

PARK COUNTY PROFILES



Updated January 2020

GEOGRAPHY

Established in 1861, Park County is approximately 45 miles wide from east to west, and 60 miles long, encompassing 2,166 square miles. Within its borders are portions of three wilderness areas, two state parks, twelve state wildlife areas and more territory above 9,000 feet than any other Colorado county. Federal lands comprise 51 percent of Park County's landmass. State-owned lands account for about 8 percent and privately-owned land for about 41 percent. Notable features on Federal land include the 644,000-acre Pike National Forest; Lost Creek, Mt. Evans and Buffalo Peaks Wilderness Areas; Elevenmile Canyon Recreation Area; Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area Wilkerson Pass Visitor Center; and the Colorado Trail.

Several named mountain ranges define the perimeter of Park County, including the Mosquito Range above Fairplay and Alma. This spectacular range includes four of Colorado's peaks higher than 14,000 feet, as well as 25 named summits above 13,000 feet. Other mountains in the county include the Buffalo Peaks west of Hartsel, Continental Divide north of Jefferson and Como, Front Range and Kenosha Mountains above Bailey and Grant, Tarryall Mountains north of Lake George, and the Thirtynine Mile Volcanic Field surrounding the town of Guffey.

Within this ring of mountain ranges is South Park, a 900-square mile park located in the geographic center of Colorado. With an average elevation of 9,000 feet, the short grass prairie of South Park supports herds of elk, deer, bighorn sheep and antelope, as well as beaver, raccoon, bobcat, mountain lion, black bear and waterfowl. Communities in South Park include Fairplay, Alma, Como, Jefferson, Hartsel and Tarryall.

The northeastern third of Park County is known as the Platte Canyon Area. This densely forested area is bisected by the North Fork of the South Platte River that follows US Highway 285 through the communities of Bailey, Shawnee and Grant. This portion of the county is lower, with an average elevation of 8,300 feet above sea level.

The southern third of Park County includes the communities of Lake George and Guffey. This area is characterized by rolling hills and remnant volcanoes. Dramatic landforms such as Elevenmile and Tarryall.

Canyons have been carved by the South Platte River and its tributaries north and south of Lake George.

US Highways 285 and 24, Colorado Highway 9, many Park County roads, and numerous national forest access routes provide automobile access into and through the County. Some of the National Forest routes are suitable for off-highway vehicles (OHVs) only. Five water storage reservoirs (Antero, Elevenmile, Tarryall, Spinney and Montgomery) have become important wildlife and aquatic recreation areas, attracting a half-million people each year.

POPULATION CENTERS

Alma

10,578 feet above sea level. Founded in 1873.

Located on Colorado Highway 9 six miles northwest of Fairplay, Alma is the highest incorporated town in North America. The estimated 2016 population of Alma was 280, with an estimated 1,000 residents in the area. With one restaurant, five vacation rentals, coffee shop, general store, liquor store, medical doctor, Montessori school, flower nursery, hydroponic store, gift shops, hair salon, furniture maker, real estate offices, CPA, storage rentals, auto mechanic, and post office, Alma is suitable for cottage industries.

Historically Alma was a center for the local mining industry. With continued development of residential subdivisions around Alma, the area is predominately a bedroom community for several ski resorts in Summit County, 20-40 miles to the north.

Bailey

7,739 feet above sea level. Founded in 1864.

Forty miles west of Denver on US 285, Bailey is a small, unincorporated community in the area known as Platte Canyon. A good example of pioneer log construction, the 1864 Entriken Cabin is the only surviving building from the original town of "Baileys." Subdivisions around Bailey account for about 65 percent of Park County's 17,000 residents. Businesses in the area include two general stores, a liquor store, two gas stations & convenience stores, three bed & breakfast inns, lumberyard, newspaper office, art gallery, four restaurants and gun store. The Park County Library is located five miles east of Bailey on US 285. This area of the county also supports several home-based cottage enterprises.

Como

9,796 feet above sea level. Founded in 1879.

