



With the coming of spring, Rocky Mountain National Park begins its long thaw, and awakens from the winter slumber which has enveloped the park for almost five months. Melting ice and snow causes streams and rivers to cascade down glacial rocks and gorges to valley floors. A time of renewal is here, and new life begins to appear on the landscape. If you look closely you may see the first flower of the new season, the pasqueflower. This beautiful early-blooming flower is found primarily in open montane forests throughout the lower elevations of the park.

During this season, many new-born animals begin their lives in the wild at Rocky. One of the more noticeable species is elk. You have to look very hard to see an elk calf. The cows usually keep the calves well-hidden from predators, and their natural camouflage makes them difficult to see .

As you view wildlife, please enjoy them from a distance. If you cause an animal to change its behavior, you're too close!

One the rites of spring at the park is the annual opening of Trail Ridge Road. Weather permitting, the park aims to have the road open on May 28, which is the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. Due to road projects, Trail Ridge Road will not open earlier this year.

Trail Ridge Road is the highest, continuous, paved road in the United States, reaching an elevation of 12,183 feet and is 48 miles in length. Trail Ridge Road is frequently buried in deep snow in winter, and the snowpack can reach up to 20 feet or more. Using state-of-the-art equipment, it takes snowplow drivers many weeks to clear the road for the summer season.

Roadwork & Projects 2010

Resurfacing Work on Trail Ridge Road

During the summer of 2010 and 2011, a major resurfacing project will take place on Trail Ridge Road from the Colorado River Trailhead to Rainbow Curve. This project will also involve resurfacing of all major Trail Ridge Road overlook parking areas, pull offs and the parking lot at Alpine Visitor Center.

Park visitors can expect 20 to 30 minute delays through the construction on Trail Ridge Road. There may be multiple areas of construction occurring concurrently, and in that case the combined delay time will not exceed 60 minutes. Resurfacing can only be done during the day due to temperature requirements. There may be some temporary night closures of Trail Ridge Road as well. It is possible the project will be completed during the 2010 season.

To assist the contractor with an early start on the project, and perhaps move it along more quickly, Trail Ridge Road will not open prior to Friday, May 28. Prior to May 28, Trail Ridge Road will not open further than the Colorado River Trailhead on the west side, due to work on the switchbacks, and not further than Rainbow Curve on the east side.

The boardwalk at Many Parks Curve will be closed from mid-March until right before Memorial Day for reconstruction. The parking lots will remain open. This year the Alpine Ridge Trail near the visitor center will be closed for reconstruction.



Park Phone Numbers and Website

 **Trail Ridge Road status: (970) 586-1222**
Call Park Information (970) 586-1206 with your questions.
We are available to assist you from 8 to 4:30 daily.

 The Official Park Website is <http://www.nps.gov/romo>
Tweet us @ RMNPOfficial

 Hearing impaired persons may call the TTY at (970) 586-1319 from 8 to 5 daily.

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

You Need to Know

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.

East of the Divide – Estes Park Area

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

Open daily 8-4:30.
Starting April 25, open daily 8-5.
Features spectacular free park movie, bookstore, large park orientation map, and backcountry permits in an adjacent building.



Sheep Lakes Information Station

Starting May 15,
open daily 8:30-4.
Horseshoe Park is a good place to look for wildlife, including bighorn sheep and elk.



Fall River Visitor Center

Bookstore open 9-4 Monday-Friday through March 31. Starting April 1, all visitor services open daily 9-4 through April 24. Starting April 25, all services open daily 9-5. Features life-size wildlife displays, a children's discovery room with objects to touch, and a bookstore.



Alpine Visitor Center

Starting May 28, open daily (weather permitting) 10:30-4:30. Features extraordinary views of alpine tundra, tundra displays, bookstore, adjacent gift shop and snack bar. Call 586-1206 for current information.



Moraine Park Visitor Center

Open for the weekend of April 24-25, 9-4:30. Open daily starting May 1, 9-4:30. Interactive exhibits on the past and present landscape, and a bookstore. Great views of glaciated Moraine Park.



West of the Divide – Grand Lake Area



Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Open daily 8-4:30.
Starting May 2, open 8-5.
Features free movies, exhibits on wonders of the park, a bookstore, and backcountry permits.



