

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

Fishing Information



The Blue Goose is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.



Welcome

Welcome to Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). We invite you to connect with nature and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Refuge. This 15,000-acre expanse of short and mixed grass prairie is home to more than 330 species of wildlife, including bald eagles, bison, black-footed ferrets, deer, coyotes, burrowing owls, and prairie dogs. The site began as a U.S. Army base and is now managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect wildlife and habitat.

Hours and General Information

The Refuge is open daily from sunrise to sunset fall, winter, and spring. May 1 through August 1 the Refuge is open sunrise to 8:00 pm. The Refuge is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day, unless otherwise noted. Visitor Center hours are Wednesday through Sunday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (closed on federal holidays). Visitor access is limited to designated trails and roads only. All other Refuge lands and staff roads are closed to visitors. Know all Refuge and fishing rules and regulations for the protection of wildlife and visitors.

See the Refuge Wildlife Drive and Trails Map brochure, and the website for additional information.

Accessibility Information

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. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, www.doi.gov/accessibility.

Prohibited Activities

-  Use of boats, canoes, kayaks, float tubes, paddle boards, and other flotation devices.
-  Bicycling on all lake trails. See Refuge trails map for more information.
-  Pets (dogs, cats, etc.) on the Refuge.
-  Use or possession of alcohol.
-  Use or possession of drugs, including marijuana and any illegal controlled substance and associated paraphernalia.
-  Sleeping, camping or overnight parking on the Refuge.
-  Grilling or fires.
-  Drones.
-  Swimming, wading, and bathing in all Refuge waters.
-  Search for, collect, and removing any wildlife and plants, and their habitat.
-  Search for, collect, and removing any natural (antlers) and historic objects.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge
6550 Gateway Road - HQ
Commerce City, CO 80022

303 / 289 0232
303 / 289 0579 fax
rockymountainarsenal@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky-mountain-arsenal

To Report Violations on Federal Refuge Lands:
Dial 1-844-397-8477 or email FWS_TIPS@fws.gov

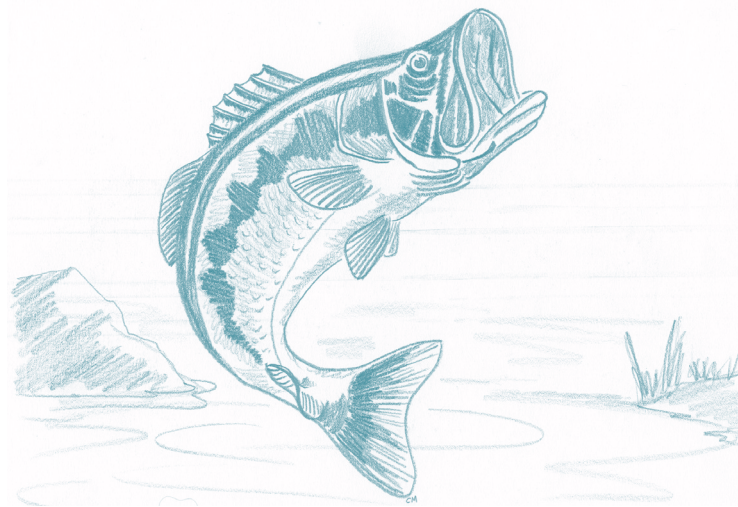
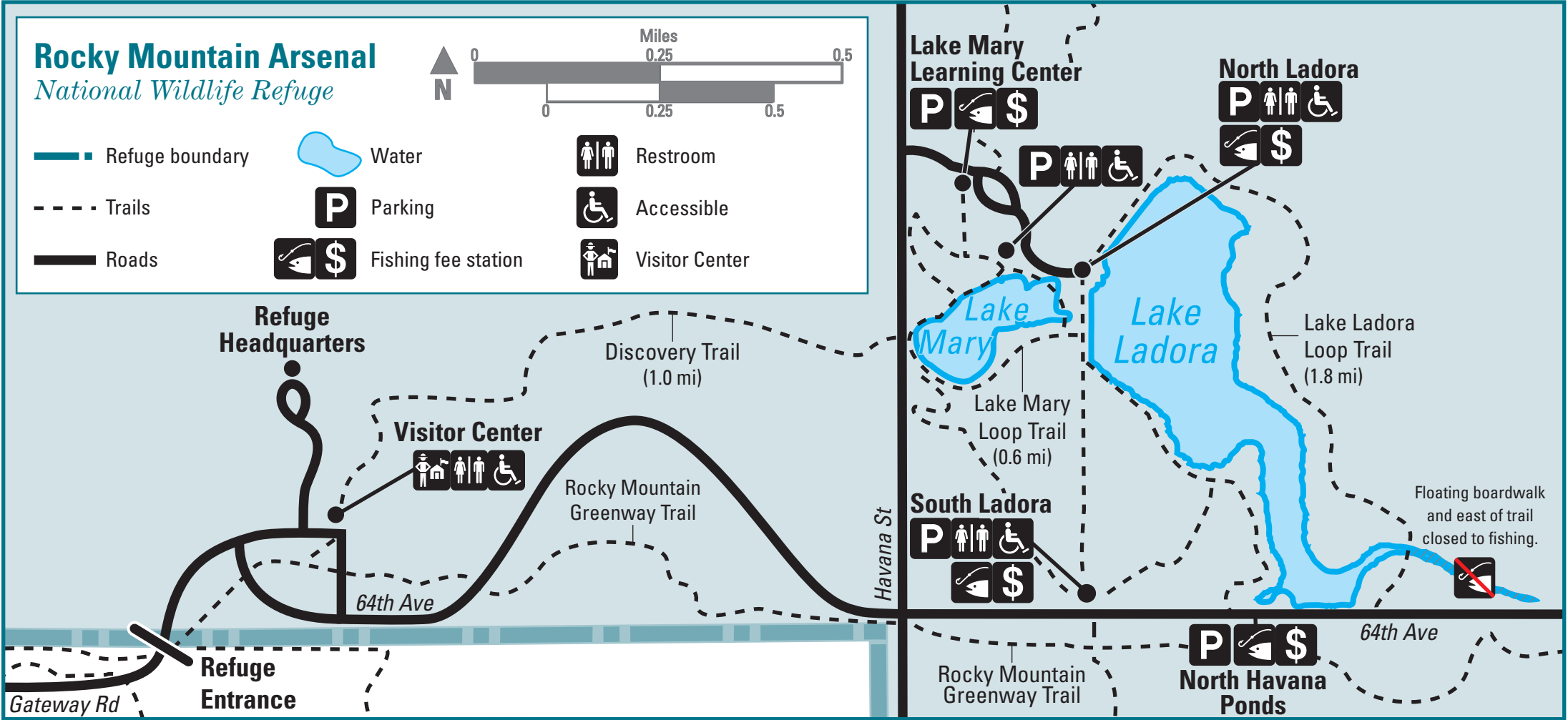
To Report Emergency / Medical / Fire: dial 911