Como is located 8 miles northeast of Fairplay and one mile north of US 285 on County Road 33. It has an estimated population of about 100 in and around town. As the historic terminus of the D,SP&P Railroad, Como is rich in mining and railroad history. With the exception of electricity and indoor plumbing, many of the buildings in Como remain much as they were in the late 1800s. The Como Roundhouse and Depot have been preserved and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A miner's house on 6th and Broadway is now the Mountain Man Gallery and post office.

Fairplay **9,953 feet above sea level. Founded in 1867.**

Located at the intersection of US Highway 285 and Colorado Highway 9, Fairplay receives heavy through traffic, especially during the peak summer tourist season and the winter ski season. As the incorporated seat of Park County, Fairplay is the center of county government. In 2016 about 713 people resided within the Fairplay town limits. It is estimated that about 2,000 more reside in outlying areas. Businesses in Fairplay include one motel, two hotels, a grocery store, auto repair shop, auto parts store, hardware store, fifteen eateries, a brewery, a winery, a distillery, liquor store, three service stations, a dollar store, gift shops, bank, dentist, medical clinic, veterinarian, home furnishings, antique shops, art galleries, hair salon, western hat shop, sporting goods shop, two RV parks, and other small businesses. Fairplay is also home to a visitor center and the South Park City Museum as well as a recreation center. Park County RE-2 School District serves the entire South Park region. The old Fairplay Town Hall now serves as a public library at 4th and Front Streets.

Grant **8,606 feet above sea level.**

West of Shawnee on US Highway 285, the small town of Grant has a motel and liquor store, and is the start of Guanella Pass Scenic & Historic Byway.

Guffey **8,658 feet above sea level. Founded in 1894.**

Guffey is the southernmost town in Park County and is located less than a mile off Colorado Highway 9, about 30 minutes from Hartsel. At one time, it boasted over 40 businesses and a population of over 500. Driving into Guffey from any direction is like stepping back a hundred years in time. Several 19th-century structures are still occupied. A place exists that may be considered "Genuine Colorado," Guffey reflects both the spirit and appearance. Guffey has three eateries, a saloon, guest cabins, elementary school, public library, small museum, and real estate offices. In spite of its small size, Guffey is a center of activity for nearby ranches, subdivisions and small cottage industries. The nearest urban area is Canon City, 33 miles southeast of town on Colorado 9.

Hartsel **8,864 feet above sea level. Founded in 1866.**

The Hartsel area has a Western frontier quality that is no longer found in much of Colorado. Hartsel is located at the intersection of US Highway 24 and Colorado Highway 9 and has a post office, convenience store, gas station, restaurant/bar, jewelry shop, ice cream shop, gift shop, and real estate office. Situated on the South Platte River between two reservoirs, Hartsel receives heavy traffic in the summer and is a destination for boaters and anglers. A new wheelchair accessible fishing area has been constructed on the South Platte River near town.

Jefferson **9,501 feet above sea level. Founded in 1879.**

Just west of Kenosha Pass on US Highway 285, Jefferson is surrounded by large cattle ranches and sparsely populated subdivisions. It has a gas station, real estate office, post office and small sporting goods store. The Jefferson Store carries general merchandise and also serves breakfast and lunch. The historic Jefferson (railroad) Depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Next to the Depot is a caboose that serves fast food during the summer months. This area of Park County has been the recipient of substantial funding to conserve heritage ranches and water resources for the benefit of County residents and the local tourism economy.

Lake George **7,992 feet above sea level. Founded in 1892.**

Located 45 miles from Colorado Springs on US Highway 24, Lake George has a convenience store, restaurant, two motels with cabins, auto repair shop, saddle maker, RV park, and museum. Lake George also has a post office, elementary school and public library. With a population of about 1,500 in the Lake George area, seasonal visitors to nearby Elevenmile Canyon and two state parks provide a support base for this small mountain community.

Pine Junction **8,448 feet above sea level.**

Pine Junction is situated in the foothills southwest of Denver along US Highway 285. The community sits astride the Park-Jefferson county line between Crow Hill and Conifer. This bedroom community has a commercial strip along the highway, including a gas station and convenience store, liquor store, lumber yard, and three eateries.

