

RECREATION & TRAIL GUIDE

ROYAL GORGE REGION

MAPS
& TIPS



Issue 5 | Student Edition



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Cañon City and the Royal Gorge Region, a place we're proud to call home. From hiking to biking, river running to running on trails, outdoor recreation is becoming increasingly popular as people seek out authentic experiences and a connection with nature. Especially during times of uncertainty and adversity, access to trails, parks, and open spaces offer respite and space to breathe.

Embracing outdoor recreation and its positive impact on our community, Fremont Adventure Recreation (FAR) was launched in 2010 with a mission to promote a culture of community and healthy living through human-powered outdoor recreation in the Royal Gorge Region. Our non-profit organization remains dedicated to developing outdoor recreation opportunities, supporting adventure and community events, and building relationships through recreation. FAR is here to stay.

Our community thrives through its dynamic people, adventurous spirit, innovative schools, and historic charm. We are proud to play a part in the development of our community and recognize that none of our efforts would be possible without collaboration with land managers and government entities, partnerships with local businesses, and the strong hearts of our many volunteers. For this we are incredibly thankful.

We're excited you picked up our new adventure guide. From easy to expert, there's outdoor fun for everyone. Peruse the pages and use it as a catalyst for exploration and innumerable memories. Please check out FAR's website (joinFAR.org) for more information, events, and volunteer opportunities. Or "like" us on Facebook for updates. Get out and go FAR!



The FAR Adventure Guide is funded in part by a generous matching grant provided by Fremont County Tourism Council and the City of Cañon City's Community Funding Grant.



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Fremont Adventure Recreation is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and creating outdoor recreation opportunities in Fremont County. For more information on its mission or how you can help, please visit www.joinFAR.org or contact coordinator@joinFAR.org.

Fremont Adventure Recreation assumes no liability for injuries or accidents that occur while engaging in activities that are outlined in this pamphlet. Participants should act in accordance with their abilities and knowledge of the activities described.



Brian Vanlwarden
Director
 Fremont Adventure Recreation

WELCOME TO THE ROYAL GORGE REGION

For more than 100 years, people have been flocking to the Royal Gorge Region for recreation opportunities, health benefits, and quintessential Colorado scenery.



Tunnel Drive, circa 1940 / Photo courtesy of the Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center

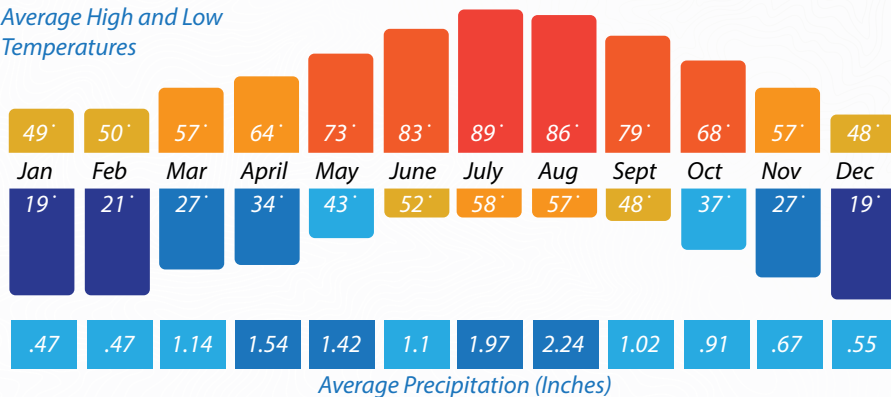
Within the boundaries of Fremont County you'll find an area rich with history - of Indigenous Americans (including the Ute, Cheyenne, and Jicarilla Apache tribes), mining, recreation, trading, exploration, geology, paleontology, and more. Today, you'll discover a thriving downtown district with eateries, shops, parks, and a flourishing arts community. Visit the Royal Gorge Museum and History Center for a glimpse into the region's agriculture, mining, and tourism history.

Just up Highway 115, the town of Florence is known as Colorado's "Antique Capital" and can provide hours of enjoyment as you search for vintage goods and treasures. Stop and eat at one of the local dining establishments and peruse a varied selection of art galleries. There are plenty of opportunities for sightseeing and learning, as well as recreational enjoyment.

AVERAGE LOCAL WEATHER

Cañon City is located in the "Banana Belt" of Colorado. Our unique geography, nestled in a canyon at the base of the Wet Mountains and Sangre de Cristo Ranges at the foot of the eastern Colorado plains, allows us to enjoy more warm, sunny, precipitation-free days than many of our neighboring areas.

Average High and Low Temperatures



Data courtesy of U.S. Climate Data / www.usclimatedata.com

FREMONT ADVENTURE RECREATION

Fremont Adventure Recreation was formed in 2010 to provide, support, and encourage outdoor recreation opportunities. Our mission is to promote a culture of community and healthy living through human-powered outdoor recreation in the Royal Gorge Region. To that end, we host events, provide social activities, and facilitate trail building and maintenance in Fremont County.



CORE VALUES

Community: We commit to enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of the Royal Gorge Region through the creation and celebration of human-powered outdoor recreation adventures.

Culture: We commit to a welcoming attitude that values all relationships, fearless dedication, while having fun along the way.

Stewardship: We commit to responsible access as well as preserving recreation opportunities for future generations.

BOARD MEMBERS

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WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOUR ADVENTURES IN THE #ROYALGORGEREGION. CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO KEEP UP WITH TRAIL UPDATES, ACTIVITIES, SPECIAL EVENTS, FAR NEWS, AND INSPIRATION.



/FremontAdventureRecreation
Keep up with FAR and community events. See joinFAR.org to sign up for our newsletter.



fremont_adventure_recreation
#joinFAR #canoncitycolorado #royalgorgeregion #southcanon-trails #royalgorgeparktrails



@joinFAR
Follow us on Twitter for reminders and updates on events.

JANUARY

FAR New Year's Resolution Run

FEBRUARY

Cañon City Chocolate Walk
FAR Snow Queen Frosty February 5K
www.snowqueen5K.com

MARCH

Run through Time Marathon - Salida

APRIL

FAR Art of the Outdoors Class
CCRD Clean Up Green Up

MAY

Blossom Festival / Royal Gorge Rodeo
FAR runBlossom 5K/Half-marathon
www.runblossom.org
CCRD Kid's Fishing Derby
FAR Women's Mountain Bike Session
Colorado Public Lands Day
ZIA Rides Royal Gorge 6 & 12

JUNE

Hardscrabble Mtn. Trail Run
www.hardscrabblerun.com
FAR Dino-Rific Kids 1K Fun Run
FAR Summer Social

JULY

Fourth of July Fireworks
Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival
Fremont County Fair
FAR Bi-Annual Trash Pickup

AUGUST

FAR Group Ride at the Royal Gorge Bridge

Collegiate Peaks Marathon - Buena Vista
CKS Paddlefest - Buena Vista

FIBArk - Salida

SEPTEMBER

Florence Pioneer Days
National Public Lands Day
FAR 'We Are All Made of Stars' Gala
Harvest Festival at the Abbey Winery

OCTOBER

Rim to Rim Royal Gorge Races
www.rimtorimroyalgorge.com
FAR Birthday Run
FAR Bi-Annual Trash Pickup
FAR Royal 50 MTB Race / Kids' Race
FAR Point Alta Vista Trail Half-Marathon

Outlaw Races - Buena Vista

NOVEMBER

CCRD Turkey Trot 5K and Turkey
Bowl Flag Football Tournament
FAR #OptOutside Meetup
SoCo Runners Temple Canyon Predict

DECEMBER

Cañon City Parade of Lights

Dates subject to changes; please check joinFAR.org for updated information.

For a complete list of events in the Royal Gorge Region, please visit: www.royalgorgetravel.com



Centennial Park / runBlossom Races



Royal Gorge Dinosaur Exp. / Dino-Rific Kids' 1K



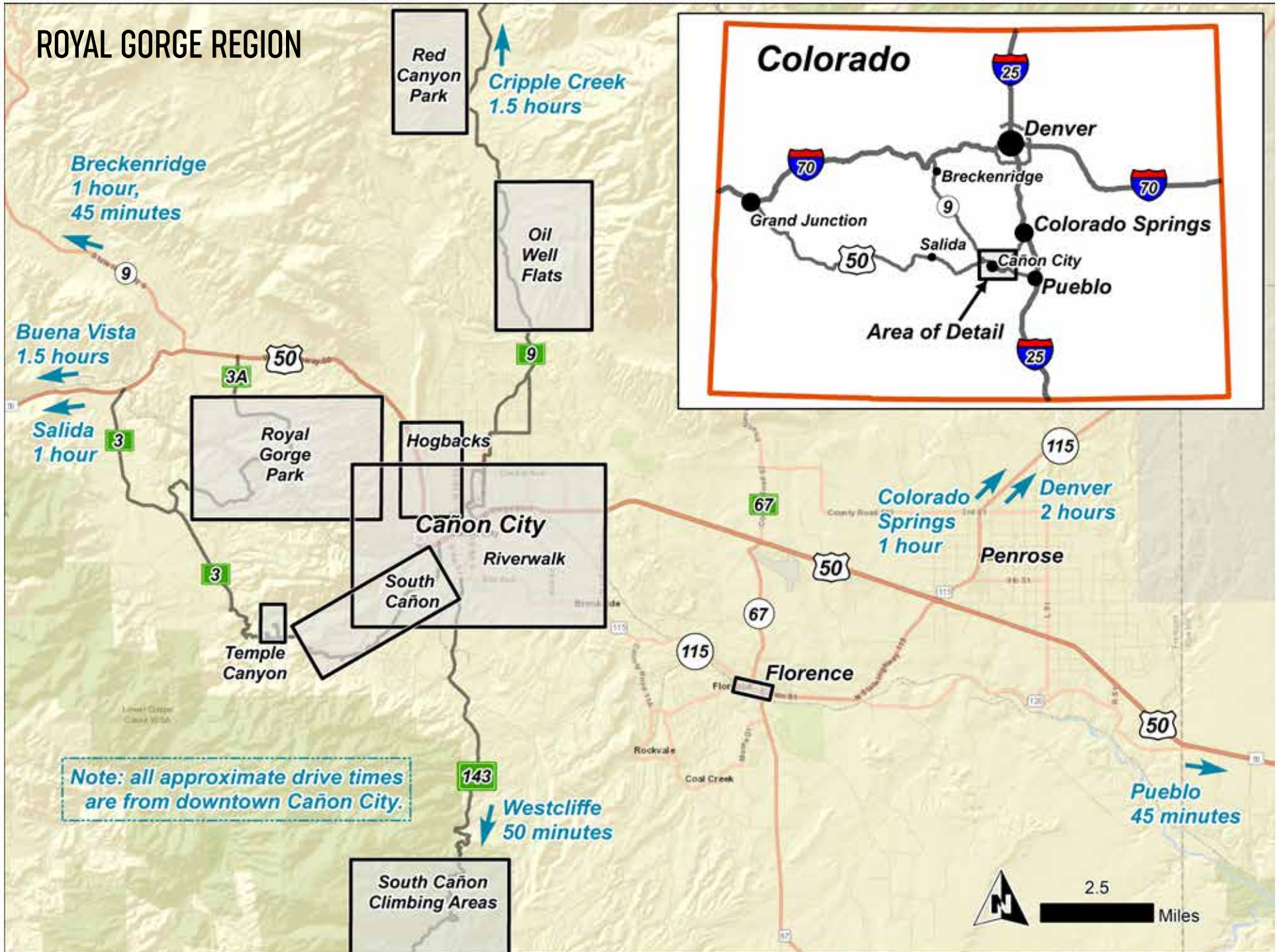
Royal Gorge Park Trails / Point Alta Vista Races



Royal Gorge Trails / Royal 50 Kids Race



ROYAL GORGE REGION



BIKING, HIKING, & RUNNING



Trails allow the public to best enjoy their open space and public lands, so it is important that these areas are treated with respect and care. Have fun, enjoy our shared public lands, and make some wonderful memories!

Stay on designated trails. Trail systems are built with the land in mind, so please stay on designated trails. Please comply with posted trail closings and revegetation signage. Do NOT trespass on private property.

Yield to and be mindful of others on the trail, including hikers, bikers, and equestrian riders. Use a bell or call out to let others know that you are near. When biking, yield to uphill riders. Please dismount and wait on the side of the trail for equestrians to pass; do not assume that they see you and simply ride by.

Leave wildlife alone. If you encounter wildlife, please remember these lands are theirs, too.

Practice “Leave No Trace” principles. (See page 73.)

