

BOUNDLESS LANDSCAPES & SPIRITED PEOPLE

NORTH PARK

Color photo: courtesy Jamie Brown; historical photo: courtesy North Park Pioneer Museum



Did you know if you can still see the “polar bear” on Mount Ethel in July, then ranchers have had enough water to irrigate the lush hay meadows of North Park?

North Park old-timers tell the story of the *polar bear*—a formation that appears in the snow field atop Mount Ethel every summer and is usually visible June through August. According to folklore, if you can still see the polar bear on Mount Ethel in July, then there is plenty of snow melting and all the ranchers have had enough water to irrigate the lush hay meadows of North Park. To spot the formation, find Mount Ethel, the high mountain peak directly southwest of Walden. It is best spotted about ten miles outside of Walden traveling West on Hwy 14 toward Steamboat Springs. Can you find the polar bear in the photo?



Did you know that North Park is the Moose Viewing Capital of Colorado?

Often spotted browsing among the willows of North Park, visitors can honestly see moose anywhere in Jackson County, including downtown Walden!

Encircled by mountain ranges, North Park is a secluded and pristine region. Much like the early explorers, visitors today find room to roam. Moose, antelope, deer, elk, big horn sheep, and black bear abound, beaver and fish thrive in our waters, and great flocks of migrating waterfowl pass through every autumn and spring.

Cattle and hay ranches border vast public lands offering breathtaking views. Our mountains, lakes, and streams provide a venue for infinite year-round outdoor recreation. The Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge affords glimpses of wildlife and birds while the Colorado State Forest State Park Moose Visitor Center in Gould tells the story of our North Park moose and early timber camps. The North Park Pioneer Museum invites you to see the world through the eyes of our native tribes, explorers, miners, ranchers, and loggers.

Join us for our signature events:

- January: **Ron Sessions Memorial Ice Golf Tournament**
- January & February: **Ice Fishing Contests**
- April: **Sage Grouse Tours**
- June: **North Park Pioneer Reunion & Never Summer Rodeo**
- August: **Sky's the Limit and Art in the Park**
- September: **North Park Fair**

Trip Planning:

- www.northparkvisitorsbureau.com
- www.northparkchamber.com
- www.northparkpioneermuseum.com
- www.fws.gov/arapaho
- <http://parks.state.co.us/Parks/stateforest>
- www.nwcoloradoheritagetravel.org

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