A Place For Everyone

Lory has facilities to accommodate all types of visitors. The restrooms and some picnic areas are suitable for use by the physically challenged.

Please remember the wide variety of users during your visit and observe the "Rules of the Trail": bikers yield to hikers and horseback riders; hikers yield to horseback riders.

Park Passes

Visitors to Lory State Park are required to display a current Colorado State Parks Pass on their auto windshield or purchase an individual pass of hiking, biking or horseback riding into the park.

A DAILY PASS is valid from the day purchased until noon the following day. A YEARLY PASS is valid at any state park. For yearly pass holders who own additional vehicles, a multiple pass is available for an additional fee. A walk-in fee is required for hikers, bikers and horseback riders. Passes are sold at the Visitor Center or self-service station.

Colorado residents 65 years of age or older qualify for a special OPEN LEAF YEARLY PASS, available at a discounted rate. This pass allows admission to all state parks every day. Colorado Disabled Veterans who display Colorado Disabled Veteran (DV) license plates are admitted free to all state parks without a pass.

In The Wild

Lory is an island for wildlife in an area that is rapidly developing. As visitors, we should respect their homes. Most animals such as mountain lions, black bears, golden eagles and rattlesnakes are elusive and would prefer not to come into contact with people. For more information about chance encounters with wildlife, ask for brochures and suggestions at the Visitor Center.

Help Protect Our Natural Resources

Lory State Park is maintained for your enjoyment. In the interest of safety and the preservation of your park, please observe the following regulations.

1. Place your trash in the receptacles provided. Litter can be dangerous to people and wildlife.
2. Keep ALL vehicles on designated roads or parking areas. Off-road driving can damage the resource and wildlife habitat as well as scar the terrain for several years.
3. Keep your pets under control and on a maximum six-foot leash to avoid accidents with vehicles, wildlife and other visitors. Pet waste stations are located at major trailheads – please dispose of your pet’s waste while in the park to help keep the environment clean and for the courtesy of other park users.
4. The speed limit in the park is 25 mph. Please be alert for horses, mountain bikers, hikers and wildlife on the roadway.
5. Fires within the park should always be placed in a grill or approved metal fire ring. This prevents the outbreak of wildfires during the dry season. Backcountry visitors are required to use camp stoves.

NO OPEN FIRES ARE ALLOWED IN THE BACKCOUNTRY!

Lory State Park
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Lory State Park

Hidden in the foothills twenty minutes west of Fort Collins, Lory State Park has it all! Its 2,591 acres provide a variety of activities such as hiking, picnicking, mountain biking, horsecamp riding, primitive backcountry camping, rock climbing, and wildlife viewing. The park offers trail suitable for any getaway, from an afternoon to a weekend. There are unique rock outcroppings, sandstone hogbacks, gravel open meadows, shrubby hillside and ponderosa pine forests. Overlooking the Fort Collins area from a breathtaking elevation of 6,760 feet is Arthur's Rock, a jutting granite formation named for an early settler.

Formerly ranchland, Lory State Park was purchased in 1967. It was named and dedicated in honor of Dr. Charles A. Lory (1872-1969), president of Colorado State University from 1900 until 1940. Please call (970) 493-1623 for more information about the park.

Visitor Center

Located just inside the park entrance, the Visitor Center serves as an entrance station for purchasing park passes as well as an environmental education center. Here, visitors can learn about the park’s wildlife and other natural resources through interpretive displays that are provided. Also, be sure to browse through the many books, maps, park apparel and other souvenirs available for purchase. A conference room is also available for rent to small groups for business meetings, club meetings, etc. Call (970) 493-1623 for rates.

Trails

Varying from rolling valleys to mountainous hillside, Lory's 26 miles of trails rarely exceed a 12 percent grade. The variety of trails makes the park suitable for short or long hikes, mountain biking, horsecamp riding and jogging.

During the winter months, Lory’s trails provide excellent opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Snowmobiling is not allowed.

Suitable drinking water and restroom facilities are not available on the trails. Adequate water supply should be carried and may be obtained at the Visitor Center.

Horseback Riding

Lory is an excellent place to take a horseback ride. Riders are welcome to bring their own horses to the park. There are 21.7 miles of trails for equines of all levels to access in the park. For safety, Timber and Howard trails are for expert riders only.

In addition to the trail system, a cross-country jumping course is located at the south end of the park. Riders using the jumping course should wear helmets and jump with at least one "buddy.”

The Corral Center Mountain Bike Park

This unique area is a new addition that was designed and constructed by local riding enthusiasts offering 60,000 sq. ft. of riding excitement for all levels of mountain bike riders. The area offers dirt jumps, a pump track and a skills area for honing off-road riding skills. The park is open year round except for wet or hazardous conditions. There is no additional fee to use this area.

Wildlife

Lory’s diverse terrain is home to a variety of wildlife, such as mule deer, wild turkey, black bear, mountain lion, coyote, Abert’s squirrel, cottontail rabbit, blue grouse, mourning dove, songbirds and many reptile species.

Nature Study

Lory has unlimited possibilities for nature study with an abundance of wildflowers, animals and insects. Guided hikes are available to groups by reservation. Checklists of Lory plants and birds are available at the Visitor Center.

Backcountry Camping

Lory State Park allows primitive backcountry camping by permit. No other camping is allowed in the park. The sites are approximately two miles from the trailhead and no open fires are allowed. The campsites offer the perfect weekend getaway to forget about the hustle and bustle of the city just over the hill.

