

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

Manage Your Dog

If your dog is off leash, you **must** display the green Voice and Sight Control tag. Keep your dog near you and under control. Carry and use a leash as required. Ask before allowing your dog to approach other people and dogs.



Pick Up Poop

Phew! Dog poop is raw sewage. It stinks, causes damage to the environment, and others can step in it. Pack a pick-up bag and always pick up your dog's poop — wherever it's left.



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, take years to break down. Animals which feed on trash often die!



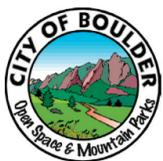
Leave It as You Find It

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?



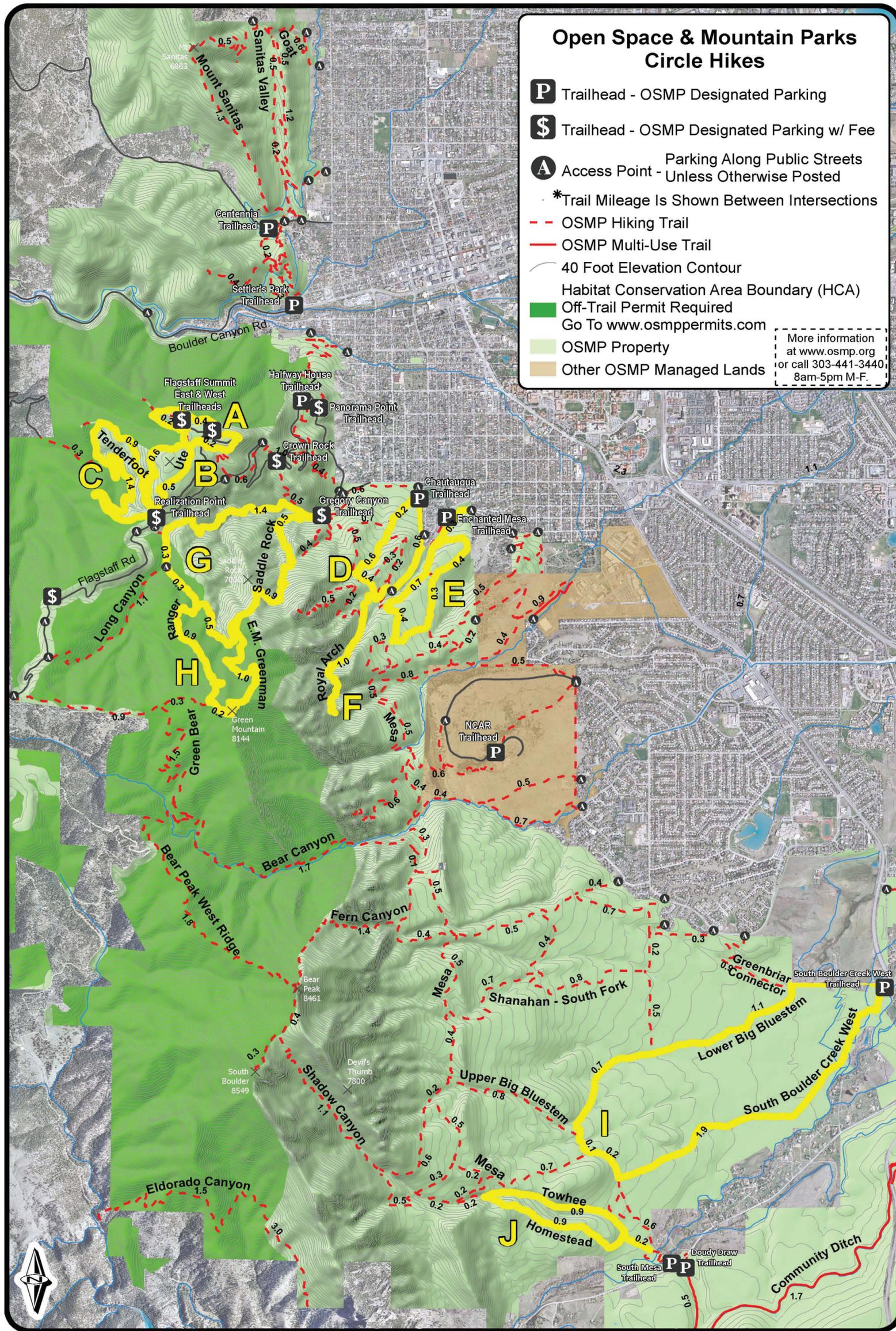
Share Our Trails

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
P.O. Box 791
Boulder, CO 80306

July 2012



**Open Space & Mountain Parks
Circle Hikes**

- P** Trailhead - OSMP Designated Parking
- \$** Trailhead - OSMP Designated Parking w/ Fee
- A** Access Point - Unless Otherwise Posted
- *Trail Mileage Is Shown Between Intersections
- - OSMP Hiking Trail
- OSMP Multi-Use Trail
- 40 Foot Elevation Contour
- Habitat Conservation Area Boundary (HCA)
- Off-Trail Permit Required
- Go To www.osmppermits.com
- OSMP Property
- Other OSMP Managed Lands

More information
at www.osmp.org
or call 303-441-3440,
8am-5pm M-F.