For State Relay Service
TTY / Voice: 711
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov
For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

Illustration credit: Liz Biesiot

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Fishing is in accordance with State regulations. In addition, Refuge-specific regulations must be followed.

Location	Season	Regulations	Species
Lake Ladora	First Saturday in April to November 30, daily.	- Bank fishing only. Wade fishing only with calf, hip, or chest waders is permitted after Memorial Day to November 30. - Fishing is prohibited east of and from the floating boardwalk. - Only artificial lures and flies are permitted.	Northern pike, largemouth bass, and bluegill.
Lake Mary	First Saturday in April to November 30, daily.	- Bank fishing only, wading is prohibited. - All cattail peninsulas and islands are closed to protect wildlife habitat. - Artificial lures, flies, cut bait, and food products are permitted.	Largemouth bass, channel catfish, white and black crappie, bluegill, and yellow perch.

Fishing Regulations

The catch-and-release fishing season is open daily from sunrise to sunset the first Saturday in April through November 30, at Lake Mary and Lake Ladora. Please note Lower Derby is closed to fishing.

General Information

- All anglers must use a rod and reel or fly-fishing rod.
- Anglers must use only barbless hooks. All barbs must be clipped, filed off, or pressed flat.
- Live bait is prohibited on all Refuge waters (i.e., worms, crayfish, etc.).
- Chumming, gigging, snagging, seining, and netting of non-hooked fish is prohibited.
- Anglers with physical impairments may use special casting aids and fishing devices.
- Discard used fishing line in recycling stations at Lake Mary, Lake Ladora, or the Lake Mary Learning Center kiosk.

License Requirements

- A Colorado fishing or small game combination license is required for all anglers 16 years and older who are fishing.
- All anglers are permitted to use one rod and reel or pole and line with one hook per line. A second rod and reel or pole and line with one hook per line is permitted with a Colorado issued second rod stamp.

Fee Requirements

- Anglers must pay a \$3.00 daily fishing fee or purchase a Refuge \$60.00 season fishing pass while fishing on the Refuge. Purchase a season fishing pass at the Visitor Center Wednesday – Sunday from 9 am – 4 pm.
- High school and college students can fish for free with a current student ID card.
- To pay the daily fishing fee, use the credit card machine at the Lake Mary Learning Center. For cash or check, use the self-serve fishing fee stations with fee envelopes located at Lake Mary Learning Center, North Ladora, South Ladora, and North Havana Ponds kiosks. If paying by check make it payable to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and include your driver's license number.