Shawnee **8,120 feet above sea level. Founded in 1900.**

Five miles west of Bailey on US 285, Shawnee has an art gallery, tea room, community center and post office. Due to the large number of historic buildings in town, Shawnee is listed as a National Historic District. Fitzsimmons Middle School and Platte Canyon High School are located one mile east of town.

The historic Jefferson (railroad) Depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Next to the Depot is a caboose that serves fast food during the summer months. This area of Park County has been the recipient of substantial funding to conserve heritage ranches and water resources for the benefit of County residents and the local tourism economy.

2021 PARK COUNTY PROPERTY TAX ROLE

Property Classification	Number of Parcels	Assessed Valuation (\$)	Percent of Tax Role
Residential Properties	12,698	333,230,750	57
Vacant Land	20,945	120,220,970	26
Commercial Properties (includes possessory interest)	344	33,231,951	6
State Assessed Public Utilities	30	26,863,900	7
Agricultural Properties	2,712	15,075,080	3
Natural Resources Properties	16	5,939,240	1
Personal Property	63	5,027,320	1
Industrial Properties	7	986,070	1

PROPERTY TAXES

Location of property in the county determines the jurisdictions to which tax revenues are dispersed. Residential property is assessed at 7.15 percent of its actual market value. Generally, all other property is assessed at 29 percent of its actual value.

In 2021, mill levies for Park County's two incorporated towns were 15.850 for Alma and 11.999 for Fairplay. RE-1 Platte Canyon School District and RE-2 South Park School District mill levies are 26.874 and 19.777 respectively. Special Improvement District mill levies range from zero to 35.0, depending on the district. These rates will likely change in 2022.

COUNTY SALES TAX

In addition to property tax assessments, there is also a one-percent county sales tax. This tax is paid on all retail goods purchased in Park County, as well as lodging and restaurant purchases. Approved by County voters in 1997, revenues from the tax are used exclusively for the protection, enhancement and acquisition of water resources, as well as lands associated with water resources. This is the only sales tax in Park County, among several attempts to levy an additional sales tax for other purposes.

Since 1997 County sales tax revenues have been used to leverage about \$25 million in grants and donations to conserve agricultural lands, purchase appurtenant water rights, and to restore degraded aquatic habitat. This work has greatly enhanced water quality and aquatic habitat, and ensured the availability of water rights for beneficial purposes in Park County.

LAND USE PLANNING

In 2016 the Board of Park County Commissioners adopted a Park County Strategic Master Plan update as a blueprint for ongoing Land Use Regulation (LUR) amendments. A few general principles contained in the 2016 Strategic Master plan update include the following:

- Conserving agricultural land and water.
- Maintaining the rural character, natural environment, and scenic quality of Park County.
- Encourage lot consolidations that create more viable residential development sites.

- Protect and enhance scenic quality.
- Conserve water supply and restore stream corridors.
- Evolve and expand tourism.
- Diversify the economy.
- Support businesses and training.
- Provide financially sustainable infrastructure and core services that serve the needs of the county.
- Develop the unincorporated historic towns that fits the rural, mountain character of the community.
- Coordinate and communicate with local municipalities.
- Communicate with local residents with notification services such as Notify Me, Flume publications, and Code Red.

DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

Land use and development are governed by Park County Zoning Ordinances, Land Use Regulations, Subdivision Regulations and Building Codes, as well as state and county Health Department Regulations. Building permits are not issued until applicants first comply with all other county requirements. Before purchasing property in the county, prospective buyers should check with the Park County Environmental Health Department to determine what environmental hazards and health risks may exist in a specific area. A septic system permit must be obtained from the Department before applying for a building permit.

Wildfires are part of the natural cycle in mountain forests. Accordingly, prospective residents are encouraged to consider the possibility of a catastrophic wildfire when choosing a building site. County road and driveway access are important considerations in the event that a wildfire does occur. Further, residents are urged to create a defensible space around their homes and other structures.

Before drilling water wells, property owners must first obtain a well permit from the Colorado Division of Water Resources in Denver (303.866.3581). The Environmental & Code Compliance Department advocates that well water be tested by a certified laboratory before it is used for household purposes. In particular, testing for bacteria, nitrates, radioactivity and metals is highly recommended.

