

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

*National Wildlife
Refuge*



© Dave Showalter

Rocky Mountain Arsenal
National Wildlife Refuge
6550 Gateway Road
Commerce City, CO 80022-1748
303 / 289 0930

rockymountainarsenal@fws.gov

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal



Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is one of the largest urban refuges in the country. This 15,000-acre Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

More than 330 species of wildlife, including bald eagles, bison, black-footed ferrets, deer, coyotes, burrowing owls, and prairie dogs, call the Refuge home. It also provides important feeding and resting grounds for resident and migratory birds

Experience the “wild” by taking the 11-mile self-guided Wildlife Drive auto tour of the Refuge, hike one of the many trails, visit our live black-footed ferret exhibit, sign up for a guided wildlife viewing tour or nature program, or enjoy seasonal catch-and-release fishing. There is no entrance fee and most of our activities are free!

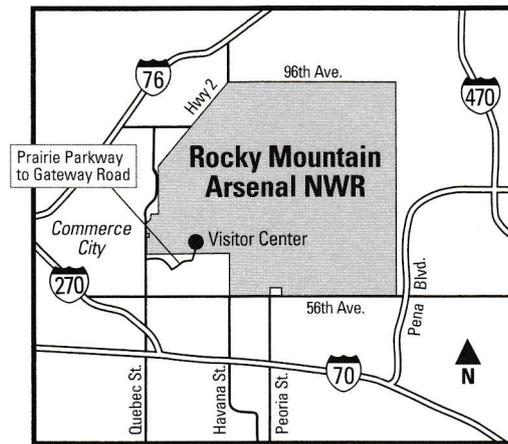
Stop in and see the Refuge’s “green” Visitor Center with interactive exhibits, a unique gift shop, and a colorful Discovery Room full of nature activities for all ages.

Directions

Take I-70 to the Quebec Street exit. Drive north on Quebec Street to Prairie Parkway/64th Ave. Turn right onto Prairie Parkway. Turn left onto Gateway Road. The Visitor Center is just inside the Refuge entrance.

Refuge Hours: Open sunrise to sunset daily. (Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day.)

Visitor Center Hours: Open Wednesday through Sunday 9 am - 4 pm. (Closed on all Federal holidays.)



March 2017

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

National Wildlife Refuge

Wildlife Drive and Trails Map



Welcome

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is a 15,000-acre expanse of short and mixed grass prairie located northeast of Denver, Colorado. We invite you to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Refuge. More than 330 species of wildlife, including bald eagles, bison, black-footed ferrets, deer, coyotes, burrowing owls, and prairie dogs call the Refuge home. The Refuge also provides important feeding and nesting grounds for resident and migratory song birds.

To protect wildlife and habitat, visitor access is limited to designated trails and roads only. All other Refuge lands and staff roads are closed to visitor entry.

Wildlife Viewing

- Best viewing times are at sunrise and at sunset.
- Practice good wildlife viewing ethics by observing wildlife from a safe distance. Use binoculars or a camera for close up viewing.
- Park in designated areas shown on the map.
- Quietly observe wildlife.
- Service dogs are welcome and must be under leash control. All other pets are prohibited.
- Avoid stopping under birds and bird nests - this is stressful to hawks, owls, and young or nesting birds.

Wildlife Drive

- The Wildlife Drive is open to motorized vehicles, but is closed to bicycles and foot travel. Motorcycles and scooters are not recommended because of the bison. The Drive is 11 miles long and takes about 45 - 60 minutes to drive.
- Please take a Wildlife Drive and Trails Map with you and follow all Wildlife Drive symbols and directional arrows.
- Speed limit is 30 miles per hour on the Wildlife Drive.
- Wildlife Drive surfaces are paved or gravel.
- Stay in your vehicle while driving through the bison area. Signs and cattle guards mark entrance and exit of bison area. Bison are wild, unpredictable animals – do not try to attract their attention.
- Keep at least a 50 to 100 yard distance between your vehicle and the bison. If bison are blocking the road, wait until they move.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for damage to vehicles caused by wildlife.

