



The official newspaper
of Rocky Mountain National Park

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to know

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Wilderness Comes to Rocky!

Rocky Mountain National Park Celebrates Wilderness Designation

In March of 2009 the Omnibus Public Land Management Act was signed by President Obama, which gave Rocky Mountain National Park an added layer of protection as designated wilderness. This wilderness designation includes roughly 95 percent of the park's backcountry. The journey began over thirty years ago in 1974,

when President Nixon recommended to Congress that much of the park be designated as wilderness. Congress had not enacted legislation to implement this recommendation. Per National Park Service policy, all parklands that have been formally recommended for wilderness are managed to preserve wilderness resources and character until the legislative process of wilderness designation has been completed.

Therefore, since the recommendation in 1974, park managers have been managing the park as wilderness. Many people over the years have supported this idea. It was jump started in recent years through the efforts of many including the park's gateway communities of Grand Lake and Estes Park. This designation is a great gift to present and future generations of park users. Wilderness status gives the public what it says it wants: "To Keep Rocky Wild." This status also ensures consistent management directed by law rather than policy, and protecting the park as wilderness promotes a sense of permanence.

When the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964, it set in motion a worldwide concept that has helped protect some of the earth's last remnants of lands where the wonder and beauty of nature is paramount. As defined by the Act – *a wilderness, in contrast to those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.*

"We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look it. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope." - Wallace Stegner, author, 1960

Wilderness and human interaction is often misunderstood. The wilderness concept was created by humans and greatly benefits humans. It is a place to discover and enjoy for both people who venture into wilderness and those who only dream of it. Primitive and unconfined types of recreation are encouraged. Visitors discover self-sufficiency, independence, spiritual values and inspiration. They enjoy the experience of challenge, risk, physical and mental health and develop outdoor skills and ethics. Wilderness is an open book in the world of education, as a classroom topic on how humans interact with the environment, or as an outdoor classroom where one can learn about nature firsthand.

Even if you never set foot in wilderness, it can overwhelm you. Aesthetics and the natural beauty protected by wilderness inspire art, music, and literature. The scenic value of wilderness is immeasurable. For many, a drive across Trail Ridge Road looking out at wilderness is the experience of a lifetime. Wilderness areas, through clean air, water and vast expanses of open space, which are so cherished these days, enhance our quality of life.

Wilderness is protected for, and is a part of, everyone. Whether you view from afar, walk within, write on paper, paint on canvas, dream at night, or think about wild places...take time to look around, discover and enjoy wilderness in your own special way.

Wilderness Frequently Asked Questions

Present road, water, and utility corridors, and all developed areas, are excluded from wilderness. Wilderness designation does not alter any current visitor activities or access within Rocky Mountain National Park, and allows visitors to utilize the park in the same ways and locations that they enjoyed prior to the official designation.

- Will the trails still be maintained? Yes, all 355 plus miles will be open.
- What about backcountry campsites? Yes, backcountry campsites will be available.
- Will the NPS be able to fight fires and manage for mountain pine beetles? Yes.
- Will the park be able to use helicopters when necessary and appropriate? Yes.
- Will I still be able to drive on park roads? Yes, all 92 miles of paved and 28 miles of unpaved roads will be open.

Walking On Tundra

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

To help preserve tundra:

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

The tiny plants thank you.



Park Phone Numbers and Website



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.



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



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

Visitor Centers

Park visitor centers are the places to find out what you need to know. All have knowledgeable staff, printed information on many topics, and great bookstores stocked with the best books for finding that perfect trail and learning what makes Rocky Mountain such an outstanding national park. Each visitor center has its own special features.



West of the Divide – Grand Lake Area

Kawuneeche Visitor Center

June 14 - September 7, open daily 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Features free movies, exhibits on wonders of the park, a bookstore, and backcountry permits.



Holzwarth Historic Site

June 14 - September 7, open daily 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 a.m.

Take a stroll around the 1920s dude ranch buildings. Educational trail guide and staff available.



East of the Divide – Estes Park Area

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

June 14 - August 29, open daily 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. August 30 - Sept. 7, open daily 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Features spectacular free park movie, bookstore, large park orientation map, and backcountry permits in an adjacent building.



Sheep Lakes Information Station

June 14 - August 15 open daily 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Good wildlife viewing can be found in Horseshoe Park.



Alpine Visitor Center

June 14 - September 7, open daily (weather permitting) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Features extraordinary views of alpine tundra, tundra displays, bookstore, adjacent gift shop and snack bar. Call 586-1206 for current road information.



