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Alert:

Due to the 2013 September Flood, backcountry travelers may encounter missing foot bridges, missing trail segments, difficult water crossings and unstable slopes. Please stop at a visitor center or visit our website for more specific information.

Stay Connected:

Official Website: www.nps.gov/romo
Follow us on Twitter: @RMNPOfficial
Like us on Facebook.com/RockyMountainNP
Instagram@rockynps
YouTube Channel: TheRMNP

RMNP

Rocky Mountain National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The official newspaper
of Rocky Mountain National Park



Park News

Summer 2014

June 15, 2014 – September 1, 2014

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act in 2014!

Fifty years ago this September, the United States changed the way the world would look at wild land with the passage of the Wilderness Act. The 1964 Wilderness Act provides the highest level of protection for some of our most iconic, wild landscapes through wilderness designation. Thanks to the wisdom and foresight of those who dedicated themselves to its passage, we now have legislation "...to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness". Since the Act was passed in 1964, American wilderness has increased tenfold, with the majority of it being west of the 100th meridian. Over half of National Park Service lands are designated as Wilderness. And right here in

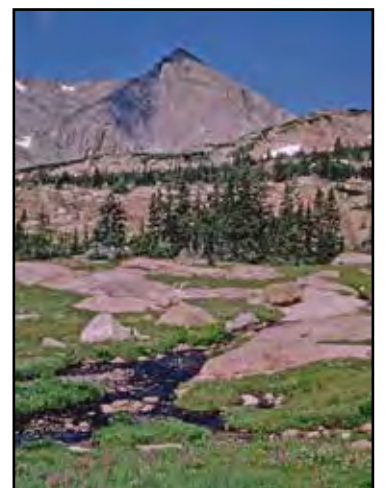
Rocky Mountain National Park, 249,126 acres of this mountain landscape were designated as Wilderness in 2009 after years of us managing the land "as if" it were Wilderness.



Wilderness is everyone's to share and enjoy - let's honor wilderness together! Rocky Mountain National Park is actively participating in Wilderness50—the national

coalition of government agencies, organizations, and tribal and citizen groups working to commemorate 50 years of wilderness. In 2014, we will honor the 50th anniversary by presenting a variety of events and activities that celebrate our nation's Wilderness heritage. Look for our new methods of integrating the Wilderness theme into interpretive programming in our walks, talks, trailhead information, publications, outreach efforts and exhibits. We invite you to get involved: attend our speaker and film series this summer to commemorate the 50th anniversary, and join our Walk for Wilderness around Lily Lake on September 6, 2014. Check out the new items Rocky Mountain Conservancy has for sale to highlight the anniversary.

For national news check out www.wilderness50th.org; for Rocky Mountain National Park events, look at the listing on www.nps.gov/romo. Join other Americans across the country in celebrating your wilderness heritage. Wilderness needs **YOU** to be a steward of these special places to ensure their protection as part of our unique American landscape.



Visitor Centers Estes Park Area

Alpine Visitor Center

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

Beaver Meadows

Open daily 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Park information, bookstore and free park movie: headsets available for the hearing or visually impaired and en Español. Backcountry camping permits are available by following the footpath just east of the visitor center to the Backcountry Office.



Alpine Visitor Center Plaza

Fall River

Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Features life-sized wildlife displays, a book store and discovery room where kids can touch objects and dress up as rangers, American Indians and pioneers.

Sheep Lakes Information Station

Open daily 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. through August 17. This station offers information and ranger programs. Horseshoe Park is a good place to look for wildlife, including bighorn sheep and elk.

Grand Lake Area

Kawuneeche

Open daily 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Park information and maps, free movie and exhibits on how to plan your visit, bookstore, backcountry camping permits.



Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Old Fall River Road and Alluvial Fan Flood Damage

Old Fall River Road and the Alluvial Fan suffered significant damages during flooding last September. The road will remain closed to vehicles through 2014. Once construction begins to repair the road and the Alluvial Fan (date to be determined) the road west of the

Lawn Lake Trailhead to the Alpine Visitor Center will be closed to vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles. Please stop at a visitor center or visit the park's website for more up-to-date information.

Park Phone Numbers



Trail Ridge Road Status: (970) 586-1222
Park Information: (970) 586-1206



Hearing impaired persons may call the TTY at (970) 586-1319



Dial **911** to report Emergencies

Entrance Fees

Automobile 7-day Pass - 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 Pass – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass - Available to everyone and provides unlimited entry to 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 US 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.

All fees may be paid by check, cash, or credit card.

Important Information and Safety Considerations

Don't Get Zapped by Lightning

Hike early in the morning. Thunderstorms and lightning strikes are common in the afternoon. Leave your umbrella behind - metal attracts lightning. Never seek shelter under a tall tree or rocky overhang where electrical currents often go.

Be Wary of Rivers

When near water, bypass slippery rocks and always keep children next to adults. One slip can take a life.

Ward-off Hypothermia

Avoid this potentially fatal drop in core body temperature- keep dry and warm with rain gear, a windbreaker and extra layers. Be alert for hypothermia's warning signs – shivering, confusion and drowsiness.

Be Mountain Savvy

Training and technical skills are needed to summit many of Rocky's high peaks. Slipping is not the problem when climbing up steep terrain with snow and ice. It's the landing that can hurt, maim and kill. Longs Peak is NOT a hike! There is no trail to the summit and the rocks are often coated in ice until mid-July.

Avoid Bear and Mountain Lion Encounters

When hiking, ALWAYS keep children next to adults. If you encounter these animals, make yourself look big – pick up small children, raise your arms and keep your group standing close together. Never run – instead SLOWLY back away and leave the area. If attacked, fight back!

