

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Rocky Flats

National Wildlife Refuge





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

Welcome to Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). This 5,237-acre site was established in 2007 to protect xeric tallgrass prairie, a globally rare ecosystem, and habitat for threatened and endangered species. The Refuge has more than 630 species of plants and provides habitat for more than 239 wildlife species, including the prairie falcon, deer, elk, coyote, songbirds, and the Preble’s meadow jumping mouse.

Trails



- Enjoy 11 miles of trails open year-round for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing.
- Follow all posted signs to protect wildlife and habitat.
- Park only in the designated areas shown on the map.
- Hikers yield to horses.

Bicycles



- Bicycles and Class 1 e-bikes are permitted on Refuge trails.
- Follow all posted signs to protect wildlife and habitat.
- Cyclists yield to hikers and horses.

Refuge Hours and Regulations

The Refuge is open daily from sunrise to sunset and closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day, unless otherwise noted. Visitor access is limited to designated trails only. All other Refuge lands and staff roads are closed to visitors. Know all Refuge rules and regulations for the protection of wildlife and visitors.

Prohibited Activities



Pets (dogs, cats, etc.)



Fishing.



Swimming, wading, and bathing in all Refuge waters.



Use of boats, canoes, kayaks, float tubes, paddle boards, and other flotation devices.



Use or possession of alcohol.



Use or possession of drugs, including marijuana and any illegal controlled substance.



Drones.



Sleeping, camping, and overnight parking.



Grilling or fires.



Searching for, collecting, or removing any natural (antlers) or historic objects, wildlife, or plants.

