



Media Contact: Amanda Wheelock
Continental Divide Trail Coalition
Tel: (720) 924-1616
Email: awheelock@continentaldividetrail.org
Facebook: [facebook.com/ContinentalDivideTrailCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/ContinentalDivideTrailCoalition)
Web: www.continentaldividetrail.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAND LAKE TO BE DESIGNATED AS CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL GATEWAY COMMUNITY

Grand Lake, Co. (July 10, 2018) – The Town of Grand Lake has long been known as the “Western Gateway” to Rocky Mountain National Park, but later this month, it will officially receive gateway status to another famed destination: the 3,100-mile Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT). On Sunday, July 22nd, representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, the Town of Grand Lake, and the Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) will join together to officially designate Grand Lake as the nation’s 12th CDT Gateway Community.

“We are thrilled to welcome Grand Lake as an official CDT Gateway Community,” said Teresa Martinez, Executive Director of the CDTC. “This designation helps us celebrate the important connections between those who travel the CDT, and the communities that live along the Trail. With the CDT passing right through town and the welcoming atmosphere that residents provide to CDT travelers, Grand Lake is a perfect fit for our grassroots movement to complete, promote and protect the CDT.”

Launched in 2013 by the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, the CDT Gateway Community program serves to help communities benefit from their proximity to the CDT. Gateway Communities are recognized for their part in promoting awareness and stewardship of the CDT and creating a welcoming environment for people traveling along the Trail. Since receiving approval as a CDT Gateway Community, the Town of Grand Lake has already taken steps to improve CDT signage through town, so that residents and visitors alike know that they are walking along part of the National Scenic Trail.

“CDT Gateway Community designation is the perfect opportunity for Grand Lake to promote itself to a larger audience of recreational enthusiasts,” said Nate Shull, Town Planner. “Our Town is truly a mecca for outdoor activity. We believe the designation will only help to bolster our local economy while reinforcing the identity of the Town as a major stop along the Trail.”



Nestled on the shores of Colorado’s largest natural body of water, the Town of Grand Lake is the newest CDT Gateway Community.

Photo by Nate Shull.

To make the Town of Grand Lake’s designation official, Janes Peterson, Town of Grand Lake Mayor, and Teresa Martinez will co-sign a proclamation in Town Square Park at noon on Sunday, July 22. The ceremony will be followed by a celebration in the park of local and surrounding trail systems in the Grand Lake area, including representatives from the National Park Service, United States Forest Service, Grand Lake Metropolitan Recreation District, and others. The public is invited to attend.

“Continental Divide Trail Gateway Community designation gives Grand Lake the opportunity to share one of the last authentic mountain towns with CDT travelers,” said Samantha Bruegger, Executive Director of the Grand Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. “Whether they’re hiking the entire trail or just looking for a beautiful place to spend a day with their families, we know that folks using the CDT will feel welcome in Grand Lake.”

The Town of Grand Lake is named for the body of water next to which it sits, which is Colorado’s largest natural lake. To the south of town, the CDT traverses the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, with its expansive ridgeline views and the popular Indian Peaks Wilderness. To the north, it makes a 28-mile loop through Rocky Mountain National Park, where depending on the season, visitors may be treated to gorgeous wildflowers, snow-capped



peaks, and even moose sightings.

Grand Lake residents are eager to welcome travelers, and the town boasts many trail-friendly amenities. When asked what makes Grand Lake an attractive stop for a CDT hiker, Shull said, "Grand Lake is one of few towns that is fortunate to have the CDT pass directly through its downtown. This provides convenience for CDT travelers to access local amenities like lodging, food, and gear, as well as a central place to gather and share information about the Trail with residents and visitors alike."

About the Continental Divide Trail

The CDT is one of the world's premiere long-distance trails, stretching 3,100 miles from Mexico to Canada along the Continental Divide. Designated by Congress in 1978, the CDT is the highest, most challenging and most remote of the 11 National Scenic Trails. It provides recreational opportunities ranging from hiking to horseback riding to hunting for thousands of visitors each year. While 95% of the CDT is located on public land, approximately 150 miles are still in need of protection.

About the Continental Divide Trail Coalition

The CDTC was founded in 2012 by volunteers and recreationists hoping to provide a unified voice for the Trail. Working hand-in-hand with the U.S. Forest Service and other federal land management agencies, the CDTC is a non-profit partner supporting stewardship of the CDT. The mission of the CDTC is to complete, promote and protect the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, a world-class national resource. For more information, please visit continentaldividetrail.org.

###