Be prepared. Always know your own abilities, limitations, and equipment. You should be able to fix your equipment, provide basic first aid, and navigate trail systems.



Yield by the ‘stop and step method’ for uphill-traveling trail users.



Colorado Trail Explorer
Colorado's Official Trail Map



Utilizing a trail app, like COTREX, is a great way to plan an appropriate route and track your progress.

COTREX is free to download and use, and no account is necessary.

Download maps for offline use when you don't have an internet connection.

Choose your user type to show trails for your desired activity.

Find it here: <https://trails.colorado.gov/>

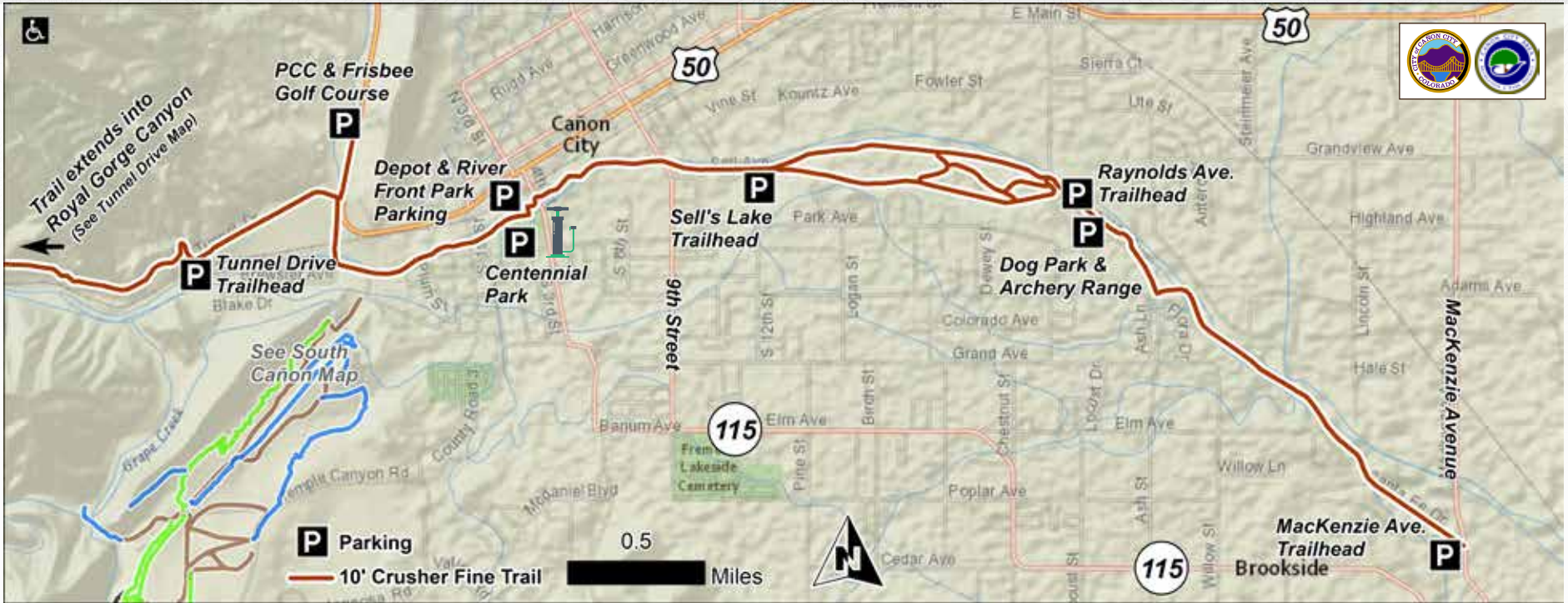
ESSENTIALS

1. Appropriate footwear
2. Map / compass
3. Extra food / water
5. Knife
6. Sunscreen/sunglasses
7. First-aid kit
8. Extra clothing layers
9. Trail map

Additional items for biking:

10. Patch kit
11. Spare tube(s)
12. Handheld pump
13. Bike multi-tool
14. Bike bell

ARKANSAS RIVERWALK TRAIL



The Riverwalk Trail runs through some of the most scenic and historic parts of Cañon City. Along the 7-mile stretch of the trail, you'll track the river's course through the city, passing historic properties, open farmland, and cottonwood groves. The trail is a mostly flat, wide, maintained trail that is open during all seasons. A system of fitness stations has recently been added to the trail and are located near the Sell's Lake trailhead.

TRAIL INFORMATION

Start: You can begin your walk along the Riverwalk Trail at a number of points. Popular parking areas are Centennial Park, Sell's Lake (off 9th Street), MacKenzie Avenue Trailhead, and Tunnel Drive.

Distance: Total distance = 7.5 miles one-way

Elevation gain: 200 feet total

Fitness effort: Mild

Difficulty: Novice

Terrain: The trail is mostly flat and graded natural surface with crusher fines and occasional paved sections.

Seasons: January-December

Trail users: This trail is used by hikers, bikers, walkers, bird watchers, strollers, and runners. Horses are not allowed on most of the trail.

Dog friendly: Yes. Keep your dog on a leash, bring waste bags, and clean up after your pet. There is a dog park located just east of Reynolds bridge.

Note: At high water (late May-June), the trail may be closed at 9th Street.

The Riverwalk is a crusher-fine trail, which means it dries out faster than most trails after rain or snow.

BETA TIP



GETTING THERE

There are a number of access points along the Riverwalk Trail. To begin at the furthest point west on the trail, take Highway 50 west. Just after the sweeping right-hand turn as you leave town, take a left turn (west) onto Tunnel Drive. Go about one mile to the Tunnel Drive Trailhead. You can travel west or east on the trail from this point.

To begin at the Sell's Lake Trailhead, from Highway 50 in Cañon City, take 9th Street south. After you cross the river, take a left (east) onto Sell Avenue and park at the trailhead. You can choose the bluff or river trail from this point. Both will intersect at Reynolds Avenue, where you can continue east or loop back to the Sell's Lake Trailhead.

TUNNEL DRIVE

The Tunnel Drive section of the Arkansas Riverwalk Trail offers some of the most stunning views along the 7-mile stretch. Cars were once allowed to drive along the path. Pass through historic tunnels (built for the city's water delivery system in the late 1800s), and view the historic Denver & Rio Grande Railroad as the Royal Gorge Route train passes along this stretch of the river. You may also catch a glimpse of river runners as they make their way from the Royal Gorge. Notice side canyons to your left and right, and keep your eyes open for bighorn sheep



TRAIL INFORMATION

Start: Begin your walk at the trailhead, located off of Tunnel Drive in Cañon City.
Distance: 1.92 miles to the end. Note that there is no trail access at the terminus of the trail, so all trips must be out-and-back.
Elevation gain: 120 ft. (+1,800 ft on FREfall)
Fitness effort: Mild
Difficulty: Novice
Terrain: Dirt road
Seasons: All
Trail users: Hikers, bikers. This is a great trail for strollers, but use caution when biking with young riders. There is a steep drop-off on one side of the trail.

Dog friendly: Yes. Keep your dog on a leash, bring waste bags, and remove pet waste.

Notes: This trail can be hot in the summer months. Be sure to bring water. Due to potential rock falls, avoid this area after a freeze-thaw cycle of weather (when it has been very cold and then warm), or after heavy rains.



runBlossom Races - May

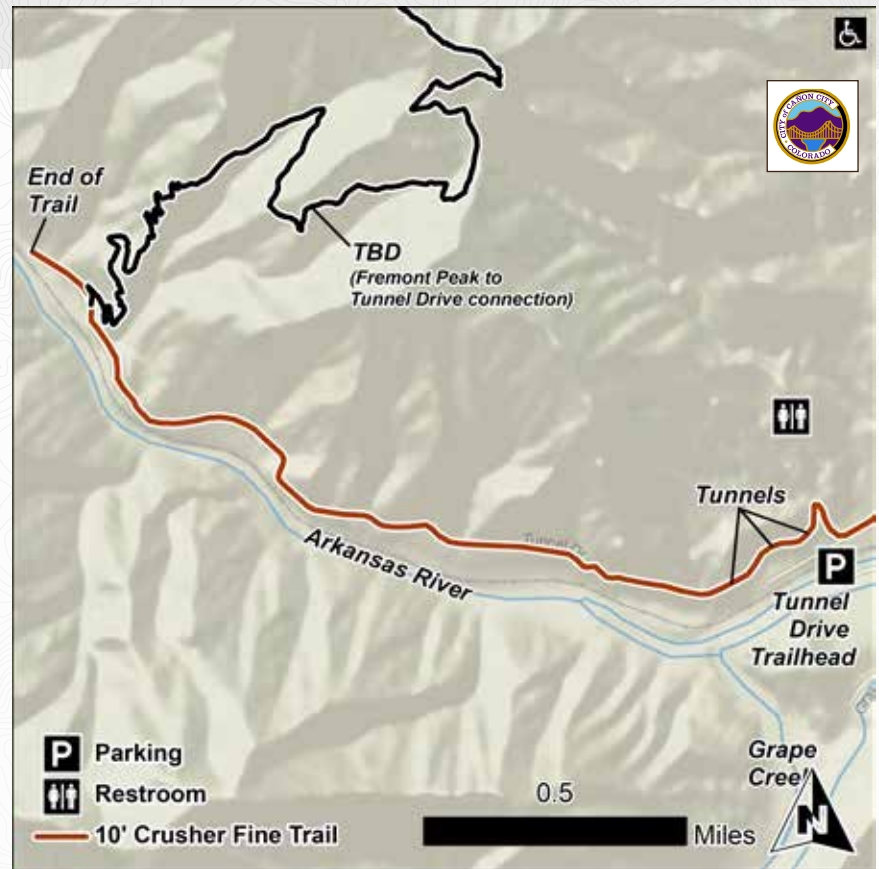
GETTING THERE

From Hwy. 50, turn west onto Tunnel Drive. The road dead-ends at the trailhead.



The Fremont Peak connection trail is subject to seasonal closures for hunting and to protect ewes and lambs during lambing. Please respect and adhere to these hours:

June-July - CLOSED / September-October - open 9-5 / OPEN all other times



Because the trail faces the south, Tunnel Drive is open virtually year-round. From the trailhead, the tunnels are only about a .25-mile walk.

BETA TIP



HOGBACKS OPEN SPACE

The Hogbacks is Cañon City's in-town geologic wonder. Your experience here will treat you to the beautiful Dakota Formation, which stretches from Mexico to Canada. Within all of the layers of the Dakota formation lie significant fossil resources, including a record of Colorado's past as an inland sea! Please note the singletrack trails in the Hogbacks are composed of clay soils; please stay off when wet. Enjoy the crusher fine trails, Greenhorn and Old Skyline Drive, during and after precipitation events.



TRAIL INFORMATION

Start: Trailheads at Floral Ave., Greenway Dr., Dr., Washington St., or High St.
Elevation gain: Varies
Fitness effort: Mild to moderate
Difficulty: Novice to advanced
Terrain: Wide path to natural surface singletrack
Seasons: All (except when muddy)

Trail users: Hikers, bikers, walkers, and cars (traveling one-way) on the paved portions of Skyline Drive
Dog friendly: Yes. Keep your dog on a leash, bring waste bags, and clean up after your pet. Leash law is enforced. This area often has wildlife.
Distance: ~ 2 miles one way, south to north

Greenhorn: Less than two miles one-way, this wider crusher-fine trail connects with others in the area to broaden your experience. It's family-friendly, and great for beginners.

