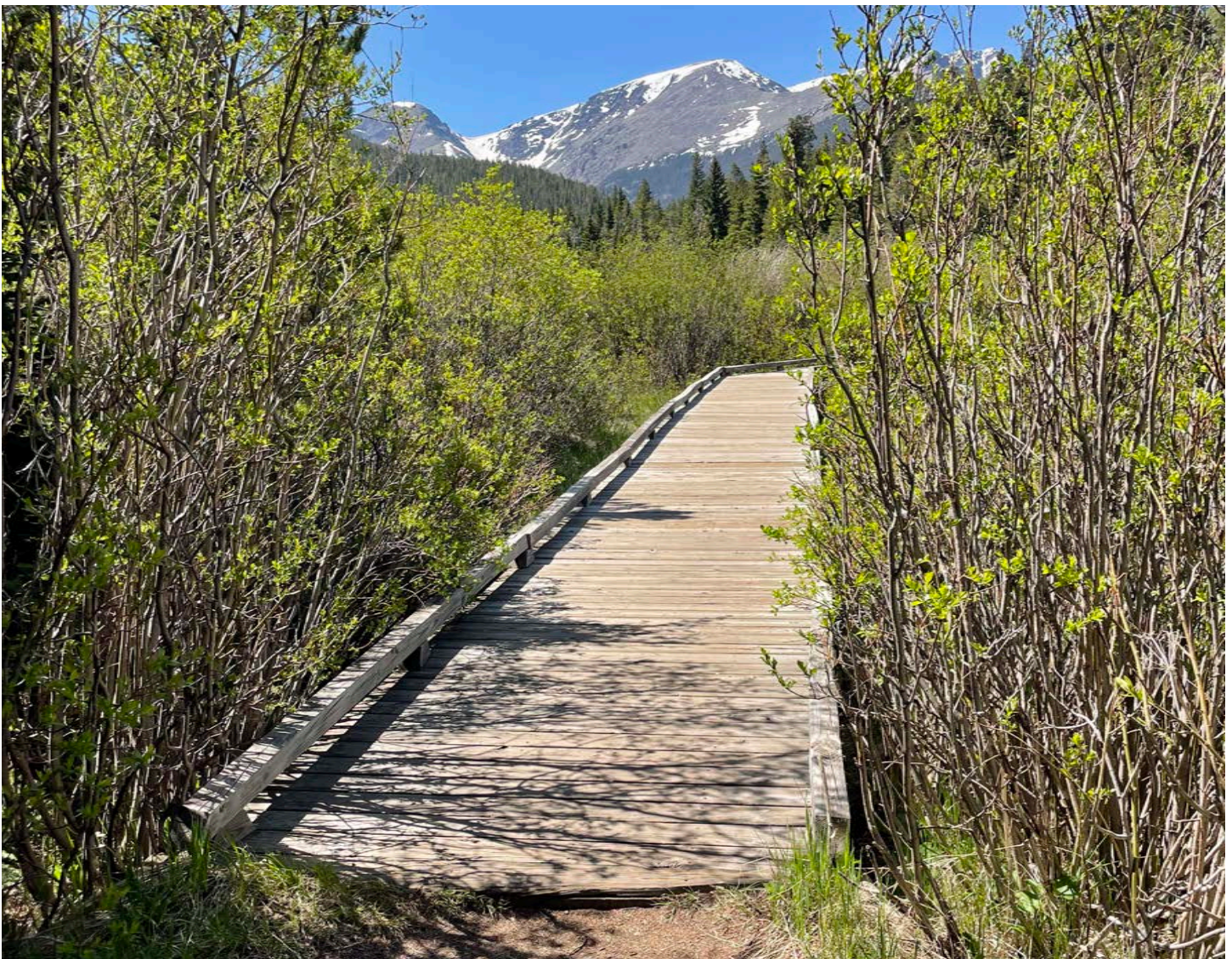
This is a pull-off with no designated parking spaces. The pull-off is located on the north side of the highway (on the right, when traveling westbound). There is room for approximately 6 vehicles.

Restrooms

No restrooms available. The closest restrooms are 1 mile west at Hidden Valley.

Barriers

- 4-inch rise from the paved path to the boardwalk



Hidden Valley

Elevation: 9,240 feet (2,816 m)

Directions

On Trail Ridge Road (US 34) between Deer Ridge Junction and Many Parks Curve.

Parking

- 4 accessible spaces
- 1 van-accessible space

Restrooms and Drinking Fountain

- open year-round
- flush toilets, sinks, and child-size changing tables
- an accessible stall in each restroom
- 2 drinking fountains; one has a bottle filling station

Picnic Area

All picnic tables in the area have extended tops. There are:

- 4 picnic tables under a covered pavilion by the parking lot
- 6 picnic tables on gravel pads along the trail
- 4 picnic tables on gravel pads on the path between the pavilion and the trailhead

The paths in the picnic area are at least 36 inches wide, mostly flat and level, and made of compacted gravel.

Hidden Valley Nature Trail

Travel through the forest along a creek through the subalpine ecosystem. There are benches along the way. There is a bridge halfway along the trail marking the connection of the lower and upper loops.

