Welcome to Spring

Spring is stunning at Rocky Mountain National Park. Migrant bird species return, their songs filling the air. Animals like elk and sheep give birth and begin moving toward their summer ranges. Streams swell with melting snow and new rain. Exciting changes are happening every day!

But spring here is also different than you might expect. While a warm, sunny day can create the illusion that summer has arrived, the next day can turn cold and bring heavy snowfall. Lower elevations can be snow-free with hints of wildflowers while higher elevations are still covered in many feet of snow (Bear Lake, for example, usually has snow well into June).

What does this mean for you? Be prepared for any and all weather. Be willing to adapt your plans to current conditions whether hiking, skiing, or snowshoeing. For more detailed trail information, see page 2.

Helpful tips for enjoying spring in Rocky:

- Spring is Rocky’s snowiest season! On average, some of the biggest snowstorms of the year happen in March, April, and even May. Be prepared.
- Spring weather is unpredictable. It can be warm and sunny one day, cold and overcast the next. Bring layers of clothes for a range of temperatures and conditions—you’ll be more comfortable and have more fun.
- Visitor center hours and program schedules change throughout the season. Please check times carefully, and when in doubt, contact the park.
- Expect a wide variety of trail conditions. You may find snow-free trails near park entrances and deep snow on higher-elevation trails in the same day. Snow is soft and wet, often with ice underneath, making for difficult conditions whether hiking, skiing, or snowshoeing. For more detailed trail information, see page 2.

Road Conditions

Trail Ridge Road is scheduled to open May 25. Due to weather, opening may be delayed, and temporary closures may be reinstated. Call 970 586-1222 for the most up-to-date status of Trail Ridge Road.

Old Fall River Road is scheduled to open to motorized travel in early July.

Hiking and Camping

For tips on hiking and a list of spring trails, see Page 2.

Overnight stays in Rocky must be in a campground or designated wilderness site and require a permit. Staying overnight in a car or RV along roads or at trailheads is not allowed.

Rocky has five campgrounds. Most close for the season in September. For details, visit go.nps.gov/RockyCamping or stop by a visitor center. For wilderness camping, visit go.nps.gov/RockyWildernessCamping or stop at the Wilderness Office (east side near Beaver Meadows Visitor Center) or the Kawuneeche Visitor Center (west side).

Free Park Movie

See the stunning 23-minute park movie Spirit of the Mountains in the Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers. (At the Kawuneeche Visitor Center, showings will be intermittent June 4-8 and 11-15. Call 970 627-3471 for times.)

Beaver Meadows has assisted listening devices for audio description and amplification and induction loops for those with hearing aids. Both visitor centers have a captioned version of the park film and a version en Español. All park visitor centers are accessible.

Visitor Centers

EAST SIDE Near Estes Park

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center
Through May 5: 9a-4:30p daily
Starting May 6: 8a-4:30p daily
Near Beaver Meadows Entrance. Information, bookstore, park movie (see left). For wilderness camping permits, follow trail east of visitor center to Wilderness Office.

Fall River Visitor Center
Through May 13: Fri, Sat, Sun 9a-4p
Starting May 18: 9a-4p daily
Near Fall River Entrance. Life-sized wildlife displays, bookstore.

Moraine Park Discovery Center
Starting May 26: 9a-4 30p daily
On Bear Lake Road. Interactive exhibits, nature trail with great views of Moraine Park, bookstore.

Sheep Lakes Information Station
Starting May 12: Open daily (weather permitting). In Horsethoe Park on US Hwy 34 west of Estes Park. Information and ranger programs. Good wildlife viewing.

TRAIL RIDGE ROAD

Alpine Visitor Center
Starting May 25: 10:30a-4:30p daily (weather permitting). Highest visitor center in the National Park Service at 11,796 feet. Extraordinary alpine views, displays, information, a bookstore, an adjacent gift shop and cafe.

WEST SIDE Near Grand Lake

Kawuneeche Visitor Center
Through April 30: 8a-4:30p daily
Starting May 1: 8a-5p daily

Calypso orchids (Calypso bulbosa) provide small but intense patches of color during spring in Rocky Mountain National Park.

NPS PHOTO / ANN SCHONLAU

RMNP

Rocky Mountain National Park

Spring 2018

March 18–June 16
Stay Safe

Be Responsible

It is your responsibility to be safe and to know and obey park rules. You can find park safety information, rules, and regulations at visitor centers, entrance stations, trailhead bulletin boards, and the park website at nps.gov/romo.