Do Not Feed Wildlife

Wildlife, including chipmunks and birds are tempting to feed but can bite and carry disease. Human food is unhealthy for wildlife and leads to unsafe begging behavior. Feeding wildlife is illegal. Enjoy them from a distance.

Watch Out for Falling Trees

The Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic has increased the chances of falling trees. Avoid hiking through the forest on windy days and plan your rest breaks away from red or dead trees.

Altitude Sickness

Altitude can aggravate preexisting medical conditions and even be fatal. Acclimatize by drinking plenty of water and postpone driving to 12,000 feet up Trail Ridge Road until later in your stay. If you are not feeling well at altitude, descend immediately.

Don't get Ticked

Ticks abound on low-lying vegetation from March through June. Ticks can carry Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Evade these bugs with insect repellent and by checking your clothes and body after outdoor activities.

Bicycles in the Park

Bicycling is prohibited on trails. By law, you must ride single file. Park roads are narrow and may not have shoulders. Shuttle buses are not equipped to transport bicycles.

Campfires

Campfires are permitted only in campgrounds and picnic areas with fire grates. During high fire danger, campfires may be prohibited. Firewood can be purchased at campgrounds in summer. Collecting vegetation, dead or alive, is prohibited.

Firearms

Possessing firearms in Rocky Mountain National Park is permitted for those who are legally authorized under federal, Colorado or local laws. However, hunting, recreational shooting, and target practice are illegal. Federal law prohibits firearms in park buildings and facilities. Those legally allowed to carry firearms must comply with all applicable state and federal firearm laws. Need to know more? Contact us at 970-586-1206.

Fishing

Fishing in the park? You'll need a valid Colorado state fishing license. Pick up regulations at visitor centers or entrance stations.

Pets

Pets are only allowed in picnic areas, campgrounds and along roadsides. They must be on a leash, no longer than 6 feet. Pets must not be unattended in cars, or tied to trees or objects. Pets are never allowed on trails or meadows. Ask for a Pet Brochure at a visitor center.

Service Animals

Service animals individually trained to perform specific tasks are allowed on trails and in park facilities only if they are providing a service for a disabled person. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), "therapy animals" providing emotional support do not qualify as service animals. These pets are prohibited on trails, in park buildings or other non-motorized areas. Service dogs-in-training are not service animals under ADA, but are considered pets.

Food Storage

Properly stored food and a clean camp protect you, your car, and wildlife from harm. Unattended food, toiletries and other scented items can attract wildlife including bears. Violators will be cited for improperly stored or unattended food items including food, drinks, garbage, wrappers, pet food, cosmetics toiletries, and odoriferous containers.

Picnicking

Check the park map for designated picnic areas.

Take Only Pictures

It's illegal to disturb or remove natural feature such as pinecones, rocks, antlers, artifacts, soil, rocks, or vegetation. Metal detector use is prohibited in the park.

Viewing Wildlife

View wildlife from roadside parking areas. Always pull completely off the road without parking on vegetation. Approaching animals may stress and provoke them and could get you injured. If an animal changes their behavior, you are too close. Feeding any animal or bird is illegal.

Watch for Flood and Fire Damage

Recent floods have damaged trails or made sections impassable. Watch for collapsed or missing foot bridges and directional signs, unstable slopes, fallen trees and rough trails. Travel at your own risk. Safety is your responsibility.

Keep it Pristine

Rocky Mountain National Park lures three million visitors a year. Keep your park beautiful by practicing 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 others

Going Hiking?

Rocky has over 350 miles of trails. Most of these trails are still buried under snow in spring and early summer. Ask for current trail conditions at a visitor center or online at nps.gov/romo. Be prepared for variable and changing weather conditions.

Marijuana Use Prohibited

Although small amounts of recreational marijuana are now legal in Colorado - possession and use of marijuana continues to be illegal in Rocky Mountain National Park and all federal lands.



Travel Tips

Essentials to wear and carry

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

Weather and Road Conditions

Trail Ridge Road is open for the season, weather permitting. It usually closes for the season in mid-October. For current park road and driving conditions, please stop at a visitor center

Call the Trail Ridge Road status line (970) 586-1222 for current road status.

Due to flood damage reconstruction, Old Fall River Road is closed to all use during 2014.

Be aware of changing weather, as conditions can deteriorate quickly.

Park Partners

**At Rocky Mountain Conservancy Nature Stores,
YOUR PURCHASE MAKES A DIFFERENCE**



The best Rocky Mountain National Park t-shirts, games, toys, books, maps and other interesting items are here, at any of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy Nature Stores located in park visitor centers. When you make a purchase from our nonprofit organization, proceeds are returned to the park, supporting important educational and research programs. Drop by today.

Visit Conservancy Nature Stores at:

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

www.RMConservancy.org



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
FIELD INSTITUTE
EDUCATIONAL BUS
TOURS IN ROCKY!**

Grand Lake Safari Adventure

Tuesdays, June 10 - August 26

Trail Ridge Road Adventure

Wednesdays & Thursdays, June 11 - Sept. 4

Escape to Bear Lake Adventure

Fridays, June 13 - September 5

Elk Expeditions

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays, Sept. 11 - Sept. 27

Call 970-586-3262 or register at park visitor centers!

www.RMConservancy.org

**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.

Become a Member or Donate Today!



www.RMConservancy.org

**At Conservancy Nature Stores,
Your Purchase Makes A Difference!**



Visit the Conservancy's Nature Store in any park visitor center for the best RMNP t-shirts, games, jewelry, books, maps and other great park items. Proceeds support the park!