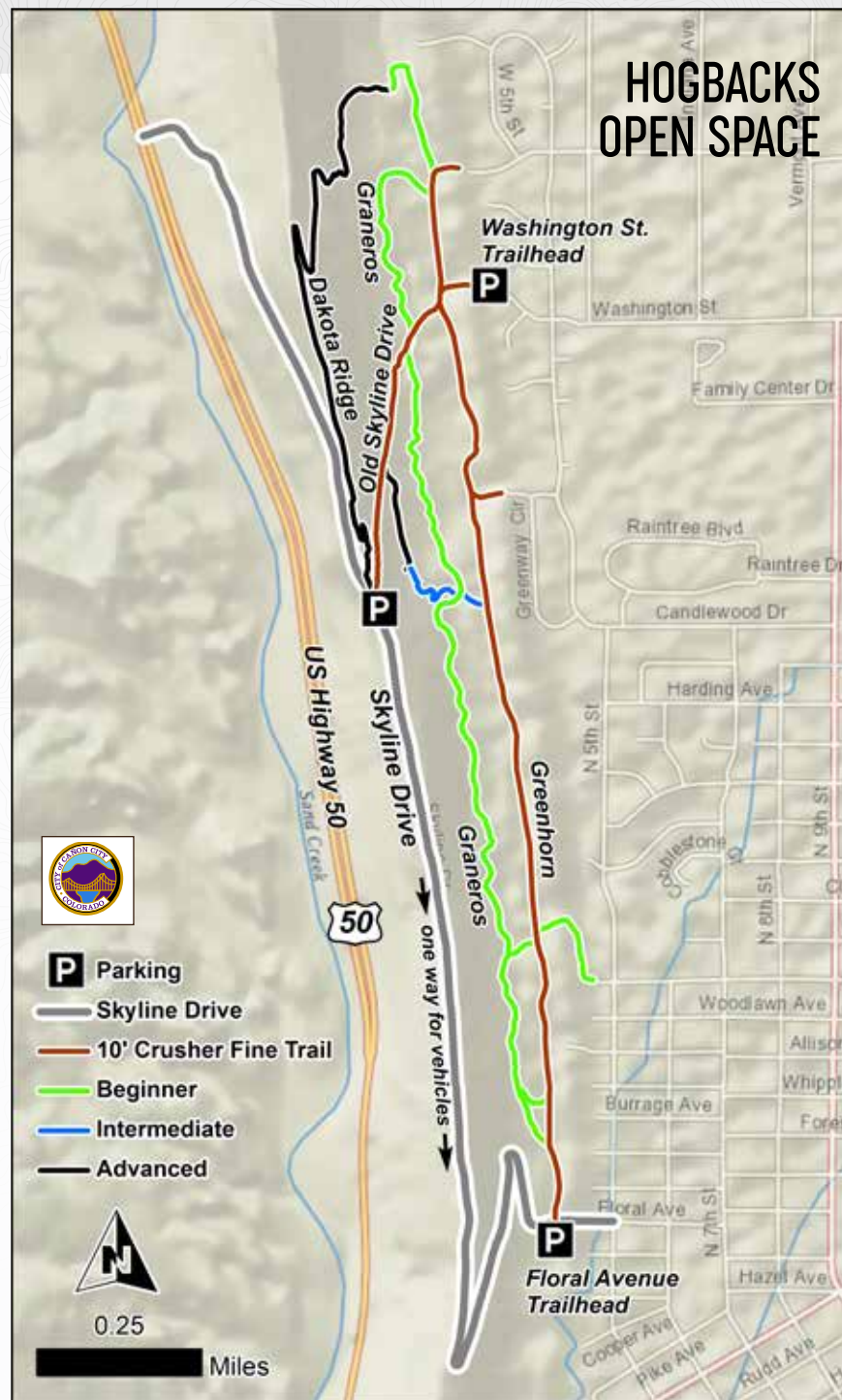
Old Skyline Drive: Also a wide crusher fine trail, historic Old Skyline Drive connects low and high points in the open space.

Graneros: A fun beginner's trail, Graneros is flowy as it winds along the flank of the Dakota Ridge formation in the Hogbacks.

Dakota Ridge: Definitely for the more advanced cyclist, hiker, or trail runner, this trail travels atop the crest of the formation. The trail descends from the ridge on very steep bedrock.

GETTING THERE

From Main Street in Cañon City, head north on 5th Street for about .5 mile until you reach Floral Avenue. Take a left (west) uphill and through the sowback formation. Parking will be on your left (south) side of the road. (*This is where Skyline Drive descends into town.)

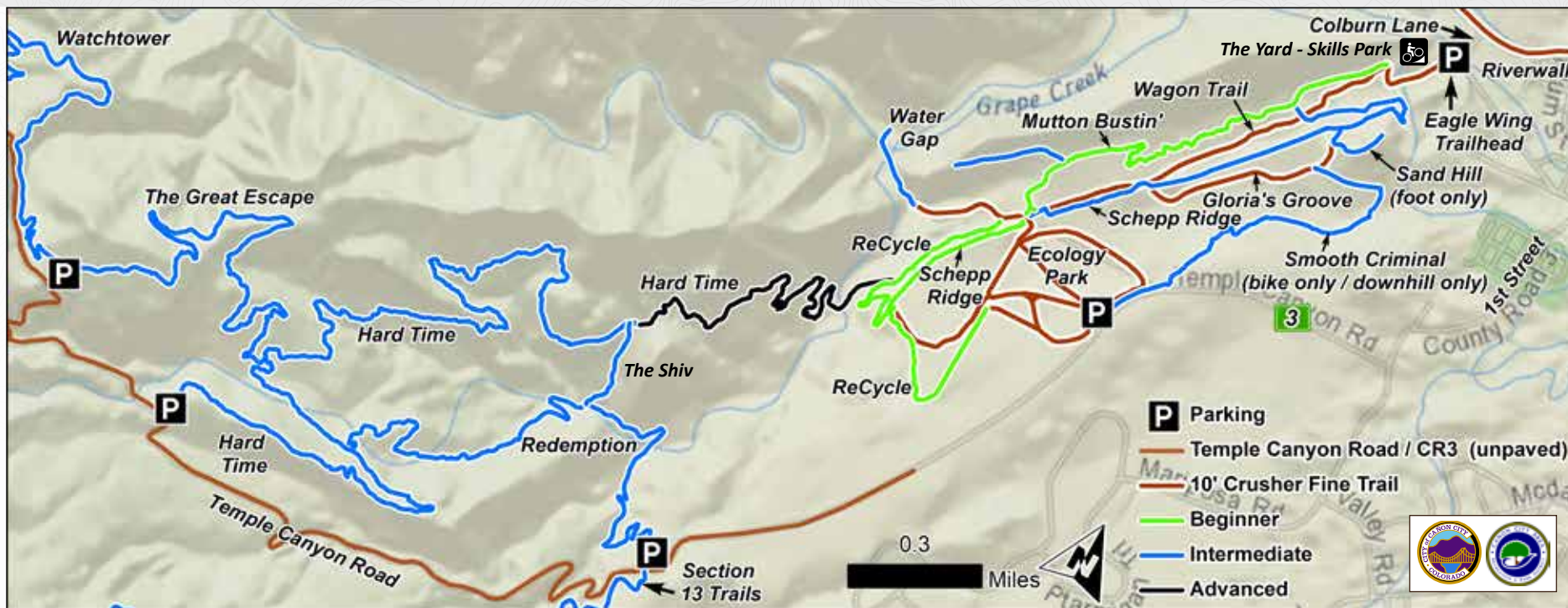


HIKING

MOUNTAIN BIKING

FOSSIL DISCOVERY

SOUTH CAÑON TRAILS



HIKING

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Discover flowy, easier trails close to town, or try to master the technical climb of Hard Time to the incredible views of Watchtower. Ride laps on Smooth Criminal to work on bike skills.

SUGGESTED ROUTES

Beginner Route: Eagle Wing Trailhead > Wagon Trail > Mutton Bustin' | **Distance:** 2.4 mi. **Elevation:** 275 ft. | **Approximate time:** 20 mins.

Intermediate Route: Eagle Wing TH > Mutton Bustin' > Schepp Ridge > Piñon > Recycle > Water Gap > Schepp Ridge > Mutton Bustin' | **Distance:** 5 mi. | **Elevation:** ~500 ft. **Approx. time:** 45 mins.

Advanced Route: Eagle Wing Trailhead > Mutton Bustin' > Schepp Ridge > Recycle > Temple Canyon Road > Redemption > Great Escape > Hard Time > Recycle > Mutton Bustin' | **Distance:** 14.5 mi. | **Elevation:** 1,950 ft. | **Approximate time:** 1.5 hrs.

TRAIL INFORMATION

Start: Ecology Park or Eagle Wing
Elevation gain: Varies
Fitness effort: Mild to strenuous
Difficulty: Novice to advanced
Terrain: Natural surface singletrack
Seasons: All seasons.

Trail users: Hikers, bikers, equestrians
Dog friendly: Yes. Be courteous of others and keep your dog on a leash, bring waste bags, and clean up after your pet. This is a popular trail for dog owners and picking up/ disposing of waste is important.



Rider: Ian Ensinger
 Photo: Justin Ensinger

GETTING THERE

Eagle Wing Trailhead: From downtown, turn south onto 1st Street, then west on Riverside Drive. Turn left (south) on Colburn Lane. The parking area will be on your right. Note that this trailhead is only open from dawn to dusk.

Ecology Park Trailhead: From downtown, turn right (south) onto 1st Street. Follow 1st Street to a Y in the road, where you will bear right (west) onto County Road 3. Trailhead in about 1 mile on right.

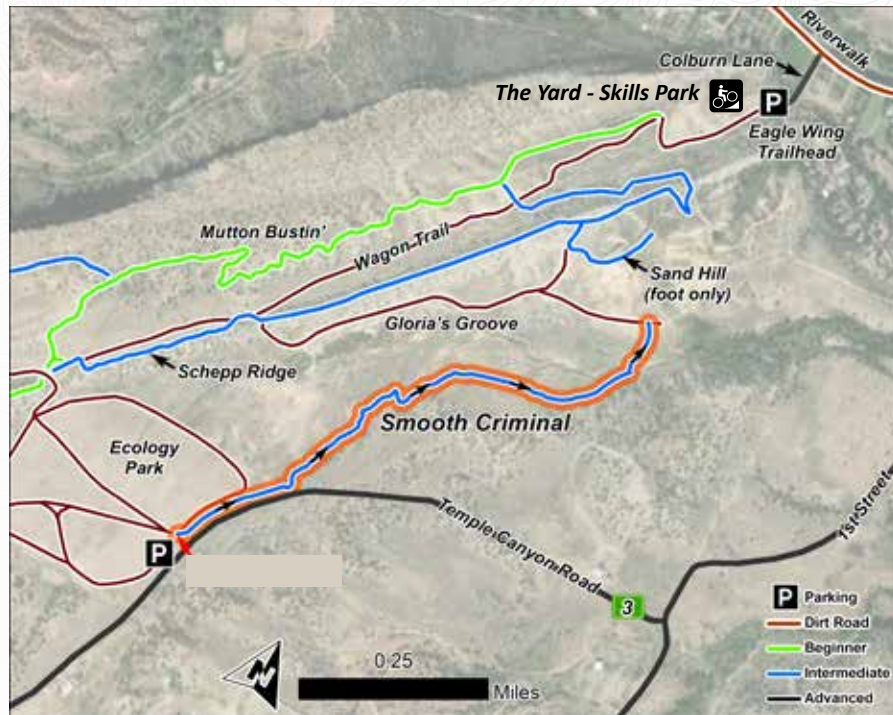


BETA TIP

Ride or run from downtown or Centennial Park! Just take the Riverwalk and head up Colburn Lane to the Eagle Wing trailhead.

SMOOTH CRIMINAL FLOW TRAIL

THE YARD MTB SKILLS PARK



Smooth Criminal is a purpose-built, DOWNHILL mountain bike flow trail. It is designed to encourage speed and also to aid in skills progression for jumping.



The Yard is a mountain bike skills park designed to encourage skills development for beginning and intermediate riders. Please adhere to all rules and ride safely! It is directional - so be aware of the two downhill lines and one uphill return trail. (Shown above is Smooth Criminal.)

SUGGESTED ROUTES

Beginner Route: Ecology Park > Coyote > Smooth Criminal > Schepp Ridge > Ecology Park | **Distance:** 2 mi. loop | **Elevation:** 150 ft. | **Approximate time:** 20 mins.

TRAIL INFORMATION

Start: Ecology Park or Eagle Wing
Elevation gain: 150 ft.
Fitness effort: Mild to moderate
Difficulty: Intermediate to advanced
Terrain: Natural surface singletrack

Seasons: All seasons.
Trail users: Mountain bikers ONLY
Dog friendly: No. Adjacent Ecology Park is a perfect place to enjoy a walk with your pet.



Ride at your own comfort and ability level! Practice the pre-ride, re-ride, free-ride technique of becoming familiar with trail features and speed. DO NOT RIDE BACK UPHILL. Use Gloria's Groove to return to the parking area.

TRAIL INFORMATION

Start: Eagle Wing Trailhead
Fitness effort: Mild to moderate
Difficulty: Intermediate to advanced
Terrain: Natural surface singletrack and fabricated features

Seasons: All seasons.
Trail users: Mountain bikers ONLY
Dog friendly: No. Adjacent Ecology Park is a perfect place to enjoy a walk with your pet.

GETTING THERE

Eagle Wing Trailhead: From downtown, turn south onto 1st Street, then west on Riverside Drive. Turn left (south) on Colburn Lane. The parking area will be on your right. Note that this trailhead is only open from dawn to dusk.