Trail Information

- Length: 0.35 miles
 - lower loop: 0.2 miles
 - upper loop: 0.15 miles
- Surface: packed gravel and wooden bridges
- Average width: 60 inches
- Minimum width: 57 inches
- Average running slope: 6.5%
- Maximum running slope:
 - lower loop: 11%
 - upper loop: 14% for 18 feet
- Average cross slope: 3%
- Maximum cross slope: 13.5% for 12 feet

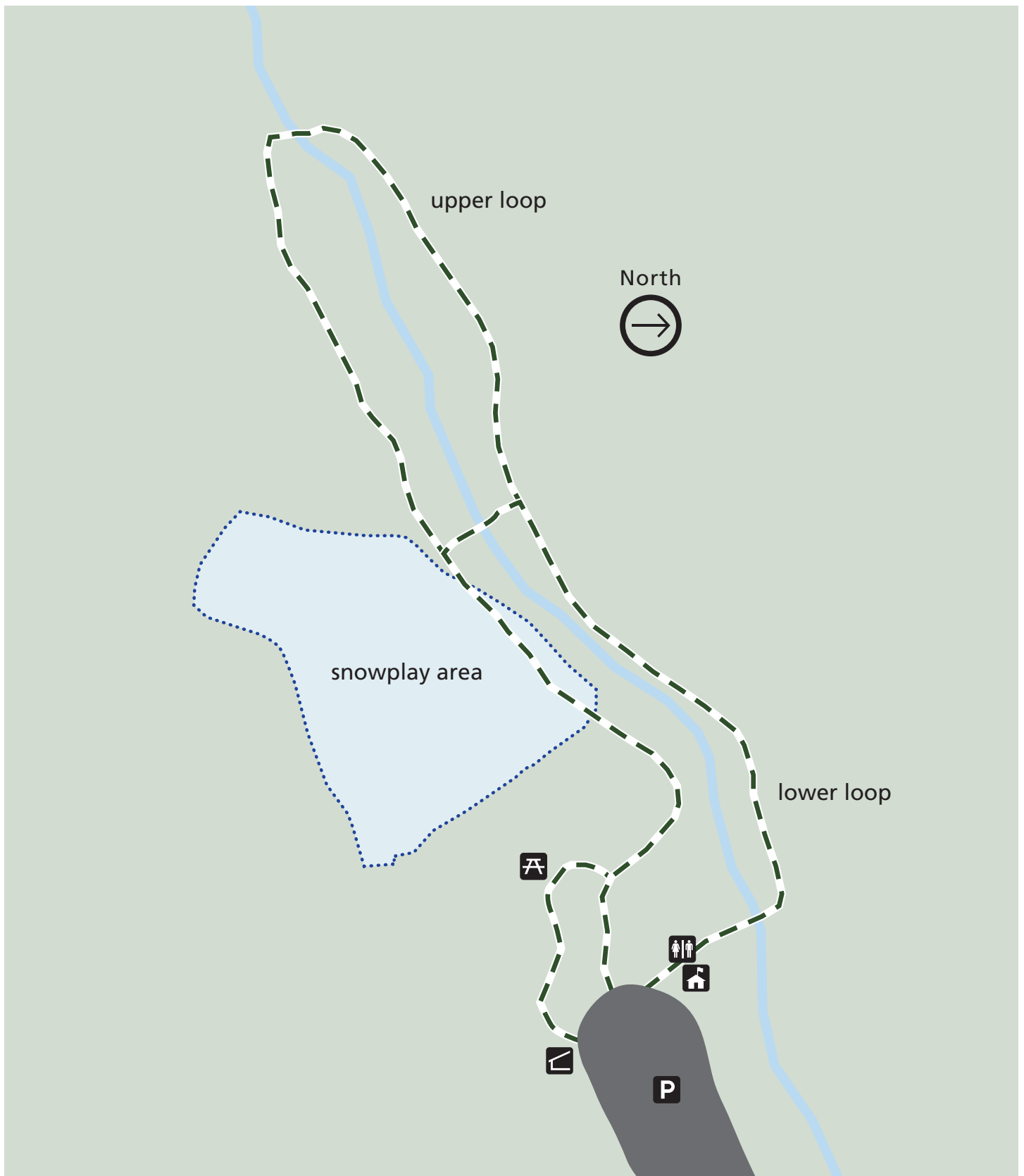
Barriers

- The three bridges are 60 inches wide. One has railings while the other two have small bumpers along the edges of the bridge.
- There are often large puddles after rain.
- In the winter, hikers need to be cautious of sledgers and skiers crossing the trail.
- The trail is not plowed and has deeply compacted snow during the winter, which may make it impassible for those using mobility devices.