Altitude Sickness affects many visitors every year. Symptoms include headaches, nausea, fatigue, dizziness, vomiting, and in acute situations, even unconsciousness. Altitude can also aggravate preexisting conditions like heart and lung disease. Take your time, drink plenty of water, eat lightly, and rest. The only cure for altitude sickness is to go down to a lower altitude.

Avalanches can be easily triggered by wilderness travelers. The park does not do any avalanche control. Never assume trails are free of avalanche hazard. Wear an electronic transceiver when traversing avalanche terrain, and avoid skiing or snowshoeing in steep gullies. If caught in an avalanche, make swimming motions and try to stay on top of the snow. For current conditions, check at a visitor center, call 970 586-1206, or visit avalanche.state.co.us.

Wilderness Travel should be done in a group, not alone. Leave a detailed trip itinerary with a friend. This helps park authorities if you fail to return. Mountain weather changes quickly. If conditions are more hazardous than expected, report it to local authorities.

Bicycles are prohibited on trails. They are permitted on all roads open to motor vehicles, paved and dirt, unless otherwise posted. There are no designated bicycle lanes in the park. Roads are narrow with few or no shoulders—ride with care. By law, you must ride single file. Shuttle buses do not accept bicycles. Visit go.nps.gov/RockyBicycling.

Falling Trees are an ever-present hazard and can fall without warning. Be extra careful around dead trees when it’s windy or following a snowstorm.

Firearm Possession in the park is permitted for those legally authorized to possess firearms 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.

Fishing requires a Colorado state fishing license. Trout in the park include brown, brook, rainbow, and cutthroat (including the protected Colorado River and greenback). Not all park lakes have reproducing fish populations. For more information, visit go.nps.gov/RockyFishing.

Hypothermia can happen any time of year. Watch for drowsiness, impaired judgment, excessive shivering, and slurred speech. To prevent, wear insulated, wind-proof layers and drink plenty of fluids.

Marijuana possession and use is illegal in Rocky Mountain National Park and all federal lands, even though small amounts of recre-ational marijuana are legal in Colorado.

Pets are prohibited on ALL park trails, tundra, and meadow areas. Leashed pets are only allowed in picnic areas, parking lots, campgrounds, and along roadways. Never leave pets in vehicles if it puts them in danger or they become a public nuisance. When outside vehicles, pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet. Service animals that have been individually trained to perform specific tasks for the benefit of persons with disabilities are allowed in the park. Emotional support (“therapy animals”) and service-animals-in-training are not service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act and may not access trails or other non-motorized areas.

Rivers and Streams can be deadly. Park waters are frigid. Powerful currents can knock you over and pull you downstream or underwater, where you may become trapped. Streamside rocks are often slippery, and nearby water may be deep. Always cross only if you know you can swim. Separately swim upstream, you may get caught in an undertow.

Take only pictures. It is illegal to take any natural features including pinecones, rocks, antlers, and artifacts; or to disturb soil, rocks, or vegetation (including flowers). Metal detector and drone use are prohibited.

Ticks are out in spring. In areas with plants, regularly check yourself for ticks. Wear long sleeves, pants, and repellent with DEET. If you find an embedded tick, slowly pull it straight out with tweezers. Ticks can carry disease, including Colorado Tick Fever.

Stay Cold

Hiking in Spring

Want a chance to hike all four seasons in a day? Try hiking in spring!

Weather

- Be prepared for a wide range of temperatures. Some days are warm and sunny. Others are cold and snowy. Others still switch back and forth between both!
- In Rocky, spring means SNOW! March and April are the snowiest months of the year, and new snow isn’t uncommon in May or even early June.

Trails

- Trail conditions vary from day to day. Before going on a hike, check recent trail conditions at go.nps.gov/RockyTrailConditions or visit a visitor center and check with a ranger.

Carry the Essentials

- Lots of water
- First aid kit
- High-energy food
- Topographic map and compass/GPS
- HVAC gear, hat, gloves
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Layers of clothing including outerwear, rain jacket, windbreaker
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Waterproof matches, pocket knife, whistle
- Sunscreen
- Sturdy footwear and extra socks

Interested in a longer hike? Ask for a hiking brochure at entrance stations, visitor centers, or at staffed trailheads.