**OSMP Circle Hikes
Trails Guide**

Mountain Parks Region



Photo: Dan Fogelberg

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.

Dogs on OSMP

Dogs are allowed off leash on most trails if their guardian has registered through the city's Voice and Sight Control program, and the dog displays the green program tag. By law, excrement must be picked up and disposed of immediately.

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 - Stay on Trail

Some special areas on OSMP are home to very rare plants and animals and have been set aside to conserve 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 permit, available at www.osmppermits.com.

Mountain Biking

Biking is allowed on some OSMP trails. For specifics, please consult the OSMP web site or information boards at trailheads. Bikes must remain on trail to limit erosion, costly trail maintenance and reduce conflicts between users.

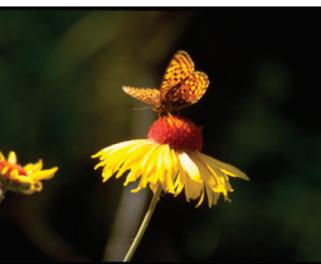
Be "Light on the Land"

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.

ENJOY. PROTECT.



Boulder is surrounded by over 43,000 acres of city-owned open space land. From the plains grasslands to the forests and towering rock formations of the foothills, residents and visitors are able to enjoy some of the most scenic and diverse open space land in the country. These lands help to preserve the natural environment of the Boulder area, while providing buffers between Boulder and adjacent communities.



PLANTS

There may be 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.

Photos: Mariposa Lilies, fritillary butterfly on a Gaillardia flower.



BE CAREFUL! Poison ivy grows in many places, especially in moist drainages.

Watch out for three 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.



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, fox squirrel, chickaree 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-peewee, 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.

MORE TO DO ON OSMP

Join a free public nature hike

OSMP offers year-round programs led by staff and volunteer naturalists. Hikes are free and open to everyone. Visit our website for schedules and directions to meeting points: www.NatureHikes.org

Flagstaff Nature Center

Visit Flagstaff Nature Center during the summer and fall months. Admission is free. The center is a great place to familiarize yourself with the wildlife, plants, and history of Open Space and Mountain Parks. Fun, interactive exhibits appeal to everyone. The center is open from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, May through September.

Volunteer

Each year, more than 1,000 dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers contribute many thousands of hours of service, helping care for our Open Space and Mountain Parks lands. Volunteers monitor our rare bats and nesting raptors, build and repair trails, lead nature hikes, census frogs, staff the Flagstaff Nature Center, and much more. Visit www.bouldercolorado.gov/OSMPVolunteers.



Rent a Shelter

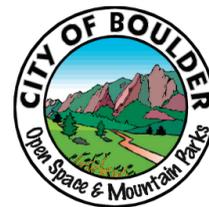
Many people rent OSMP's historic picnic shelters and the Sunrise Amphitheater on Flagstaff Mountain for weddings and family gatherings. To see if our shelters are right for your activity, visit www.bouldercolorado.gov/ShelterRentals

Learn more about your land!

The OSMP website www.osmp.org offers a wealth of information. Learn about our wildlife, flowers or geology or study up on the area's history. Download nature games and resources for teachers, or ask Coyote Bob a nature question. Take some time to explore the site: you'll be amazed at what you might learn!

ABOUT BOULDER'S OPEN SPACE & MOUNTAIN PARKS

Boulder citizens have long recognized the value of preserving open space lands. In 1898, Chautauqua Meadow was purchased at the foot of Flagstaff Mountain. Wildlife habitat, unique geologic features, greenways 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 140 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.

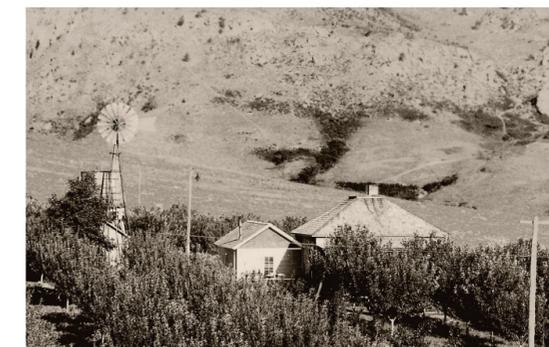


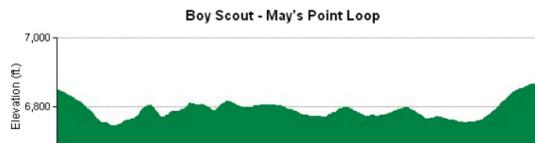
Photo: Purchased in 1898, the Batchelder Ranch at Chautauqua Meadow became the first property acquired by the city in what has become Open Space & Mountain Parks.