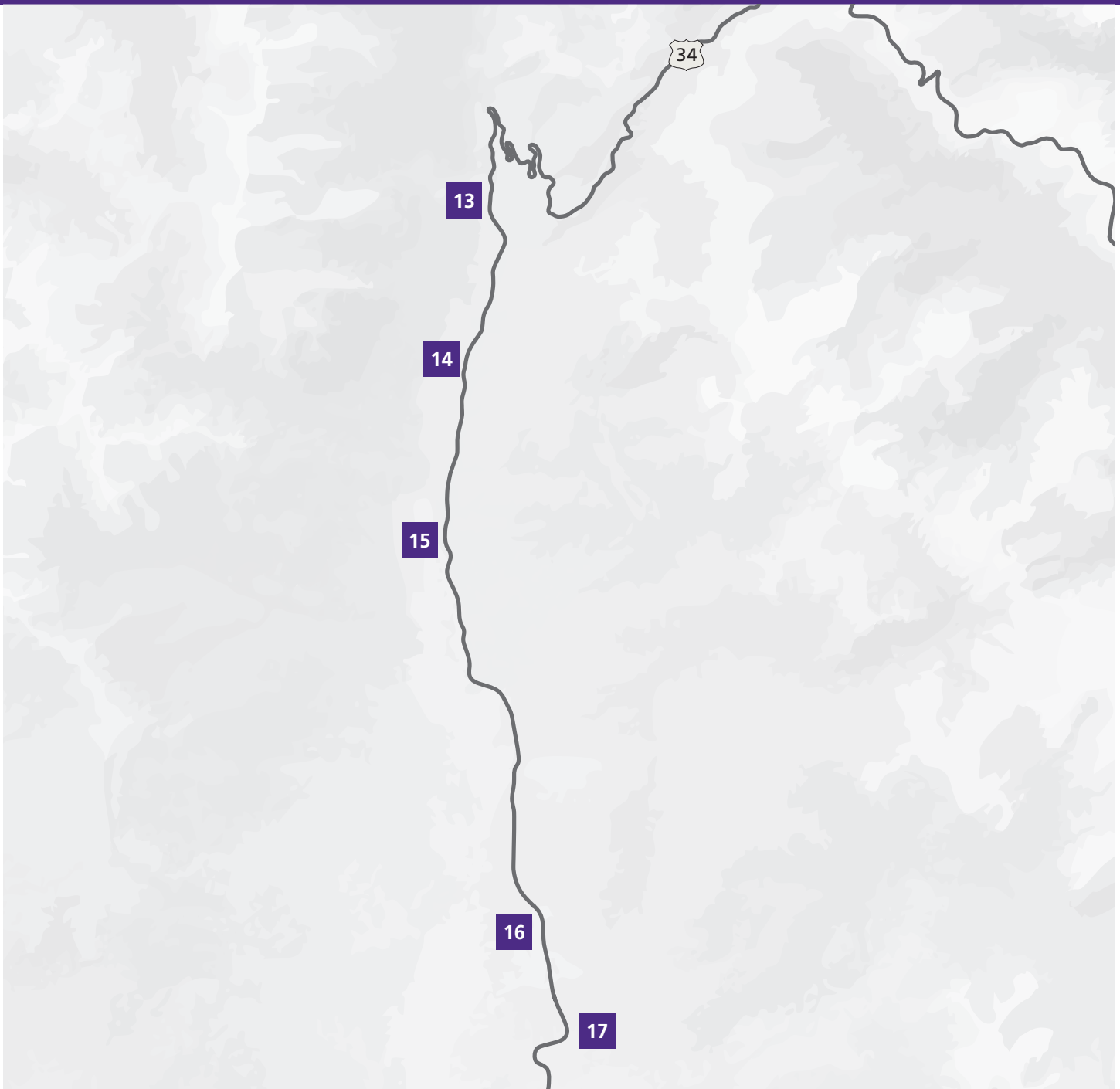
Winter Activities

This area is a popular place to sled, ski, and snowboard in the winter. The trail to the snowplay area has deeply compacted snow, which may make it impassible for those using mobility devices.

Hidden Valley Nature Trail Map



West Side



- 13** Colorado River Trailhead
- 14** Holzwarth Historic Site
- 15** Coyote Valley
- 16** Harbison Meadows Picnic Area
- 17** Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Colorado River Trailhead

Elevation: 9,010 feet (2,746 m)

This is the starting location for several hikes and has great areas for a picnic.

Directions

Drive 10 miles north on US 34 (Trail Ridge Road) from Kawuneeche Visitor Center. The trailhead is located between Timber Creek Campground and Farview Curve.

Parking

- 2 accessible parking spaces
- 1 van-accessible parking space
- RV parking

Restrooms

- 2 single-user vault toilets

Picnic Area

- 4 picnic tables with extended tops
- Some are in the shade; some are in the sun.

Barriers

- The picnic tables don't have specific paths leading to them, so you will have to cross over uneven earth and small tree roots.



Holzwarth Historic Site

Elevation: 8,905 feet (2,714 m)

The Holzwarth family homesteaded in the early 1900s. A cluster of cabins remains and include a guest ranch and trout farm. Here you can learn about the history of Kawuneeche Valley. There is one cabin by the parking lot. The rest of the site is down a path 0.45 miles from the parking lot. The grounds are open year-round.

Directions

Drive 7.6 miles north of Grand Lake Entrance Station on Trail Ridge Road (US 34).

Parking

- 2 accessible spaces

Restrooms

Parking Area

- 2 single-user vault toilets

Holzwarth Historic Site

- 1 single-user vault toilet

Picnic Area

- next to the parking lot
- 7 picnic tables with extended tops
- picnic tables are in the grass and require crossing uneven ground.