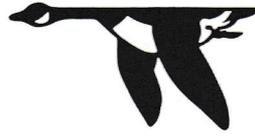
Wildlife to Watch for Along the Way

- Resident Wildlife – Bison, mule and white-tailed deer, black-footed ferrets, red-tailed hawks, prairie dogs, coyotes, and rabbits.
- Migratory Wildlife – Waterfowl, shorebirds, wintering bald eagles, ferruginous and Swainson's hawks, and burrowing owls.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

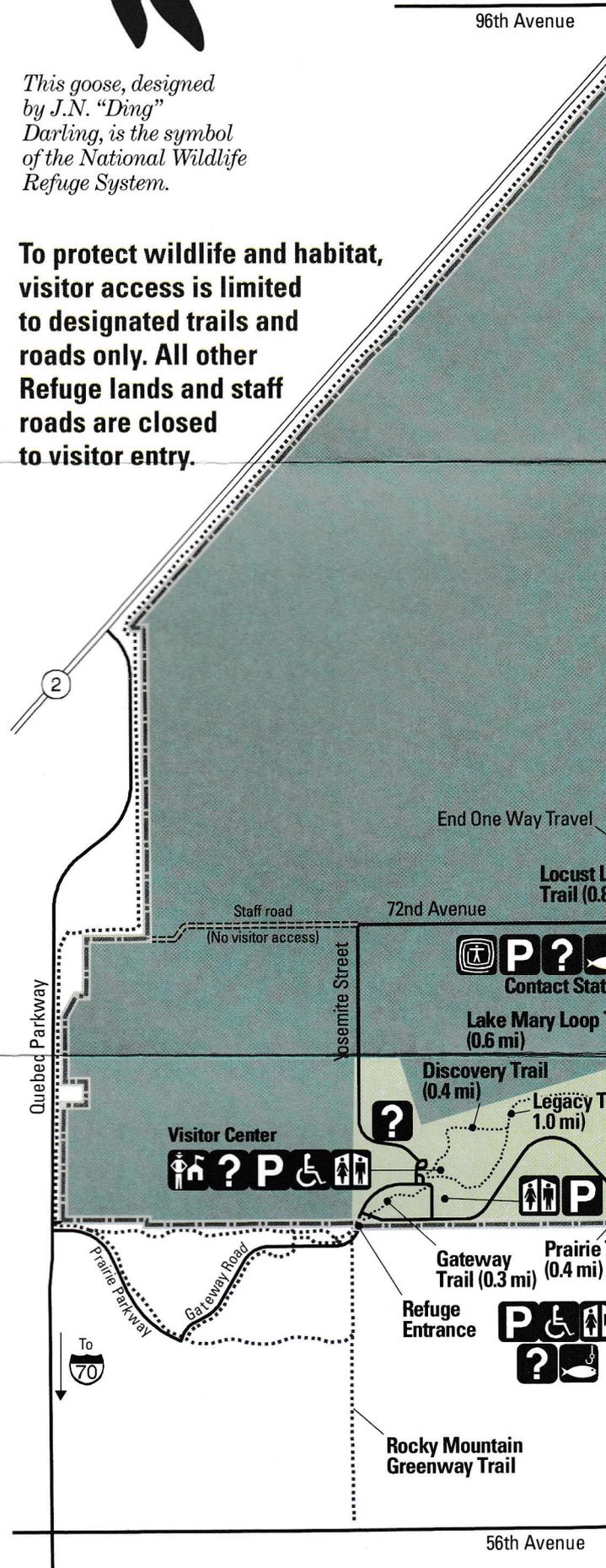
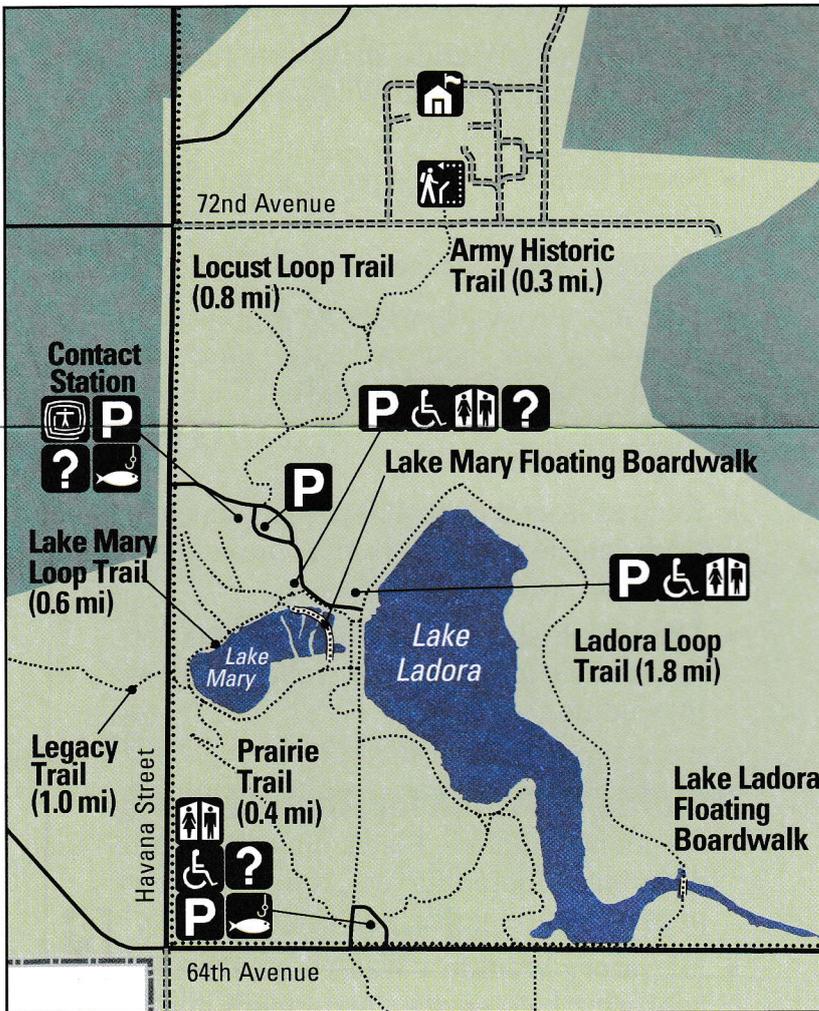
National Wildlife Refuge