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.



Please don't feed me!

Firearms

- Hunting, recreational shooting, and target practice is not allowed in Rocky Mountain National Park.
- Firearms are permitted in Rocky Mountain National Park. As of February 22, 2010, a new federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, Colorado, and local laws, to possess firearms in Rocky Mountain National Park. It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable state and federal firearms laws.
- Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those buildings are posted with signs at public entrances.
- If you have questions, please contact the Park Information Office at (970) 586-1206.

Weather and Road Conditions

Spring driving conditions can change rapidly. Trail Ridge Road will open fully on May 28, if weather permits. For current park road and driving conditions, please call the Trail Ridge Road status line (970) 586-1222. You can also check www.twitter.com/RMNPOfficial, or the park website at www.nps.gov and click on road conditions, inquire at park visitor centers, or call (970) 586-1206.



**Trail Ridge Road
circa 1959**

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 while those roads are closed to motor vehicles. Check at 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.

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!

Surviving Your Park Visit

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 Swift Water
Mountain streams can be deadly dangerous, especially during high runoff in May and June. Remain back from the banks of streams and rivers. Provide proper supervision for children, who by nature, tend to be attracted to water. Rocks at streamside and in the stream are often slippery, and water beneath them may be deep. Powerful currents in park streams can quickly pull a person underwater and pin him/her below the surface. Melting snow feeds our streams resulting in extremely cold water temperatures.



3 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. If you are caught out in the open during a lightning storm, do not seek shelter under a tree or rock overhang. You want to squat down as low as you can, keeping both feet together and avoid being the tallest thing around you. Keep your pack, hiking poles, and all metal away from you while you are exposed.



4 High Elevation
A large number of the visitors to this park each year experience symptoms of altitude sickness. Symptoms range from headache and dizziness to nausea and eventually 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.



5 Avalanches
Colorado has more known avalanches than any other state. Avoid skiing or snowshoeing in steep gullies where avalanches could occur. Open slopes of 30 to 45 degrees can be loaded with dangerous masses of snow, easily triggered by backcountry travelers. Wear an electronic transceiver when traversing avalanche terrain. If you are caught in an avalanche, make swimming motions and try to stay on top of the snow.



For current avalanche conditions, check at a visitor center or call (970) 586-1206.

6 Hypothermia
Hypothermia is a serious and sometimes fatal condition brought on by exposure to wet and cold. The core body temperature drops to a level that impairs normal muscle and brain activities. Symptoms include drowsiness, loss of judgment or coordination, slurred speech, and uncontrolled shivering. If these symptoms occur, warm the chilled person with dry clothing and warm, nonalcoholic liquids. Get back to your car and seek medical attention.



Carry a windproof/snowproof outer shell and extra layers of clothing. Drink plenty of water; high elevation, wind, and cold can dry us out and chill us. Most importantly, stay dry!

7 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!**



Recycling Available in Major Park Locations



Glass, plastic #1 and #2, and aluminum may be recycled in open park campgrounds and major park locations. Please inquire at any visitor center or open 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.

Free Ranger-Led Programs

All children must be accompanied an adult



Talks & Walks		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Bighorn Basics - 30 minutes, starts May 15 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.		10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Moraine Park Nature Walk - 1 hour, starts May 1 Enjoy an easy 1/2-mile walk through the magnificent Moraine Park landscape. Meet at the 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.
Spring Bird Walk - 1.5 hours, starts April 2 Join a local expert for birding at one of the best times of the year. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Meet at the Cub Lake Trailhead.			8 a.m.				8 a.m.	8 a.m.
Skins and Skulls - 20 - 30 minute talk Want to pet an elk or cuddle up to a bear? Come to Beaver Meadows Visitor Center to <u>safely</u> feel skins and skulls while learning about park wildlife.		3 p.m.						3 p.m.
Skins and Things - 40 minute activity, May 14 - June 6 Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of park mammals. Meet at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center.		10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.				10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Coyote Valley River Walk - 1 hour walk, May 14 - June 6 Explore the valley ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River. Meet at the Coyote Valley Trailhead.		2:30 p.m.					2:30 p.m.	
Headwater Habitats Walk - 1.5 hour, 1 mile, May 15 - June 5 Discover plants and animals that live just downstream from the start of the Colorado River. Meet at the Colorado River Trailhead.			2:30 p.m.					2:30 p.m.