Moraine Park Visitor Center

June 14 - September 7, open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Interactive exhibits on the past and present landscape, a nature trail and a bookstore.



Keep Wildlife Wild

Never feed wildlife. A fine may be issued to violators. Animals can kick, bite, or gore you. They can become dependent on human food and lose the ability to feed naturally. Wildlife also carry diseases which can be transmitted to humans, like rabies and plague. Photograph animals from the roadside.

Hunting is not allowed in Rocky Mountain National Park.

All firearms and weapons are prohibited unless they are being transported through the park in a vehicle. In such cases, firearms must be unloaded and rendered temporarily inoperable or packed, cased, or stored in a manner that will prevent their ready use. By definition, "unloaded" means there is no unexpended shell, cartridge, or projectile in any chamber or cylinder or in a clip or magazine.

Firearm regulations are currently under review and may be subject to change. Inquire for current regulations.

Pets



Pets are **prohibited** in all areas of Rocky Mountain National Park not accessible by motor vehicles, including all trails and meadows. Leashed pets (6' leash or less) are allowed in campgrounds, picnic areas and along roadsides. In spring, leashed pets are permitted on some Rocky Mountain National Park roads when those roads are closed to motor vehicles. Check with a visitor center or call 970-586-1206 for current status.

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.

Free Park Movie

See the stunning 23 minute park movie at the Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche Visitor Centers during normal business hours. Available en español and English.

Features spectacular aerial footage of the rugged high country of Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as wildlife, history and other park resources.

High Country Survival Tips

1 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 or camping in areas where trees could fall.



2



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.

3

High Elevation

Nearly half of the visitors to this park experience symptoms of altitude sickness. Symptoms range from headache and dizziness to nausea and unconsciousness. Rocky Mountain has the highest average elevation of any national park -- even the main road climbs higher than most U.S. mountains, to 12,183 feet! High altitude can also aggravate medical conditions such as heart and lung diseases. The only cure for altitude sickness is to **go down** to a lower elevation.



4

Dehydration and Safe Water

The park's high altitude and the dry climate both work to dry out your body. Carry and drink plenty of water as you hike or travel through Rocky Mountain. Avoid drinking untreated water from streams and lakes as it may be contaminated with giardia. Giardia can cause diarrhea, cramps, bloating, and weight loss. This microscopic organism enters surface water when animals or humans defecate in or near water. To prevent giardiasis, bring water to a full rolling boil for at least five minutes, or use a water filtration system that eliminates the organism.

5

Mountain Lions and Bears

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



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

Camping 2009



	Fee per night ◊	Reservations?	Dump Stations	Elevation (feet)	Summer Stay Limit (nights)	Public Phones	Firewood, ice
◊ When the water is turned on for the summer.							
Aspenglen 54 campsites Open May 20	\$20	yes	no	8,220	7	yes	yes
Glacier Basin  A & B Loops open this summer	\$20	no	yes	8,500	7	yes	yes
Longs Peak 26 campsites Open all year--tents only	\$20	no	no	9,500	7	no	yes
Moraine Park  245 campsites 5 group campsites Open all year	\$20	yes	yes	8,160	7	yes	yes
Timber Creek Opening delayed--please check at visitor centers!	\$20	no	yes	8,900	7	yes	wood

Campgrounds/Reservations

This summer two park campgrounds, Moraine Park and Aspenglen, accept peak-season reservations (through Oct 15 at Moraine Park and Sept 26 at aspenglen). Call (877) 444-6777 to make national park camping reservations up to 6 months prior to your visit. Internet reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov

The camping fee is \$20 per site per night for use from May 1 until the campground water is turned off, usually around October 31.

Stay Limit: 7 night total parkwide June 1 - September 30, with an **additional 14 nights** allowed October 1 - May 31. *Limits are on a park basis rather than on a per campground basis.*

Opening of Timber Creek Campground is delayed this summer; Many dead trees and tree removal will delay opening and limit the availability of sites. Glacier Basin is not on the reservation system this summer due to dead tree removal; however Aspenglen will be on the reservation system this summer. Longs Peak Campground is open year-round (tents only). Call 970-586-1206 or check at a visitor center for current availability.

Food Storage

In campgrounds and picnic areas, if there is a food storage locker provided, use it. Avoid storing food and coolers in your vehicle. If you must, store food in airtight containers in the trunk or out of sight. Close vehicle windows completely. Do not store food in tents or pop-up campers in campgrounds, or in vehicles at trailheads. Food, coolers, and dirty cookware left unattended, even for a short time, are subject to confiscation by park rangers; citations may be issued. Dispose of garbage in bear-resistant dumpsters and trash cans. Human-fed bears usually end up as chronic problems and need to be removed - "A fed bear is a dead bear."

