**LEAVE NO TRACE ON OPEN SPACE & MOUNTAIN PARKS**

### Manage Your Dog
If your dog is off leash, it **must** visibly display the Voice and Sight Control tag. Keep your dog near you and under control. Carry a leash for each dog, even if under Voice and Sight Control. Ask before allowing your dog to approach other people and dogs.

### Pick Up Poop
Pee-yew! Dog poop is raw sewage. It stinks and causes damage to the environment. Pack a pick-up bag and always pick up your dog’s poop. Never leave a used bag by the trail — dispose of immediately or carry it with you.

### Stay on Trail
Traveling on trail leaves room for wildlife and their homes. Shortcutting trails causes erosion. Get muddy! Step right through puddles. Boots dry overnight; plants take years to recover.

### Trash Your Trash
Please take out all trash — yours and others'. Even organic garbage such as orange peels, apple cores and food scraps, takes years to break down. Animals which feed on trash often die!

### Leave It as You Find It
Picking flowers, collecting rocks, or picking berries may not seem to be a big deal, but it means others won’t have a chance to enjoy them. Millions of people visit Open Space & Mountain Parks. If each takes something, what will remain?

### Share Our Trails
We all enjoy Open Space & Mountain Parks in different ways. Pay attention, expect to encounter others and be courteous. Yield to all.

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**Open Space & Mountain Parks**

**www.osmp.org**

**(303) 441-3440**

**66 South Cherryvale Road**

**Boulder, CO 80303**

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**Please return map when no longer needed so others can use it.**

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**OPEN SPACE & MOUNTAIN PARKS Trail Guide**

**Mountain Parks Region**

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**Please respect our regulations**

Regulations may change seasonally, or be trail-specific. Please check trailhead boards for the latest information, visit [www.osmp.org](http://www.osmp.org) or call 303-441-3440.

**Be “Light on the Land”**
Although off trail hiking is permitted on many parts of OSMP, we encourage you not to do it. A hiker’s foot can crush delicate flowers and cause trails to widen over time. Please stay on the trail tread even when it is muddy or icy to protect surrounding vegetation.

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**Open Space & Mountain Parks Mountain Backdrop Trails**

- **Trailhead - OSMP designated parking**
- **Trailhead - OSMP designated parking w/ fee**
- **Access Point - parking along public streets unless otherwise noted**
- **Trail Managed By OSMP - more information at [www.osmp.org](http://www.osmp.org) or call 303-441-3440**
- **Multi-Use Trail**
- **Hiking Trail**
- **200 Foot Elevation Contour**
- **Habitat Conservation Area Boundary (HCA)**
- **Off-Trail Permit Required**
- **Go To [www.osmppermits.com](http://www.osmppermits.com)**
- **OSMP Property**
- **Other OSMP Managed Lands**

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**Mountain Biking**

Biking is allowed on some OSMP trails, including those in yellow on this map. Please consult the OSMP website or information boards at trailheads. Bikes must remain on trail to limit erosion and resource damage.

**Dogs on OSMP**

Dogs are allowed off leash on most trails if their guardian is registered through the city’s Voice and Sight Control program, and the dog visibly displays the Voice and Sight program tag. By law, excrement must be picked up and disposed of immediately.
Open Space and Mountain Parks is one of the most diverse wildlife areas in all of Colorado, providing habitat for many species. Boulder residents have chosen to protect this intricate tapestry of ecosystems.

Some of our most frequently seen mammals include mule deer, golden-mantled ground squirrel, fox, squirrel, chickadee and Abert's or tassel-eared squirrel. Occasionally, visitors are fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of a coyote, red fox, or long-tailed weasel. Rarely seen are the secretive bobcat, mountain lion and black bear.

Many birds also live here year-round, including black-billed magpie, Steller's jay, mountain and black-capped chickadees, red and white-breasted nuthatches, northern flicker, common raven and dark-eyed junco. Some of our summer visitors include broad-tailed hummingbird, western wood-pewee, yellow-rumped warbler, western tanager and spotted towhee. Cliffs and crags shelter nesting falcons and golden eagles. Some areas are seasonally closed to protect the birds from disturbance.

Please help us keep our wildlife wild—do not approach or feed animals. Enjoy them from a respectful distance.

Photos: Mountain Lion at a deer kill, Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Chautauqua - Bluebell-Baird - Mesa

From the W side of the Ranger Cottage, follow Chautauqua Trail up through meadow. Enjoy bluebells and prairie grasses as well as magnificent views. At Bluebell-Baird Trail, turn left through ponderosa pines to the Bluebell picnic shelter. Follow Bluebell Road downhill back to the Ranger Cottage. 1 hour, 1.6 miles.

Gregory Canyon - Ranger - Greenman - Saddle Rock Loop (strenuous)

Trail begins at Gregory Canyon parking lot off Baseline Rd. It climbs steadily to its junction with Ranger Trail on the S side of Green Mountain Lodge, which continues steeply to the Greenman Trail. Just after the creek, Greenman Trail meets Saddle Rock Trail. Follow it back to Gregory Canyon parking lot. 3.5 hours, 3.7 miles.