Evening Programs		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Beaver Meadows Evening Program 1 hour, every Saturday		Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. Meet in the downstairs auditorium at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center.						7 p.m.
Saturday Night In The Park - Evening Program at Kawuneeche Visitor Center 1 hour, May 8, 29 & June 12		Enjoy an evening program in the auditorium at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center. For a description of topics, inquire at the visitor center front desk.						7 p.m.

Special Activities & Events	
Astronomy Program - 8:30 p.m.	Observe the night sky with the help of a Park Ranger and expert volunteer astronomers. Dress warm, bring binoculars and a flashlight, and meet at the Upper Beaver Meadows Trailhead parking area. June 4 & 18
International Migratory Bird Day Event - 8 a.m. 4 hour walk	Bring binoculars and a field guide for this ranger-led birding excursion. Come for part or all of this multi-location event. Meet at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center. Call (970) 586-1206 for information. June 12

Free Park Movie

See the stunning 20 minute park movie at the Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Available en español and English. Features spectacular aerial footage of the rugged high country of Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as wildlife and park history.



Heart of the Rockies

Teachers, Parents, Students!
Rocky Mountain National Park’s “Heart of the Rockies” education program provides an outdoor classroom to children throughout this region. Teachers who are interested in participating in this program may contact the park’s Education Specialist at (970) 586-3777, or through the website at heartoftherockies.net

Camping 2010



	Fee per night ♦	Reservations?	Dump Stations	Elevation (feet)	Public Phones	Firewood, ice
♦ When the water is turned on for the summer.						
Aspenglen 54 campsites Open May 26 through Sept 25	\$20	yes	no	8,220	yes	yes
Glacier Basin 150 campsites Open May 26 through Sept 6 13 group campsites 	\$20	Loops C & D & Group Loops	yes	8,500	yes	yes
Longs Peak 26 campsites Open all year—tents only	\$20	no	no	9,500	no	yes
Moraine Park 245 campsites Open all year 	\$20	yes	yes	8,160	yes	yes
Timber Creek 98 campsites Open year-round starting May 28 	\$20	no	yes	8,900	yes	wood



Campgrounds/Reservations

This summer three park campgrounds, Moraine Park, Glacier Basin (including group sites) and Aspenglen, accept peak-season reservations (May 26 through the summer). 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 \$14 per site per night when the water is turned off, and \$20 per site per night when the water is turned on. The maximum number of days that you are allowed to camp during your stay is **seven days total**. This applies to all campgrounds throughout the park.

The recent mountain pine beetle outbreak has resulted in the removal of most trees in Glacier Basin and Timber Creek so there is little or no shade in these campgrounds. Call 970-586-1206 or check at a visitor center for current campground status.

Black Bear Country

Never approach a bear. Keep children beside you. There is more safety in numbers; it is best to travel in a close group. If a bear approaches you, stand up tall, and make loud noises—shout, clap hands, clang pots and pans. If attacked, fight back!

Food Storage

Do not attract wildlife: Keep a clean camp! Bear boxes for food storage are available in all five campgrounds; location symbols are on campground maps. Boxes are shared and cannot be locked. 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.”



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 Kawuneeche Visitor Center. For further information write to: Backcountry Office, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado 80517 or phone (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, carry in/carry out food storage canisters are required of all park backcountry campers in areas below treeline between May 1 and October 1. 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 5 wheelchair users at the camp. The administrative permit fee is \$20 from May 1 to October 31.



Leave No Trace

With approximately 3 million visitors every year, the wild lands of Rocky Mountain National Park are heavily used. While hiking, camping, and all your park activities, do your part to preserve this national treasure by following the seven easy 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 other visitors

For more information go to <http://www.lnt.org/>



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.

Early Season Hiking Trails

With over 350 miles of trails, the park offers a vast array of choices. Many higher trails and shaded areas can hold snow well into late June. Please check at a visitor center for current conditions before hiking. Trails are listed starting with trailheads on the west side of the park, and proceeding eastward. Even for short day trips, be sure to pack gear for all types of weather (sun, rain, snow, wind). Windproof/waterproof clothing is essential gear to wear or carry.

