

Park Purpose

The park purpose identifies the specific reason for the establishment of a particular park.

The purpose of Rocky Mountain National Park is to preserve the high-elevation ecosystems and wilderness character of the southern Rocky Mountains within its borders and to provide the freest recreational use of and access to the park's scenic beauties, wildlife, natural features and processes, and cultural objects.

Park Significance

- The park provides exceptional access to wild places for visitors to recreate and experience solitude and outstanding scenic beauty. Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous paved road in the United States, and the park's extensive trail system bring visitors to the doorstep of a variety of wilderness-based recreational opportunities.
- Fragile alpine tundra encompasses one-third of the park, one of the largest examples of alpine tundra ecosystems protected in the contiguous United States.
- Glaciers and flowing fresh water carved park landscapes. The park is the source of several river systems, including the Colorado River and the Cache la Poudre, Colorado's first and only designated wild and scenic river.
- The dramatic elevation range within the park boundary, which spans from 7,600 feet to 14,259 feet and straddles the Continental Divide, allows for diverse terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, varied plant and animal communities, and a variety of ecological processes. The park is designated as an international biosphere reserve and globally important bird area, with portions of the park's montane, subalpine, and alpine ecosystems managed as research natural areas for scientific and educational purposes.
- This mountainous landscape has drawn people to the area for thousands of years.

Designations

A variety of sites in the park are on the National Register of Historic Places, including prehistoric archeological sites, buildings, structures including roads and bridges, and a snowplow.

January 26, 1915 Establishment of Rocky Mountain National Park (16 USC 191)

January 17, 1977 Inclusion in the international system of Biosphere Reserves (UNESCO)

1977 Designation of park as Class 1 airshed (1977 Amendment to Clean Air Act)

November 10, 1978 Establishment & designation of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail including sections within RMNP (P.L. 95-625)

October 30, 1986 Designation of Cache la Poudre River within park (14 miles as Wild River) as a unit of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System (P.L. 99-590)

1996 Designation of Trail Ridge Road as All American Road by the U.S. Department of Transportation (National Scenic Byways Program), and as a State Scenic Byway

2000 Prohibition of Commercial Air Tour Operations (§806, National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000, P.L. 106-181)

2001 Beaver Meadows Visitor Center/ Headquarters as National Historic Landmark

August 24, 2001 Designation of park as a Globally Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy

March 30, 2009 Designation of park as Wilderness (P.L. 111-11)

Continental Divide

The Continental Divide runs north-south through the park for 42 miles from the Never Summer Mountains' ridgetops, south at La Poudre Pass, across Trail Ridge Road at Milner Pass, elevation 10,758 feet (3,548 m), through the park core, and exits at Ogallala Peak on the southern park boundary.

Rocky Mountain Conservancy

Rocky Mountain Conservancy is the primary philanthropic partner of the park. Founded in 1931, Rocky Mountain Conservancy supports a wide variety of park programs and projects. They also operate the Nature Stores located in park visitor centers.

To learn more, visit rmconservancy.org

Connect With Us

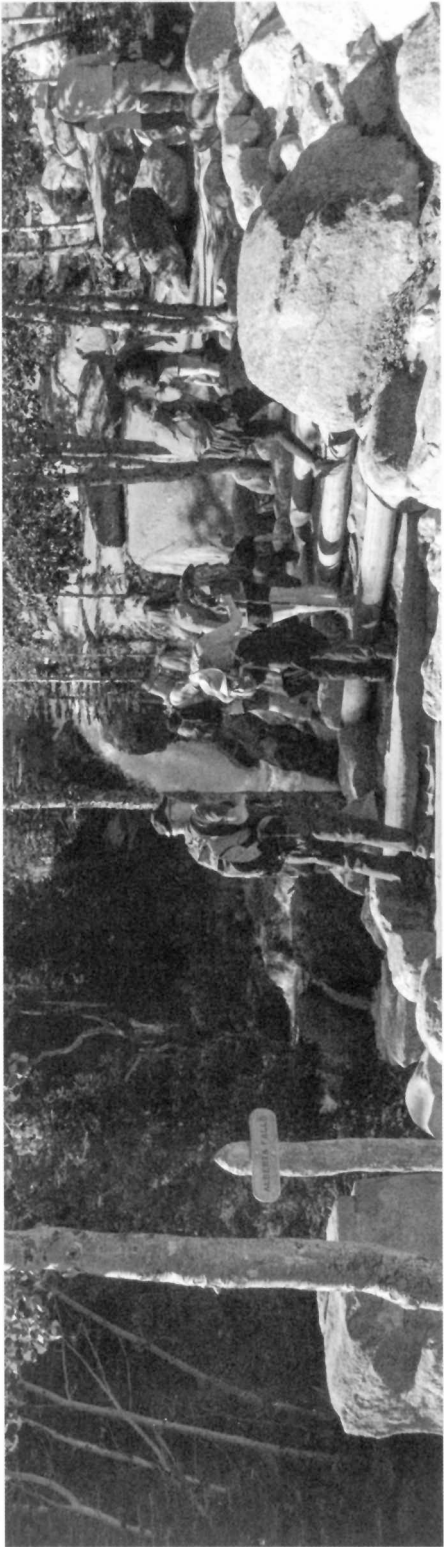
Park Website	nps.gov/romo
Facebook, YouTube Instagram, and X	@RockyNPS
Park Information	970-586-1206
Trail Ridge Road Status	970-586-1222 <i>Recorded message</i>
Mailing Addresses	Park Headquarters 1000 US Highway 36 Estes Park, CO 80517 Kawuneeche Visitor Center 16018 US Highway 34 Grand Lake, CO 80447