Ecology Park Trailhead: From downtown, turn right (south) onto 1st Street. Follow 1st Street to a Y in the road, where you will bear right (west) onto County Road 3. Trailhead in about 1 mile on right.



TEMPLE CANYON PARK

Temple Canyon is the ancestral land of the Ute tribe and is a meaningful site. Dubbed 'The Temple' by later explorers and tourists, the site (along with hundreds of surrounding acres) was acquired as a city park in 1912. The rock alcove was formed by continual seepage of water into small fissures in the rock. The hike itself begins by parking at the campsite indicated on the map. For a longer hike with more historical detrius and more than half a dozen creek crossings, you can park further up Temple Canyon Road at the restrooms just before the bridge.



TRAIL INFORMATION

Start: Begin your hike at the parking lot off County Road 3.

Elevation gain: 300 foot descent from parking lot to Grape Creek, 50 foot ascent from the creek to the Temple

Fitness effort: Moderate to strenuous

Difficulty: Intermediate to advanced

Terrain: Steep switchbacks to flat creekside singletrack

Seasons: Best in early spring, summer, fall

Trail users: Hikers

Dog friendly: While you are welcome to bring dogs on this trail, please be advised that there is a great deal of cactus and also

the potential for snakes. Be cautious! Keep your dog on a leash, bring waste bags, and clean up after your pet.

Distance: .6 miles or 1.25 miles one-way (depending on which trailhead you use)

Note: The longer version of this trail is inadvisable during higher water flows as there are no bridges across the creek. Please check stream flows before attempting creek crossings. In late summer or early spring, flows are usually low enough to cross safely. Also, be aware of tall grasses that can hide snakes and spiders.

GETTING THERE

From downtown, take 1st Street south for approximately 1 mile, and take a right (west) onto Temple Canyon Road (CR3). Continue on this road for an additional 5.1 miles. You'll see a turnoff on your right (north); take this and follow it to the terminus (about 1/2 a mile). You will see the trailhead past the restrooms. For a longer hike, do not take the turnoff, but continue an additional 1.25 miles to the bridge. This hike will require you to cross the creek at various locations, some of them not well-marked.



OIL WELL FLATS

Oil Well Flats utilizes some dirt roads, but consists mostly of singletrack trails. Cruise through junipers and piñons as you ascend toward Fire Canyon and Unconformity, areas that were altered in 1988 as a wildfire scorched the area.



TRAIL INFORMATION

Elevation gain: 800 feet from the first parking area to the high point - Island in the Sky

Fitness effort: Medium to strenuous

Difficulty: Novice to advanced

Terrain: Rocky; natural surface singletrack

Seasons: Best during spring and fall; rideable in winter when dry; summer will be hot

Trail users: Hikers, bikers, equestrians

Dog friendly: Be courteous of others and

keep your dog on a leash, bring waste bags, and clean up after your pet.

Distance: ~12 miles total for a round trip on the singletrack (double up or ride in reverse)

Note: Hikers tend to prefer the two upper parking lots to access the higher terrain. Horse trailer parking is available in the second lot.

Please be aware that Oil Well Flats is home to some grazing, and plan accordingly. This area is closed to motorized vehicles during muddy conditions. Respect all trail / gate closures to help maintain the integrity of the trails. Check the BLM or FAR website for updates on conditions and closures. Expect and be courteous to equestrians.

SUGGESTED ROUTES

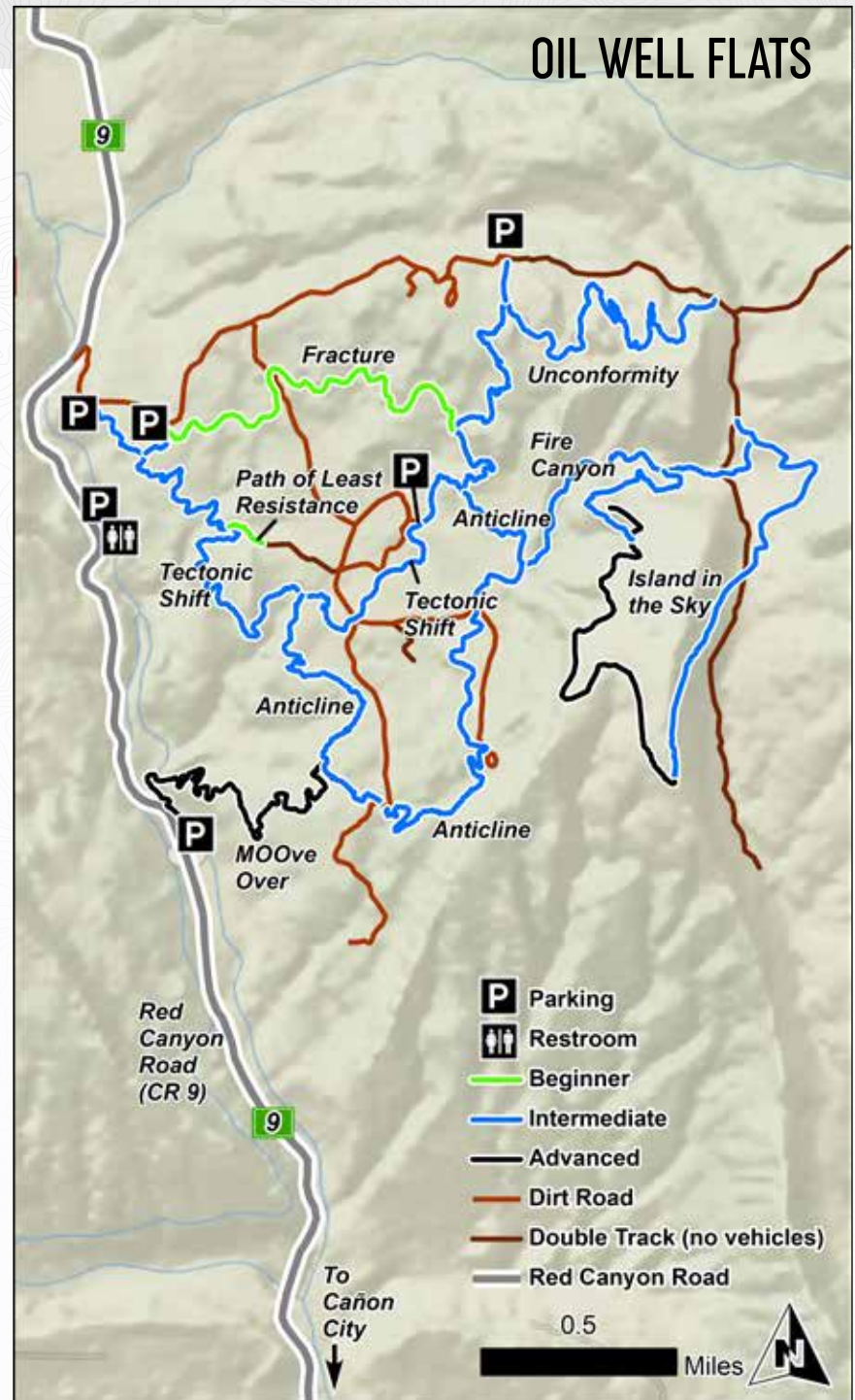
Beginner Route: 1st Parking Lot > Tectonic Shift > Fracture out-and-back | **Distance:** 4 mi. **Elevation:** 430 ft. | **Approximate time:** 25 mins.

Intermediate Route: 1st Parking Lot > Fracture > Tectonic Shift > Anticline > Tectonic Shift **Distance:** 6.5 mi. | **Elevation:** 730 ft. | **Approximate time:** 1 hr.

Advanced Route: MOOve Over > Anticline > Fire Canyon > Island in the Sky > Unconformity > Fracture > Tectonic Shift > Anticline > MOOve Over | **Distance:** 14.5 mi. | **Elevation:** 2,100 ft. **Approximate time:** 2 hours

GETTING THERE

From downtown or Hwy 40, turn left (north) onto 15th Street and continue for .9 miles. Turn right (east) on Central Ave. and continue for 1 mile. Turn left (north) onto Field Ave. and continue for 2.2 miles. Continue north at intersection with Red Canyon Rd. for 3.7 miles. Turn right (east) on dirt road and continue to parking lots.



RED CANYON PARK

At Red Canyon Park you can explore 600 acres beautiful red rock from the Fountain Formation. Formed 290-296 million years ago, this rock was created by a series of braided streams carrying material eroded off of the Ancestral Rocky Mountains. Operated by the City of Cañon City, the secluded Red Canyon Park is a locals' favorite. Here you can feel free to explore on the trail or off—a true adventure.



TRAIL INFORMATION

Start: Various parking lots and camp areas
Elevation Gain: Varies
Fitness effort: Mild to moderate
Difficulty: Novice to intermediate
Terrain: Natural surface
Seasons: Year-round
Trail users: Hikers, picnickers, walkers
 (While bicycles are allowed in the area,

bicyclists may find that they wish to stick to the road for now due to the current lack of bicycle-appropriate trail and wayfinding.)
Dog friendly: Yes. Keep your dog on a leash, bring waste bags, clean up after your pet.
Distance: Varies

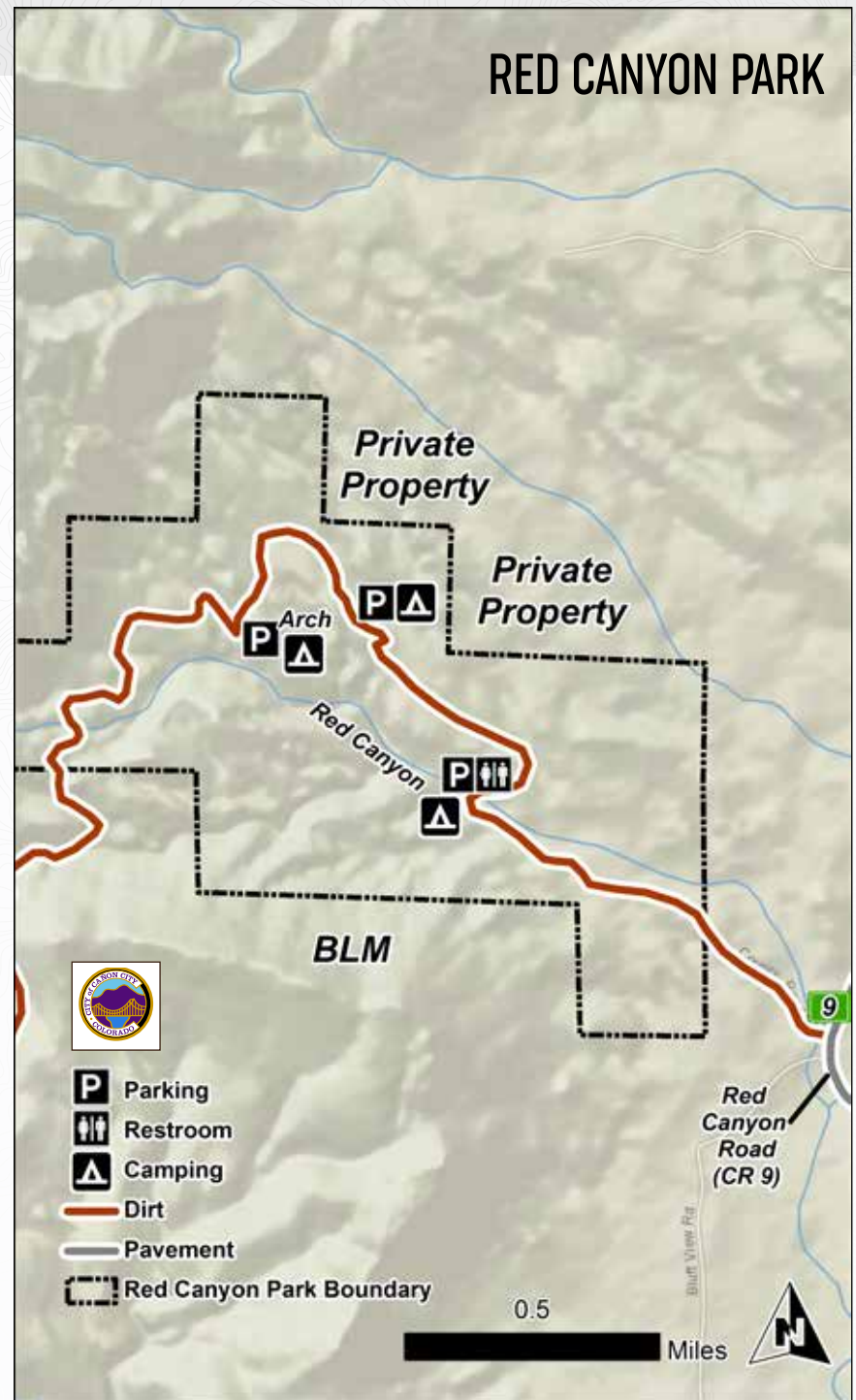
Red Canyon Hike: (Park at the first parking area, about a mile from Red Canyon Road, CR 29.) As you head into the main wash (dry creek bed) area, you'll notice right away how the rocks tower above, creating a small canyon-like experience. Explore the wash for as long—or as little—as you want! Please be safe and know your limits.