Elevate Your Shopping Experience



Trail Ridge Road

Take the trail to the clouds and not only will you find breathtaking vistas, you'll find the best selection of Rocky Mountain National 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



trailridgegiftstore.com

International Sister Parks



Rocky Mountain National Park and the Tatra National Parks in Slovakia and Poland established an ongoing sister park relationship in 2007. The three parks have similar mountain terrain and ecosystems and are seeking solutions to common issues. The exchange of information and expertise to better manage these great preserves benefits all.

Republic of Poland

Slovakia



Tatra National Park of Slovakia and Poland

Ranger-Led Programs | Alpine & East Side

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 July 5	4 hour hike	Milner Pass parking area							9:00a
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 July 2 - Ends August 20	3-3.5 hour hike	Alpine Visitor Center flagpole				9:00a			
Tundra Nature Walk Exhilarate your senses with alpine views and miniature wildflower gardens. Dress warmly; plan to caravan to the location. Ends August 10	1.5-2 hour hike	Alpine Visitor Center	10:00a	10:00a	10:00a	10:00a	10:00a	10:00a	10:00a
All About Lightning Learn why lightning can be a hair-raising experience and find out how to minimize your risk of being struck.	30 minute talk	Alpine Visitor Center	2:30p			2:30p			
Road to the Top If you think driving these roads is an adventure, come discover what it took to build and maintain them!	30 minute talk	Alpine Visitor Center			2:30p		2:30p	2:30p	
Plants									
Lily Lake Wildflower Walk Take time to stop and smell the roses, and enjoy learning about the variety of flowers blooming this season. Ends August 9	1.5 hour hike	Lily Lake parking area			2:30p				2:30p
Children's Programs									
Junior Ranger Program Join a ranger for a variety of programs and activities at the Junior Ranger Headquarters . Children must be accompanied by an adult. Parking is limited - take the free shuttle. Starts June 21 - Ends August 17	30 minute program	Moraine Park Discovery Center	10:00a 11:00a 1:30p 2:30p	10:00a 11:00a 1:30p 2:30p		10:00a 11:00a 1:30p 2:30p	10:00a 11:00a 1:30p 2:30p	10:00a 11:00a 1:30p 2:30p	10:00a 11:00a 1:30p 2:30p
Discovery Day Discover the amazing world of the park with your family through hands-on activities, crafts, and stories. Each week there is something new to discover. Parking is limited - take the free shuttle. Starts June 24 - Ends August 12		Moraine Park Discovery Center			9:00a to 1:00p (Drop-in program anytime)				
Storytime for Kids Stories are great way to introduce nature to kids. Join a ranger for stories about critters and their adventures in the wild.	20-30 minute program	Fall River Visitor Center		10:00a	10:00a				
Wildlife									
Tracking Wildlife Put your detective skills to the test, uncover clues, and learn about the animals that call Upper Beaver Meadows home.	1.5 hour walk	Upper Beaver Meadow parking area		2:30p	2:30p	2:30p			
Bighorn Basics Sheep Lakes is a popular viewing area for bighorn sheep. Meet at the Sheep Lakes Information Station in Horseshoe Park to learn about this majestic symbol of Rocky. Ends August 17	30 minute talk	Sheep Lakes Information Station	10:30a 2:00p	10:30a 2:00p	10:30a 2:00p	10:30a 2:00p	10:30a 2:00p	10:30a 2:00p	10:30a 2:00p
Bear Necessities Join a ranger at to learn about the amazing lives of Rocky's bears. Learn how you can help save them.	20-30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center			10:30a			10:30a	10:30a

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Programs may be cancelled due to high winds or lightning.







Ranger-Led Programs | East Side

Wildlife		LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Amazing Beavers Beavers drastically change their environment, and they have wonderful adaptations to do so.		30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center		10:30a		10:30a	10:30a		
All About Elk Learn about this magnificent animal, and its current status in the park.		1-1.5 hour walk	Upper Beaver Meadows parking area	2:30p				2:30p	2:30p	
The Secret Lives of Wild Cats The secret lives of mountain lions and bobcats will be revealed. Come learn about their habits and what to do if you meet them in the wild.		30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center				10:00a	10:00a		
Animals in Paradise Hear stories about how and why Rocky's Wildlife has changed in the last 100 years.		20-30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	2:00p		2:00p	2:00p	2:00p		
Birds of Upper Beaver Meadows Join an experienced birder 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	Upper Beaver Meadows parking area			7:00a	7:00a	7:00a		7:00a
Wildlife in Wilderness Rocky's wilderness is home to many creatures, great and small. Discover the roles and relationships these animals play in making Rocky a wild and wonderful place.		30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center	2:30p	2:30p		2:30p			2:30p
Walks, Talks, and Hikes										
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. Ends August 16		1-1.5 hour walk	Bear Lake parking area		9:30a	9:30a	9:30a	9:30a		9:30a
Rocky Rocks Love the beautiful views in the park? Come and take a closer look at the story behind the scenery.		20-30 minute talk	Moraine Park Discovery Center		3:30p		3:30p		3:30p	
Living on the Edge Bighorn Sheep are not the only animals living on the edge. Discover how the survival of pikas, butterflies, flowers, and trees are all intertwined in this changing world.		20-30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center			2:30p		2:30p		
Lily Lake Nature Walk 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 walk	Lily Lake parking area		2:00p				2:00p	
Wilderness, Wildlife, and Wonder Much has changed in the last 100 years. Take an easy walk and join the discussion about how our past plays a role in the present and future of this amazing park.		1-1.5 hour walk	Sprague Lake picnic area		10:00a	10:00a		10:00a	10:00a	
Evening Programs										
Art in the Park Discover the world of art through the eyes of Rocky's Artist-in-Residence.		45 minute program	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center				7:30p			
Aspenglen Evening Program Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. See the weekly schedule at a visitor center for program topics. Dress warmly. Ends August 31		45 minute program	Aspenglen Campground Amphitheater	9:00p 6/15 - 7/19	9:00p 6/15 - 7/19	9:00p 6/15 - 7/19			9:00p 6/15 - 7/19	9:00p 6/15 - 7/19
				8:30p 7/20 - 8/31	8:30p 7/20 - 8/31	8:30p 7/20 - 8/31			8:30p 7/20 - 8/31	8:30p 7/20 - 8/31
Glacier Basin Evening Program Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. See the weekly schedule at a visitor center for program topics. Dress warmly. Ends August 31		45 minute program	Glacier Basin Campground Amphitheater		9:00p 6/15 - 7/19	7:30p		9:00p 6/15 - 7/19		9:00p 6/15 - 7/19
					8:30p 7/20 - 8/31			8:30p 7/20 - 8/31		8:30p 7/20 - 8/31