Recycling Available in Major Park Locations




Glass, plastic #1 and #2, and aluminum may be recycled in all park campgrounds and more than fifteen other major park locations. Please inquire at any visitor center or campground. Help us limit 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.

Backcountry Camping

Permits are required for all overnight backcountry camping. Camping is allowed only in designated sites and areas. The administrative permit fee is \$20 per trip from May 1 to October 31. 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.

Effective May 1, 2009, for your safety and the protection of park wildlife, carry in/carry out food storage canisters are required of backcountry campers in park. Canisters may be rented or purchased at outdoor shops in surrounding communities. Pack out all garbage.



 **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.



Join a Park Ranger and expert volunteer astronomers on Friday nights (June 12, 26, July 10, 24, August 14, 28) to observe the night sky on the east side of the park. In many places, the night sky is not as dark as it once was due to light pollution. National parks in more remote areas help preserve this special resource.

Look for posters at east side visitor centers, campgrounds and entrance stations for times and locations.

Free Summer Ranger Programs - Alpine & East Side



All children must be accompanied by an adult

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, and snacks. Starts 6/28

4 hour hike

Milner Pass parking area

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. Starts 7/1 ends 8/12

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 8/15

1.5-2 hour hike

Alpine Visitor Center

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

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.

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 8/15



1.5 hour hike

Lily Lake parking lot

9 a.m.

9 a.m.

Children's Programs

Junior Ranger Program - Join a ranger for a short program and activities to earn your Junior Ranger badge. Ends 8/15



30-40 minute program

Sprague Lake Picnic Area

10 a.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

10 a.m.

2 p.m.

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 8/15



20-30 minute talk

Fall River Visitor Center

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Kid's Adventure - Join us for a nature adventure! Kids 6-10 (and their parents) should join in for this fun program. Ends 8/16



1-1.5 hour program

Sprague Lake Picnic Area

9:30 a.m.

9:30 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. Ends 8/17 Drop-in program; come anytime 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Drop-in Anytime

Moraine Park Visitor Center

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

Wildlife

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

West end of the Upper Beaver Meadows Rd

7 a.m.

7 a.m.

7 a.m.

7 a.m.

Bighorn Basics - Sheep Lakes is a popular viewing area for bighorn sheep. In Horseshoe Park, learn about this majestic symbol of Rocky. Ends 8/15



30 minute talk

Sheep Lakes Information Station

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Skins and Skulls - Want to pet an elk? Cuddle up to a bear? Are you crazy? That's not safe! Learn to safely feel skins and skulls while hearing about park wildlife.



30 minute talk

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

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



1 hour talk

Sprague Lake Picnic Area

1 p.m.

1 p.m.

3 p.m.

1 p.m.

1 p.m.

1 p.m.