Trail Information

- Length: 0.9 miles
- Surface: compacted gravel
- Average width: 12.5 feet
- Minimum width: 10 feet
- Average running slope: 2% on the path to the historic site; 8% around the site
- Maximum running slope: 10% on the path to the historic site; 16% around the site
- Average cross slope: 2%
- Maximum cross slope: 6% on the path to the historic site; 11% around the site

Buildings

There are 12 cabins, 4 of which are open to the public. The other cabins can be viewed from the outside. Buildings are open for limited hours during the summer.

Cabins Open to the Public

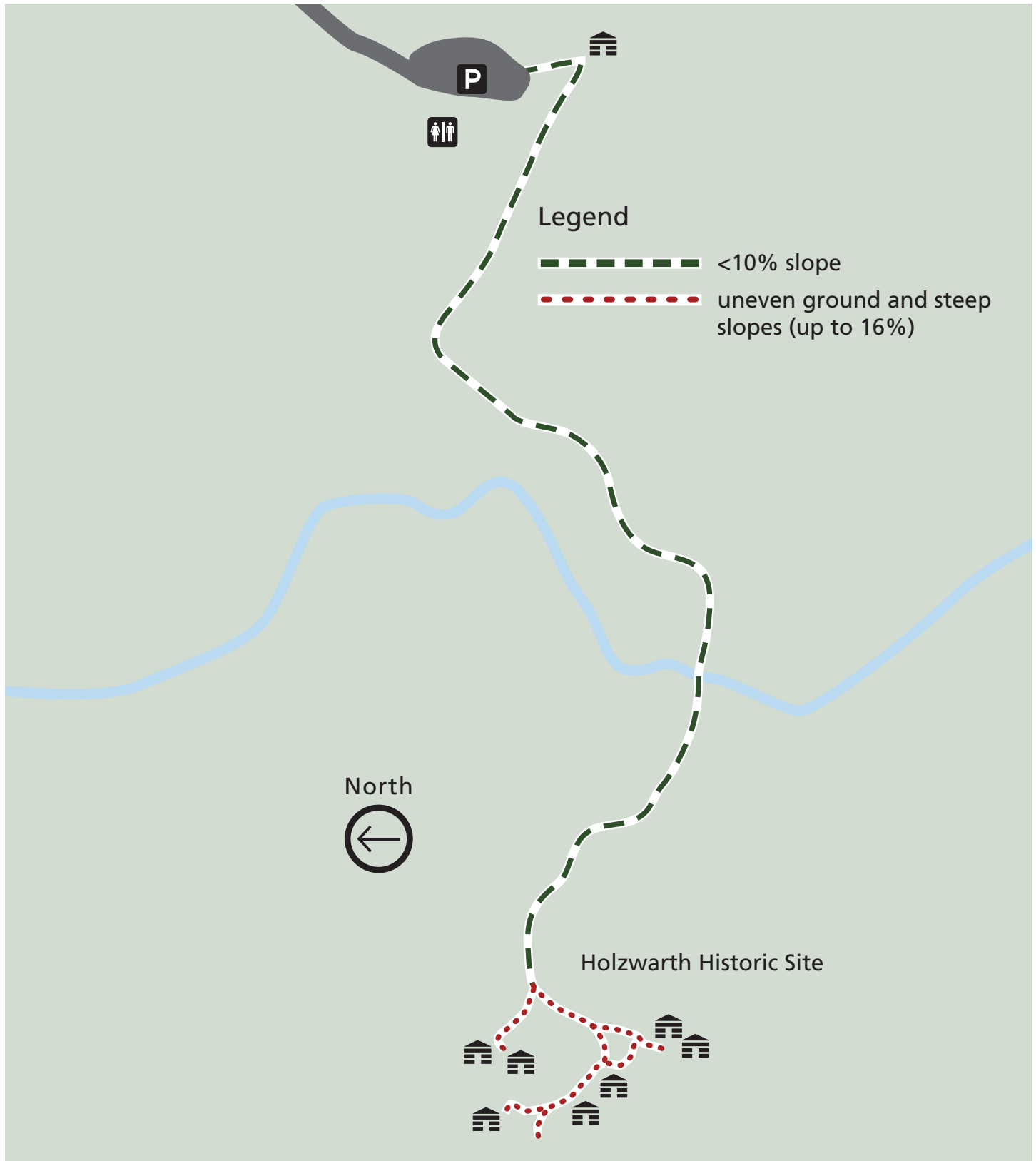
All cabins require climbing wooden steps to enter. The cabins also have narrow doorways and hallways and typically don't have electricity, making the interiors dim. There are artifacts and exhibits within these cabins.

- Fleshuts Cabin: Located next to the parking area. This cabin can be viewed from the outside and is occasionally open to the public.
- Mama Cabin
- Twin I
- Taxidermy Shop

Barriers

- Within the historic site, there are exposed rocks and tree roots in the paths.
- This area is very popular, and parking is limited.
- In winter, snowshoes or cross-country skis are required to reach the site.