All children must be accompanied by an adult. Programs may be cancelled due to high winds or lightning.

A civilization which destroys what little remains of the wild, the spare, the original, is cutting itself off from its origins and betraying the principle of civilization itself. -- Edward Abbey

Ranger-Led Programs | East Side

Evening Programs		LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Rocky Knowledge Test your knowledge at trivia with Rocky Mountain Conservancy! See how much you know about our park as you are in a game of trivia about all things Rocky. Play for a chance to spin the prize wheel to win spectacular prizes from Rocky Mountain Conservancy, the official nonprofit partner of Rocky Mountain National Park.		15 minute program	Glacier Basin Campground Amphitheater			7:00p				
Moraine Park Evening Program Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. See the weekly schedule at a visitor center for program topics. Dress warmly. Ends August 31		45 minute program	Moraine Park Campground Amphitheater	9:00p 6/15 - 7/19	9:00p 6/15 - 7/19	9:00p 6/15 - 7/19	9:00p 6/15 - 7/19	9:00p 6/15 - 7/19	9:00p 6/15 - 7/19	9:00p 6/15 - 7/19
Night Sky Programs										
Astronomy in the Park Observe the night sky with the help of a park ranger and expert volunteer astronomers. Dress warm, bring binoculars and a flashlight.		30 minute program followed by viewing	Meet at the Upper Beaver Meadows Trailhead parking area	8:30p June 20		8:15p July 5 & 18		8:00p August 1, 15, & 29		
Stories Behind the Moon & Stars The night sky comes alive through storytelling and fun activities. Celebrate darkness in Rocky! Dress warmly, bring binoculars and a flashlight.		1-1.5 hour program	Moraine Park Discovery Center	8:30p June 27		8:15p July 11 & 25		8:00p August 8		
Volunteer Opportunities										
Cleanup our Parks Give back to the park by joining a ranger for a litter clean-up around Moraine Park Campground and Glacier Basin Campground. A great activity for all ages and a way to learn about many of the parks volunteer opportunities. Pick your day: Wednesday or Friday. Starts June 18		1 hour	Moraine Park Campground Ranger Office				9:30a to 10:30a			
		1 hour	Glacier Basin Campground Ranger Office							9:30a to 10:30a

Ranger-Led Programs | West Side

Walks, Talks, and Hikes		LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Hike Through History Discover hidden remnants of mining and dude ranch history along the Colorado River on this gentle 3-mile hike. Ends August 10		3 hour hike	Colorado River Trailhead	9:30a						
Beyond the Falls A pleasant stroll to Adams Falls and a spectacular view just beyond. Starts June 22		1.5 hours 1 mile	East Inlet Trailhead	2:15p						
Mountain Wildflowers A ranger will lead you to the best current blooms and explore why they're special. Caravan to this week's flowers. Ends August 2		2 hours	Kawuneeche Visitor Center Flagpole							2:00p
Rocky Mountain Heritage Walk Learn about the human history of the Kawuneeche Valley while strolling to the grounds of an historic guest ranch. Starts June 23		1.5 hours 1 mile	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area		10:00a		10:00a			
Coyote Valley River Walk Explore ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River. Starts June 26		1 hour 1 mile	Coyote Valley Trailhead					2:30p		
Children's Programs										
Junior Ranger Program Join a ranger for a short program and activities to earn your Junior Ranger badge. Ends August 10		1 hour	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	2:00p	2:00p		2:00p	2:00p	2:00p	
Web Walkers Explore a section of the Colorado River. Activities are designed for children 6 - 12 years old. June 24 - August 14		1 hour	Coyote Valley Trailhead			10:00a		10:00a		