The Arch: (From Red Canyon Road, follow the park's road approximately 1.5 miles until you reach a notable pull-off on your right. Park here.) From this parking area, hike in an west south-west direction until you find the arch.

Red Canyon Adventure: You are allowed to explore across the entire Red Canyon Park area on or off trail; however, please be respectful and pay attention to the map so as to not trespass on neighboring private land.

GETTING THERE

From Highway 50, head north on 15th Street and continue for .9 miles. Turn right (east) on Central Avenue and continue for 1.0 miles. Turn left (north) onto Field Avenue and continue for 2.2 miles. At the Y, travel north on Red Canyon Road for approximately 7 miles. Red Canyon Park will be on your left. Take care after a snow or rain storm; roads can have deep ruts at times.



ROYAL GORGE PARK

If you're looking for a trail run, bike, or hike that will offer awe-inspiring views, this is it. Outdoor enthusiasts will find that the trails offer stunning views and plentiful options. The Royal Gorge Park Trails are funded in part by the 1% for Trails initiative.



Photo courtesy of Tenille Lenard

TRAIL INFORMATION

Start: Begin your ride/hike at one of several parking areas.

Elevation gain: +/- 600 feet

Fitness effort: Mild to difficult

Difficulty: Novice to advanced

Terrain: Natural surface singletrack

Trail users: Hikers, bikers, walkers

Seasons: Best in spring, summer, and fall.

Dog friendly: Yes. Keep all dogs on a leash and watch for cacti along the trail. Bring waste bags and clean up after your pet.

Distance: 21 miles

SUGGESTED ROUTES

Beginner Route: CR 3A Parking Lot > The Maze > S'Mores > Canyon Rim > Twisted Cistern | **Distance:** 5 mi. | **Elevation:** ~540 ft. | **Approximate time:** 45 mins.

Intermediate Route: CR 3A Parking Lot > The Maze > S'Mores > Cañon Vista > FAR Out > Canyon Rim > Overlook Loop > Twisted Cistern | **Distance:** 9 mi. | **Elevation:** ~1,160 ft. | **Approximate time:** 1.5 hrs.

Advanced Route: Royal Gorge Ranch & Resort Trailhead > Point Alta Vista Trail > One Track Mind > Made in the Shade > Twisted Cistern > Overlook Loop > Rock Hardy > Overlook Loop > Canyon Rim > FAR Out > Cañon Vista > S'Mores > Dreamweaver > Made in the Shade > One Track Mind | **Distance:** 20 mi. | **Elevation:** ~2,696 | **Approximate time:** 2.5 hours



BETA TIP

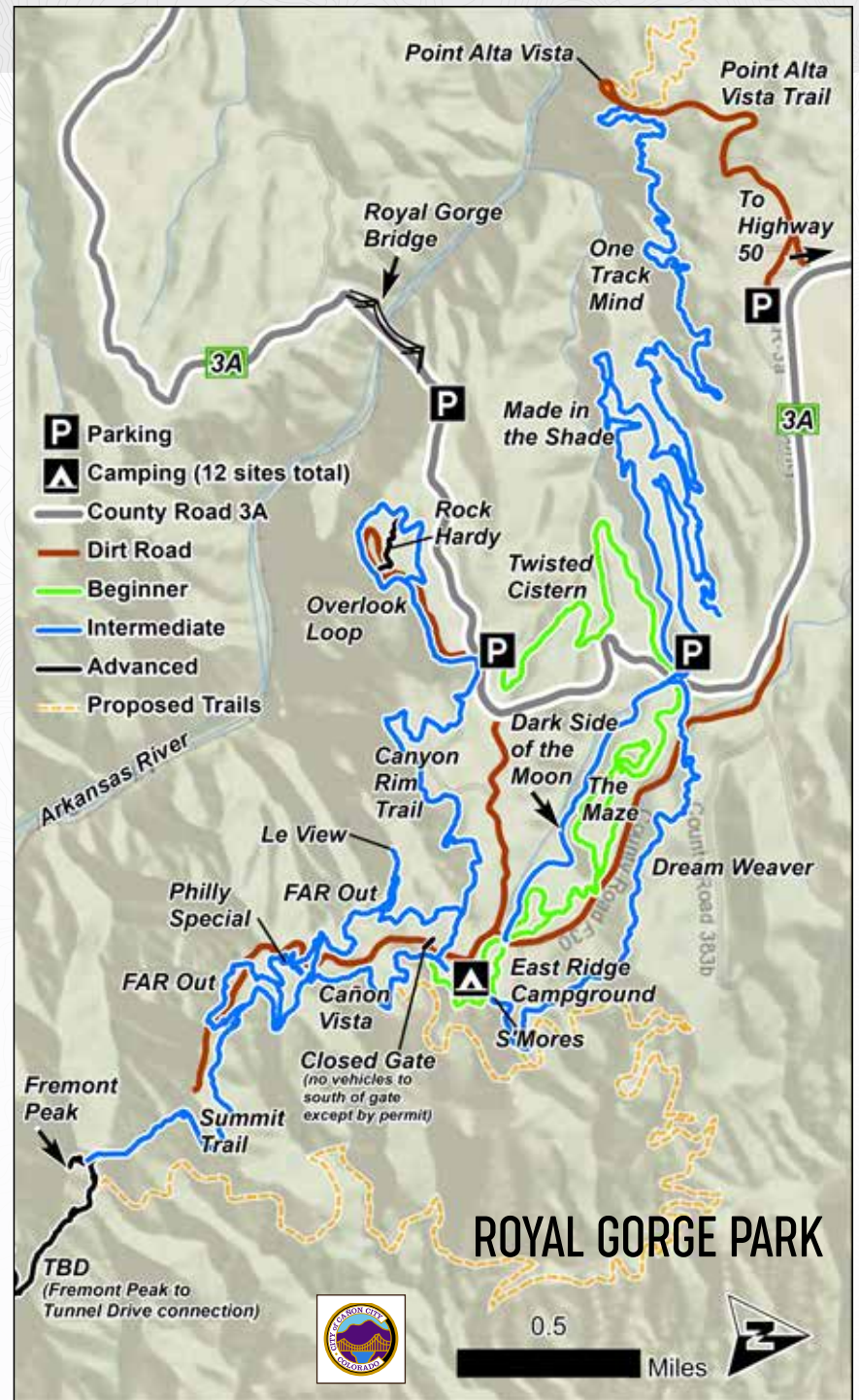
Point Alta Vista and trestles can be accessed via One Track Mind (difficult) and the Point Alta Vista Trail via the Royal Gorge Ranch & Resort (easy).

GETTING THERE

From downtown, head west on US Highway 50. At the turnoff for the Royal Gorge Bridge, turn left (south) and follow County Road 3A until you reach your desired trailhead.



Please Note: The Fremont Peak connection trail is subject to seasonal closures for hunting and to protect ewes and lambs during lambing season. Please see hours listed on page 12.



HIKING

MOUNTAIN BIKING

NEWLIN CREEK / FLORENCE MTN. PARK

Nestled in the Wet Mountains south of Florence, Florence Mountain Park is an easily-accessible escape from the high mountain desert. Just a few minutes from downtown, the park features pine forests and granite outcroppings. The local favorite is Newlin Creek trail. This winding trail follows Newlin Creek and is relatively easy for the first .75 miles. Make the creek bridge a destination for families with small children. For others, travel 3 miles to reach the alpine meadow where remnants of the Herrick Sawmill, built in 1887, now lie abandoned.

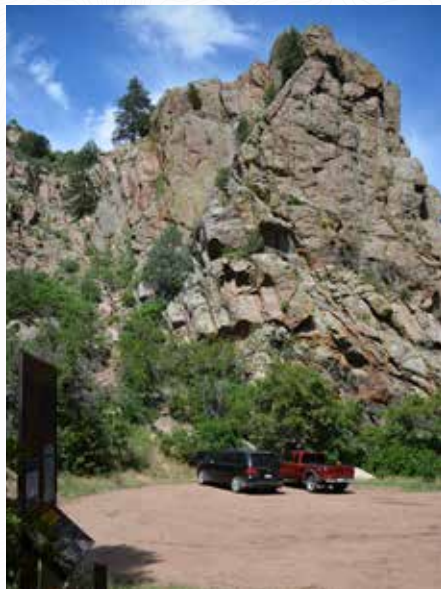
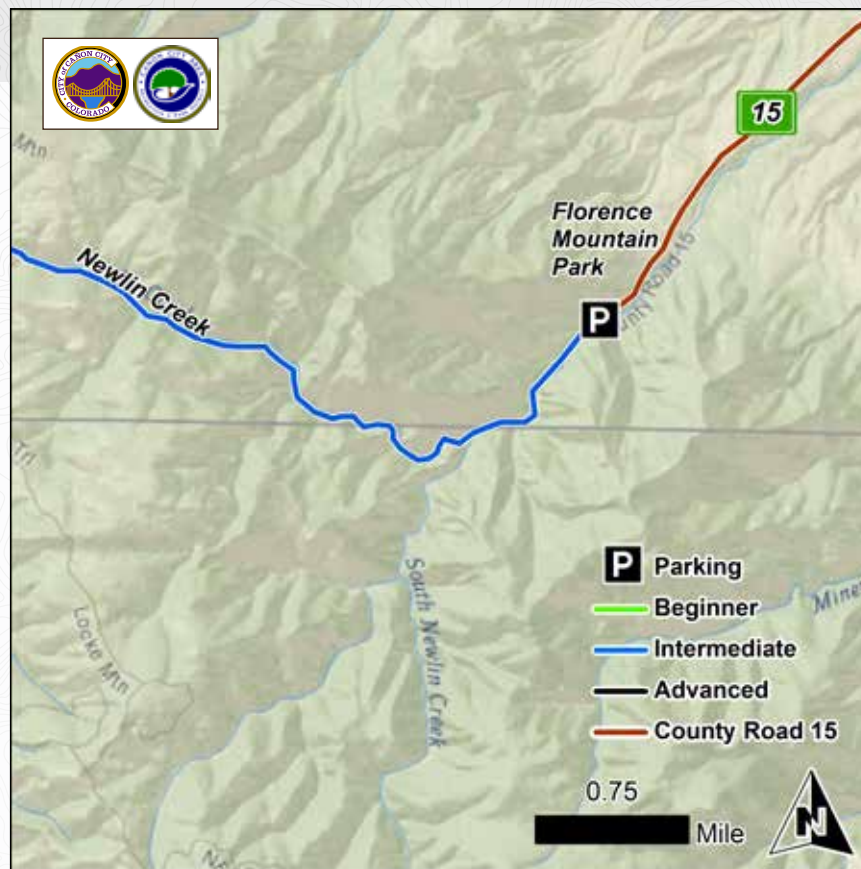


Photo courtesy of Mark Peacock



Photo courtesy of Kristan Lepik



HIKING

ROCK CLIMBING

TRAIL INFORMATION

Start: Newlin Creek Trailhead
Distance: Total distance = ~ 6 miles
Elevation gain: 1,735 feet
Fitness effort: Mild to moderate
Difficulty: Novice to intermediate
Terrain: The trail is singletrack with some creek crossings
Seasons: Year-round with some snow and ice after heavy snow. Be aware of high stream flows in the spring.
Trail users: Hikers and rock climbers

Dog friendly: Yes. Keep your dog on a leash, bring waste bags, and clean up after your pet. Leash law is enforced. This area often has wildlife.
Note: No open fires are permitted in the Park. Fire pans or designated receptacles must be utilized. Please be aware that if a red-flag warning is in effect, the park may be closed. Overnight camping is not permitted except by license agreement.