Holzwarth Historic Site Trail Map



Coyote Valley

Elevation: 8,870 feet (2,704 m)

Coyote Valley includes a short, scenic trail and a picnic area. Located next to the Colorado River, the area offers expansive views and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Directions

6 miles north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center on Trail Ridge Road (US 34)

Parking

- 5 accessible spaces

Restrooms

- 2 single-user vault toilets

Picnic Areas

- A 0.1-mile side trail near the trailhead leads to a picnic area.
- 7 standard picnic tables

Coyote Valley Trail

This trail has stunning views of Kawuneeche Valley, Never Summer Mountains, and the Colorado River. There are excellent opportunities for seeing wildlife like moose, elk, beavers, and birds. There are benches and access to fishing.

Trail Information

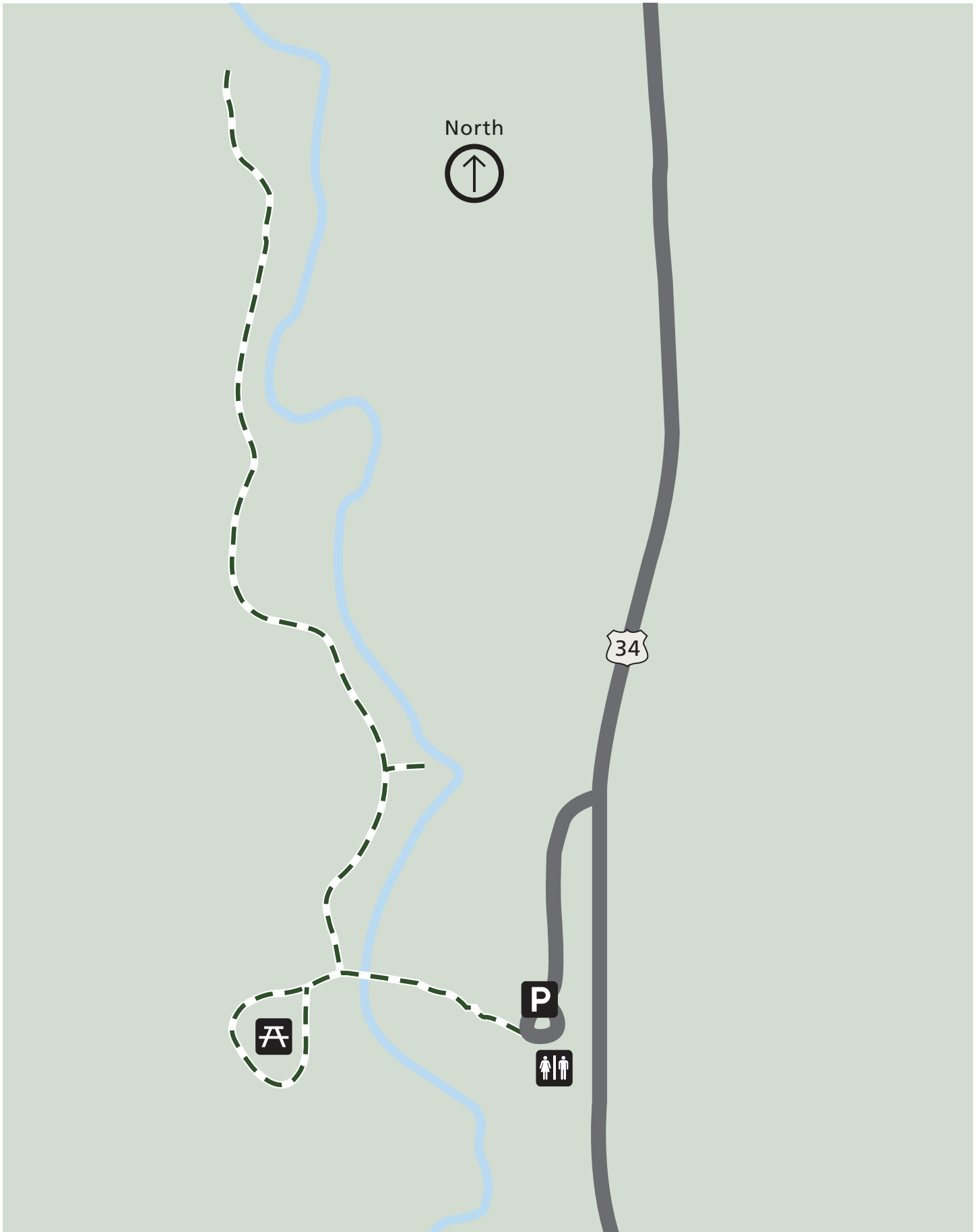
- Length: 1 mile
- Surface: compacted gravel and boardwalk
- Average width: 84 inches
- Minimum width: 48 inches
- Average running slope: 5%
- Maximum running slope: 10% for 10 feet
- Average cross slope: 3%
- Maximum cross slope: 9% for 6 feet

Barriers

- muddy spots throughout summer
- There is a 3-inch rise from the trail to the bridge.



Coyote Trail Map



Harbison Meadows Picnic Area

Elevation: 8,712 feet (2,655 m)

Directions

0.7 miles north of Grand Lake Entrance Station on Trail Ridge Road (US 34)

Parking

- 1 van-accessible space
- 5 RV / horse trailer spaces

Restrooms

- 2 single-user vault toilets

Picnic Area

This area offers expansive views of the lower Kawuneeche Valley and the distant Gore Mountains. Occasionally moose and other wildlife are nearby.

