



OPEN SPACE & TRAILS DEPARTMENT

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2022 Quandary Peak & McCullough Gulch Pilot Program Frequently Asked Questions

Contact Information

- ALL questions related parking reservations and shuttle tickets can be directed to parkquandary@interstateparking.com.
- All other questions pertaining to the pilot program can be directed to openspace@summitcountyco.gov or 970-668-4060.

General

Can I park at Quandary Peak and McCullough Gulch outside of the pilot program season?

Before June 1st and after September 30th, parking is free and first-come, first-served at the Quandary Peak Trailhead. There is absolutely NO parking on McCullough Gulch Road and Blue Lakes Road any time of year. Illegal parking is enforced.

I used to park at the McCullough Gulch Trailhead, why can't I park there now?

The McCullough Gulch Trailhead is not a formal trailhead. This trail access point is located on a County Road (McCullough Gulch Road). In Summit County, it is illegal to park on County Roads. The Sheriff's Office increased its enforcement presence here due to numerous public safety issues stemming from blocked roadways.

Google Maps directs me to a different trailhead than the one I made a reservation for. What's the deal?

Currently, Google Maps takes you to the old Quandary Peak trailhead located on McCullough Gulch Road. DO NOT park here! You will receive a ticket if you do. Parking is only allowed in the large parking lot off State Highway-9 (there will be signs indicating where to park). The old trailhead parking is reserved for staff and registered volunteers ONLY.

Please note that the Quandary Peak Trail starts across from this old trailhead, and is well-signed.

Can I park on the road or highway?

No. Both access roads in the area (Blue Lakes Road and McCullough Gulch Road) are County Roads and it is illegal to park here. Parking is also illegal (and unsafe) on State Highway 9. Illegal parking is

enforced.

Where can I park if I want to do a night hike or start my hike before 5am? Can I still park at the Quandary Peak Trailhead?

While we don't encourage hiking at night due to risk of injury and getting lost, there are some people who enjoy activities like nighttime photography and sunset/sunrise hikes.

For sunset hikes, you may park at the Quandary Peak Trailhead for free between 3pm and 12am. We encourage you to bring a headlamp and check weather forecasts before doing a sunset hike. Please note: no overnight parking is allowed between 12am and 4am, so you must leave the trailhead after your hike.

For sunrise hikes, you must make a parking reservation for the Quandary Peak Trailhead. While parking reservations begin at 5am, you are able to start your hike earlier WITH a reservation for the day of your hike.

For other nighttime activities between 12am and 5am, we encourage you to make a parking reservation for the day of your hike (if you anticipate finishing your hike after 5am). Please call or email the Summit County Open Space & Trails Department at 970-668-4060 / openspace@summitcountyco.gov for more options on nighttime parking.

As a reminder, there is absolutely no parking on County Roads, including Blue Lakes Road and McCullough Gulch Road.

I'm hunting in the area. Where can I park?

Please call or email the Summit County Open Space & Trails Department at 970-668-4060 / openspace@summitcountyco.gov for more information on prolonged parking for hunting trips.

Is Blue Lakes included in the pilot program?

No, Blue Lakes is not included in the pilot program at this time. Please park in designated areas to access Blue Lakes and DO NOT park on Blue Lakes Road – it is illegal and parking is enforced.

How can I find trail conditions?

Third-party websites, such as 14ers.com and All Trails, may have trip reports posted and are a great resource to check trail conditions prior to your hike. We highly recommend you use these resources to plan your route and see if there are any trail alerts. In addition, we strongly encourage you to check the weather before you start your hike using apps such as Open Summit, the Weather Channel, or even the weather app on your phone. Keep in mind that your phone probably won't forecast conditions at the summit. The weather changes quickly and thunderstorms beginning around noon are extremely common, even if your phone doesn't show that.

What system do you recommend I use for my hike?

It all depends on what you are looking for! Are you a family with kids to keep track of? Maybe a parking reservation is better for you. Are you traveling alone with a limited budget? Taking the shuttle is a great option for you.

In general, we strongly recommend taking the shuttle if you can, as it is a more sustainable transportation option (you'd be helping reduce vehicle emissions!).

We strongly recommend that visitors hiking Quandary Peak use the full-day parking reservation or take an early shuttle (before or around 7am). This will allow enough time for you to hike (average time is 6 hours) and enjoy the summit before the afternoon thunderstorms roll in.

We strongly recommend that visitors hiking McCullough Gulch use the 3.5-hour parking reservation or time their shuttle rides appropriately to ensure you make it back to Breckenridge before the last shuttle departs from the Quandary Peak Trailhead at 4:30pm.

Parking

How do I make a parking reservation?

You must make a parking reservation at parkquandary.com.

How far in advance can I make a parking reservation?