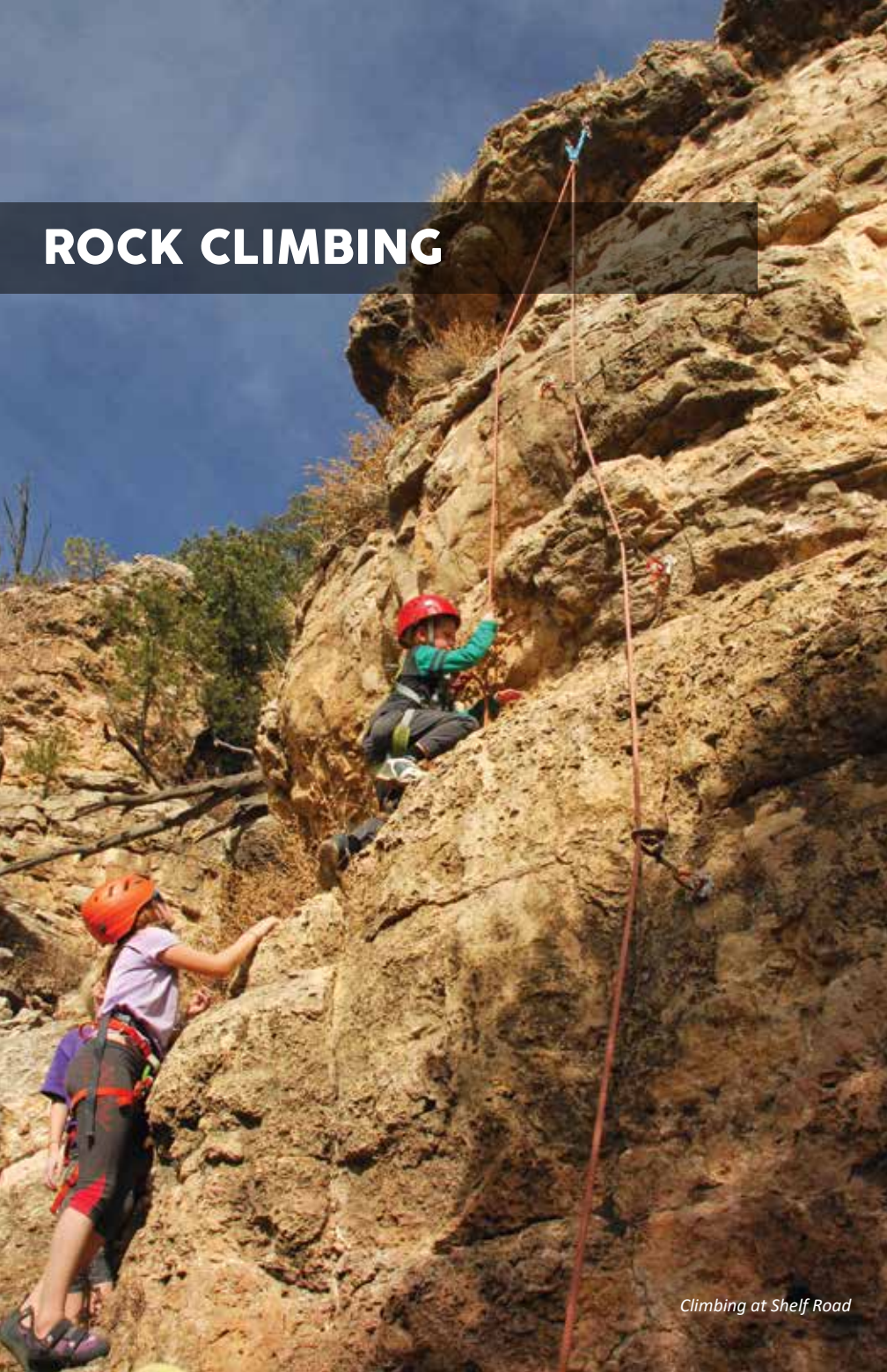
The park features a rustic log amphitheater. Follow signs for Newlin Creek and turn L at the sign for 'Amphitheater'. This space may be reserved for events. Contact Florence City Hall at 719-784-4848.



GETTING THERE

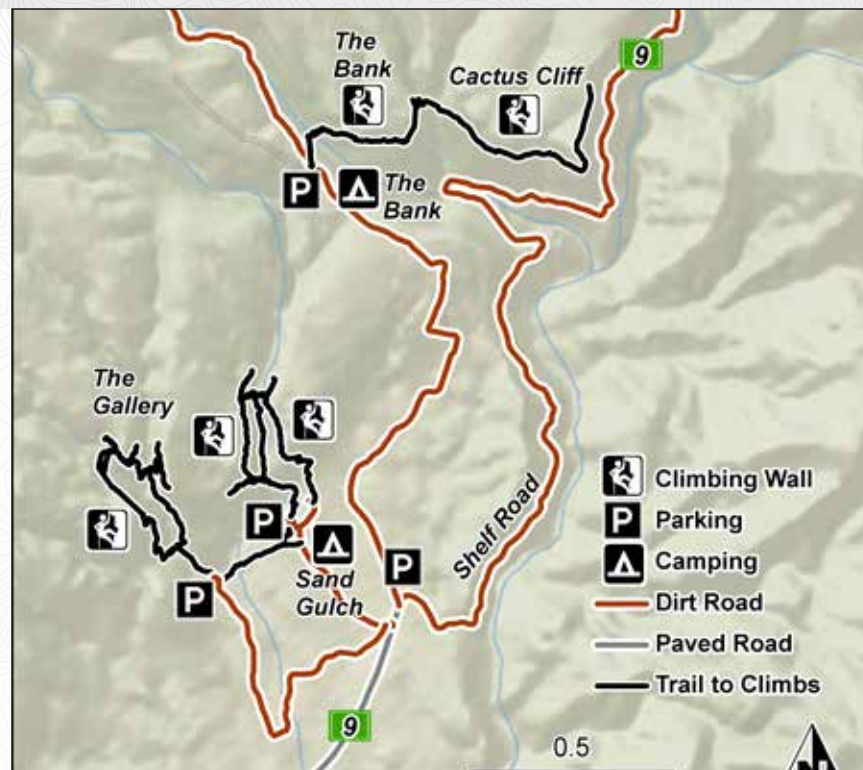
From Florence and Highway 115, turn south onto CO-69. Follow this road for 4.3 miles, then veer right onto County Road 15. Keep right for another 2.5 miles until you see the sign for Florence Mountain Park. Continue past the groundskeeper's cabin for .9 miles until you reach the trailhead.

ROCK CLIMBING



Climbing at Shelf Road

NORTH CAÑON CLIMBING



SHELF ROAD

One of Colorado's largest sport climbing destinations, Shelf Road offers a multitude of stellar rock climbs on some fascinating Limestone cliffs. Shelf is great any time of year. With so many cliff options you can find ample sun or shade climbs at any of the major climbing areas. All areas have an approach of at least a 1/4 mile or more, so wear good hiking shoes. Also, due to higher temperatures in the summer, always bring a little more water than you think you will need. Watch out for rattlesnakes in the summer and always wear a helmet because even though many of the climbs get a lot of use and have been cleaned, loose rock exists.

Equipment suggestions: 14 quickdraws, a small amount of supplemental trad gear and a 60 meter rope should give you a chance at the majority of the climbs at Shelf Road, although a few pure trad lines exist. You will find climbs ranging from 5.5 to 5.13 in difficulty here, but it is predominately a 5.10-5.11 climbing area.

SUGGESTED CLIMBS

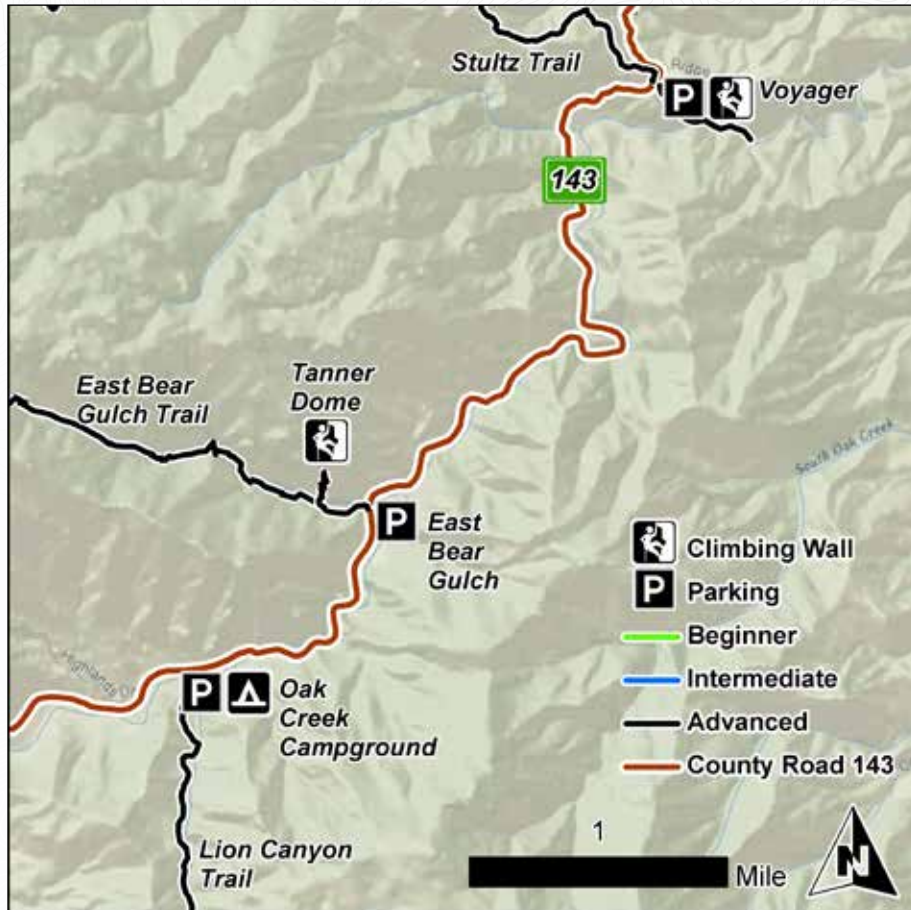
Crynoids Corner: 5.7 | Cactus Cliff
First Blood: 5.8 | The Gallery
Lumina Crack: 5.9 | Darkside

Facing page: Number 1 Super Guy,
5.11a, The Banks

FURTHER READING / GUIDES

Green, Stewart M. Rock Climbing Colorado, 2010.
D'Antonio, Bob. Shelf Road Climbing, 2010.
Robertson, Bob and Carrie. Back Side of the Bank: Lighter Side of Shelf, 2014.

SOUTH CAÑON CLIMBING



VOYAGER

This little Southern Colorado gem sits off to the east side of Oak Creek Grade Road (County Rd. 143). With a nice creek, trails, and well-bolted sport lines, this area is worth a look. Bring a 70-meter rope, 14 quickdraws, and some supplemental trad gear for mixed climbs!

ROCK CLIMBING ETIQUETTE

1. Know the area.
2. Practice "Leave No Trace" principles.
3. Keep your noise level to a minimum.
4. Be considerate of other climbers.
5. Be patient.
6. Respect others' space.
7. Be respectful of the environment.
8. Be safe.

TANNER DOME CRAGS

Approximately 11 miles south of Cañon City, Tanner Dome and adjacent crags are located on the west side of the scenic Oak Creek Grade. With over 80 routes on incredible granite, Tanner Dome is a wonderful area offering single and multi-pitch climbing to suit expert and beginner climbers' sport-climbing urges. Climbs range from 40 to over 200 feet. A 70 meter rope and 14 quickdraws will get you up the majority of the climbs and enable you to link some two-pitch climbs into one long granite cruise! Some beautiful mixed and trad lines also exist at the Tanner Dome area, so if you're willing to drag the trad rack up the hill, you'll be rewarded with some four-star routes to play on.

Make sure you wear your sturdy hiking boots for the rugged and steep access trail. Be sure to wear your helmet at the crag! Even some solid granite rock faces have areas of rockfall. Due to the remote location, it is best to bring enough food and water to keep your group happy, and to enjoy this forested wonderland in the Wet Mountain range.

Please Note: The cliffs are closed to climbing April 1 - Aug. 1 for Peregrine Falcon habitat. Please respect the birds and find another climb location during this time.

SUGGESTED CLIMBS

Tanner Classic: 5.7
Landscape Architect: 5.8
Amp Right: 5.9

FURTHER READING / GUIDES

Green, Stewart M. Rock Climbing Colorado, 2010.
Mountain Project: Tanner Dome. mountainproject.com/v/tanner-dome/105746629

NEWLIN CREEK (SEE MAP ON PAGE 29)

Tucked in to the Wet Mountains behind the quaint little town of Florence, Newlin Creek offers a wonderful alpine setting with some intriguing granite boulders and spires peaking out from behind the dense forest. Not much has been written about this area yet but it has some good stone if you go hunting around with some gear and a sense of adventure. A 70 meter rope, 14 quickdraws, and a small trad rack for the mixed routes is a recipe for a good time! There are also a few nice boulder problems in the area for bouldering. Be aware of equestrian riders in the area. This spot is best enjoyed during the warmer months as it holds snow well in the valley during winter months, but be careful of snakes when it gets warmer.