- Two picnic tables with extended tops under a pavilion. The 30-foot gravel path leading to the pavilion is 36 inches wide
- Three picnic tables with extended tops in the grassy meadow. There is no path to these tables.
- No grills are available at this location.

Barriers

- In winter, the parking lot is plowed, but the picnic tables may be covered in several feet of snow.



Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Elevation: 8,720 feet (2,658 m)

Learn about the natural and cultural history through exhibits, ask questions at the information desk, watch the park movie, or pick up a souvenir at the gift shop. Pick up backcountry permits from the Wilderness Office here.

Directions

16018 Trail Ridge Road (US 34)
Grand Lake, CO 80447

Parking

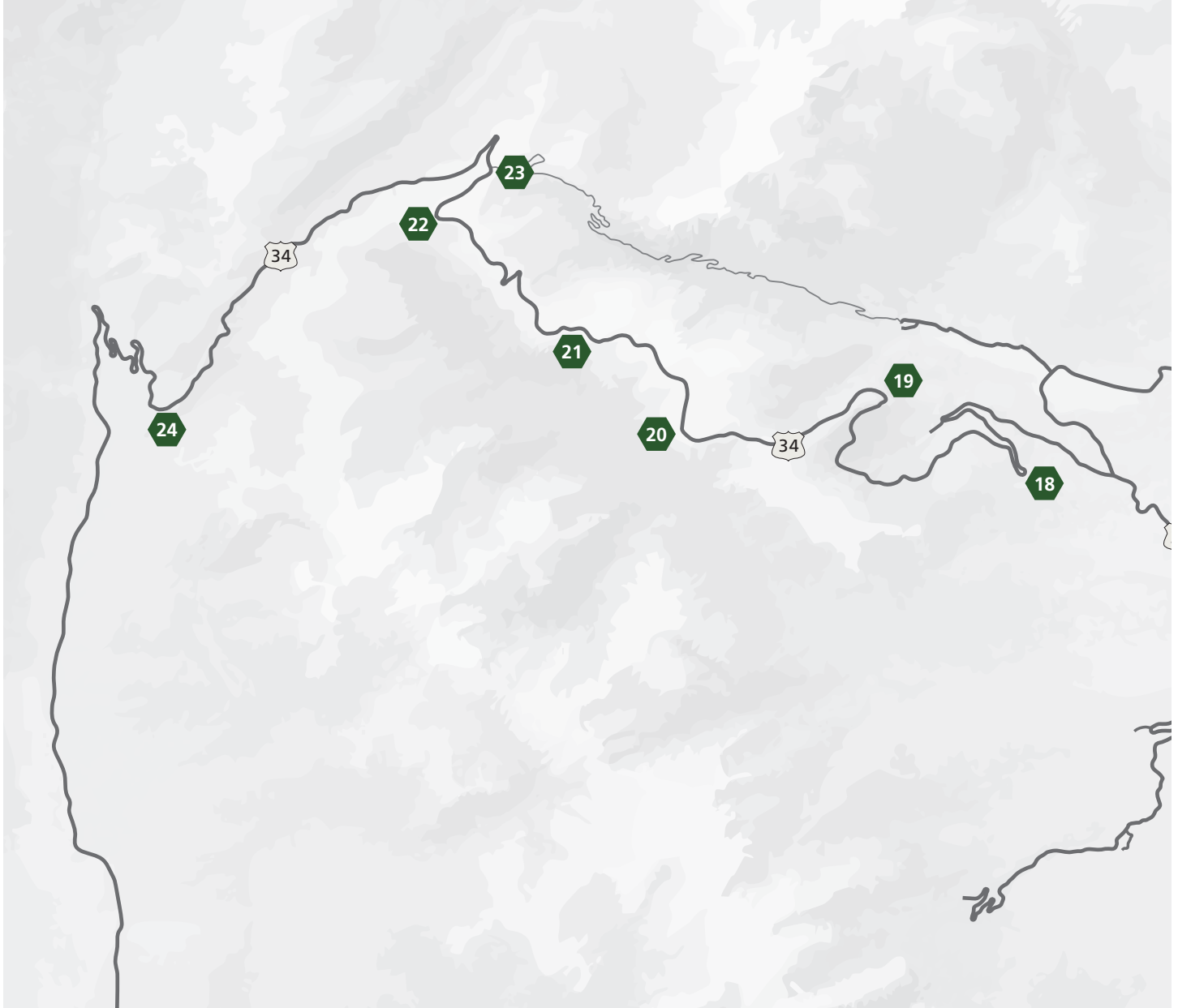
- 1 accessible space
- 1 van-accessible space

Restrooms

Restrooms with flush toilets are located outside of the visitor center, next to the parking lot.



Alpine Tundra Area



- 18** Many Parks Curve
- 19** Rainbow Curve
- 20** Forest Canyon
- 21** Rock Cut
- 22** Gore Range
- 23** Alpine Visitor Center
- 24** Farview Curve



Many Parks Curve

Elevation: 9,625 feet (2,934 m)

This popular overlook has expansive views of the park and surrounding lands.