Wildlife			All children must be accompanied by an adult								
		Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
All About Elk - Learn about this magnificent animal and its current status in the park. Ends 8/15			1-1.5 hour walk	West Alluvial Fan parking lot	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	
Lions and Bears, Oh My! - Worried about meeting a bear or mountain lion in the park? Find out what to do and what these animals are up to.			30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	10:30 a.m.		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. Ends 8/15			30 minute talk	Moraine Park Visitor Center				2:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	
Cunning Coyotes - Coyotes are intriguing animals and play an important role in the the circle of life. Ends 8/15			20-30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center	2:30 p.m.			2:30 p.m.		2:30 p.m.	
Walks, Talks, and Hikes											
Dream Lake Hike - Explore the breathtaking glacial landscape and changes brought on by bark beetles on this moderate 2 mile hike.			2-2.5 hour	Bear Lake parking lot	9 a.m.		9 a.m.		9 a.m.	9 a.m.	9 a.m.
Bear Lake Stroll - Enjoy an easy walk around a lovely subalpine lake and learn about the natural and human forces that have shaped this landscape.			1-1.5 hour	Bear Lake parking lot		9:30 a.m.	2 p.m.	9:30 a.m.		2 p.m.	2 p.m.
Navigating Rocky with GPS and 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! Ends 8/15			2 hour activity	Hollowell Park Shuttle Stop		9 a.m.	9 a.m.				1:30 p.m.
Native Lifestyles - Explore what drew prehistoric peoples, and later Ute and Arapaho, to the high country.			30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center			2:30 p.m.				2:30 p.m.
Moraine Park Nature Walk - Enjoy an easy 3/4 mile stroll through the Moraine Park landscape. Encounter the dynamic forces that created this valley and discover what lives here today.			1 hour walk	Moraine Park Visitor Center	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.
Here Comes the Beetle! - Pine bark beetles are rapidly transforming our forests. Learn what this means for all species who share the park. Ends 8/23			20-30 minute talk	Glacier Basin Campground amphitheater	2 p.m.		2 p.m.	2 p.m.		2 p.m.	
Geology Rocks! - Love the scenic views in the park? Come take a closer look at what is rocking at Rocky and the geologic forces behind the landscape.			30 minute talk	Moraine Park Visitor Center	2:30 p.m.		2:30 p.m.				2:30 p.m.
Walk Into Twilight - Sense the wilderness coming alive as twilight settles over the park. Bring warm clothes and flashlight. Ends 8/23			1.5 hour walk	Sprague Lake Picnic Area			7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.		
Elk Echoes - Learn about elk adaptations, migration, and mating behavior. Programs are simultaneously held at both locations. Starts 8/29			30 minute talk	Moraine Park Visitor Center amphitheater and Sheep Lakes parking lot	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.
Hot Topics in the Park - Want to hear the very latest news about research and management challenges in the park? Join us for a movie overview of these topics, with a Ranger to fill you in on the current details.			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.
Evening Programs June 14 - August 22											
Beaver Meadows Evening Program Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. Artist-in-the-Park Wednesday: The park, through the eyes of a different creative artist. Science Thursday: A different talk by a park researcher each Thursday.			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.
Glacier Basin Evening Program -Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. Dress warmly.			45 minute talk	Glacier Basin Campground amphitheater	7:30 p.m.					9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	7:30 p.m.
Aspenglen Evening Program - Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. Dress warmly.			45 minute talk	Aspenglen Campground amphitheater	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	7:30 p.m.
Moraine Park Evening Program - Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. Dress warmly.			45 minute talk	Moraine Park Campground amphitheater	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22	9 p.m. 6/14-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/22
Evening Programs August 23 - 29											
Beaver Meadows Evening Program August 23 - 29			45 minute talk	BMVC Auditorium	7:30 p.m.			7:30 p.m. Artist Night		7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Moraine Park Evening Program August 23 - 29			45 minute talk	Moraine Park Campground amphitheater	8:30 p.m.		8:30 p.m.		8:30 p.m.		8:30 p.m.
Aspenglen Evening Program August 23 - 29			45 minute talk	Aspenglen Campground amphitheater		8:30 p.m.		8:30 p.m.		8:30 p.m.	
Evening Programs August 30 - Sept. 7											
Beaver Meadows Evening Program August 30 - September 7			45 minute talk	BMVC Auditorium				7:30 p.m. Artist Night			7:30 p.m.

Free Summer Ranger Programs - West Side



All children must be accompanied by an adult

Walks and Hikes		Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
High Country Birding - Enjoy a 1 mile bird walk across meadow and woodland habitats. Bring a bird guide and binoculars. Ends 8/1		1-1.5 hour	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area			7:30 a.m.				7:30 a.m.
Hike through History - Hike along the 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 unusual modes of adaptation. Caravan to this week's flowers. Ends 8/1		2 hour walk	Kawuneeche Visitor Center flagpole					2 p.m.		10 a.m.
Coyote Valley River Walk - Explore the valley ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River. Evening walk ends 8/12.		1 hour walk	Coyote Valley Trailhead			10 a.m.	7 p.m. Ends 8/12		2 p.m.	
Rocky Mountain Heritage Walk - Learn about prehistoric Indian people, 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 p.m.			2 p.m.			
Life at the Source - Just downstream from the source of the Colorado River, habitats provide homes for hardy plants and animals.		1.5 hours, 1 mile walk	Colorado River Trailhead						10 a.m.	
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 walk	Kawuneeche Visitor Center flagpole		9:30 a.m.					
A Glimpse of Paradise - This easy 3 mile hike passes Adams Falls and leads to spectacular views of mountains surrounding the meadows of the East Inlet. Evening walk ends 8/10.		2.5 hour walk	East Inlet Trailhead		6 p.m. Ends 8/10					10 a.m.
Seeing Red -- and Beyond! - A tiny beetle means big changes for our forest. What lies ahead?		1 hour walk	Onahu Creek Trailhead		2 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 V.C. Ends 8/14		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 8/12		1 hour activity	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area				10 a.m.			
Web Walkers - Explore a section of the Colorado River. Activities are designed for children 6-12 years old. Ends 8/13		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. Note ending dates.		1 hour 15 minute program	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	10:30 a.m. Ends 9/6		2 p.m. Ends 8/11		2 p.m. Ends 8/13		2 p.m. Ends 9/5
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 8/10		3 hour activity	Timber Creek Campground amphitheater		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		
Never Summer, Ever Summer - View the sun through a telescope and learn of potential effects of climate change on this park. Ends 8/9		50 minutes	Coyote Valley Picnic Area	10 a.m.						
Skins and Things - Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals.		40 minutes	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 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 8/3		1-1.5 hour activity	Timber Lake Trailhead		3 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			7 p.m. Ends 8/11	10:30 a.m. Ends 9/2	10:30 a.m. Ends 9/3	10:30 a.m. Ends 9/4	
Evening Programs										
Old Ranch Campfire Stories - Roasting marshmallows (bring 'em), tall tales (the old wrangler will tell 'em) and campfire songs bring back the old days. Ends 8/14		2 hours, 1 mile walk	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area						7 p.m.	