FLAGSTAFF MOUNTAIN LOOPS

A Boy Scout - May's Point Loop (easy)



Begin at Boy Scout trailhead, head W through Douglas-fir forest. Trail gently rises and falls to May's Point for views of the Indian Peaks. Return to parking lot at W end of Flagstaff picnic area via Boy Scout Trail, a brief leg on Ute Trail, and Flagstaff Road. 1 hour, 1.2 miles.



B Ute - Range View (easy/moderate)



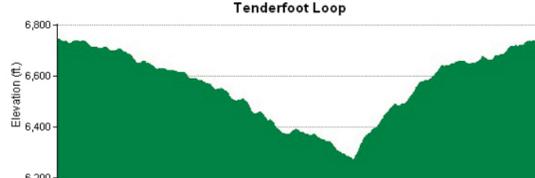
Ute Trail begins at N side of Realization Point parking lot (3.5 miles up Flagstaff Rd.), contours NE along Flagstaff Mountain. Turn left on Range View Trail heading to W. Enjoy views of the distant Indian Peaks on Range View Trail. Returns back to Realization Point. 1 hour, 1.1 mile.



C Tenderfoot Loop (moderate)



At Realization Point parking lot (3.5 miles up Flagstaff Rd.), look for the old fire road with the metal bar gate just W of the parking lot. Follow road as it winds downhill, 1.4 miles NW. 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.

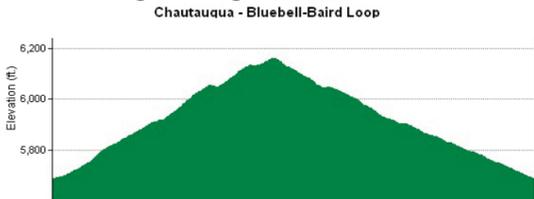


CHAUTAUQUA LOOPS

D Chautauqua - Bluebell-Baird - Mesa



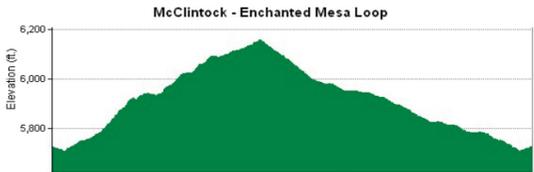
From the W side of the Ranger Cottage, follow Chautauqua Trail up through meadow. Enjoy flowers and prairie grasses as well as magnificent views. At Bluebell-Baird Trail, turn left through ponderosa pines to the Bluebell picnic shelter. Follow Bluebell Road downhill back to the Ranger Cottage. 1 hour,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



E McClintock - Enchanted Mesa (easy)



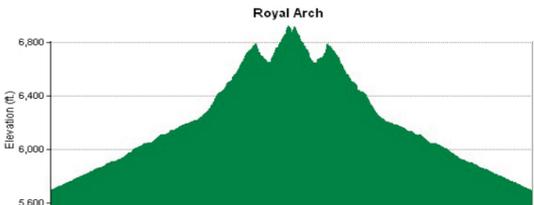
Dogs are not allowed on upper McClintock Trail. From parking area by Chautauqua Auditorium, follow McClintock. The shrubby drainage on your right is a haven for bears and other wildlife. Turn left on Mesa Trail and follow it through pine forest, then turn left at the junction with Enchanted Mesa Trail to return to Chautauqua Auditorium. 2 hours, 2.1 miles.



F 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.

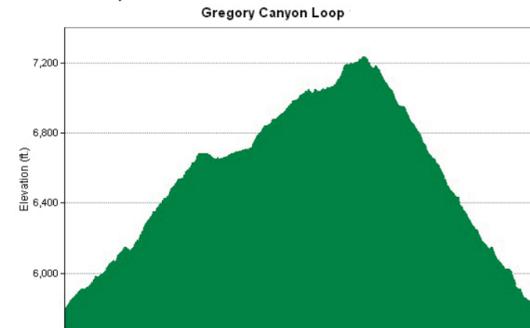


GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOPS

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



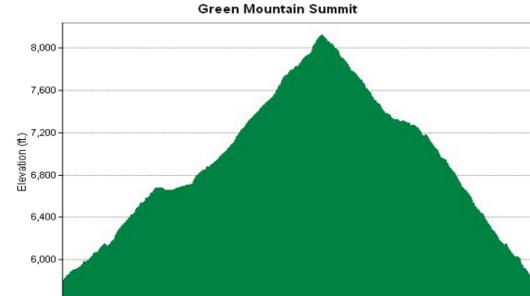
Trail begins at Gregory Canyon parking lot off Baseline Rd. It climbs steadily to its junction with Ranger Trail on S side of Green Mountain Lodge, which continues steeply to the Greenman Trail. Just after the creek, Greenman Trail meets Saddle Rock Trail. Follow it back to Gregory Canyon parking lot.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



H Green Mountain Summit (strenuous)



Follow directions for Green Mountain Loop G, 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.



NORTH AND SOUTHERN LOOPS

I 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 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.



J Towhee - Homestead Loop (easy)



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.