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | Refuge boundary | | Visitor center |
| | Wildlife drive and mile markers | | Contact station |
| | Other visitor road | | Refuge headquarters |
| | Gravel road | | Historic interpretive site |
| | Staff road (No visitor access) | | Information kiosk |
| | Hiking trail | | Wildlife viewing site |
| | Perimeter Trail | | Restroom |
| | Lake / wetland | | Fishing fee station |
| | Stream | | Parking |
| | Floating boardwalk | | Accessible facilities |
| | Sensitive wildlife habitat area (Closed to all entry) | | |
| | Bison and prairie restoration area | | |
| | Visitor and environmental education area | | |



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

To protect wildlife and habitat, visitor access is limited to designated trails and roads only. All other Refuge lands and staff roads are closed to visitor entry.



96th Avenue

2

End One Way Travel

Locust Loop Trail (0.8 mi)

72nd Avenue

Contact Station

Lake Mary Loop Trail (0.6 mi)

Discovery Trail (0.4 mi)

Legacy Trail (1.0 mi)

Visitor Center

Gateway Trail (0.3 mi)

Prairie Trail (0.4 mi)

Refuge Entrance

Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail

56th Avenue

To 70

Hiking Trails

The Refuge has 10 miles of trails open year-round for hiking, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing. Trail surfaces are crushed gravel or dirt, and are accessible, except for the Prairie, Woodland, and sections of the Rod and Gun Club trails.

- Stay on marked trails and observe all posted signs and regulations.
- Hiking trails are for foot travel only.

Grassland Trails

Explore the trails that meander through native shortgrass prairie habitat. Throughout the seasons, you may observe mule and white-tailed deer, prairie dogs, migrating songbirds, and coyotes.

- Army Historic Trail (0.3 mi)
- Bluestem Loop Trail (1.3 mi)
- Bluestem Southwest Loop Trail (0.5 mi)
- Discovery Trail (0.4 mi)
- First Creek Trail (1.4 mi)
- Gateway Trail (0.3 mi)
- Legacy Trail (1.0 mi)
- Locust Loop Trail (0.8 mi)
- Prairie Trail (1.0 mi)
- Rattlesnake Hill (1.5 mi)

Wetland Trails

Stroll along lakes, marshes, and ponds, and walk on a floating boardwalk at Lake Mary or Lake Ladora to catch a closer glimpse of wildlife. These trails provide excellent opportunities to see migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, white pelicans, double-crested cormorants, and amphibians.

- Havana Ponds Trail (0.2 mi)
- Lake Ladora Loop Trail (1.8 mi)
- Lake Mary Loop Trail (0.6 mi)

Woodland Trails

Wander through scenic trails lined with cottonwoods, willows, and locust thickets, which provide shade and habitat for wildlife. Watch for hawks, eagles, and owls perched in the branches, while deer can be found browsing under the trees.

- Rod and Gun Club Trail and Wildlife Viewing Blind (1.2 mi)
- Woodland Trail (0.4 mi)

Accessible Opportunities

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 711 for a free connection to and from people with hearing and speech disabilities. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge staff at 303 / 289 0930, or the U.S. Department of the Interior; Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

6550 Gateway Road
Commerce City, CO 80022-1748

303 / 289 0930

303 / 289 0579 fax

rockymountainarsenal@fws.gov

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal

For State Relay Service

TTY / Voice: 711

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

www.fws.gov

For Refuge Information

1 800 / 344 WILD

July 2018