6 All children must be accompanied by an adult. Programs may be cancelled due to high winds or lightning.

Ranger-Led Programs | West Side

Children's Programs



	LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Come Bug a Ranger Learn fun facts about insects. Puppets, stories and activities for children 4-10 years old. June 25 – August 6	1 hour	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area				10:30a			
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 August 1.	2 hour activity	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area						9:30a	
Talks and Activities									
Holzwarth Historic Site Tour a 1920s-era dude ranch for a taste of early homesteading and tourism.	Drop-in tour	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area	10:30a to 4:30p	10:30a to 4:30p	10:30a to 4:30p	10:30a to 4:30p	10:30a to 4:30p	10:30a to 4:30p	10:30a to 4:30p
Skins and Things Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals.	40 minute talk	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	3:15p	3:15p	3:15p	3:15p	3:15p	3:15p	3:15p
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 8/11.	3 hours	Timber Creek Campground Amphitheater		8:30a					
Behind the Scenes Short videos documenting how the park addresses challenges like elk management, pine beetles, and bear safety. Starts June 24.	1 hour	Kawuneeche Visitor Center			2:00p		11:00a		
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		1:00p					
Exploring with a Camera Focus on composition, light and basic tips to improve your pictures during this photography walk. June 27 – August 1	1-1.5 hour activity	Timber Lake Trailhead						2:30p	
Wildlife Watch! Assist a ranger to monitor birds and other wildlife at an elk enclosure. It's Citizen Science in action! Bring binoculars and waterproof shoes if you have them. Ends August 2	1.5 hour activity	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area							8:30a
Evening Programs									
Timber Creek Campground Program Check at the campground or Kawuneeche Visitor Center for topics.	45 minute program	Timber Creek Campground Amphitheater	8:30p	8:30p	8:30p	8:30p	8:30p	8:30p	8:30p
Saturday Night in the Park Enjoy an evening program in the auditorium. For topics, inquire at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center.	1 hour program	Kawuneeche Visitor Center							7:00p
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 August 10	2 hour walk	Onahu Creek Trailhead	8:00p 6/15-7/27						
			7:30p 8/3-8/10						
Old Ranch Campfire Roasted marshmallows (bring 'em), tall tales (the old wrangler will tell 'em) and campfire songs bring back the old days. Dress warmly. Ends August 8.	2 hours 1 mile walk	Holzwarth Historic Site parking Area						7:00p	
Celestial Wilderness Use a telescope to explore the astronomy of Rocky's night sky. If overcast, meet at Kawuneeche Visitor Center for an indoor presentation. Ends August 14.	1-1.5 hour activity	Harbison Meadow parking area. If cloudy, Kawuneeche VC.					9:00p 6/19-7/31		
							8:45p 8/7-8/14		

Camping | 2014

PARK CAMPGROUNDS	Reservable for summer?	First-Come, First-Served Sites	Summer Firewood/Ice	Max RV/Trailer Length	Summer Dump Station	Designated Accessible Sites	Tent Pad Size	Summer Drinking Water, Flush Toilets	Food Storage Lockers	Location and Brief Description
Aspenglen Elevation 8,220 ft 53 Sites May 22 – Sept 28	●		●	30 ft	No; use Glacier Basin, Moraine Park or Timber Creek	●	13 ft x 15 ft	●	●	Situated in a pine forest near Fall River just inside the Fall River Entrance on US Hwy 34 west of Estes Park.
Glacier Basin Elevation 8,500 ft 150 Sites May 22 – Sept 7	●		●	35 ft	●	●	Varies	●	●	Located on Bear Lake Road across from the Park & Ride. Due to hazard tree removal there is no campground shade in the C & D Loops.
Longs Peak Elevation 9,405 ft 26 Sites May 23 - Nov 2		●	● No ice	Tents only			13 ft x 15 ft	● Only vault toilets	●	In a pine forest, nine miles south of Estes Park. Turn west at the Longs Peak Area sign.
Moraine Park Elevation 8,160 ft 244 Sites Open year-round Reservable for May 22 - Sept 28	●	● B Loop year-round	●	Limited number of sites up to 40 ft	●	●	Varies	● B Loop has vault toilets year-round	●	Located in a ponderosa pine forest above the meadows of Moraine Park, this campground is a short drive from the Beaver Meadows Entrance on Bear Lake Road. A solar heated shower bag stall facility is available in summer.
Timber Creek Elevation 8,900 ft 98 Sites May 23 - Nov 2		●	● No ice	30 ft	●	●	Varies	●	●	On the park's west side near the Colorado River, 10 miles north of the town of Grand Lake on US Hwy 34. Due to hazard tree removal there is no campground shade.

Camping Information

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 up 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. Make a reservation online at www.reserveamerica.com or www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777.

Fees to Camp

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

Stay Limits

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

At All Standard Campsites

- No more than eight people may camp at a given site.
- All campsites, including RV sites, have a tent pad, picnic table and fire grate.
- 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.
- A solar-heated shower bag stall facility (no running water) is at Moraine Park Campground.

There are no other shower facilities in the park, but showers are available in nearby communities. Portable showers are prohibited

except in the solar shower facility in Moraine Park Campground. 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 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 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 food storage lockers, available in all park campgrounds. Food storage lockers, which are approximately 3 ft x 4 ft x 3 ft are shared with other visitors and cannot be locked. Food storage locker symbols are located on all campground maps.

Wilderness itself is the basis of all our civilization. I wonder if we have enough reverence for life to concede to wilderness the right to live on? – Margaret Murie

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 at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center.

For further information write to: Backcountry Office, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado 80517, or call (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.

For your safety and the protection of park wildlife:

Backcountry campers are required to use carry in/carry out, commercially-manufactured, hard-sided, bear-resistant food storage containers in all areas of the park between May 1 and October 31.

Containers may be rented or purchased at outdoor shops in surrounding communities.

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.

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 2 for safety tips.



-NPS/Jerry Brown



Due to the 2013 Flood, backcountry hikers may encounter missing foot bridges, missing trail segments, difficult water crossings and unstable

slopes. Please ask a ranger, stop at a visitor center, or visit the park website, www.nps.gov/romo, for more specific, updated information.



Trail	Location	Round Trip Distance	Elevation Gain
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East Side Trailheads

Deer Mountain	Deer Ridge Junction The summit offers great views of beautiful peaks and deep valleys.	6 miles	1083 feet
Gem Lake	Lumpy Ridge Trailhead A steep trail climbs through mature ponderosa and aspen trees to Gem Lake. Great panoramas of Longs peak.	3.3 miles	971 feet
Estes Cone	Lily Lake Trailhead Great views are a reward of this strenuous hike to the top of a peak.	7.4 miles	2369 feet
Eugenia Mine	Longs Peak Trailhead Hike to an abandoned mine site.	2.8 miles	508 feet

Family Friendly Trails

Easy walks. Some are accessible. Some allow strollers. Most have educational brochures or exhibits. No pets on any park trails.