Directions

1.2 miles west of Hidden Valley on Trail Ridge Road (US 34)

Parking

There are two parking areas: the lower lot and the upper lot. You can get to the overlook from either parking area.

Lower Lot

The lower lot can only be accessed when traveling east on Trail Ridge Road. If you use a mobility device or have limited mobility, it is easier to reach the overlook from the lower lot.

- 1 accessible space

Route from the lower lot to the boardwalk:

- Length: 76 feet
- Running slope: < 6%
- Cross slope: < 5%

Upper Lot

The upper lot can only be accessed when traveling west on Trail Ridge Road. To get to the overlook, use the crosswalk.

- 1 accessible space

Route from the upper lot to the boardwalk:

- Length: 188 feet
- Running slope: 4–16%
- Cross slope: up to 8%

Restrooms

There are no restrooms here. The nearest restroom is either 2 miles west at Rainbow Curve or 2 miles east at Hidden Valley.

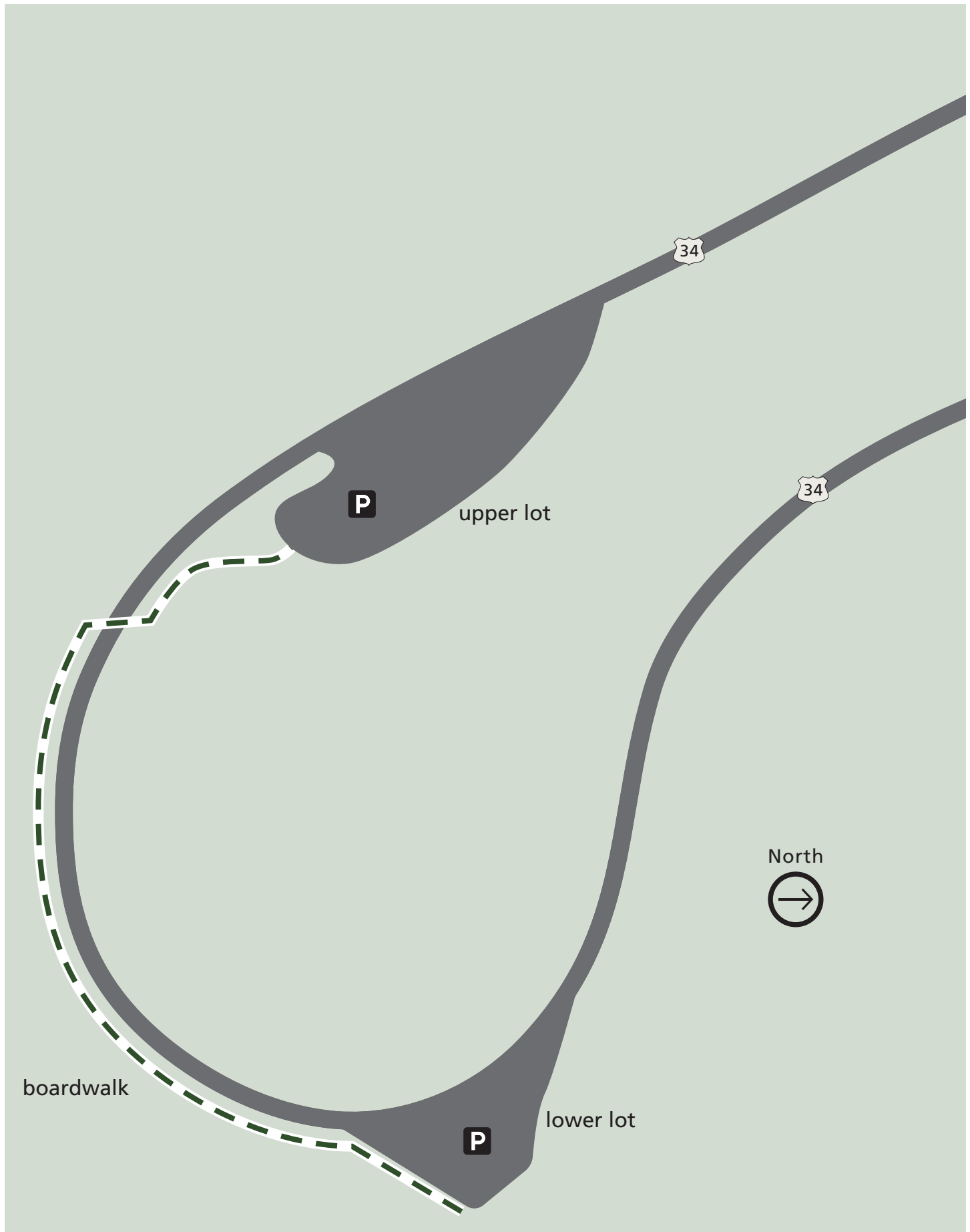
Boardwalk

- Length: 500 feet
- Width: 64 inches
- Running slope: 6–9%
- Cross slope: < 2%
- There are no flat resting areas on the boardwalk.

Barriers

- From the lower lot, the curb cut is on the south end of the boardwalk and has a 2-inch rise.
- From the upper lot, the path to the crosswalk is very steep with a running slope up to 16% while having a cross slope up to 8%.