Trail Tips: stay together. This is the most important tip that comes from the hard experience of park search and rescue teams! Be prepared for the rigors of high elevation -- drink plenty of water, and travel at a pace where you can still talk and breathe easily. If you feel poorly, descend to a lower elevation. Pack it in, pack it out, including remains of all your food (pits, peels, etc.), and facial tissues. Let nature’s sounds prevail; avoid loud voices and noises. No pets are allowed on any park trails.

Trail	Location	Round Trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Highlights
Featured Hikes West Side Trailheads				
Adams Falls	East Inlet, on the West Side, located on the far east end of Grand Lake	.6 miles	80 feet	A beautiful short hike near Grand Lake. The trail continues beyond the falls to lush meadows.
Cascade Falls	North Inlet Trail off Tunnel Road in Grand Lake	6.8 miles	300 feet	A relatively level walk to a rocky cascade.
Granite Falls	Green Mountain Trailhead	10.4 miles	1046 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 Highway 34, north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center	1 mile 	10 feet	Follows the bank of the Colorado River, with views of the Never Summer Mountains. Look for moose, songbirds, and wildflowers. Packed gravel, level grade.
Shadow Mountain Lookout	East side of Shadow Mountain Lake, just south of Grand Lake	9.4 miles	1533 feet	A strenuous hike to a 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 Campground; a side loop trail to Ranger Meadows reconnects with main trail, adding 1.4 miles.
Trail	Location	Round Trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Highlights
Featured Hikes Central and East Side Trailheads				
Deer Mountain	Deer Ridge Junction	6 miles	1083 feet	Great views of beautiful peaks and deep valleys as you hike to the top of a peak.
Gem Lake	Lumpy Ridge Trailhead	3.2 miles	1000 feet	A rocky hike to a small lake, providing outstanding views along the way.
Nymph Lake	Bear Lake Trailhead	1 mile	225 feet	Beautiful views abound on this hike to a small lake.
Dream Lake	Bear Lake Trailhead	2.2 miles	425 feet	Beyond Nymph Lake is this scenic backcountry lake.
Alberta Falls	Glacier Gorge Trailhead Bear Lake Trailhead	1.6 miles 1.8 miles	210 feet 160 feet (return)	Hike to this beautiful and powerful waterfall. From either Glacier Gorge or Bear Lake trailheads.
Cub Lake	Cub Lake on Cub Lake Road near Moraine Park Campground	4.6 miles	540 feet	Meadows, aspen groves, beaver ponds and conifer forests highlight this hike.
The Pool	Fern Lake Trailhead	3.4 miles	245 feet	An easy, shaded hike along a stream. Continues up to Fern and Odessa lakes.
Lily Lake	Lily Lake on Highway 7 south of Estes Park	.8 miles 	20 feet	Wildflowers, waterfowl, and greenback cutthroat trout may be seen on a level walk around the lake.

Discover our Latest Multimedia!

- Introduction to Snowshoeing
 - Opening Trail Ridge Road
 - Climbing Longs Peak - The Keyhole Route
 - The Ten Essentials
- Lightning Safety
 - Wilderness Celebration
 - The Mountain Pine Beetle