Lily Lake	 On Highway 7 south of Estes Park Wildflowers, waterfowl, and greenback cutthroat trout may be seen on a level walk around the lake.	.8 mile loop	20 feet
Tundra Communities Trail	 At Rock Cut on Trail Ridge Road View the miniature world of the Tundra and enjoy sweeping views of the park. Paved trail & interpretive signs.	.5 mile	260 feet

West Side Trailheads

Trail:	Location:	Round Trip Distance:	Elevation Gain:
Onahu Creek/ Green Mountain Loop	Onahu Creek Trailhead or Green Mt. Trailhead, Kawuneeche Valley Excellent loop trail through quiet forest and meadow along flowing mountain creeks.	7.6 miles	1100 feet
Granite Falls	Green Mountain Trailhead in Kawuneeche Valley Quiet forest and flowing mountain waters. Longer loop (13.6 miles) is possible, coming out on the Onahu Creek Trail.	10.4 miles	1406 feet
Timber Lake	Timber Lake Trailhead, Kawuneeche Valley Lots of elevation gain on hike to a beautiful backcountry lake.	10.6 miles	2060 feet
Lulu City	Colorado River Trailhead, north of Timber Creek Campground A gentle trail to a historic site. A longer return loop is available via the Grand Ditch to Red Mountain Trail.	7.4 miles	350 feet
Little Yellowstone Canyon	Colorado River Trailhead, north of Timber Creek Campground An extension of the Lulu City hike, deeper into park wilderness.	9 miles	990 feet
Red Mountain	Colorado River Trailhead, north of Timber Creek Campground A steep trail featuring some great views of mountains and valleys in the park.	11 miles	2565 feet
Lone Pine Lake	East Inlet, on the far east end of Grand Lake A longer hike near Grand Lake to a high lake. The trail continues beyond to other lakes.	11 miles	1494 feet
Cascade Falls	North Inlet Trail off Tunnel Road in Grand Lake A relatively level walk to Cascade Falls.	6.8 miles	300 feet
Shadow Mountain Lookout	East side of Shadow Mountain Lake, just south of Grand Lake Steep hike to a historic fire lookout with spectacular views.	9.4 miles	1533 feet
East Shore Trail	East side of Shadow Mountain Lake, just south of Grand Lake 2.6 miles to Green Ridge Campground; a side loop trail to Ranger Meadows reconnects with main trail, adding 1.4 miles.	5.2 miles	100 feet

Family Friendly Trails

Follows the bank of the Colorado River, with views of the Never Summer Mountains. Packed gravel, level grade. Interpretive signs. See moose, songbirds, and wildflowers.

Coyote Valley Trail	  Coyote Valley on Highway 34, north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center	1 mile	10 feet
Adams Falls	East Inlet, located on the far east end of Grand Lake A beautiful short hike near Grand Lake. The trail continues beyond the falls to lush meadows.	.6 mile	80 feet
Holzwarth Historic Site	 8 miles north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center on Highway 34. Explore a historic homestead cabin and 1920's dude ranch. Brochures, interpretive signs and tours available.	1 mile	10 feet

Trail Ridge Road Trailheads

Alpine Ridge Trail	Near Alpine Visitor Center	.5 mile	200 feet
Ute Trail	Across the road from Alpine Visitor Center, as well as other access points Tremendous, open views above treeline; start and finish early before lightning and thunderstorms!	1-8 miles	1038 feet

While You're Here

Tips When Viewing Wildlife

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 do not park on vegetation.

Never feed wildlife, including birds and chipmunks.

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.

Free Park Movie

See the stunning 23-minute park movie at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center and Kawuneeche Visitor Center from 8:30 am-4 pm daily. Features spectacular aerial footage of the rugged high country of Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as wildlife information and park history.

Captioned version available at Kawuneeche Visitor Center.

Captioned, audio description and en Español are available Beaver Meadows Visitor Center.

Junior Ranger Program



Come to the Junior Ranger Headquarters & Earn Your Badge!

Located at Moraine Park Discovery Center along Bear Lake Road, this is a place just for you! Parking is limited and taking the free Shuttle Bus is encouraged. Join a ranger-led program, complete your Junior Ranger book, and earn a badge. Junior Ranger activity booklets are offered for kids of all ages and are available at most visitor contact stations.

The Junior Ranger Headquarters is open from June 21 – August 17 and programs are offered 4 times a day, 7 days a week at 10:00, 11:00, 1:30 and 2:30. Programs are geared for kids ages 6-12, and it is free to participate. A parent or adult must be present with children at all times.

Visit the "For Kids" section of the park website... <http://www.nps.gov/romo/forkids/index.htm>

Protecting Your Bears - A Success Story



Food storage lockers reduce damage to property and the chance of bears getting a food reward. In RMNP we have successfully reduced bear incidents at trailheads in the Wild Basin area. From 2009-2011, four to five vehicles were damaged each year by bears. The park installed food storage lockers and required overnight visitors to take all food items out of their vehicles and place them in lockers. In the last two years since making this change, no vehicles have been damaged. *by Mary Kay Watry, Park Biologist*

Moraine Park Discovery Center

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

Podcast Highlight

Bears and Campground Food Storage Lockers

Learn about how food storage lockers can be used to safeguard your food and scented items from bears while camping.

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



Toward a Greener Park

Greening Your Park



Recycling Available in Major Park Locations

Glass, plastic #1 through #7 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.

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.



Greening Your Ride at Rocky



Join Rocky Mountain National Park in our efforts to cut emissions and save fuel.

You can help our climate and air quality in Rocky by reducing vehicle idling. Remember to turn off your engine while parked, waiting at wildlife crossings, or stopping to take photos.