Visitors can make a parking reservation two weeks ahead of their intended hike date (starting at midnight two weeks before the hike date). Reservations can be made starting in late May. Please check parkquandary.com for updates.

Can I cancel my parking reservation?

Yes, you may cancel your parking reservation at parkquandary.com up to 24 hours in advance. We encourage you to cancel your reservation if you are unable to make it, so someone else may make a reservation. You will receive a 100% refund if you cancel 24 hours prior to your reservation.

What if I do not know my license plate number, or I am driving a rental car?

Please make your reservation under "RENTALCAR". You can log back into your account after making a reservation and update the license plate number under the "VEHICLES" tab. Parking attendants will use your license plate number to check your reservation, so it is important to update your plate number after you have picked up your rental car. If you cannot update your license plate number before your hike, please leave your printed receipt face up on your dash.

Do I need to display my parking receipt?

You do not need to display your parking receipt. Park Quandary's technology works with license plate recognition. Correctly entered license plates will be recognized. Please see the answer to the previous question if you do not know your license number.

Do I get a specific reserved parking space?

No. If you have a reservation, you may park in any designated space at the Quandary Peak Trailhead on a first-come, first-served basis.

What happens if I arrive at my reserved space early?

If you arrive early, we suggest visiting the surrounding area such as Hoosier Pass, just south of the Quandary Peak Trailhead on State Highway-9. However, you may also begin your hike earlier than your reservation begins IF you have a reservation for that day.

What happens if I overstay my reservation?

Cars parked past their reservation are subject to a \$100 fine. This mainly applies to 3.5-hour reservations booked well before 3pm, when parking becomes free and first-come, first-served.

Parking tickets for cars parked *in the Quandary Peak Trailhead parking lot* may be appealed at parkquandary.com.

For visitors hiking Quandary Peak, we strongly recommend making a full-day parking reservation to allow enough time to hike the trail and enjoy the summit without rushing, as it typically takes an average of 5-6 hours to complete.

I'm handicapped. Where should I park?

At this time, there are no ADA-designated parking spaces at the Quandary Peak Trailhead.

I'm a Summit County resident. How do I get a discount to park?

Please upload proof of residency at parkquandary.com a minimum of 48 hours in advance of your reservation. If you plan to hike Quandary Peak or McCullough Gulch this summer, we highly recommend uploading your documents as early as possible to be ready to go when you want to make a reservation.

Shuttle

When does the shuttle run?

In 2022, the shuttle runs from June 15th to September 18th. If you'd like to visit the area before or after the shuttle service runs, you must either make a parking reservation for the Quandary Peak Trailhead (June 1st – September 30th, 2022) or park at the trailhead for free after September 30th.

How do I reserve a space on the shuttle?

You may reserve a space on the shuttle at parkquandary.com. Reservations can be made for a specific day, but not a specific time. You may board the shuttle at any time on the day of which you have a reservation.

How do I confirm my reservation with the shuttle driver?

Please download your reservation confirmation to your phone or print out your reservation and bring it with you on your hike. Please keep in mind there is NO cellular service at the Quandary Peak Trailhead.

Can I bring my dog on the shuttle?

Yes. Dogs do not need a ticket to ride the shuttle, but shuttles do fill up on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of which you have purchased a ticket for yourself. Therefore, we recommend taking a shuttle earlier in the day to ensure you and your dog have space on the shuttle. We strongly suggest making a parking reservation if you plan to hike with your dog.

What happens if I miss the last shuttle of the day due to injury or weather?

In an emergency, please dial 911. Cell service is best higher up on the trails where you may be able to place a call for an alternative pick-up. We encourage hikers to appropriately plan ahead and develop an itinerary based on hiking ability level, weather conditions, and day of hike (e.g., Saturday when shuttles will fill up quicker vs. Tuesday). The last shuttle of the day picks up at 4:30pm at the Quandary Peak Trailhead.

Where does the shuttle pick-up in Breckenridge?

The shuttle picks up at the South Gondola Parking Structure, at the east side of the garage at ground level. It costs \$15 to park anywhere in the garage for the day. For a free option, we encourage you to take free public transit (Summit Stage/Breck Free Ride), walk, or bike to the garage.

How long is the shuttle ride from Breckenridge to Quandary Peak?

The ride from Breckenridge to Quandary Peak is about 20 minutes.

How do I get to McCullough Gulch via the shuttle?

The shuttle from Breckenridge will drop you off at the Quandary Peak Trailhead. An on-site shuttle will be available at the trailhead to take you to the McCullough Gulch Trailhead. A shuttle will also pick-up hikers at McCullough Gulch.

Do I need to wear a mask on the shuttle?

At this time, no. The shuttle provider follows the CDC and Department of Transportation's recommendations, which currently do not suggest the need for a mask. However, this is subject to change depending on the threat of COVID-19.