

# Free Summer Ranger Programs - Alpine & East Side



All children must be accompanied by an adult

## Alpine



Length Location SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

**Tundra to Trees** - Hike an ancient Ute trail that leads from alpine heights down through old growth forest. Plan to carpool for this moderate 4 mile hike. Bring warm clothing, rain gear, water, and snacks. Starts 7/3

4 hour hike

Milner Pass parking area

9 a.m.

9 a.m.

9 a.m.

**High Country Geology** - The park's spectacular scenery represents a chapter in a long history of geologic events. Join us on this hike over the tundra and experience the effects of these processes. Ends 8/11

3 hour hike

Alpine Visitor Center flagpole

9 a.m.

**Tundra Nature Walk** - Exhilarate your senses with alpine views and miniature wildflower gardens. Dress warmly, plan to caravan to the location. Ends 8/15

1.5-2 hour hike

Alpine Visitor Center

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

**All About Lightning** - Learn why lightning can be a hair-raising experience and find out how to minimize your risk of being struck by lightning.



30 minute talk

Alpine Visitor Center

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

## Plants

**Lily Lake Wildflower Walk** - Take time to stop and smell the roses, and enjoy learning about the variety of flowers blooming this season. Easy walk. Ends 8/15



1.5 hour hike

Lily Lake parking lot

1:30 p.m.

9 a.m.

9 a.m.

9 a.m.

1:30 p.m.

## Children's Programs

**Junior Ranger Program** - Earn your Junior Ranger badge! Join a ranger for a variety of programs and activities at the new Junior Ranger Headquarters. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ends 8/15



30 minute program

Junior Ranger Headquarters at Hidden Valley

10:00

10:00

10:00

10:00

10:00

10:00

10:00

11:00

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**Dead Trees are Full of Life** - Who hangs out in dead trees and calls them home? Find out during this 20-minute puppet program. Ends 8/15



20-30 minute talk

Fall River Visitor Center

10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

**Discovery Day** - Discover the amazing world of Rocky Mountain National Park with your family through hands-on activities, crafts, and stories. Each week there is something new to discover. Ends 8/17 Drop-in program; come anytime 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Drop-in Anytime

Moraine Park Visitor Center

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Wildlife

**Birds of Upper Beaver Meadows** - Join a ranger to seek bluebirds, woodpeckers, wrens, and flycatchers in a rich mixture of aspen and pine woodlands. Bring binoculars and a field guide.

1.5 hour hike

End of Upper Beaver Meadows Road

7 a.m.

7 a.m.

7 a.m.

7 a.m.

7 a.m.

7 a.m.

**Bighorn Basics** - Sheep Lakes in Horseshoe Park is a popular viewing area for bighorn sheep. Learn about this majestic symbol of Rocky. Ends 8/14



30 minute talk

Sheep Lakes Information Station

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.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

**Skins and Skulls** - Want to pet an elk? Cuddle up to a bear? Are you crazy? That's not safe! Learn to safely feel skins and skulls while hearing about park wildlife.



30 minute talk

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

**Amazing Beavers** - Beavers drastically change their environment, and they have wonderful adaptations to do so. See their work first hand.



1 hour talk

Sprague Lake Picnic Area

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

3 p.m.

## 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 bear-resistant storage canisters are required of all park backcountry campers in areas below treeline between May 1 and October 31. 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.



## Free Park Movie

See the stunning 23 minute park movie at the Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers during normal business hours. Available en español and English.



Features spectacular aerial footage of the rugged high country of Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as wildlife, history and other park resources.

## Junior Ranger Headquarters

Hey, Kids! Come To The New Junior Ranger Headquarters!

This summer, there is a new place just for you – the Junior Ranger Headquarters located at Hidden Valley along Trail Ridge Road. Join a program and get started on or complete your Junior Ranger Book. The



Rocky Junior Ranger programs are offered for kids ages 6 to 12, from June 20 – August 15, several times a day, 7 days a week! The activities are created and presented with a young person's level of learning and interest in mind. The programs are free. Parents and adults, please remember - you must be present for your children to participate.