Take the FREE Shuttle! See page 12 for schedule

A Year of Celebration

On September 4, 1915, thousands of people gathered in Horseshoe Park to celebrate the dedication of America's newest playground, Rocky Mountain National Park. Signed into law on January 26 of that same year by Woodrow Wilson, Rocky Mountain National Park was created to protect the incredible resources found within its boundaries so that future generations might also benefit from their beauty and wildness.

On September 3, 2014, Rocky Mountain National Park will begin a year-long celebration of its 100th Anniversary. As a precursor to the celebration, special centennial ranger programs will begin during the 2014 Summer Season. These programs will highlight some of the unique aspects of the park that have evolved over the last 100 years. Beginning in September and continuing through September 2015, special programs and events throughout the park and the surrounding communities will celebrate the wilderness, wildlife, and wonder that millions of people have come to appreciate and enjoy. The celebration will culminate on September 3 and 4 with re-dedication events on both side of the park.

Visit the park website www.nps.gov/romo or talk to a ranger to get updated information about special 100th Anniversary events and activities.

Be part of this special time to celebrate 100 years of wilderness, wildlife, and wonder in Rocky Mountain National Park!



Wilderness, Wildlife, Wonder

Do you have a special connection to the park? Is there a memory or picture of you or your family in the park that you cherish? Share your memories of the past in our RMNP Family Photo Album. Visit www.rmnp100.com to upload your photo or story to share with others during this special time.

Thoughts of Wilderness

"He came looking for something.

*He thought it was elk
mountain tops
always the fresh air.*

*He found more.
Himself, or a part
he'd never known.*

*They met on Longs Peak
again on Deer Mountain
and Glass Lake.*

*In a stand of ponderosa
they shook hands
spoke in vanilla air.*

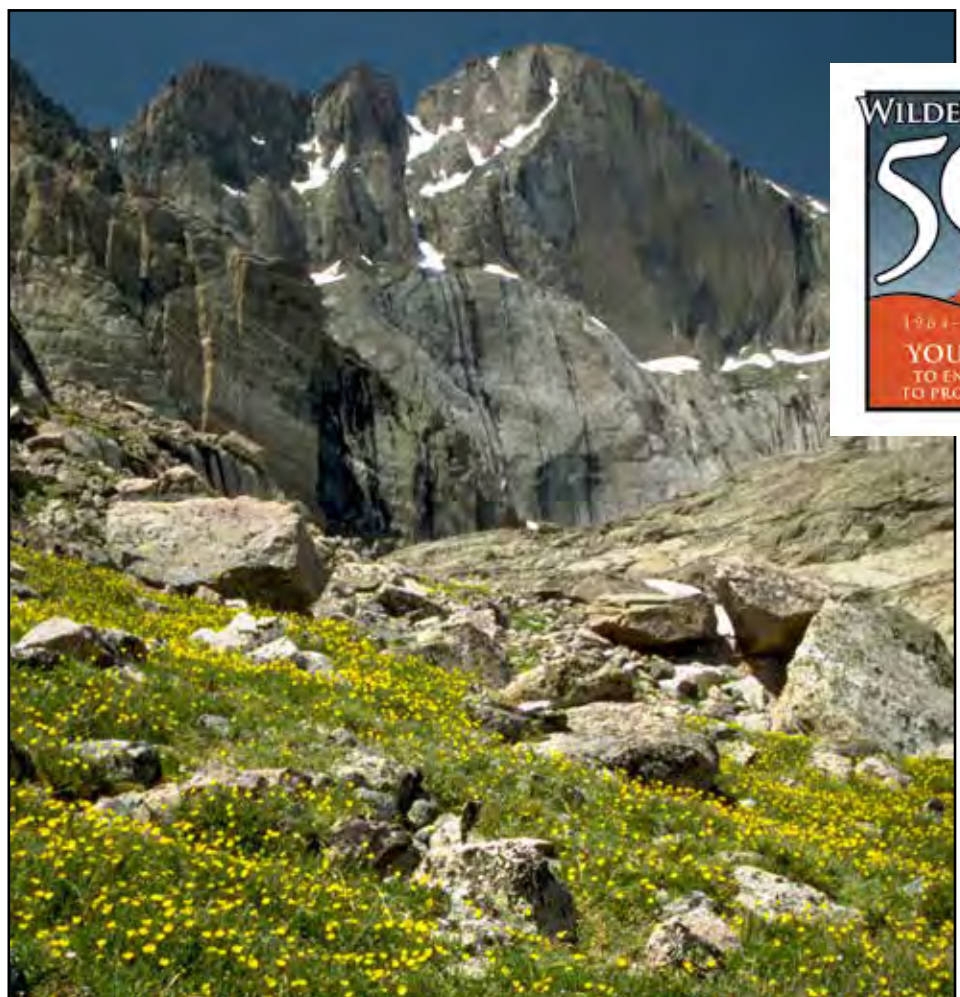
*Then one turned back
to the city, the other
to the wild.*

*Now he goes back
always deeper into the park
looking for his friend".*

Cactus May, Artist-in-Residence, 1996

"Wilderness is a resource which can shrink but not grow. Invasions can be arrested or modified in a manner to keep an area usable either for recreation, science or for wildlife, but the creation of new wilderness in the full sense of the word is impossible. It follows, then, that any wilderness program is a rearguard action, through which retreats are reduced to a minimum".

– Aldo Leopold



Tundra Protection

Walking on the Alpine Tundra

You may walk, with care, on the alpine tundra. However, there are four Tundra Protection Areas in which you must stay on trails as you walk. These include: the area surrounding the Alpine Visitor Center, Forest Canyon, Rock Cut, and Gore Range overlooks.