FURTHER READING / GUIDES

Breustle, Ben. 2003. The Ripper: Climbing in Colorado's Wet Mountains. Sharp End Publishing.
Mountain Project: Newlin Creek. mountainproject.com/v/newlin-creek/105744415

Robertson, Bob and Carrie. "The Sunny Side of Voyager", 2013.



BOATING & FISHING

BOATING ETIQUETTE

- If you need to scout a rapid, portage, or pull over for any reason, please be respectful of private property. (The railroad in both Bighorn Sheep Canyon and The Royal Gorge is private property. Do not use the tracks for scouting or access.)
- Always maintain a safe distance between boats. If you are a single boat and need to run with another group, always ask and alert them of your plans.
- Only pass other boats in calm sections of the river, not in rapids.
- Please pack out all trash, including food and human waste.
- Please check for fire bans before making campfires. Always use a fire pan.
- Park only in designated parking areas along the river, and always pay the applicable fees.
- Be courteous to anglers and fishermen. Lower your noise level and paddling as you pass.
- Take special care of the riparian environment: Do not bother wildlife or tread on plants.
- When inflating and deflating your rafts, please be considerate of other boaters: Do not block access points to the river or high-traffic loading/unloading zones.

RIVER FLOWS

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) monitors water flows on the Arkansas River. You can access their site and check conditions April through September. Please note that rapids change significantly as water flows increase and decrease throughout the year, and because the Arkansas is a low-volume river, even rainfall can affect the flow.

Check for updated flow reports at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/rt>
Click on the 'Colorado Statewide Streamflow Real-Time Table' link and scroll down to the Arkansas Headwaters info. The Parkdale gauge is located just above the Royal Gorge.

Whitewater rafting, kayaking, and floating are not recommended without proper training, equipment, and experience. Always wear appropriate flotation devices and check water conditions before putting on the river.

COLORADO LAW REQUIRES

- All occupants of inner tubes, air mattresses, and similar devices to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved type I, III or V PFD (personal flotation device), i.e. a "life jacket".
- All persons under the age of 13 swimming in the Arkansas River within the AHRA must wear a U.S Coast Guard approved type I, III or V PFD.
- All boats must be labeled with the owner's name and address. In addition, please add your phone number.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

AHRA's Website: cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/ArkansasHeadwatersRecreationArea

Staub, Frank. The Upper Arkansas River: Rapids, History & Nature - Mile by Mile. Fulcrum Publishing, (1988.)

*Boater: Derrick Donnell
Photo by: Danyll Donnell*

PINNACLE ROCK TO CENTENNIAL



Photo courtesy of Tenille Lenard

RIVER FEATURES

Seasons: Higher water occurs in May-June. Water levels significantly decrease in late summer and slow to ~350 cfs by fall. Always check stream flows (available on the AHRA website) before rafting any section.
Distance: ~20 miles

Note: Mornings and late afternoons are the best time to raft this stunning 20-mile stretch. Most outfitters put on around 8:30-9:00 a.m., but the busiest time is midday. Go early or late to beat the crowds, especially during summer weekends.

This stretch of river is one of the most exhilarating and popular whitewater runs in Colorado. It includes both Bighorn Sheep Canyon (class II-III) and the Royal Gorge (class III-IV).

Pinnacle Rock: A common put-in for Bighorn Sheep Canyon

Three Rocks: An impressive class III-IV rapid that should be scouted at higher flows.

Five Points: Wave to folks on the viewing deck! There are also restrooms and camping at this location, accessible from Highway 50.

Spikeback: At higher water flows, avoid the large rock in the center of the river and the curling standing wave just after it. Spikeback rock is left of center toward the bottom.

Parkdale: This is a great spot to eat lunch at the picnic tables. Restrooms located here.

Sunshine Falls: A difficult class IV rapid that bears scouting (via river right).

Narrows: Pass under the Bridge and Hanging Bridge; watch for rebar on river left.

Boateater: This fun rapid features a large rock/hole in the middle of the river.

Pipeline: Noted for the water delivery pipeline up above, this rapid signals the end of the notable rapids in the Gorge. Enjoy the float out!

Centennial Park: Take out on river-right, or on river-left for the River Station Boat Ramp.

GETTING THERE

Access Pinnacle Rock River Access by traveling ~21 miles on Highway 50 west toward Salida. Turn right into the parking lot. Visit the kiosk to pay all applicable fees.

CENTENNIAL PARK TO MACKENZIE



This stretch of river will take you mostly across Class II waters. From Centennial Park, you'll float through some of Cañon City's Whitewater Kayak and Recreation Park's river features and under the historic Black Bridge. Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife such as deer, falcons, egrets, and perhaps even a river otter or beaver.

RIVER FEATURES

Centennial Park Boat Ramp: Park your car and get on the river.

Centennial Park Wave: Watch for a nice play wave. Can be big at higher flows. Timid boaters can try to sneak the wave just right of center.

River Front Park: Another boat ramp option to put in or take out (river-left).

Black Bridge: A second play wave is located just upstream of Black Bridge. Please give yourself plenty of room to navigate around the bridge pier.

9th Street Wave Train: Located river-right, just follow the fun waves!

A Nice Float: for the remainder of the trip. Watch for wood in the river, since high waters will often snag large cottonwood logs.

Raynolds Bridge and Take-Out: The river braids into two channels near the bridge. As of early 2018, the right channel seems to be the best general option for most boaters at most water levels. Be sure to give yourself plenty of room near the bridge piers! *Be aware that the take-out comes fast immediately after the bridge on river-right.



Remember that even this section of river requires a certified PFD (life jacket) if you are floating in ANY kind of raft or boat. Borrow one at the loaner station at either play wave. Please remember to return them!

BETA TIP

BOATING/FISHING

CAÑON CITY PARKS

Cañon City has a number of parks that are suitable for both children and pets. Please enjoy all parks responsibly and pick up any waste (including pet waste). Parks with river access are accessible via the road and the Riverwalk Trail.

		SPORTS FIELD	PICNIC AREA	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS	POTABLE WATER	RIVER ACCESS
1	Denver & Rio Grande Park		●				
2	River Front Park		●	●	●	●	●
3	Veterans Park		●		●	●	
4	Centennial Park / Whitewater Park / Tennis Ct.	●	●	●	●	●	●
5	John Griffin Regional Park		●		●		●
6	Rouse Park	●	●	●	●	●	
7	Dog Park and Archery Range		●				●
8	Magdalene Park		●				
9	Margaret Park		●	●		●	
10	Icabone Swimming Pool		●		●	●	
11	Rudd Park / Tennis Courts		●	●	●	●	
12	Harrison Park	●	●	●	●	●	
13	Mountain View Park and Skate Park	●	●	●	●	●	
14	Greydene Park		●			●	



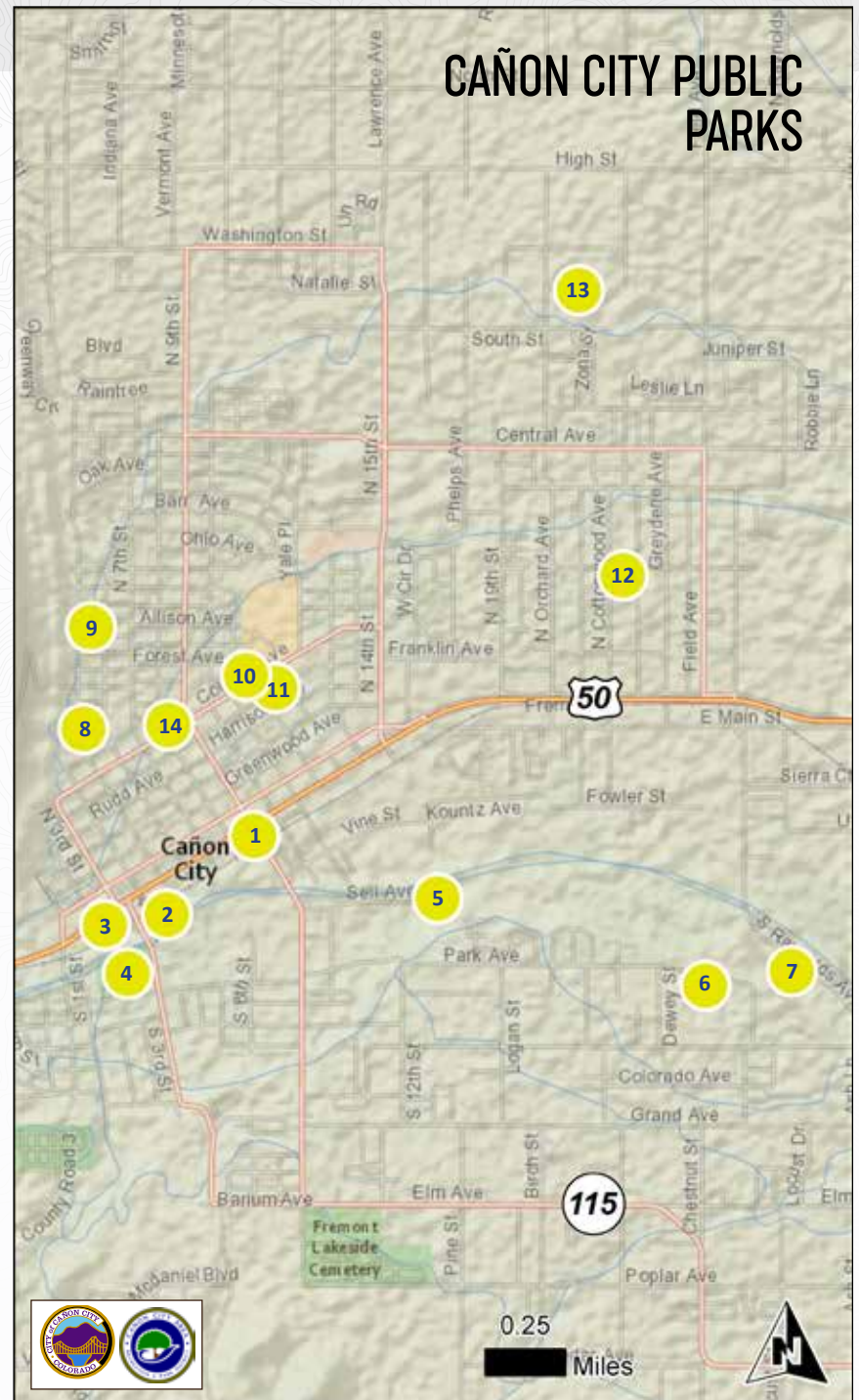
Splash pad at Centennial Park



Mountain View Park



Harrison Park has a small bouldering wall for little ones to learn.



CAMPING

PRIMITIVE CAMPING

Spring, summer, and fall in the Banana Belt of Colorado are perfect for camping. See page 4 for average temperatures throughout the seasons.

	# OF SITES	PICNIC TABLES	FIRE RINGS	VAULT TOILETS	POTABLE WATER	TRAIL ACCESS	RIVER ACCESS	PRICE
East Ridge Campground	20	●	●	●		●		\$15
Temple Canyon Park	8	●	●	●		●		-
Red Canyon Park	5	●	●	●		●		-
The Bank and Sand Gulch	31	●	●	●		●		\$7-14
Oak Creek	12	●	●			●		-
Five Points	20	●	●	●			●	\$18
Phantom Canyon Road	(Where space available. No amenities.)							-

CAMPING GUIDELINES



Please note: Dispersed camping does NOT mean that all open space is camping space. PLEASE preserve delicate plants and limit erosion by camping ONLY in approved, designated spots.

- Build fires in approved fire pits.
- Pay all appropriate fees.
- Dispose of trash in or pack it out.
- Pitch tents only in approved areas.
- Be aware of wildlife: keep your campsite free of food and waste.

COMMERCIAL CAMPING / RV SITES

From dispersed tent sites to luxury glamping tents and cabins, the Royal Gorge Region has something for every itinerary.