Wildlife			Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
<b>All About Elk</b> - Learn about this magnificent animal and its current status in the park. <b>Ends 8/21</b>			1-1.5 hour walk	West Alluvial Fan parking lot	2 p.m.		2 p.m.	2 p.m.	2 p.m.	2 p.m.		
<b>Lions and Bears, Oh My!</b> - Worried about meeting a bear or mountain lion in the park? Find out what to do and what these animals are up to. <b>Ends 8/21</b>			30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center		10:30 a.m.		10:30 a.m.			10:30 a.m.	
<b>Little Critters of Rocky</b> - Squirrels, rabbits and bats; find out about the lives of Rocky's smaller animals and the critical roles they play.			30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center	2 p.m.		2 p.m.		2 p.m.		2 p.m.	
<b>Cunning Coyotes</b> - Coyotes are intriguing animals and play an important role in the the circle of life. <b>Ends 8/21</b>			20-30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center		2 p.m.		2 p.m.		2 p.m.		
<b>Elk Echoes</b> - Learn about elk adaptations, migration, and mating behavior. Programs are simultaneously held at both locations. <b>Starts 9/1</b>			30 minute talk	Moraine Park Visitor Center amphitheater and Sheep Lakes parking lot	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	
<b>Walks, Talks, and Hikes</b>												
<b>Dream Lake Hike</b> - Explore the breathtaking glacial landscape and changes brought on by bark beetles on this moderate 2 mile hike.			2-2.5 hour	Bear Lake parking lot		8:30 a.m.		9 a.m.	9 a.m.		9 a.m.	
<b>Bear Lake Stroll</b> - Enjoy an easy walk around a lovely subalpine lake and learn about the natural and human forces that have shaped this landscape.			1-1.5 hour	Bear Lake parking lot	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	3 p.m.		1:30 p.m.	
<b>Navigating Rocky with GPS and Maps</b> - Discover how to use a GPS, map, and compass to safely journey into the park. We provide a map/compass/GPS (or bring your own). Family fun! <b>Ends 8/21</b>			2 hour activity	Hollowell Park Shuttle Stop			9:30 a.m.		1 p.m.			
<b>Moraine Park Nature Walk</b> -Enjoy a ¾ mile walk through the Moraine Park landscape. Encounter the dynamic forces that created this valley and discover what lives here today.			1 hour walk	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.	
<b>Here Come the Beetles!</b> - Pine bark beetles are rapidly transforming our forests. Learn what this means for all species who share the park.			20-30 minute talk	Moraine Park Visitor Center		2:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.			2:30 p.m.		
<b>Geology Rocks!</b> - Love the scenic views in the park? Come take a closer look at what is rocking at Rocky and the geologic forces behind the landscape.			30 minute talk	Moraine Park Visitor Center				2:30 p.m.			2:30 p.m.	
<b>Hot Topics in the Park</b> - Want to hear the very latest news about research and management challenges in the park? Join us for a movie overview with a Ranger to fill you in on the current details.			30- 45 minute discussion	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	
<b>Evening Programs June 20 - August 21</b>												
<b>Beaver Meadows Evening Program</b> Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. <b>Artist-in-the-Park Wednesday:</b> The park, through the eyes of a different creative artist. <b>Science Thursday:</b> A different talk by a park researcher each Thursday.			45 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
<b>Glacier Basin Evening Program</b> - Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. See weekly schedule at a visitor center for program topics. Dress warmly.			45 minute talk	Glacier Basin Campground amphitheater	7:30 p.m.	9 p.m. 6/20-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/21	9 p.m. 6/20-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/21	9 p.m. 6/20-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/21	9 p.m. 6/20-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/21		7:30 p.m.	9 p.m. 6/20-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/21
<b>Aspenglen Evening Program</b> - Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. See weekly schedule at a visitor center for program topics. Dress warmly.			45 minute talk	Aspenglen Campground amphitheater	9 p.m. 6/20-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/21						9 p.m. 6/20-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/21	9 p.m. 6/20-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/21
<b>Moraine Park Evening Program</b> - Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. See weekly schedule at a visitor center for program topics. Dress warmly.			45 minute talk	Moraine Park Campground amphitheater	9 p.m. 6/20-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/21	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	9 p.m. 6/20-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/21	9 p.m. 6/20-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/21	9 p.m. 6/20-7/18 8:30 p.m. 7/19-8/21	7:30 p.m.	
<b>Evening Programs August 22 - 28</b>												
<b>Beaver Meadows Evening Program</b> August 22 - 28			45 minute talk	BMVC Auditorium	7:30 p.m.			7:30 p.m. Artist Night		7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	
<b>Moraine Park Evening Program</b> August 22 - 28			45 minute talk	Moraine Park Campground amphitheater			7:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.		8:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	
<b>Glacier Basin Evening Program</b> August 22 - 28			45 minute talk	Glacier Basin Campground amphitheater		7:30 p.m.			8:30 p.m.		8:30 p.m.	
<b>Evening Programs August 29 - Sept 6</b>												
<b>Beaver Meadows Evening Program</b> August 29 - September 6			45 minute talk	BMVC Auditorium	7:30 p.m.			7:30 p.m. Artist Night		7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	
<b>Night Sky Programs</b>												
<b>Astronomy in the Park</b> - Join a park ranger and local astronomers to discover the magic of the night sky. Dress warmly, bring binoculars, and a flashlight.			1/2 hour program followed by viewing	End of Upper Beaver Meadows Road						8:15 p.m. July 2, 16, 30 8 p.m. August 13, 27		
<b>Stories Behind the Moon &amp; Stars</b> - The night sky comes alive through storytelling and fun activities. Celebrate darkness at Rocky Mountain National Park. Dress warmly, bring binoculars, and a flashlight.			1-1.5 hour activity	Moraine Park Visitor Center	8:30 p.m. June 25    8:15 p.m. July 9, 23    8 p.m. August 6, 20    7:30 p.m. Sept 3 All Stories Behind the Moon & Stars Programs are on a Friday evening at the times and dates above.							