The Park County Public Works Department is only required to maintain roads on the county road system. It is not responsible for maintaining State highways, town streets or private roads. Nor does the county maintain residential or subdivision roads that are not part of the county's road system. County roads in more remote areas may be graded only one time each year, if at all. If a road is deemed passable upon inspection, it may not receive maintenance every year. Winter snow removal is one of the most important functions of the department, with main thoroughfares receiving highest priority. As time and weather permit, mail routes, school bus routes and secondary roads are then cleared. Snow removal on lower priority county roads is a courtesy rather than mandatory. Contrary to a common misconception, residency is not a factor with regard to road maintenance or snow removal prioritization.

Park County's right-of-way averages 30 feet on either side of the county road centerline. It is illegal to build or place anything on county roads without first obtaining permission from the Park County Public Works Department. Park County requires that all property owners identify their driveway location and apply for a driveway permit from the Environmental & Code Compliance Department before constructing a driveway. Property owners are responsible for constructing and maintaining their own (private) driveways and parking areas.

For further development information and assistance, please contact: the Park County Building Department (719.836.4255), Planning Department (719.836.4292), Environmental & Code Compliance Department (719.836.4267), or Public Works Department (719.836.4286).

REAL ESTATE RESOURCES

Bristlecone Realty Group - Alma	719.836.3606
Caniglia Real Estate Group - Alma	719.836.2766
Choice Property Brokers - Pine	303.838.2720
Deer Creek Realty - Bailey	303.838.5377
Dynamic Properties - Bailey	303.816.6000
High Ridge Realty - Jefferson	303.514.9935
Fidelity National Title - Bailey	303.838.4417
Fidelity National Title - Fairplay	719.836.0645
Jefferson Real Estate - Jefferson	719.836.2615
Mountain House Prop - Fairplay	888.440.2724
ReMax - Fairplay	970.485.0951
Saddle Up Realty - Guffey	719.689.5501
Timber Wolf Realty - Fairplay	719.836.2000
Twin Creek Realty - Hartsel	719.836.2480
United Country RE - Fairplay	719.836.9026

EMERGENCY & HEALTH SERVICES

Law enforcement is provided by the Park County Sheriff's Office and Colorado State Patrol with stations in Bailey, Lake George and Fairplay. The towns of Fairplay and Alma provide local police protection within their incorporated limits. In addition, the US Forest Service (USFS) and Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) provide law enforcement and rescue services on public lands.

The entire county is served by the enhanced 911 emergency phone number. Fire protection and emergency medical services are provided by various districts throughout the county. Fire protection facilities (stations) are located in Alma, Bailey, Jefferson, Fairplay, Guffey, Hartsel and Lake George. Presently there are no primary health care or medical facilities in the county, but ambulance and "flight for life" services are provided in all areas.

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

Labor & Employment data indicate that 9,145 Park County residents were employed in 2015. However, only 15 percent were employed within the county during the same period. It is therefore concluded that 85-percent of the adult workforce now commutes to places of work outside the County for the following reasons:

- 1)The majority of Park County's adult population has relocated here while retaining employment in neighboring counties or cities (i.e. Denver);
- 2)The higher wage scale in neighboring areas; and
- 3)Relatively few employers in Park County.

The largest 2016 non-government employer in Park County was educational services (373 workers), followed by lodging & food services (309 workers), construction trade (280 workers), retail trade (265 workers), and professional & technical services (120 workers). Unlike previous years, educational services employed the most county workers during 2016. In contrast, utilities (9 workers), arts & entertainment (20 workers), and information services (26 workers) provided the least employment. Because education, tourism and construction are highly seasonal industries, quarterly employment data reflect seasonal fluctuations in the number of employees. On the other hand, health care, manufacturing, and communications remain fairly constant throughout the year.

