

The Complicated Story of Rocky Flats: Is it Safe to Hike Here?

The land across the highway has a complicated history.

From 1951 - 1989, the Rocky Flats Plant, located 1.5 miles south of here, produced plutonium components used to assemble nuclear weapons. During its operations, hazardous materials leaked into the air and onto the land.

Years of waste removal and clean-up resulted in the designation as a wildlife refuge.

Clean-up of the site began in the early 1990's. Contaminated soil and water, as well as 800 structures were removed. The clean-up ended in 2006 and the area was designated as the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. While 15 miles of trails are open to visitors year-round, nearby communities continue to express concern about the area's safety and risks to human health.

Is it safe to hike, bike, and horseback ride on Rocky Flats?

Visitors to this area are encouraged to make informed decisions about their travel. If you are concerned about the potential risks of using trails at Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, please consider the following alternatives.

- To the west, enjoy views of the mountains from the High Plains Trail.
- To the east, enjoy views of the plains from the Coalton Trail and nearby Meadowlark Trail, and Single Tree Trail.