# Free Summer Ranger Programs - West Side



All children must be accompanied by an adult

## Walks and Hikes



Length Location SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

**High Country Birding** - Enjoy a 1 mile bird walk across meadow and woodland habitats. Bring a bird guide and binoculars. **Ends 8/1**

1-1.5 hour

Holzwarth Historic Site parking area

7:30 a.m.

7:30 a.m.

**Hike through History** - Hike along the river to discover what led people to try mining, homesteading, and early dude ranching. **Ends 8/12**

3 hours - 3 miles

Colorado River Trailhead

9:30 a.m.

**Mountain Wildflowers** - Lovely montane flowers have amazing modes of adaptation. Caravan to this week's flowers. **Ends 8/13**

2 hour walk

Kawuneeche Visitor Center flagpole

10 a.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

**Coyote Valley River Walk** - Explore the valley ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River.



1 hour walk

Coyote Valley Trailhead

7 p.m. Evenings 7/12 thru 8/9 only

10:30 a.m. 6/23 - 9/1

**Rocky Mountain Heritage Walk** - Learn about prehistoric Indian people, miners and valley settlers while revisiting the Old West at an historic guest ranch.

1 hour plus time to explore 1 mile walk

Holzwarth Historic Site parking area

2:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m.

**Headwater Habitats** - Discover plants and animals that live just down stream from the start of the Colorado River.

1.5 hours, 1 mile walk

Colorado River Trailhead

10 a.m.

**Sisters of Courage** - Learn about the pioneer experience through the story of the remarkable Harbison sisters and their family. Includes a 1/2 mile walk to the homestead site.

2.5 hour walk

Kawuneeche Visitor Center flagpole

1 p.m.

**A Glimpse of Paradise** - This easy 3 mile round trip hike passes Adams Falls and leads to spectacular views of mountains surrounding the meadows of the East Inlet. **Starts 7/2**

2.5 hour walk

East Inlet Trailhead

6 p.m. Evenings 7/4 - 8/8 only

9 a.m. 7/2 - 9/3

**Young Again!** - The trees are dying and the forest is becoming young again. Come see!

1 hour walk

Timber Lake Trailhead

3 p.m. 6/20 - 9/5

7 p.m. Evenings 7/6 - 8/10 only

## Children's Programs

**A Walk Backwards** - Step back in time and experience life on a 1920s dude ranch—chores, games, period costumes. For children 6-12. **Registration required at Kawuneeche V.C. Ends 8/13**

2 hour activity

Holzwarth Historic Site parking area

9:45 a.m.