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.

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Evening Programs	Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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. Ends 8/9	2 hour walk	Onahu Creek Trailhead	8 p.m. thru 7/26 7:30 p.m. thru 7/27 - 8/9						
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. thru 8/15 8:45 p.m. 8/16 - 9/6	9 p.m. thru 8/15 8:45 p.m. 8/16 - 9/6	9 p.m. thru 8/15 8:45 p.m. 8/16 - 9/6	9 p.m. thru 8/15 8:45 p.m. 8/16 - 9/6	9 p.m. thru 8/15 8:45 p.m. 8/16 - 9/6	9 p.m. thru 8/15 8:45 p.m. 8/16 - 9/6	9 p.m. thru 8/15 8:45 p.m. 8/16 - 9/6
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 8/13	1-1.5 hour activity	Harbison Meadow parking area. If overcast, Kawuneeche Visitor Center					9:15 p.m. in June 9 p.m. in July 8:45 p.m. in August		
Feature Film									
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 lands.	50 minute film	Daily at the 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.

Got Podcasts?



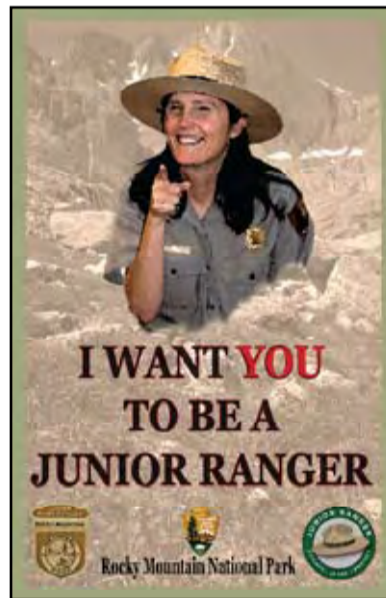
RMNP Podcasts

Rocky Mountain National Park does! The park has a New Technology Committee. The group's primary goal is to utilize new technology to provide interpretive, informational and educational content to the public. As ways to access and experience new information becomes available, Rocky Mountain National Park is committed to bringing it to you. The future is now!

- **The Ten Essentials**
- **Lightning Safety**
- **Wilderness Celebration**
- **The Mountain Pine Beetle**
- **Bighorn Sheep**

Check out nps.gov/romo and click on PHOTOS & MULTIMEDIA for more podcasts, blogs, and videos!

Junior Rangers



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

You are an important part of this park. Stay in touch. Contact us anytime at: romo_junior_ranger@nps.gov

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

Fees Enhance Visitors' Experiences

When you pay your park fees, you get so much more than just entrance into the park or a night of camping. You are helping improve your experience to Rocky Mountain National Park. In 2004, Congress extended the 1996 Fee Demonstration program with passage of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). That act allows National Parks to retain 80 percent of collected fees for deferred maintenance and other projects to benefit visitors.



Updated exhibits at Kawuneeche Visitor Center

The remaining 20 percent is distributed across National Park Service areas that do not charge fees to address those same goals. Since the legislation was enacted, Rocky Mountain National Park has completed many projects that have enhanced our visitors' experiences such as: new restrooms, improved picnic areas, educational displays, bus shelters, refurbished campsites, rebuilt trails, and many other improvements. You can feel proud knowing your fees are helping improve the park for all to enjoy.

Pine Beetle Epidemic From Canada to Mexico

Park Takes Local Actions

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



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

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

Rocky Mountain National Park is 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.

For several years, Rocky Mountain National Park has had a proactive bark beetle management program, spending over \$800,000 on mitigation work since 2006.