The 2016 average annual wage for Park County residents was \$34,625. Industries paying the highest annual wages include the wholesale trade (\$89,232), information services (\$77,324), finance and insurance (\$73,060), professional & technical services (\$62,920), and administrative services (\$43,420). However, these industries employ relatively few workers. Industries paying the lowest annual wages in Park County include lodging & food services (\$13,728), arts & entertainment (\$13,780), utilities (\$17,056), and manufacturing (\$23,712). Certain business sectors within each industry pay higher wages than the industry as a whole. However, those businesses support a relatively small number of employee.

SOCIOECONOMICS

The high mountains and broad valleys that comprise Park County are an integral part of its heritage and appeal. While mining and ranching are a remnant of what they were historically, the influence of these traditional industries is apparent on the landscape. Park County exemplifies the trend seen in many rural areas: the local economy has become dependent on tourism and real estate development. In effect, the area has become a bedroom community and outdoor recreation area for Metro Denver, Colorado Springs and neighboring resort counties. Park County experienced a 51% increase in residential building permits between 2014 and 2016. This increase is consistent with the recent economic trend in Colorado.

Park County is a place where the quality of life does not necessarily equate to the conveniences of urban living. In many areas the allure of mountain living may be tempered by the reality of driving 50 miles daily to work, the grocery store or a hospital.

While local infrastructure development has increased over the last decade, the level of community services is still not proportionate to the current population. This is due, in part, to shopping patterns of the commuter workforce. The vast majority (85%) of the adult workforce now commutes an average of 80 miles (round-trip) daily to neighboring cities or towns where the variety of shopping opportunities and personal services are much greater. This situation presents a strategic opportunity for prospective entrepreneurs to develop new products and provide new community services that serve existing markets in several Park County communities.

Many local establishments have enjoyed a brisk increase in annual business over the last two years. Some businesses have expanded their operations and the local workforce has increased proportionately. Advances in tele-communications have made it possible to conduct business internationally from a home office in Park County. As a result, home-based business development appears to be one of the fastest growing industries. Examples include home educators, business administrators, programmers, electronics technicians, homebuilders, desktop publishers, and craftsmen. Much of this growth can be attributed to the appeal of Park County as a place to live, raise a family and start a home-based business. This trend will likely continue as the communications infrastructure improves in underserved rural areas.

PARK COUNTY STATISTICS

Geography

Lowest Point (South Platte River): 7,000 Feet ASL Highest Point (Mount Lincoln): 14,286 Feet ASL
Land Mass: 2,166 Square Miles
Federal & State Lands: 59% (1278 Square Miles)
Total Roads: Approximately 1800 Miles
Total Rivers & Streams: Approximately 800 Miles

Climate

Fairplay - Ave. July Temp. (Min/Max): 44/72°F
Fairplay - Ave. Jan. Temp. (Min/Max): 11/32°F
Fairplay - Ave. Annual Precipitation: 14.8"
Fairplay - Ave. Annual Snowfall: 84"
Bailey - Ave. July Temp. (Min/Max): 44/80°F
Bailey - Ave. Jan. Temp. (Min/Max): 9/40°F
Bailey - Ave. Annual Precipitation: 15.7"
Bailey - Ave. Annual Snowfall: 80"
Lk. George - Ave. July Temp. (Min/Max): 41/76°F
Lk. George - Ave. Jan. Temp. (Min/Max): 0/37°F
Lk. George - Ave. Annual Precipitation: 15.1"
Lk. George - Ave. Annual Snowfall: 59"

County Population

2018 Official U.S. Census: 18,556
2016 Population Estimate: 17,015
Platte Canyon Area (2010 Census): 9,234
South Park Area (2010 Census): 4,793
Lk. George/Guffey Area (2010 Census): 2,179
Fairplay Town (2016): 713
Alma Town (2016): 280
Age Distribution of Population (2015 Estimate):
 Under 18 Years: 19 %
 18-64 Years: 66 %
 18-65 Years: (69.2 %)
 65+ Years: 15 %
Median Age: 49
Male Persons (2016 Estimate): 52 %
Female Persons (2016 Estimate): 48 %
White Persons (2016 Estimate): 93 %