**Come Bug a Ranger** - Learn fun facts about insects. Puppets, stories and activities for children 4-10 years old. **Ends 8/11**



1 hour activity

Holzwarth Historic Site parking area

10 a.m.

**Web Walkers** - Explore a section of the Colorado River. Activities are designed for children 6-12 years old. **Program runs 6/26 to 8/21**



1 hour activity

Coyote Valley Trailhead

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

**Junior Ranger Program** - Join a ranger for a short program and activities to earn your Junior Ranger badge. **Starts 6/26. Everyday through 8/22 then Sat/Sun only.**

1 hour 15 minute program

Kawuneeche Visitor Center

1:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m.

## Talks & Activities

**Ranger's Flyfishing School** - Learn about the park's fish management program, stream ecology, and flycasting. Bring your flyfishing gear or borrow the ranger's. **Ends 8/14**

3 hour activity

Timber Creek Campground amphitheater

8:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m.

**Holzwarth Historic Site** - Buildings are open 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily. Discuss early settlement with staff. This is a great family activity!

Drop-in tour

Holzwarth Historic Site parking area

..... 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Daily .....

**Skins and Things** - Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals.



40 minutes

Kawuneeche Visitor Center

3:30 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

**Exploring with a Camera** - Join a ranger for a photography walk. Focus on composition, light, and basic tips to improve your pictures. **Ends 8/4**

1-1.5 hour activity

Timber Lake Trailhead

3 p.m.

**Behind the Scenes** - Join a ranger to view and discuss a series of short videos documenting how specialists at the park address challenges like elk management, pine beetles, and air quality. **Starts 6/25**

1 hour discussion

Kawuneeche Visitor Center

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

## Evening Programs

**Old Ranch Campfire Stories** - Roasting marshmallows (bring 'em), tall tales (the old wrangler will tell 'em) and campfire songs bring back the old days. **Dress warmly. Ends 8/13**



2 hours, 1 mile walk

Holzwarth Historic Site parking area

7 p.m.

## 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.

All children must be accompanied by an adult

## Evening Programs



Length Location SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

<p><b>Saturday Night in the Park</b> - Enjoy an evening program in the auditorium. For topics, inquire at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center.</p>		<p>1 hour presentation</p>	<p>Kawuneeche Visitor Center auditorium</p>							<p>7 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Walk Into Twilight</b> - Enjoy a leisurely stroll as darkness, night sounds and wildlife fill the valley. Bring warm clothes, good hiking shoes, and a flashlight. Starts 7/7 and ends 8/11</p>		<p>2 hour walk</p>	<p>Onahu Creek Trailhead</p>				<p>8 p.m. thru 7/28 then 7:30 p.m. thru 8/11</p>			
<p><b>Timber Creek Evening Program</b> - Presentation nightly at Timber Creek. Check at the campground or Kawuneeche Visitor Center for topics.</p>		<p>1 hour presentation</p>	<p>Timber Creek Campground amphitheater</p>	<p>9 p.m. thru 8/14 then 8:45 p.m.</p>	<p>9 p.m. thru 8/14 then 8:45 p.m.</p>	<p>9 p.m. thru 8/14 then 8:45 p.m.</p>	<p>9 p.m. thru 8/14 then 8:45 p.m.</p>	<p>9 p.m. thru 8/14 then 8:45 p.m.</p>	<p>9 p.m. thru 8/14 then 8:45 p.m.</p>	<p>9 p.m. thru 8/14 then 8:45 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Celestial Wilderness</b> - Explore the universe and the astronomy of Rocky's night sky. Meet at Harbison Meadow parking area. If overcast, meet at Kawuneeche Visitor Center for indoor presentation. Ends 8/12</p>		<p>1-1.5 hour activity</p>	<p>Harbison Meadow parking area. If overcast, Kawuneeche Visitor Center</p>					<p>9:15 p.m. in June — 9 p.m. in July — 8:45 p.m. in August</p>		
<p><b>Feature Film</b></p>										
<p><b>The Colorado: Secrets at the Source</b> - This film tells the magnificent story of the Colorado River, which flows through some of America's most dramatic high country and canyon lands.</p>		<p>50 minute film</p>	<p>Daily at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center</p>	<p>1:15 p.m.</p>	<p>1:15 p.m.</p>	<p>1:15 p.m.</p>	<p>1:15 p.m.</p>	<p>1:15 p.m.</p>	<p>1:15 p.m.</p>	<p>1:15 p.m.</p>



## On Technology

New technology moves at the speed of light, and Rocky Mountain National Park is committed to bringing it to you. Take a look!