To help preserve alpine tundra:

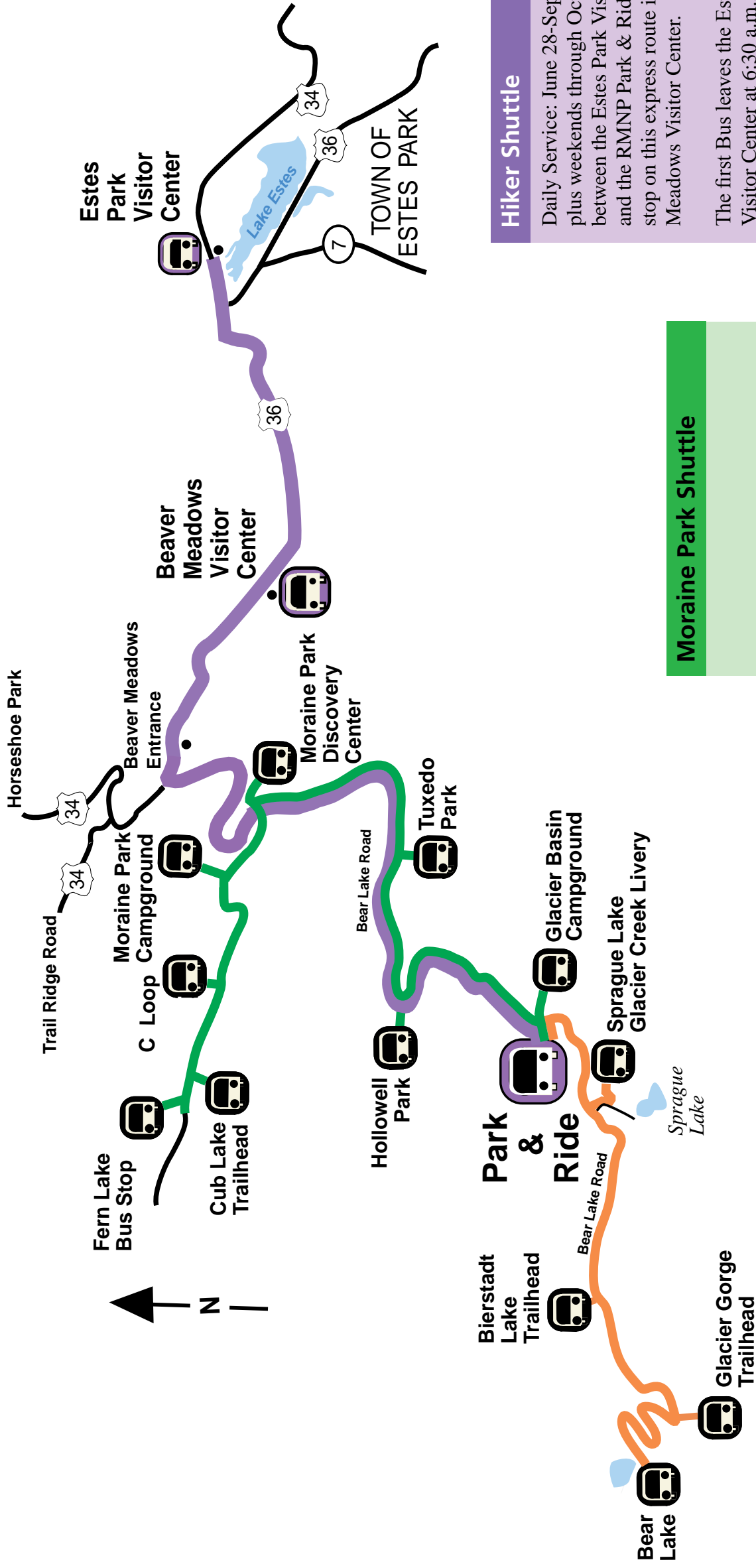
- Stay on trails where they exist.
 - Never walk single file off trail.
 - Step on rocks or gravel wherever possible.
- The tiny plants thank you.



Free Shuttle Bus Information

Using Rocky Mountain National Park's free shuttle bus service enables you to access many destinations and loop hikes along the

Bear Lake corridor, while enjoying the beautiful scenery without the distraction and hassle of traffic congestion and limited parking.



Shuttle Bus Stop

- There are no shuttle bus services on the west side of the park or across Trail Ridge Road. There are several commercial shuttle tours in the Estes area; contact the Estes Park Visitor Center for information, **800-443-7837, or visitestespark.com.**
- There are no bike racks on park shuttle buses.
- Most park shuttle buses are accessible and can accommodate wheelchairs. Contact shuttle staff or rangers if accommodation is needed.
- Dogs are not allowed on park shuttle buses (except service animals that have been individually trained to perform specific tasks for the benefit of persons with disabilities).

Hiker Shuttle

Daily Service: June 28-September 7, plus weekends through October 12 between the Estes Park Visitor Center and the RMNP Park & Ride. The only stop on this express route is Beaver Meadows Visitor Center.

The first bus leaves the Estes Park Visitor Center at 6:30 a.m., and the last bus leaves for Estes Park at 8 p.m. It runs on an hourly schedule early and late in the day, and a half-hour schedule from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A park pass is required to board the Hiker Shuttle; it may be purchased at the automated machine at the Estes Park Visitor Center.

Moraine Park Shuttle

Daily Service: June 14-October 12
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.

The Moraine Park Route is based at the Park & Ride shuttle bus parking area across from the Glacier Basin Campground.

Bear Lake Shuttle

Daily Service: June 14-October 12
Buses operate daily between Park & Ride and Bear Lake, leaving Park & Ride every 10-15 minutes from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Bear Lake Route is based at the Park & Ride shuttle bus parking area across from the Glacier Basin Campground.