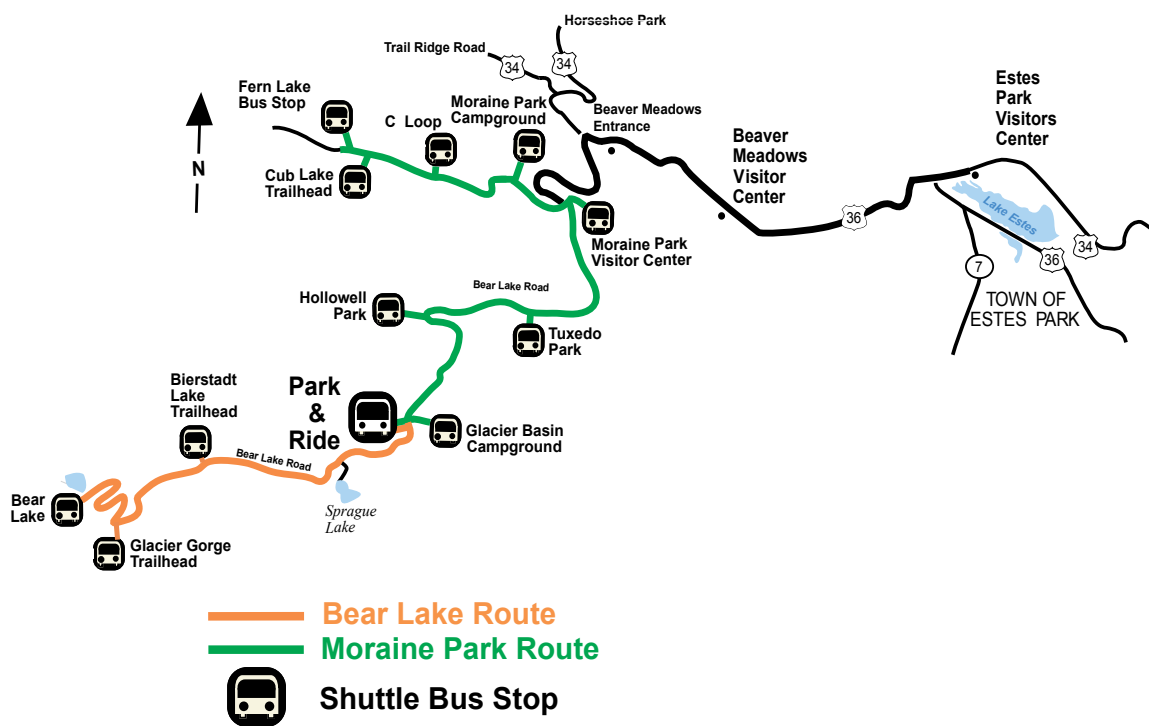
RMNP Podcasts & Videos

Go to **nps.gov/romo** and click on PHOTOS & MULTIMEDIA for more podcasts, blogs, and videos!

Follow us on Twitter - RMNPOfficial



Shuttle Bus Information



Bear Lake Shuttle

The buses run weekends starting Memorial Day Weekend (May 29, 30, 31 and June 5 & 6)

June 12 to October 3: 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

The buses run weekends starting Memorial Day Weekend (May 29, 30, 31 and June 5 & 6)

June 12 to October 3: buses operate daily between Park & Ride and Fern Lake Trailhead Bus Stop, leaving Park & Ride every 30 minutes from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fee Demonstration Enhances 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 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. The remaining 20 percent is distributed across National Park Service areas that do not charge fees to address those same goals. Here at Rocky Mountain National Park, through FLREA and other legislation, we are able to retain over 80 percent of the fees collected. Since this legislation has been enacted, Rocky Mountain National Park has completed many projects that have enhanced our visitors' experiences, and more projects are planned. This year there are various fee projects underway; here are two you may see:

Campgrounds: Camping is a very popular activity; in 2009, there were nearly 130,000 camper nights. A multi-year project is ongoing to completely renovate restroom facilities throughout park campgrounds. This year the work will be focused in Glacier Basin Campground. The renovated and redesigned facilities will better address visitor needs. These accessible facilities have integrated sustainable practices and design in their construction.

Picnic Areas: Picnicking is a favorite pastime of many visitors. Currently there is a multi-year project to improve picnic areas throughout the park. These improvements will enhance visitor experiences through providing designated, improved picnic sites, with sustainable concrete picnic tables.

As you see work in Rocky Mountain National Park this year, you can feel proud knowing your fees are helping improve the park for decades to come.



International Sister Parks

Rocky Mountain National Park and the Tatra National Parks in Slovakia and Poland have formally become sister parks. With similar mountain terrain and ecosystems, and sharing common issues, the three parks are exchanging information and expertise to better manage these great preserves for the benefit of all.



RMNP Rangers visit sister parks in Poland & Slovakia

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

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
LEARN ~ EXPLORE ~ ADVENTURE



Outdoor Classes for Kids!