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rocky Mountain National Park

2026 Facts and Figures



Campgrounds

Campground	Summer Sites	Reservable
Aspenglen	52	Yes
Glacier Basin	150	Yes
Glacier Basin Group	13	Yes
Longs Peak	26	No
Moraine Park	244	Yes
Timber Creek	98	Yes

Entrance Stations

Entrance	Location
Beaver Meadows	West of Estes Park, US Hwy. 36 <i>Elevation 8,200 ft (2,499 m)</i>
Fall River	West of Estes Park, US Hwy. 36 <i>Elevation 8,240 ft (2,511 m)</i>
Grand Lake	North of Grand Lake, US Hwy. 34 <i>Elevation 8,715 ft (2,656 m)</i>
Wild Basin	North of Allenspark, CO Hwy. 7 <i>Elevation 8,390 ft (2,557 m)</i>

Visitor Centers

Refer to park website for seasons and hours.

Name	Location
Alpine	At Fall River Pass - highest visitor center in NPS <i>Elevation 11,796 ft (3,595 m)</i>
Beaver Meadows	West of Estes Park, US Hwy. 36 <i>Elevation 7,840 ft (2,390 m)</i>
Fall River	West of Estes Park, US Hwy. 36 <i>Elevation 8,250 ft (2,515 m)</i>
Kawuneeche	North of Grand Lake, US Hwy. 34 <i>Elevation 8,720 ft (2,658 m)</i>
Moraine Park Discovery Center	On Bear Lake Road <i>Elevation 8,140 ft (2,481 m)</i>

Roads, Trails, and Shuttles

Paved Roads	92 miles (148 km)
Unpaved Roads	28 miles (45 km)
Hiking Trails	~355 miles (571 km)

Scenic Roads

Road	Season
Trail Ridge Road	Open May 31–Oct. 25, 2025 <i>Closed in winter</i>
Old Fall River Road	Open June 30–Oct. 8, 2025 <i>Closed in winter</i>
Bear Lake Road	Year-round access

2025 Shuttle Operations

Route	Total Riders
Bear Lake	569,338
Moraine Park	21,166
Hiker Shuttle	28,723

Size and Features

Feature	Information
Park Gross Acres	265,847.74 acres (107,584.763.38 ha) <i>includes inholdings</i>
Square Miles	415.38 mi² (1075.83 km²)
Wilderness Acres (94.8% of park)	252,123 acres (102,101.38 ha) <i>Potential additions:</i> 325 acres (132 ha)
Tundra Acres	89,099 acres (36,057 ha)
Highest Elevation	Longs Peak Summit: 14,259 feet (4,346 m)
Named Peaks	124 over 8,789 feet (2,679 m)
Avg. Annual Rainfall <i>source: NOAA</i>	Estes Park: 15.61 in (39.7 cm) Grand Lake: 18.60 in (47.2 cm)
Lakes	147 ; 1,151 acres (466 ha)

Species

Vertebrates and vascular plants found in the park are well inventoried, but knowledge gaps remain. The extent of park non-vertebrate animals and non-vascular plants has been largely unexplored.

Type	Species
Birds	280
Butterflies	142
Fish	7 native 4 non-native
Mammals	66
Vascular Plants	~1100

Non-native Species

- 100+ non-native plant species
 - 42 are considered invasive with potential to displace native plants
- 9 non-native vertebrate species

Wildlife Population Estimates

Species	Population Estimate
Bears	20-24
Bighorn Sheep	350+
Deer	300-500
Elk	100

Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate Species

Candidate	Threatened	Endangered
Monarch Butterfly	Mexican Spotted Owl	Gray Wolf
	Canada Lynx	

2025 Statistics

Recreational Visitation

Two Timed Entry Reservations Permits were offered. Timed Entry+ Bear Lake Road was May 22–October 18, from 5 am–6 pm and included all areas of the park including Bear Lake Road. Timed Entry provided access for all areas of the park excluding Bear Lake Road Corridor, from 9 am–2 pm, May 22–October 12.

Month	Visitation
January	96,601
February	101,133
March	162,403
April	173,258
May	319,336
June	619,776
July	763,213
August	675,717
September	578,186
October	382,163
November	165,048
December	134,597
Total Visits	4,180,181

Staff

Figures from Pay Period 15, which typically has highest number of employees for the year.

Type	Number of Staff
Permanent and Term	181
Temporary (Seasonal)	185
Recurring Volunteers*	446
Group Volunteers*	496

*Volunteers donated a total of 87,860 hours.