

Indian Creek Alternative to Waterton Canyon

Indian Creek Trailhead ("ICT") can serve as an alternate approach to the Waterton Canyon part of Segment 1 of The Colorado Trail. ICT is in the mountains about 10 miles south of the CT terminus at Waterton Canyon and is found along Colorado Hwy 67 between Sedalia and Deckers. From Sedalia, drive west on CO 67 for 10.5 miles, paved most of the way then gravel toward the end, and look for the ICT sign and parking lot on the right.

From the ICT parking lot, to reach The Colorado Trail walk past the outhouse west and downhill through the Equestrian campground area. The singletrack ICT #800 'WEST LEG' begins where the equestrian camping road makes a loop. Veer right onto the singletrack. Curving northward, follow at first a tributary of Bear Creek and then Bear Creek itself for about 2 miles, crossing the creek twice. There are some potential campsites along the way. After 2 miles (490,284/4,361,090), leave Bear Creek and climb up toward a forested ridge. At 3-way intersection (490,439/4,361,627) take a left to stay on Indian Creek Trail #800. Hike along the high ridge for the next mile or so. At 3-way intersection around mile 4 (489,905/4,363,519) stay to the left toward The Colorado Trail and away from Indian Creek Trail #800. At mile 4.4, reach Lenny's Rest bench on The Colorado Trail at mile 7.9 of Segment 1.

Parking at Indian Creek Trailhead

Probably best to not park long term at ICT or Rampart Upper Lot. Instead, arrange to be dropped off there and leave your car in a suitable, less congested and more secure location. However, parking is available at the ICT, though it gets full most every weekend. Also, there is an overflow Rampart "Upper" Lot 1/4 mile from ICT, but trusted friends have recommended you not park there overnight.

- Fee for ICT parking is \$5.00 per day per vehicle (self-serve drop box with slot and envelopes)
- Camp host has a trailer at the Indian Creek TH & Campground but is on-site only sometimes (host has a circuit of facilities they monitor and they're often in transit)
- Multiday (overnight) ICT parking is discouraged, but allowed (don't leave valuables inside).
- Multiday parking fee is \$5.00 for each day you're parked
- Annual pass is \$45.00 (good thru 2010) and would cover total parking fees of a month or more (pass is good at multiple TH & CG locations) and must be secured in advance from Concessionaire (see below; easiest via US Postal Mail) and be displayed on your windshield
- Annual pass info you must provide
 - o Name
 - Vehicle make, model & color
 - License plate number
- Concessionaire for ICT & Campground is: Rocky Mountain Recreation Company (RMRC), PO Box 636, Woodland Park, CO 80866; John Mayns, Regional Manager (in his truck often, in & out of cell range), cell (719) 687-3814; Ruth Williams, assistant to Mayns (not always in the office near the work phone), work (719) 687-7818; Campground Hosts at Indian Creek TH (phone number unavailable)

Camping at Indian Creek Campground

- Two separate Campground Areas, one for equestrians and one for others
- Equestrian Campground has 8 sites that can be reserved online: www.recreation.gov or via phone at 1-877-444-6777
- Other, non-equestrian, Indian Creek Campground also has a limited number of sites and is "first come first served." For more info, contact the RMRC concessionaire (above) or the USFS South Platte Ranger District at (303) 275-5610.