Many Parks Curve Map



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Rainbow Curve

Elevation: 10,829 feet (3,301 m)

This overlook is located where the alpine and subalpine ecosystems meet. From here, you can see Horseshoe Park, Deer Mountain, the Alluvial Fan, and Mummy Mountain Range. Rainbows are often seen here. This is a popular location and can be busy.

Directions

1.9 miles west of Many Parks Curve on Trail Ridge Road (US 34). It is recommended that visitors only access the area while traveling west on Trail Ridge Road as otherwise you'll need to cross oncoming traffic.

Parking

The two accessible parking spaces are southwest of the restroom building. When traveling westbound on Trail Ridge Road, the accessible parking spaces are before the main parking area.

Restrooms

- 4 single-user vault toilets

Paths

There is a sidewalk around the parking lot.

- Surface: concrete and some asphalt
- Width: 54–60 inches
- Running slope: < 5%
- Cross slope: 2–7.5%
- The curb cut is next to the accessible parking spaces.

Barriers

- The 30-foot section of asphalt sidewalk has steeper cross slopes.
- There are no flat resting areas on the sidewalk.



Forest Canyon

Elevation: 11,716 feet (3,571 m)

This overlook provides access to the tundra environment and views into Forest Canyon and its tributaries. This is a popular location. There are benches on the path and at the overlook.

Mobility Devices: Please be aware Forest Canyon is not designed for mobility devices. The trail has many barriers including steep running and cross slopes.

Directions

3 miles west of Rainbow Curve and 2 miles east of Rock Cut on Trail Ridge Road (US 34)

Parking

- 2 accessible spaces

Restrooms

There are no restrooms here. The nearest restroom is located 2 miles west at Rock Cut.

Path to Overlook

- Length: 660 feet
- Surface: crumbling, uneven asphalt
- Average width: 60 inches
- Average running slope: 5.7%
- Maximum running slope: 14.5% for a large portion of the trail
- Average cross slope: 2%
- Maximum cross slope: 7.3%

Barriers

- The path is very uneven, especially along the edges.
- The path closest to the parking area has a very steep cross slope. The slope is better toward the center of the path.
- Benches along the trail may not be on level ground.
- There may be snow on the trail September through June.



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Rock Cut

Elevation: 12,110 feet (3,691 m)

This is one of the highest elevation overlooks in the park. The south side of the road has views of Forest Canyon and mountains.

Directions

2 miles west of Forest Canyon Overlook on Trail Ridge Road (US 34)

Parking

There are parking areas on both sides of the road. Accessible parking is only available in the lot on the north side of the road, close to the restroom buildings.

- 2 accessible spaces
- There is no accessible path between the two parking lots.

Restrooms

- 8 single-user vault toilets
- Toilets are in the lot on the north side of the road.
- Paths to the toilets have steep running and cross slopes.

Tundra Communities Trail

There are two places to start this trail from the parking lot on the north side of the road. The trail entrance on the right side of the parking lot is a sloped route. While it has a running slope of 14% at the beginning, it levels out farther along the trail. The trail entrance on the left side of the parking lot has stone steps, with up to a 12-inch rise.

Trail Information

- Length: 0.6 miles
- Surface: asphalt
- Average width: 70 inches
- Minimum width: 36 inches
- Average running slope: 7.6%
- Maximum running slope: 26.2%
- Average cross slope: 2.5%
- Maximum cross slope: 8.7%

Barriers

- No path connects the parking lots on the north and south sides of the road.
- Tundra Communities Trail is very steep, and those with mobility devices or with limited mobility may require assistance.



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Gore Range

Elevation: 12,018 feet (3,663 m)

This overlook has views of the Never Summer Mountains, the Gore Range, and Longs Peak, the highest peak in the park at 14,259 feet (4,346 m).

Directions

3 miles west of Rock Cut and 1 mile east of Alpine Visitor Center on Trail Ridge Road (US 34)

Parking

- 1 accessible space
- 1 van-accessible space

Restrooms

There are no restrooms here. The nearest restroom is located 1 mile west at Alpine Visitor Center.

Barriers

- There are sharp drop offs on the edges of the paths.



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Alpine Visitor Center

Elevation: 11,796 feet (3,595 m)

With a small, tactile map of the park, this is a great place to learn about and experience the alpine environment. Emergency medical services available. Nearby Trail Ridge Store has food and beverages. Closed in winter.

Directions

Located on Trail Ridge Road (US 34)

Parking

- 4 accessible spaces
- 1 van-accessible space

Restrooms

Vault toilets are available outside, across the parking area from the visitor center.



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Farview Curve

Elevation: 8,524 feet (2,598 m)

Directions

2 miles west of Milner Pass on Trail Ridge Road (US 34)

Parking

- 1 accessible space

Restrooms

There are no restrooms here. The nearest restroom is 2 miles east at Milner Pass.

Barriers

The curb ramp from the parking to the sidewalk is very steep at 16%. The landing area at the top of the curb cut is 44 inches wide. There is a trash can blocking the path right after the curb cut.



To share feedback about this guide, email us at: romo_information@nps.gov



www.nps.gov/romo
romo_information@nps.gov