Estes Park Treasure Hunt (ages 9-13) (\$10 ea)
June 22, 29; July 6, 13, 20, 27 9AM - Noon

Art Adventures for Kids (ages 6-9) (\$15 ea)
Wednesdays: July 7, 14, 21, 28 9AM - Noon

Photography Just For Kids! (\$10 ea)
July 15; July 29 9AM - Noon

Animal Tracks Detectives (\$15 ea)
July 17 9AM - Noon

Astronomy for Families (\$15 ea)
August 14 3PM - 9PM

Adult Seminars

Birds of Spring
April 17

A Magnificent Image: Now What?
April 17-18

Spring Raptor Migration
April 24

Nature's Engineers: Beavers
May 15

Elements of Outdoor Photography
May 20-21

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

Sign up online at www.rmna.org



JOIN THE MILLION MILE CHALLENGE TO SUPPORT ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK!

**HELP RAISE \$1,000,000 FOR
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN RMNP...**

Join the Team as we hike, bike, run, skate, ski (or whatever!) one million miles through 2010 — and raise \$1,000,000 for the Next Generation of conservationists!

Information available at any RMNP visitor center bookstore - just ask!

A fundraising campaign of the Rocky Mountain Nature Association

Resources and More

“Not Much of a Fence”

“Not much of a fence. Won’t keep much in with that.” The park visitor from the Midwest was studying the fenced area by the Alluvial Fan. And he was right. It won’t keep much in. Or out. And that’s the intent – for these fences, surrounding areas each about 30 acres in size, are more like sieves than fences – designed to let most animals, including us, freely move in and out. The exceptions? Mostly elk, and the occasional moose, are excluded from these habitat restoration areas along the park’s streams in Horseshoe Park and Moraine Park.

These temporarily fenced areas were established to allow the recovery of riparian (streamside) vegetation such as willows, and to restore the habitat value for riparian-dependant wildlife species. Areas inside the woven-wire “sieves” have been altered to unnatural conditions through years and years of over-browsing and trampling by our unnaturally dense elk population, making them unsuitable for riparian-dependent species such as beaver, Wilson’s warbler, Lincoln’s sparrow, and altering the streams to be less than ideal habitat for trout. As the habitat values inside the fences are restored, the design allows their easy removal, perhaps to be moved to another area needing restoration. Visitors are encouraged to look at the differences in vegetation inside and outside these areas to judge for themselves how well it’s working.



Elk exclosure fence in Moraine Park



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.

The goal is to remove dead and dying trees in or near park facilities such as campgrounds, parking lots, housing areas and visitor centers. Temporary closures may occur until dead trees are removed.

Another method of control is to spray Carbaryl to protect high value trees on both east and west sides of the park. 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. There are a few adverse impacts with Carbaryl spraying, and therefore, park staff are selective and limit use of this chemical. Spraying does not take place near water courses or wetlands.

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 limited mitigation work occurring around some 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.

Beetles, are changing the forests of the western United States and Canada, as well as the landscape of Rocky Mountain National Park. The epidemic reminds us all of nature’s power which is beyond human control. Take pleasure in the new forest that is spouting by exploring our trails and looking for seedlings that are taking hold. Your grandchildren will enjoy a forest which is much different than today.



Toward a Greener Park

The park is actively engaged in green practices, including using many hybrid/alternative fueled vehicles, a bicycle for mail delivery, low-wattage compact fluorescent lights bulbs, and active recycling of office materials.

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.

The picnic and restroom facilities at Hidden Valley were constructed using recycled lumber and materials. All new construction and rehabilitation projects are designed using energy-efficient LEED standards. Recycle containers are available throughout the park.

Artists-In-Residence II

Artwork from Rocky Mountain National Park’s Artist-In-Residence program is on display at the Estes Park Museum. This FREE display features the many facets of this successful program that the national park has hosted every year since 1984. Works on display include literature, paintings, sculptures, photography and music celebrating the holistic influence the national park can have on the visitor. The first exhibit of this kind took place in 2002 and 2003. Artists-In-Residence II is located in the historic National Park Service Building at the Museum and runs through July 3, 2010.

The Museum is located at 200 Fourth Street, just west of the Stanley Park Fairgrounds, on the south side of Lake Estes. You can reach the museum by phone at (970) 586-6256. Admission is free.

Gallery Hours:

November - April

Friday & Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

May - October

Monday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.