2019 Voter Registration

Crow Hill/Pine Junction Area Precincts: 6264
Bailey/Shawnee/Grant Area Precincts: 1137
Fairplay Area Precinct: 1556
Guffey Area Precinct: 794
Alma Area Precinct: 784
Hartsel Area Precinct: 953
Jefferson/Como Area Precinct: 929
Lake George Area Precinct: 594
Total (All Precincts): 13,011

Consumer Spending

Average Amount Spent Per Household (2016):
Apparel and Services \$ 1,935
Education \$ 1,266
Entertainment/Recreation \$ 3,027
Food at Home \$ 5,085
Food Away From Home \$ 3,047
Health Care \$ 5,871
Household Furnishings & Equipment \$ 1,792
Personal Care Products \$ 755
Shelter \$14,807
Support Payments/Contributions/Gifts \$ 2,500
Travel \$ 1,920
Vehicle Maintenance & Repairs \$ 1,106

Employment & Income

Adult Labor Force (2015): 9,470
Number of Adults Employed (2015): 9,145
Average unemployment rate (2018): 2.6%
Employers within Park County (2016): 541
Largest 2016 Employer: Educational Services
Median Household Income (2016): \$64,229
Poverty Status (2015): 9.2% of County population

<u>Industry Name</u>	<u>Employers in 2016 (#)</u>	<u>Ave. 2016 Wages</u>	<u>Ave. # Employed</u>
Wholesale Trade	39	\$89,232	106
Information Services	13	\$77,324	26
Finance & Insurance	9	\$73,060	27
Professional & Tech.	74	\$62,920	120
Admin. & Waste	38	\$43,420	103
Construction Trade	124	\$37,804	280
Trans. & Warehouse	17	\$37,284	44
Public Administration	20	\$37,024	425
Health Care/Social	17	\$30,212	85
Retail Trade (all)	35	\$28,236	265
Other Services	36	\$26,468	90
Educational Services	10	\$25,896	373
Agriculture/Forestry	12	\$25,792	29
Real Estate & Rentals	26	\$23,764	34
Manufacturing	18	\$23,712	104
Utilities	3	\$17,056	9
Food & Lodging	42	\$13,728	309
Arts & Entertainment	8	\$13,780	20

Housing & Households

Total Number of Housing Units (2016): 14,574
Number of Occupied Housing Units (2016): 7,564
Number of Vacant Housing Units (2016): 7,010
Median Home Value (2016): \$312,709
Residential Building Starts: 1123 permits in 2021
1083 permits in 2020
136 permits in 2016
122 permits in 2015
87 permits in 2014
55 permits in 2013

Educational Attainment (2016)

25+ yrs. with HS Diploma or GED: 25.6 %
25+ yrs. old with Bachelor's Degree: 23.2 %
25+ yrs. old with Master's or Doctorate: 9.5 %

Public School Enrollment

Platte Canyon RE-1 School District (2017):

<u>School Name</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Students</u>
Platte Canyon High	Shawnee	294
Fitzsimmons Middle	Shawnee	232
Deer Creek Elem. & Pre.	Crow Hill	382

South Park RE-2 School District (2019):

<u>School Name</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Students</u>
So. Park High School	Fairplay	126
So. Park Middle School	Fairplay	120
Edith Teter Elementary	Fairplay	250
Charter Elem. & Preschool	Lk. George	153
Charter Elem. & Preschool	Guffey	38

Tourism Indicators

<u>Facility or Attraction</u>	<u>Annual Visitors</u>
Eleven-Mile Reservoir State Park	345,000
Guanella Pass Scenic Byway (estimate)	200,000
Spinney Mtn. Reservoir State Park	57,000
South Park City Museum	18,000
Tarryall State Wildlife Area (estimate)	15,000
Hunting in South Park (estimate)	6,000

Average Daily Traffic

<u>Highway Location</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2018</u>
US 285 @ CR 68 in Bailey	7100	7700
US 285 in Grant	5300	5700
US 285 @ CR 77 in Jefferson	5300	5800
US 285 @ Main St. in Fairplay	5500	6100
Colo. 9 at 6 th Street in Fairplay	3900	4500
Colo. 9 @ CR 59 near Guffey	430	460
US 24 in Lake George	3400	4100
US 24 @ Colo. 9 in Hartsel	2500	3300
US 24 @ US 285 (Antero Junc.)	1800	1900

Note: Actual traffic volume at these locations may be different than the “factored” averages reported above by CDOT. Traffic counts are not necessarily conducted during the same time period or location each year. Rather, temporary counters are placed on the highways to estimate daily averages for the entire year at each location.

