

What to know about Colstrip, Montana!

Colstrip is a city in southeastern Montana's [Rosebud County](#). Often referred to as the state's energy capital due to its production of coal, the small city was first established in 1924 after the Northern Pacific Railroad had begun mining coal in the region for steam locomotive fuel.

Incorporated as a city in 1998, Colstrip is located in a stretch of Montana where the High Plains conjoin with the [Rocky Mountains](#), and the community is flanked by open rangeland with farms and ranches to the east.

The city of Colstrip today is a small and closely-knit community with a population of just over 2,000.

The city is actually the largest in Rosebud County these days, accounting for around a quarter of the population in all, and as a point of interest, it was previously named the top sports town in Montana.

The entire community comes out in force for the main annual event of Colstrip Days on the weekend prior to the 4th of July. The Parks & Recreation in Colstrip is second to none. Community Members enjoy free golf as well as memberships at the Rec Center which features a pool, water slide, and fitness classes!

Hiking:

Castle Rock Lake Trail is a nice and easy, yet scenic and enjoyable loop route near Colstrip. The trail covers 2.9 miles and takes most walkers around an hour to complete. If you are looking for some serious hiking a bit more on the challenging side then check out the **Black Mountain Lookout Trail**. This is a 3.5-mile out & back route that is generally considered difficult and takes most hikers more than 2 hours to complete despite the relatively short distance. The trail is also popular for mountain biking and birding but doesn't get too busy, with the best times to use it being June through October.

Fishing:

Just on the outer limit of Colstrip is the picturesque, 160-acre Castle Rock Lake, where fishermen from across the state flock to catch walleye, pike, and bass.

Golf:

Ponderosa Butte Public Golf Course was opened in May of 1992. It is a very challenging links style course with 4 distinctly different tees on every hole. Considered a top 9-hole golf course in Montana. Picturesque setting with deer and pheasant common to see during play. Some of the best practice facilities in Montana. Large practice green and large irrigated driving range (grass tees). Full pro shop with PGA pro and smoke free dining and lounge.

Parks:

Colstrip boasts over 30 parks & over 20 miles of paved pathways!! No reason to sit at home! Get out in the fresh air & take your kids to the park or go for a bike ride or walk the dog! These paths are plowed for snow removal in the winter.

*Information from DiscoverMontana & Colstrip Parks & Rec Division,
and Colstrip Chamber of Commerce*