

# Shadow Mountain

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA • COLORADO



*Trapped in the upper reaches of the Colorado River Valley are the high mountain lakes of Shadow Mountain National Recreation Area. Here, at the edge of Rocky Mountain National Park, the land is set aside for a variety of outdoor sports and leisure activities.*

Lake Granby and Shadow Mountain Lake are manmade reservoirs linked by a channel to Grand Lake, Colorado's largest natural body of water. Together they comprise the "Great Lakes" of Colorado—one of the greatest recreational areas in the United States. The lakes, including the smaller Willow Creek Reservoir, are part of the Colorado-Big Thompson water diversion project. The total area is being developed for recreational purposes by the National Park Service through agreement with the Bureaus of Reclamation and Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The Colorado-Big Thompson project diverts water from the Colorado River Valley on the western slope of the Continental Divide to the Big Thompson River drainage on the eastern slope. This water flows through the 21.1-kilometer (13.1-mile) Adams Tunnel, which originates at the east end of Grand Lake, passes beneath the great peaks in Rocky Mountain National Park, and emerges a few miles south of the village of Estes Park. Among the major benefits of the project are production of hydroelectricity and diversion of water for irrigation of South Platte River Valley farms in northeastern Colorado.

Lake Granby and Shadow Mountain Lake occupy parts of the valley of the upper Colorado River. This valley, like others in the surrounding mountains, was sculptured by glaciers when ice covered much of the continent. Most of the hilly terrain is composed of glacial debris and outwash, and many of the islands in the lakes are the tops of glacial deposits of sand, gravel, and rock known as moraines. Bedrock of most of the area is Precambrian crystalline rock or Tertiary volcanic rock.

Deer are present in the area much of the time, but are seldom seen. Smaller mammals include coyote, bobcat, red fox, yellowbelly marmot, chipmunk, badger, pine squirrel, ground squirrel, and beaver.

The forest is mostly lodgepole pine, with some groves of quaking aspen. The narrow range of elevation restricts the variety of trees and other plants in the area. Wildflowers are most spectacular in June and July.

#### WHAT TO DO

**Boating.** You can rent a rowboat or a motorboat at most of the concessioner-operated docks. You may launch your own boat on three of the lakes at no cost; public launching ramps are at Willow Creek Reservoir, Hilltop and Green Ridge in Shadow Mountain Lake, and at Stillwater, Sunset Point and Arapaho Bay in Lake Granby. Arrangements also can be made to launch boats from concessioner marina docks and ramps. Boats on Willow Creek Reservoir are limited to those 5 meters (16 feet) or less in length with motors of 10 horsepower or less. Information on boating regulations and water hazards can be obtained at any recreation area ranger station or from any boat patrol ranger.

**Fishing.** The waters of the recreation area are open to fishing all year, subject to Colorado regulations. A Colorado fishing license is required. Licenses and regulations can be obtained at most marinas, and at most sporting goods stores in the towns of Granby and Grand Lake.

Rainbow, lake, and brown trout, and kokanee (landlocked sockeye) salmon are found in Lake Granby and Shadow Mountain Lake.

**Hunting,** with Colorado laws applying, is permitted in all but heavy visitor-use areas; a Colorado hunting license is required.

**Camping.** There are five campgrounds: Shadow Mountain, Green Ridge, Stillwater, Willow Creek, and Arapaho Bay. By special arrangement, organized groups may use the group area at Cutthroat Bay. Fires are permitted in grates only. Firewood can be purchased from many private

businesses. Trailers are permitted in the campgrounds; however, no hookups are available.

#### CAMPING IS PERMITTED IN DESIGNATED SITES ONLY.

**Picnicking** is permitted almost everywhere that is open for public use. Put debris in receptacles provided—do not throw it on the ground or in the water. Fires are permitted in grates only.

**Hiking and horseback riding.** You can hike, ride horses, and enjoy other similar outdoor activities in most of the area. Horses can be rented near and in the town of Grand Lake and at Arapaho Bay.

**Naturalist services.** In summer, park naturalists conduct walks and hikes. Through most of the summer, campfire programs are presented nightly at Stillwater Campground, and occasionally at Green Ridge Campground. Bulletin boards and free printed programs give details.

To assist schools in teaching ecology, the National Park Service has established an environmental study area in Shadow Mountain National Recreation Area, adjacent to Green Ridge Campground. Each year hundreds of school children can gain a better understanding of their place in the web of life at this and many other areas of the National Park System.

**Miscellaneous services.** The towns of Grand Lake and Granby offer accommodations, services, and supplies normally required, including telephone. The towns of Granby and Grand Lake each have a physician. The nearest hospital is in Kremmling, Colo., about 66 kilometers (41 miles) from Grand Lake village.

#### TO REMIND YOU

A complete list of regulations relating to the area is posted at all launching sites and campgrounds.

**Cutting or marring** of trees is not permitted.

**Private property,** which exists within the recreation area, must be respected.

GPO 1975 211 313 25 REPRINT 1975

#### WE'RE JOINING THE METRIC WORLD

The National Park Service is introducing metric measurements in its publications to help Americans become acquainted with the metric system and to make interpretation more meaningful for park visitors from other nations.

Shadow Mountain National Recreation Area is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, through agreement with the Bureaus of Reclamation and Land Management. The superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park, whose address is Estes Park, CO 80517, is in immediate charge of the area.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, park and recreation areas, and for the wise use of all those resources. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

**National Park Service**  
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

# SHADOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

**Water safety.** Please use the utmost caution while boating, water skiing, and swimming.

- Observe all boating regulations.
- Do not overload the boat.
- Check the weather.
- Tell someone where you are going.
- Let fuel vapors disperse before starting the engine.
- Be sure you have enough fuel for your trip.
- Store all your gear properly.
- Carry Coast Guard-approved lifesaving equipment for all on board.

- Environmental Study Area
- Snowmobiles (Winter only)
- Picnic Area
- Information
- Ranger Station
- Campground
- Lookout Tower
- Launching Ramp
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Trail