EAST SIDE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bear Lake Trailhead</td>
<td>0.5 mi</td>
<td>Follow a self-guiding nature trail around beautiful Bear Lake. Trail has snow well into June.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lily Lake Trailhead</td>
<td>0.8 mi</td>
<td>A level walk around Lily Lake featuring wildflowers, waterfowl, and mountain views.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moraine Park Discovery Center Trailhead</td>
<td>0.5 mi</td>
<td>Winds up and down hillside behind Discovery Center (open May 25). Self-guiding trail book available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprague Lake Trailhead</td>
<td>0.5 mi</td>
<td>Packed gravel, level-grade trail around lovely lake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tundra Communities Trail</td>
<td>0.6 mi</td>
<td>View the mini-scenic world of the alpine tundra and enjoy sweeping views of the park. Trail often has snow well into the summer season.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WEST SIDE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams Falls Trailhead</td>
<td>0.6 mi</td>
<td>Beautiful short hike near Grand Lake. Trail continues beyond falls to lush meadows with mountain views.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Valley Trailhead</td>
<td>1 mi</td>
<td>Follows bank of the Colorado River. Look for wildlife. Packed gravel, level grade. Open in May, weather permitting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holzwarth Historic Site</td>
<td>1 mi</td>
<td>Explore a historic homestead cabin and 1920s dude ranch. Brochures, interpretive signs. Buildings closed and unfurnished in off-season, but you are welcome to tour the grounds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ranger-Led Programs

East Side

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WALKS, HIKES, AND ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bear Necessities 🌿</td>
<td>20 to 30 minute talk</td>
<td>Beaver Meadows Visitor Center</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Meadows Evening Programs 🌿</td>
<td>45 minute program</td>
<td>Beaver Meadows Visitor Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>5/18 only</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bighorn Basics 🌿</td>
<td>30 minute talk</td>
<td>Sheep Lakes Information Station</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Bird Walk 🌿</td>
<td>1.5 hour walk</td>
<td>Cub Lake Trailhead in Moraine Park</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springing to Life 🌿</td>
<td>Drop in 10–11 am</td>
<td>Beaver Meadows Visitor Center</td>
<td>10–11 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10–11 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

West Side

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Night in the Park 🌿</td>
<td>1 hour program</td>
<td>Kawuneeche Visitor Center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>5/26 only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Programs and Events (East and West)

Complete your Junior Ranger booklet and earn a badge!

Become a Junior Ranger
Get started at any visitor contact station
Start and finish on your own schedule
Year-round
Pick up a free Junior Ranger Activity Booklet at any visitor contact station, discover the park, and earn your badge! There are activity books for ages 5 and under, 6 to 8, and 9 and up.

Party with the Stars
Upper Beaver Meadows Trailhead
Starts at 8:30 pm
Friday, June 15
Watch as night descends on Rocky Mountain National Park. Volunteers will be available with telescopes to help you experience the magic of the night sky.

World Migratory Bird Day
Meet at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center
8 am to 12 pm
Saturday, June 9
Bring binoculars and a field guide for a ranger-led birding excursion. Come for part or all of this multi-location event.
Call 970 586-1206 for more information.

Notes and Tips
- All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Programs may be canceled due to weather.
- Accessible programs are marked with a blue icon.
- Programs and hours vary. Please double-check the schedule, including specific days listed, before heading out.
- For outdoor programs, be sure to bring the essentials to wear and carry (see left).
- Our calendar is now online! Visit go.nps.gov/RockyCal for a full list of all upcoming events, including ranger programs.
Park Shuttle Bus

Shuttle Service at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROUTE</th>
<th>SCHEDULE</th>
<th>DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hiker Shuttle</td>
<td>Hourly 7:30 am to 10 am</td>
<td>Daily May 26-Sep 9, Weekends Only Sep 10-Oct 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Express</td>
<td>30 min 10 am to 6 pm</td>
<td>Daily May 26-Oct 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hourly 6 pm to 8 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Lake Route</td>
<td>10-15 min 7 am to 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Daily May 26-Oct 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moraine Park Route</td>
<td>30 min 7 am to 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Daily May 26-Oct 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

www.RMConservancy.org

Rocky Mountain Field Institute
Educational Bus Tours in Rocky!

Grand Lake Safari Adventure
Tuesdays, June 9 - August 25
Journey to the Top! Trail Ridge Rd Adventure
Wednesdays & Thursdays, June 10 - Sept. 3
Trail Ridge Sunset Safari Adventure
Fridays, June 13 - September 5
Elk Expeditions Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays & Mondays Sept. 10 - October 17

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

www.RMConservancy.org

Want one?

The Rocky Mountain National Park license plate from the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. Proceeds benefit Rocky Mountain National Park!

www.RMConservancy.org

Printed on recycled paper