- Climbing Longs Peak
- Opening Trail Ridge Road
- Lightning Safety
- The Mountain Pine Beetle
- Bighorn Sheep
- The Ten Essentials



RMNP Podcasts

Check out [nps.gov/romo](http://nps.gov/romo) and click on PHOTOS & MULTIMEDIA for more podcasts, blogs, and videos!



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS

IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK  
LEARN ~ EXPLORE ~ ADVENTURE



Sign up online at [rmna.org](http://rmna.org)

### Fun Classes for Kids (& families)!

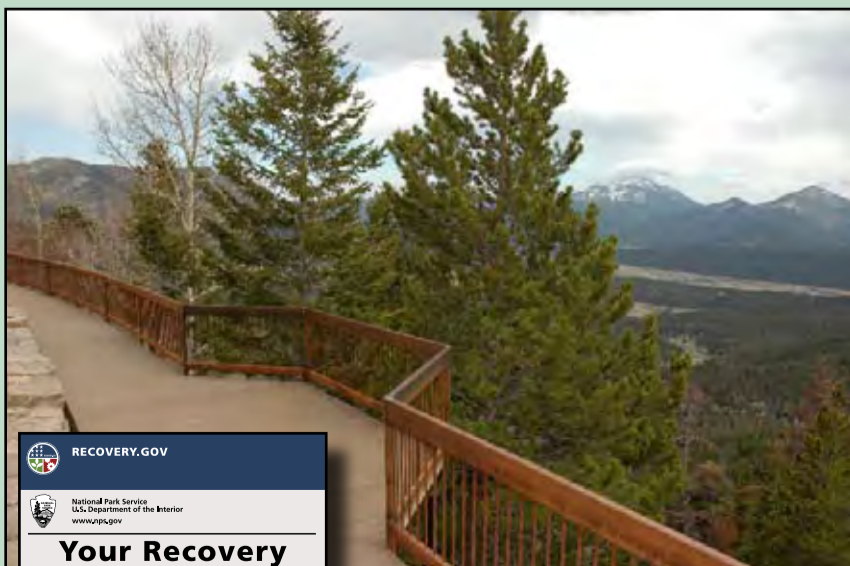
- Estes Park Treasure Hunt (a.k.a. Intro to Geocaching) (ages 9-13) Tuesdays, 9:00 AM - noon June 22, 29, ; July 6, 13, 20, 27; August 3
- Art Adventures for Kids (ages 6-9) Wednesdays: July 7, 14, 21, 28
- Photography Just For Kids! July 15, 29
- Animal Tracks Detectives July 17
- Astronomy: To Infinity & Beyond August 14

### Field Seminars for Adults

- What Is a Healthy Forest? June 21
- RMNP Wildflowers: Amazing Manipulators July 12
- Be Still! Photographing Hummingbirds July 17
- Mountain Birds & How They Live July 20
- Geology of Trail Ridge Road July 29
- Sketchbook Journaling for Travelers August 9-10

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

## The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 - Many Parks Curve Boardwalk Rebuild



Many Parks Curve boardwalk was built 24 years ago and the boards were beyond their service life. Harsh winter conditions and high UV sunlight exposure accelerated drying, splintering, and degradation of the wood treadway. Before the rebuild, the surface had become unsafe: boards were split or missing, handrails had large splinters, and bolts had become loose and rusted.

This project replaced the existing treadway with a recycled plastic lumber surface which will be more sustainable and a longer life solution. Handrails are replaced in order to eliminate splinter hazards.

Being one of the park's most frequently visited areas along Trail Ridge Road, Many Parks Curve boardwalk is fully accessible, and offers outstanding vistas and educational interpretative displays.

