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?

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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

OSMP Circle Hikes
Trails Guide
Mountain Parks Region

PLEASE RESPECT OUR REGULATIONS
Regulations may change seasonally, or be trail-specific. Please consult 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.osmpermits.com.

Mountain Biking
Biking is allowed on some OSMP trails. For specifics, please consult the OSMP website 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.
**Open Space and Mountain Parks**

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 Lilly, fritillary butterfly, poison ivy.

**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 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.

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.

**FLAGSTAFF MOUNTAIN LOOPS**

**A Boy Scout - May’s Point Loop (easy) B > mr « 1 mile**

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) C > mr « 1 mile**

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.

**D Chautauqua - Bluebell-Baird - Mesa B > mr « 1½ miles**

From the W side of the Ranger Cottage, follow Chautauqua Trail up through meadow. Enjoy flowers, 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) > mr « 1 mile**

Or you may continue on upper McClintock Trail. From parking area by Chautauqua Auditorium, follow McClintock. The shrubbery 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) B > mr « 1½ miles**

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) B > mr « 1½ miles**

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) G > mr « 2½ miles**

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.

**J Towhee - Homestead Loop (easy) B > N m « 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.**

**Shop in Boulder - Support Your Land**

Open Space & Mountain Parks receive 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.