The issues of beetles, the changing forests of the western United States and Canada, as well as the changing landscape of Rocky Mountain National Park are reminders to us all of nature's ability to change beyond human control. As you explore the park, look for young seedling starting to take hold -- a new forest is emerging.

The Next Generation Fund It's Your Kids We're Talking About

Getting kids outside and connected with nature is a priority of the Rocky Mountain Nature Association Field Seminars. Thanks to the Next Generation Fund, exciting new programs for children were developed in 2008, to get kids fired up to spend more time in nature and to develop a special connection with Rocky Mountain National Park.

Wilderness Explorations and Encounters (WEE!) and Art Adventures provided hands-on experiences such as outdoor navigation and artistic media to teach kids (and their parents) the natural history of RMNP. They were a hit! As one young WEE! explorer exclaimed, "I learned that animals are very important in RMNP!" Another learned "...what would make me a better fisherman."



With funds made available through the Next Generation Fund, several new seminars will be piloted for 2009, including Estes Park Treasure Hunt, which merges GPS technology with natural history, and two seminars for kids with learning challenges—Flowers, Rocks, Animals, and More: Lake Estes and High-Tech Scavenger Hunt.

creating the conservationists of tomorrow. . .

Learn more at www.nextgenerationfund.org

Park Bookstores

At RMNA Bookstores, Your Purchase Makes A Difference

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

Drop by today.

Visit the Rocky Mountain Nature Association bookstores at:
Beaver Meadows Visitor Center • Alpine Visitor Center
Moraine Park Visitor Center • Fall River Visitor Center
Kawuneeche Visitor Center

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



ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS

IN
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
LEARN ~ EXPLORE ~ ADVENTURE

Outdoor Classes for Kids!

Wilderness Exploration and Encounters
(ages 6-9) at Moraine Park Visitor Center
Thursdays and Fridays — June 18, 19,
25, 26; July 9, 10; July 16, 17;
July 23, 24 (ages 9-12)
8:30 AM - 1:30PM
Estes Park Treasure Hunt
June 23, 30; July 14, 21, 28; August 4
9:30 AM - Noon
Art Adventures for Kids (ages 6-9)
Wednesdays: July 8, 15, 22, 29
Flowers, Rocks, Animals & More!
July 22

Adult Seminars

Birding for Longtime Beginners
June 24
Ferns & Granites:
How Geology & Botany Connect
June 30
Wildflower Safari
July 13
Geology of Trail Ridge Road
July 29
Follow the Bear Signs
August 20

Sign up online at rmna.org

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

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Hiking Trails

With over 350 miles of trails, the park offers a vast array of hikes. A small selection of trails is described below.

When properly equipped, hiking at Rocky Mountain National Park is often inspiring and invigorating. Trails are typically less crowded on the west side of the park (Grand Lake entrance) than on the eastern slope. Even for short day trips, be sure to pack gear for all types of weather (sun, rain, wind). Windproof/waterproof clothing is essential gear to wear or carry. Snow may remain on some trails; check at a visitor center for current conditions. Additional hiking guides, books and maps are available for purchase at any visitor center.



Trail	Location	Round Trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Cool Stuff
<u>East Side Trailheads</u>				
Sprague Lake	Sprague Lake on Bear Lake Road	.5 miles 	level	Famly friendly hike around the lake with great views of beautiful peaks.
Deer Mountain	Deer Ridge Junction	6 miles	1083 feet	A busier trailhead; also offers great views of beautiful peaks and deep valleys.
Lawn Lake	Lawn Lake Trailhead	12.4 miles	2249 feet	A challenging hike to a beautiful lake; site of a failed dam, and a restored area.
Ypsilon Lake	Lawn Lake Trailhead	9 miles	2180 feet	A steep hike to a beautiful lake.
Cub Lake	Cub Lake on Cub Lake Road near Moraine Park Campground	4.6 miles	540 feet	Meadows, aspen groves, ponds and conifer forests highlight this walk.
The Pool	Fern Lake Trailhead	3.4 miles	245 feet	An easy, shaded hike along a stream. Continues up to Fern and Odessa Lakes.
Nymph Lake	Bear Lake Trailhead	1 mile	225 feet	Beautiful views abound on an easy hike to a small lake.
Dream Lake	Bear Lake Trailhead	2.2 miles	425 feet	Excellent short hike to a very scenic backcountry lake.
Alberta Falls	Glacier Gorge Trailhead Bear Lake	1.6 miles 1.8 miles	210 feet 220 feet	Easy hike to a waterfall.
Mills Lake	Glacier Gorge Trailhead	5.6 miles	750 feet	Classic day hike to a lake rimmed by mountains.
The Loch	Glacier Gorge Trailhead	6.2 miles	990 feet	A beautiful lake surrounded by tall peaks.
Lily Lake	Lily Lake on Highway 7 south of Estes Park	.8 miles 	20 feet	Wildflowers, waterfowl, and greenback trout may be seen on a level walk around the lake.
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.
Twin Sisters	Lily Lake Trailhead	7.4 miles	2338 feet	A wonderful hike to a mountain top, for those seeking a vertical challenge.
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.
Chasm Lake	Longs Peak Trailhead	8.4 miles	2390 feet	A steep hike to a spectacular lake beneath the Diamond of Longs Peak.
Longs Peak 14,259'	Longs Peak Trailhead	16 miles	4855 feet	A difficult climb to the top. Best in mid-to-late summer. Start by 3 AM!
Eugenia Mine	Longs Peak Trailhead	2.8 miles	508 feet	Hike to an abandoned mine site.