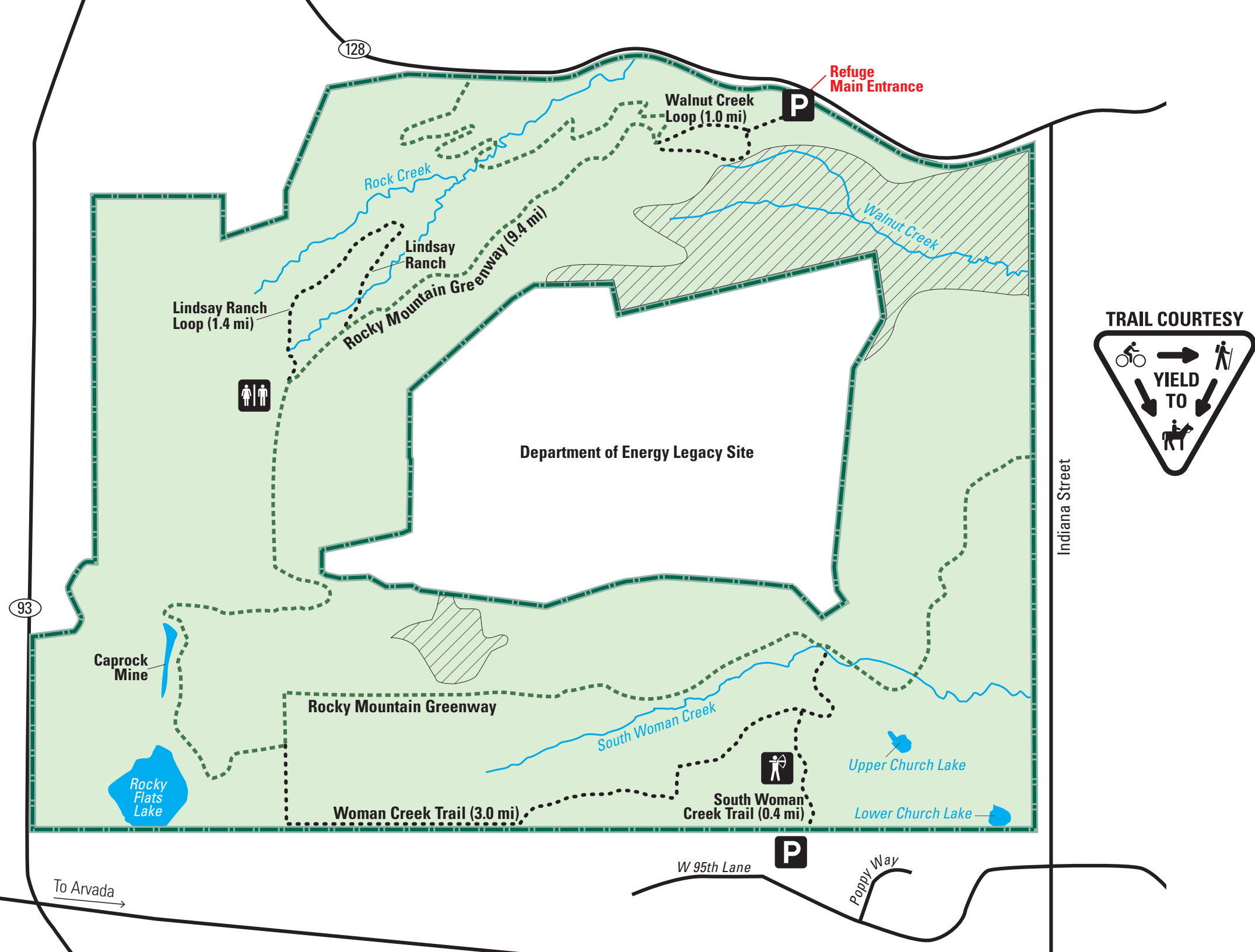
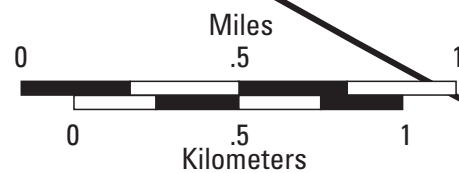
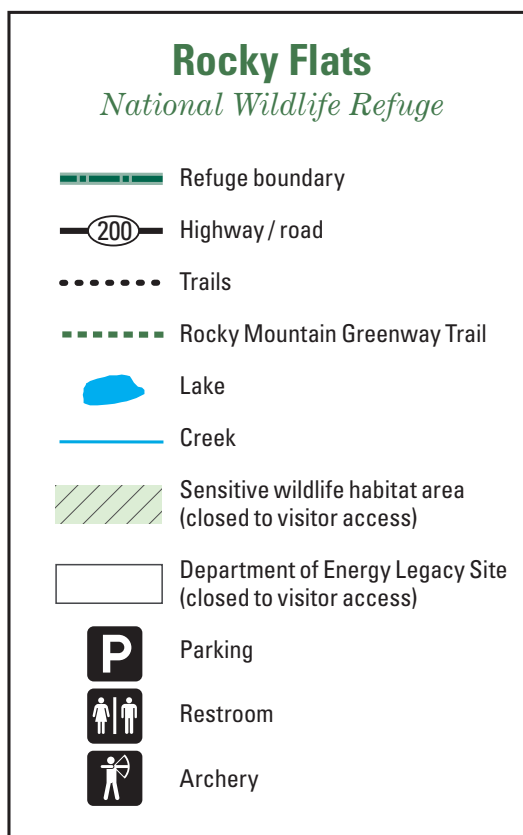
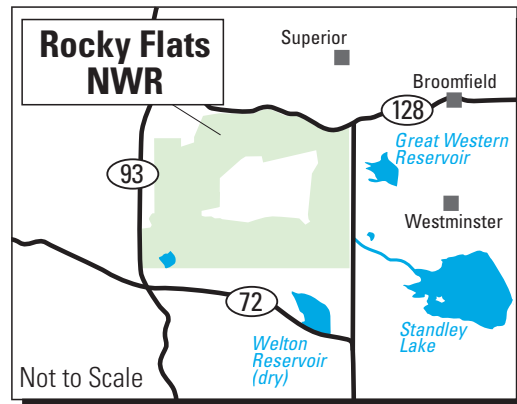


Motorized vehicles

History

Prior to becoming a Refuge, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Department produced plutonium triggers for nuclear weapons in the central portion of the site from 1952-1989. Most of the area was undisturbed, preserving the habitats now protected by the Refuge.

The site was cleaned up by 2005, with oversight from the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.



Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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For Refuge Information

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Accessibility

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Photography by:

M. Klosterman / USFWS