TOURISM & RECREATION

Four strategic plans and studies have independently drawn similar conclusions: Park County’s tourism and outdoor recreation-based economy is highly dependent on effectively managing the very resources that draw people to the area. Park County is graced with dozens of headwater lakes and streams, several working ranches, and literally hundreds of structures built by miners and settlers. In recent years the area has become a high-altitude proving ground for mountaineers, anglers and OHV enthusiasts.

Thirty-one public campgrounds are distributed throughout the county with recreation trails, fishing waters and historic sites nearby. In addition there are eight guest ranches, three historic hotels and five motels that provide overnight accommodations.

The **South Park National Heritage Area** is a place that embodies its pioneer roots. Residents of South Park still depend on the wealth of natural and cultural resources for their livelihood and quality of life.

In 1958, **South Park City Museum** opened as Colorado's most authentic reconstruction of a gold rush mining town. Today the museum in Fairplay contains 37 structures and some 60,000 artifacts that typify late-1800s professions, trades, and mountain lifestyles.

McGraw Memorial Park in Bailey is home to several historic structures, unusual artifacts, stream fishing, nature trails, and a family picnic area. Attractions include the 1864 Entriiken Cabin, 1899 Shawnee Schoolhouse, Colorado & Southern caboose, a rare Keystone railroad bridge, and the Maddox iceboat.

The **Mosquito Range** above Fairplay contains four peaks higher than 14,000 feet. Traversing this range is **Mosquito Pass** (13,186 feet), the highest motorized vehicle pass in North America. Numerous other mountain byways and jeep roads throughout the county provide self-guided auto tours to old mining camps, ghost towns and backcountry areas.

Eleven Mile and Spinney Mountain State Parks near Lake George provide facilities (seasonal) for fly and lure fishing, boating, sailing, camping and hunting. Also near Lake George, **Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument** preserves petrified tree stumps and the world's largest repository of fossil insects.

Wildlife viewing is a growing “sport” in Park County with over 1,200-square miles of public lands, 13 state wildlife areas, two state parks, and three nature preserves. Located two miles north of Fairplay, the **Fairplay Snowmobile Trail System** provides over 32 miles of snowmobile trails in the Pike National Forest. These snowmobile trails also serve as mountain bike, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing trails.

Mountain bike trails near Bailey, Grant and Trout Creek Pass have been extended through South Park in recent years. Collectively these trails provide over 150 miles of single and two-track riding for all abilities.

Guided **horseback riding** and horse packing services are available near Fairplay, Hartsel, and Lake George.

Near the towns of Alma and Fairplay, the **Bristlecone Pine and Limber Grove scenic areas** preserve spectacular stands of ancient, wind-sculpted pine trees. Growing at altitudes up to 12,000 feet, some of these living monuments are over 800 years old.

Fifteen miles west of Bailey on US 285, **Wilderness on Wheels** is a unique facility providing disabled people the opportunity to enjoy hiking, fishing and camping. A mile-long boardwalk provides wheelchair access through the forest along the North Fork of the South Platte River.

Guanella Pass Scenic & Historic Byway is a half-day auto tour between Grant and Georgetown. Lakes, trails, campgrounds, and jeep roads offer a multitude of recreation opportunities along this 22-mile route.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Scenic and historic four-wheel drive and OHV tours
- RV, trailer and tent camping
- Hiking, backpacking and mountain climbing
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- Boating, sailing and wind surfing
- Stream, lake, and reservoir fishing
- Backcountry skiing and snowshoeing
- Snowmobiling
- Hunting (large & small game)
- Gold panning and prospecting
- Rock and gem collecting
- Wildlife and waterfowl viewing
- Nature and wildlife photography
- Natural area and historic site exploration
- Guest Ranch and resort activities