Trail Tips

- Pets are not allowed on park trails.
- Stay together as a group, especially children.
- Your trip itinerary should be left with a responsible person so Park Rangers can be notified if you fail to return.
- Be prepared for the rigors of high elevation -- drink plenty of water, and travel at a pace at which you can still talk and breathe easily. If you do not feel well, descend to a lower elevation.
- Pack it in, pack it out -- including remains of all your food (pits, peels, etc.), as well as facial tissues.
- Let nature's sounds prevail; avoid loud voices and noises.

Leave No Trace

With approximately 3 million visitors every year, the wild lands of Rocky Mountain National Park are heavily used.

In hiking, camping, and all your park activities, do your part to preserve this national treasure by following the seven easy Leave No Trace principles:

- 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



Trail	Trailhead Location	Round Trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Cool Stuff
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West Side Trailheads

Adams Falls	East Inlet , located on the far east end of Grand Lake	.6 miles	80 feet	A beautiful short hike. The trail continues beyond the falls to lush meadows.
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.
Coyote Valley Trail	Coyote Valley in Kawuneeche Valley	1 mile 	10 feet	Follows the bank of the Colorado River, with views of the Never Summer Mountains. Look for moose, songbirds, and wildflowers.
Timber Lake	Timber Lake Trailhead in Kawuneeche Valley	10.6 miles	2060 feet	Strenuous 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	Strenuous 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 CG; a side loop trail to Ranger Meadows reconnects with main trail, adding 1.4 miles.

Trail Ridge Road Trailheads

Alpine Ridge Trail	North side of Alpine Visitor Center parking lot	.5 miles	200 feet	A steep climb to beautiful wild flowers and scenic vistas.
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!
Tundra Communities Trail	Rock Cut high on Trail Ridge Road	1 mile	260 feet	Beautiful displays of tundra flowers in mid-summer. Walk slowly, as this trail starts at 12,110' elevation!

Rocky Mountain National Park

Free Shuttle Bus



The popular hiking trails along Bear Lake Road are served by a free shuttle bus service through the summer. Park your car at Park & Ride and

hop onto a free bus to the trailhead of your choice. Through September 27, shuttle buses operate every day.

Buses operate on the Bear Lake Loop (Park & Ride to Bear Lake) every 10-15 minutes. Buses will run on the Moraine Park Loop (Park & Ride to Fern Lake Trailhead) every 30 minutes.

The first bus departs from Park & Ride at 7 a.m. and the last bus leaves at 7 p.m. The last bus of the day leaves Bear Lake and Fern Lake Trailhead at 7:30 p.m.

From June 27 through September 7, the Hiker Shuttle travels from the Estes Park Visitors Center to Park & Ride, with one stop at the park's Beaver Meadows Visitor Center. This bus runs on an hourly schedule early & late in the day, switching to a half-hour

schedule between 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., leaving Estes Park from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. A park pass is required to board the bus, and may be purchased at automated machines at Estes Park and Beaver Meadows visitor centers. The last bus leaves Park & Ride bound for Estes Park at 8 p.m.

