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
Travelling 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.

Open Space & Mountain Parks
www.osmp.org
(303) 441-3440
66 South Cherryvale Road
Boulder, CO 80303

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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 or call 303-441-3440.

Be “Light on the Land”
Although off trail hiking is permitted on many parts of OSMP, we encourage you to stay on trail. 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.

Please, No Collecting
Picking flowers, collecting rocks or fossils, or harvesting wild berries or mushrooms removes important resources from the land and is prohibited.

Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs) - Stay on Trail
Special areas on OSMP are home to very rare plants and animals and have been set aside to conserve their habitat. These areas are marked on the map in darker green, and indicated by trail signs. You may not travel off trail through Habitat Conservation Areas without a free permit, available at www.osmppermits.com.

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.

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

**FLAGSTAFF MOUNTAIN LOOPS**

**Boy Scout - May’s Point Loop (easy)**

- Dogs are not allowed on Boy Scout. Head W through Douglas-fir forest. Trail gently rises and falls to Boy Scout’s Point for views of the Indian Peaks. Return to parking lot at W end of Flagstaff picnic area via a brief leg on the Ute Trail, and Flagstaff Road. 1 hour, 1.2 miles.

**Chautauqua - Bluebell-Baird - Mesa (easy)**

- From the W side of the Ranger Cottage, follow Chautauqua Trail up through meadow. Enjoy flowering 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.

**Enchanted Mesa Loop (easy)**

- Chautauqua - Bluebell-Baird - Mesa (easy)

**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 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.

**Chapman - Tenderfoot Loop (moderate)**

- Bikes allowed on Chapman Dr. At Realization Point (0.5 miles up Flagstaff 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 cattle guard, 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.

**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.

**Ute - Range View (easy/moderate)**

- Dogs are not allowed on McClintock Trail. From parking area by Chautauqua Auditorium, follow McClintock. The shrubby drainage on your right is a haven for bears and other wildlife. Turn left on Homestead Drive and follow it through pine forest, then turn left at the junction with Enchanted Mesa Trail to return to Chautauqua Auditorium. 1 hour, 2.1 miles.

**SOUTHERN LOOPS**

**Big Bluestem - South Boulder Creek (easy)**

- Trailhead access from N 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 Trail. 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.

**Taylor - 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 Homestead Trail back to the parking lot. 1 hour, 2.2 miles.

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**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 alongside plants of 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.

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**ANIMALS**

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, javelina, black bear, and grey wolf. 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, badger 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 ravens 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.

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

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**MORSE TO DO ON OSMP**

**Two Free Nature Centers**

There are two nature centers where visitors can find knowledgeable OSMP staff. You can get free maps, hiking suggestions, and the latest information about trail conditions and wildlife closures.

The Chautauqua Ranger Cottage is located in Chautauqua Park (look near the center of the map on the other side) and is open every day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with longer hours in the summer. Parking is limited. Please carpool or arrive by bike or on foot.

The Flagstaff Nature Center is located atop Flagstaff Mountain. Wildlife habitat, unique geologic features, granite peaks and scenic vistas are all part of Open Space & Mountain Parks.

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**BE CAREFUL!**

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

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**ABOUT BOULDER’S OPEN SPACE & MOUNTAIN PARKS**

Boulder citizens have long recognized the value of preserving open space lands. In 1986, Chautauqua Meadow was purchased at the foot of Flagstaff Mountain. Wildlife habitat, unique geologic features, granite peaks 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, rock climbers, photographers, dog walkers and trail runners.

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**SHOP IN BOULDER - SUPPORT YOUR LAND**

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