Green Mountain Summit (strenuous)

Follow directions for Gregory Canyon hike above, but remain on Ranger Trail until its intersection with Green Mountain West Ridge Trail. Turn left and follow the trail to the summit. In summer, watch for butterflies, and in fall swarms of ladybird beetles. Follow the E.M. Greenman Trail to Saddle Rock Trail and return to Gregory Canyon parking lot. Please note: dogs are not allowed on portions of the Greenman Trail. Avoid summit during lightning storms. 5 hours, 5.3 miles.

Tenderfoot Loop (moderate)

At Realization Point (3.5 miles up Staff Rd.), look for the old fire road with the metal bar gate just W of parking lot. Follow road as it winds downhill, 1.4 miles. Approximately 0.25 miles past cattleguard, the trail turns N and leaves the road. It climbs SE back to Realization Point with views of the Indian Peaks. 2 hours, 2 miles. Bikes allowed on Chapman Dr.

Royal Arch (moderate)

Visit a natural rock arch with spectacular views of Boulder and the Flatirons. From Ranger Cottage, head up the fire road to Bluebell Shelter, then look for the turn off. 3 hours, 4 miles.

Toward Homestead Loop (easy)

Dogs are not allowed on Towhee. Start at Mesa Trail's southern terminus on Eldorado Springs Dr. Pass the historic stone Dunn House, then follow Towhee Trail as it climbs through a lovely shrub-filled canyon. Watch for many kinds of birds, including the Towhees for which the trail is named. At the marked intersection, follow Mesa Trail about 0.5 miles, then return via South Boulder Creek Trail. 3 hours, 4 miles.

Ute - Range View (easy/moderate)

Ute Trail begins at N side of Realization Point parking lot (3.5 miles up Staff Rd.), contours NE along Flagstaff Mountain. Turn left on Range Trail heading to W. Enjoy views of the Indian Peaks on Range View Trail. Returns back to Realization Point. 1 hour, 1.1 mile.

Towhee - Homestead Loop (easy)

Trailhead accessed from W side of Highway 93 about 0.5 miles north of Eldorado Springs Dr. Begin hiking westward on Thomas Lane (dirt road) approximately 0.3 miles to Big Bluestem Park. The trail passes through remnant tallgrass prairie of such surpassing ecological value that it has been designated a state natural area. At the marked intersection, follow Mesa Trail about 0.5 miles, then return via South Boulder Creek Trail. 3 hours, 4 miles.

Big Bluestem - South Boulder Creek (easy)

Trailhead accessed from W side of Highway 93 about 0.5 miles north of Eldorado Springs Dr. Begin hiking westward on Thomas Lane (dirt road) approximately 0.3 miles to Big Bluestem Park. The trail passes through remnant tallgrass prairie of such surpassing ecological value that it has been designated a state natural area. At the marked intersection, follow Mesa Trail about 0.5 miles, then return via South Boulder Creek Trail. 3 hours, 4 miles.

Numerous trails round out the Loop with varying levels of difficulty. See other Loop Trails in your area.

ABOUT BOULDER'S OPEN SPACE & MOUNTAIN PARKS

Boulder citizens have long recognized the value of preserving open space lands. In 1896, Chautauqua Meadow was purchased at the foot of Flagstaff Mountain. Wildlife habitat, unique geologic features, grand views and scenic vistas are all part of Open Space & Mountain Parks.

Boulder's Open Space & Mountain Parks lands serve as a buffer between Boulder and nearby development. They sustain local agriculture and add untold benefits to the natural environment - clean air, water and earth.

The lands shape the urban mosaic of the Boulder Valley and provide citizens with outdoor recreation opportunities, unique within urban America. Over 150 miles of trails are used by walkers, hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders, dog walkers and other passive recreational uses, such as nature study and photography.

SHOP IN BOULDER - SUPPORT YOUR LAND

Open Space & Mountain Parks receives much of its funding through sales tax revenues. Shopping in Boulder helps acquire and preserve more land while supporting trails, habitat protection, education and farming.

PLANTS

There are over 700 species of trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses and ferns on Open Space and Mountain Parks. Our flora includes prairie species of the Great Plains and plants from the Southern Rocky Mountains and Chihuahuan Desert.

Ice Age plants such as paper birch trees and big bluestem grass thrive in cooler, moister nooks. In drier areas you’ll find short and tallgrass prairie. Ponderosa pines cover the slopes of the mountains, while pockets of dense shrubs fill drainages. Plants protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act find refuge here.

BE CAREFUL! Poison ivy grows in many places, especially in moist drainages. Watch out for the shiny leaves. Many people suffer a serious skin reaction when they contact this plant. Even its twigs and ivory-colored berries can produce a reaction.