Bear Lake Shuttle

June 13-September 27: buses operate daily between Park & Ride and Bear Lake, leaving Park & Ride every 10-15 minutes from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Moraine Park Shuttle

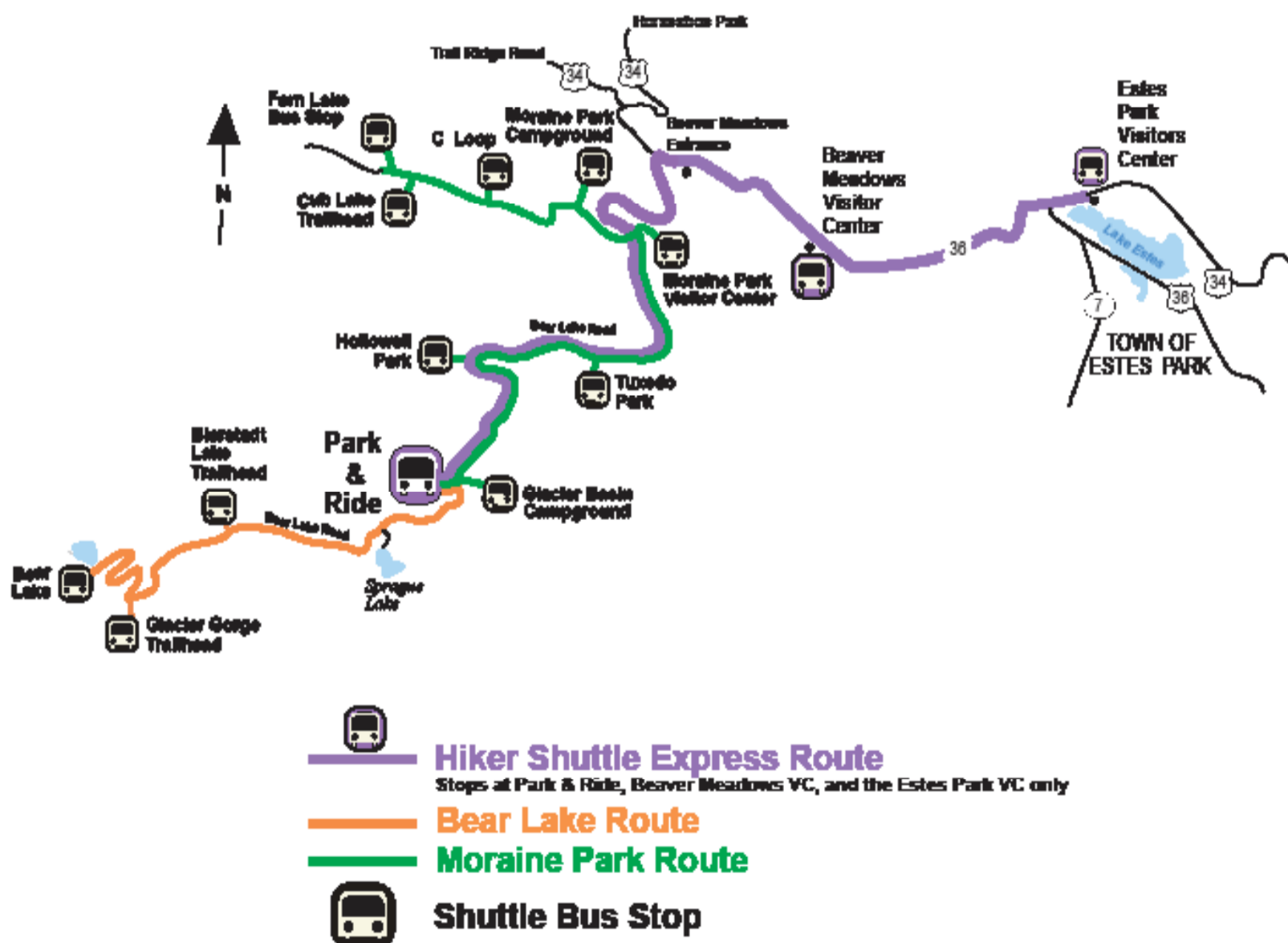
June 13-September 27: buses operate daily between Park & Ride and Fern Lake Bus Stop, leaving Park & Ride every 30 minutes from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Hiker Shuttle

June 27-September 7: buses operate daily between Estes Park Visitors Center and Park & Ride on an hourly schedule from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and a half-hour schedule between 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Plus weekends:

September 12 & 13, 19 & 20, 26 & 27



New! Trail Ridge Road Bus Tour to Alpine Visitor Center
Five-hour interpretive bus tour of Trail Ridge Road. Tours are offered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in July and August. The tour leaves the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center (BMVC) in the park at 10 a.m. and arrives back at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are sold at BMVC - \$22 per adult, \$11 for children 16 and under.

Children not occupying a seat are free. Park staff will be on board to describe the history and wonders of the highest continuous paved road in the U.S. Tour stops include Rainbow Curve, Forest Canyon Overlook and Alpine Visitor Center. Reservations are required by calling 970-577-7477.