Rock Climbing

Lory State Park offers excellent bouldering opportunities along with traditional climbing. The majority of the bouldering is 30-45 minutes up Arthur’s Rock Trail. You’ll see signage that directs you off Arthur’s Rock Trail to the Boulder Access Trail. Arthur’s Rock Male Bivouac offers great traditional climbing. Safety is your responsibility, don’t climb beyond your abilities and understand all risks that are involved.

Hunting

Hunting in the park is controlled. Information regarding special closures, seasons and regulations is available at the Visitor Center. Target shooting is prohibited at all times. Hunting is prohibited at the Horsetooth Mountain Open Space, adjacent to Lory to the south, so be aware of boundary lines.

Picnicking

Lory offers five picnic areas with a variety of settings. The Timber Group Picnic Area accommodates up to 100 people and has a horseshoe pit, volleyball court, covered tables, grills, fire ring and restroom. Soldier Canyon Group Picnic Area will accommodate up to 150 people and has an open air stage that is perfect for outdoor weddings, day camps or other special events. South Elbuck Group Picnic Area which has a panoramic view of the sandstone hogbacks will hold more intimate groups of 50 or less. Please call (970) 493-1623 for those sites at reservation only. Other sites are available on a first come, first serve basis.

Nearby Facilities

Facilities such as gas, groceries, telephones and lodging are in LaPorte, five miles northeast of Lory. The nearest hospital is in Fort Collins.
Trails Map
(All Trail Distances Are One Way)

1. Arthur's Rock Trail
   Foot only  Moderate to Difficult  1.7 miles
   This 1.7 mile trail winds through forested mountain sides and open meadows to the summit of Arthur's Rock. Along the trail, hikers can travel through different ecosystems because of the change in elevation. Upon reaching the summit of Arthur's Rock, one is offered a impressive view of Horsetooth Reservoir and the Front Range from an elevation of 6,780 feet.

2. Overlook Trail
   Foot only  Moderate  1.2 miles
   Male deer, wildflowers, Abert's squirrel and views of the eastern plains can be seen along this 1.2 mile trail connecting Arthur's Rock Trail to the Well Gulch Nature Trail. Starting from Well Gulch, the trail climbs through the ridge below Arthur's Rock, until meeting with the Arthur's Rock Trail.

3. Timber Trail
   Foot, Expert Mountain Bike and Expert Equestrian  Moderate to Difficult  4.2 miles
   This 4.2 mile trail ascends from the group picnic area to the ridge behind Arthur's Rock. The trail climbs through meadows and mountain shrub, changing to pine and fir in the upper elevations, where the park's six primitive back-country sites can be found. This trail has some steep switchbacks and rocky scrambles to cross in getting to the top of the Well Gulch drainage.

4. Well Gulch Nature Trail
   Foot only  Easy to Moderate  1.4 miles
   Wildflowers and riparian vegetation plash this plush 1.4 mile trail. A self-guided nature tour takes you through the meadow, mountain shrub, Douglas fir, and ponderosa ecosystems, with stations along way illustrating botany, geology and animal life in Lory State Park. For those looking for a longer hike, the trails branch off into the Timber and Overlook Trails.

5. Westridge Trail
   Foot, Horse, Mountain Bike  Moderate  1.9 miles
   Converging with Howard Trail via singletrack, Westridge mostly follows an old jeep road along the ridgeline near Lory's western boundary, dropping down into the forest as it turns back east through the center of the Park, merging with Timber and Arthur's Rock. The only trail in the Park that provides views of the snow-capped Continental Divide, with perfect views of 14,259' Longs Peak, and portions of the Indian Peaks to the south.

6. Shoreline Trail
   Foot, Horse, Mountain Bike  Easy  1.0 miles
   This comfortable one mile hike leads down to the edge of Horsetooth Reservoir. The red sandstone hogbacks offer a striking background to the grassy meadows, where deer can be found grazing.

7. Waterfall Trail
   Foot only  Easy  0.1 miles
   This 0.1 mile trail leads back to a series of waterfalls during the spring and early summer. Picturesque rock outcroppings about this quick hike through a riparian zone offer shade and wildlife-viewing under the cottonwood canopy.

8. East & West Valley Trails
   Foot, Horse, Mountain Bike  Easy  2.2 miles
   These trails run parallel to the main road, branching to oases at Horsetooth Reservoir or meeting with the mountain trails. East Valley 2.2 mile, West Valley 2.3 mile.

9. Mill Creek Link
   Foot, Horse, Mountain Bike  Difficult  0.9 miles
   From the South Valley Trail, this 0.9 mile link offers passage to the upper elevations of Horsetooth Mountain Park by way of the Mill Creek Trail, and a connection to Lory's Howard Trail. This link also connects across the meadow to Arthur's Trail.

10. South Valley Trail Loop
    Foot, Horse, Mountain Bike  Easy  2.4 miles
    This easy 2.4 mile loop trail takes you to the south border of Lory State Park. This link offers an easy transition into Horsetooth Mountain Open Space.

11. Howard Trail
    Foot, Expert Mountain Bike and Expert Equestrian  Moderate to Difficult  2.1 miles
    This challenging 2.1 mile trail connects the upper mountain trails to Lory's valley trails on the south end of the park. Howard Trail offers an alternative route of return from the Arthur's Rock Trail and connects upper Timber Trail and Westridge Trail to create loop opportunities for all backcountry trail users.

12. Kimmons Trail
    Foot, Horse, Mountain Bike  Moderate  1.1 miles
    This 1.1 mile trail provides views of Horsetooth reservoir and the eastern plains and offers a moderate connection between the West Valley and Timber Trail. This is the preferred route for mountain bikers and horseback riders seeking an intermediate level loop trail through a mountain shrub ecosystem.