	# RV SITES	# CAMP SITES	WI-FI	PLAYGROUND	POOL	POTABLE WATER	CABINS	PRICE
Echo Canyon Campground echocanyoncampground.com	0	11	●			●	●	\$\$
Mountain View RV Resort mountainviewrvresort.net	40	0	●	●		●	●	\$\$
The Farmhouse RV farmhouseroyalgorge.com	89	37		●	●	●	●	\$
Royal Gorge KOA - 1% for Trails koa.com/campgrounds/royal-gorge	80	20	●	●	●	●	●	\$
Royal View Campground royalviewcampground.com	50	12	●		●	●	●	\$\$

CAMPING IN CAÑON CITY



DOWNTOWN CAÑON CITY



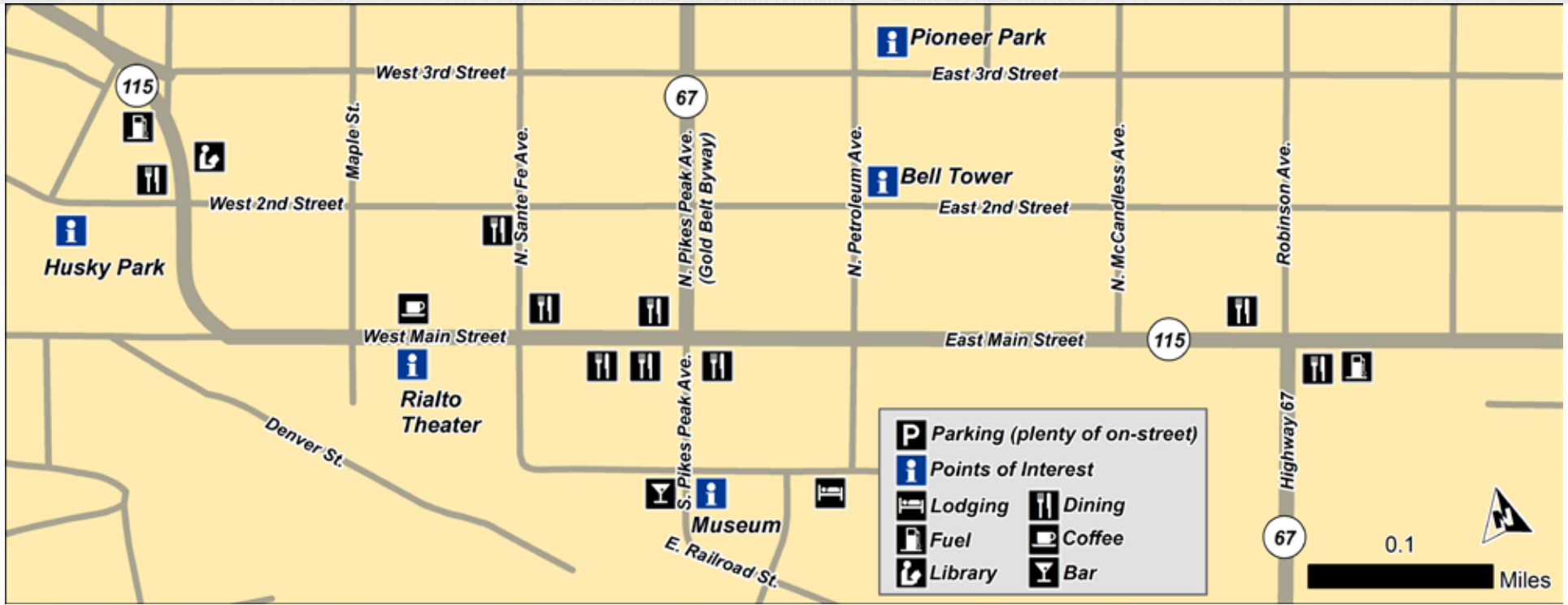
Before or after you head for the great outdoors, consider checking out downtown Cañon City. Historic Main Street, parks, and the Arkansas River all come together here. You'll have the opportunity to discover shops, public art displays, and eateries to suit a wide array of tastes. First Fridays on Main Street are sure to delight you and your family. With art gallery receptions and live music during the summer months, there's something for everyone!

Centennial Park is just a short walk from downtown, and is the site of many spring / summer events, such as car shows, the annual Blossom Festival in May, the Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival in July, and more!

The Cañon City Farmers' Market is held every Tuesday from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, June through October. Shop for local produce, products, and handcrafted goods!



DOWNTOWN FLORENCE



Historic and quaint Florence is the ‘Antique Capital of Colorado’, and it delivers on its promise. Remnants of the town’s rich mining history are evident at every corner: You’ll find century-old buildings, murals, and scenic winding back roads. In the lively downtown area, you can spend hours browsing the unique and varied shops, including art galleries, antique stores, and restaurants. Check <http://www.florencecoloradochamber.com/> for a calendar of events.

The Florence Farmers’ Market is held every Thursday from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, June through October in Pioneer Park. Enjoy local produce, handmade goods, and free entertainment!

Pathfinder Park is located between Cañon City and the town of Florence on Hwy. 115. It offers a relaxing path that runs adjacent to the Arkansas River, a pavilion, sports fields, a playground, a fishing pond, and restroom facilities.



The Florence Merchants Car Show



Pathfinder Park

FAMILY FUN & ACTIVITIES

TIPS FOR HIKING WITH KIDS

SNACKS

Bring plenty of healthy snacks to tempt kids along, and maybe even offer a treat at the end. Local tip: after your hike, head to a downtown shop for an ice cream, crepe, hot cocoa, or milk shake. Kids will remember the hike and the fun time you had afterward.

START SMALL AND BE FLEXIBLE

Though they seem to have limitless energy, it may be a good idea to start with a short (<1 miles) hike and work up to longer ones. They may ask to bring toys or books - roll with it!

GET THEM THEIR OWN BACKPACK

Kids may love to carry their own special pack that carries water, snacks, toys, etc. Also consider bringing a compass, a kid camera, or binoculars: it gives them something else to do!

BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES

From accidents to super fun puddles and creeks, the reasons for needing an extra set of clothes are endless. An extra pair of socks is always a good idea, too!

AIM FOR KID-CENTRIC DESTINATIONS AND TIMES

Kids love water to play in, boulders to climb on, pebbles to skip, and sticks to hold. They're not always as appreciative of vistas or historic landmarks as adults may be, but they can certainly have fun. Hiking in the morning could make your day go easier due to heat and bugs.

BRING A FRIEND

Kids love the company of their peers. Consider bringing or meeting friends at the trailhead.

BE PREPARED FOR 'POTTY BREAKS'

Bring toilet paper and / or baby wipes. If you're going to be on a well-used or populated trail, you may also want a biffy bag to bag up waste. Find them on the Leave No Trace website.



.5
MILE

HOGBACKS OPEN SPACE - GREENHORN

Start at the Floral Avenue trailhead and head out on Greenhorn. In just about .25 mile, you'll find some great interpretive kiosks with information about local geology and geography.

1.5
MILES

RED CANYON PARK

A locals' favorite, the park will treat you to an unexpected red rock adventure! Explore the area as you wish. (Safely, please!) Many visitors enjoy walking up the main wash of Red Canyon or playing on the rocks. Check out the map on pages 24-25.

2
MILES

ROYAL GORGE PARK - TRESTLE TRAIL

This incredible trail starts at the public parking lot near the entrance to the Royal Gorge Ranch & Resort. Follow the signs to Point Alta Vista and trestles. Please stay on the trail and respect private property owners. Enjoy the view!

2
MILES

MARSH QUARRY

Park at the pullout on Red Canyon Road for this fun, moderate hike. Check out where the infamous Bone Wars took place, and look for fossils along the way. Reach the overlook (watch little ones) and read more at the kiosk. Play in Four Mile creek across the street afterwards.

1.5
MILES

SOUTH CAÑON - WATER GAP TO GRAPE CREEK

Start at the Ecology Park parking area and hike down the big hill to the Water Gap trail. Follow the dry creek bed to Grape Creek, where you'll find shade, rocks, and water nearly year-round to play in.

2
MILES

SOUTH CAÑON TRAILS - SAND HILL

From the Eagle Wing trailhead, head up Wagon Mound to Schepp Ridge. and to the Sand Hill trail. It's a moderate hike with a steep climb just at the end. The views are wonderful!

1.5
MILES

ROYAL GORGE PARK TRAILS - OVERLOOK LOOP

Start at the Canyon Rim trailhead on County Road 3A. Cross the road and take a right at the trail to head out to Overlook Loop. Watch for cactus, but enjoy a relatively mild hike with absolutely stunning views of the Royal Gorge and the Bridge. At Rock Hardy, hike upward to cut off some mileage.

Summers can be hot, and you may want a shadier excursion in July and August.

BETA TIP

1
MILE

RIVERWALIK - EASY RIDE

Slightly older kids may enjoy this ride along the river, through three historic tunnels. There is a steep dropoff on one side, but the trail is wide and there are no technical elements. Tackle the big hill at the beginning and it's flat all the way to the end and back.

2
MILES

RIVERWALK - TUNNEL DRIVE

Start at Centennial Park and ride up to the Tunnel Drive trailhead. Going back to the park, it's an easy downhill grade. Ride the other direction to pass murals painted by kids, the train depot, and underneath a few bridges.

2.5
MILES

SOUTH CAÑON - MUTTON BUSTIN'

Begin at Eagle Wing trailhead for a nice easy ride up. You can take Wagon Trail for a straight shot up, and then take Mutton Bustin' down for a smooth, flowy, non-technical ride. As riders become more experienced, you can also incorporate Schepp Ridge and Recycle into the loop. Head to The Yard bike park for a few laps on the features, too!

3.5
MILES

HOGBACKS - GREENHORN TO GRANEROS

Begin at Floral Avenue trailhead and take Greenhorn to the end, where it meets up with Graneros. Peddaling the rolling hills of the Hogbacks is a great workout, but it's smooth and flowy all the way back on singletrack to the trailhead.

3.2
MILES

OIL WELL FLATS - FRACTURE

From the first parking lot, head out on Fracture for a family-friendly ride. You will encounter some rocks and mild technical spots, so make sure kids are ready to handle those elements.



FOSSIL DISCOVERY

Please remember fossils are often not available for collecting unless you have permission by the landowner/land manager. These fossils are rare and cannot be replaced. If you find something or notice questionable activities, please report them to the respective land manager.

MARSH / CLEVELAND QUARRY

Located in the BLM's Garden Park Fossil Area NNL (National Natural Landmark), Marsh Quarry has a .25-mile trail from the parking lot. Hike up to an overlook to see where Allosaurus, Ceratasaurus, Diplodocus, and Stegosaurus were first found in the late 1800s by local Marshall Felch. Cleveland Quarry area includes picnic tables and a vault toilet located along Fourmile Creek. Here in the 1950s, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History excavated "Happy the Haplocanthosaurus", which is still on display there today. For more information, visit: www.handsontheland.org/garden-park/ or www.gardenparkdinosaurs.com.

SKYLINE DRIVE

Right along the crest of City of Cañon City's famous and fun Skyline Drive lies a clear trackway of Ankylosaur footprint casts within the Dakota Hogback formation. Visible from the road, imagine traveling along the coastline of the ancient Western Interior Seaway 90 million years ago with this dinosaur! (See pages 16-17 for more information.)

HOGBACKS OPEN SPACE AREA

At the Floral Trailhead as well as where the Greenhorn Trail meets Old Skyline Drive, two interpretive kiosks illustrate the area's geologic, fossil, and paleontological past. The Bridge Creek Trail, located near the Floral Ave. Trailhead, has additional kiosks.

ROYAL GORGE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

The Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center: The history center has great geological and paleontological displays. Exhibits highlight the scientists who've worked on the fossils in our area. See museum details and hours on page 83.

ROYAL GORGE DINOSAUR EXPERIENCE

Check out world-class interactive displays, real dinosaur fossils, dino fossil casts, animatronic dinosaurs, and more. Guided tours are available in the exhibit hall, and the ropes courses are fun too! Located at 44895 West Hwy 50 atop 8-Mile hill. Visit dinoxp.com or call 800-209-0062 for more information and updated admission.

INDIAN SPRINGS TRACE FOSSIL NNL

(\$10 per person) This NNL is the best Ordovician trace fossil site in North America. See Fremont County's oldest fossils – from about 450 million years ago! Contact: Carly Thorson at the Indian Springs Campground (719-429-2206) for a tour of this protected fossil site.

PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

You'll find the Crossroads Through Time Heritage Park in front of the college. Take a .4-mile Geology Time Trail that introduces and explains both local and global geology and paleontology events.



HISTORIC HIKES

One of the best ways to experience the rich history of the Royal Gorge Region is to travel the Gold Belt Byways. The scenic drives offer a number of historically significant points. On your way to any of the cities surrounding the Royal Gorge Region, stop and check out some of the historical markers, and enjoy a historically rich hike.

21 GARDEN PARK FOSSIL AREA / OIL WELL FLATS

Part of the famed Bone Wars between Edward Drinker Cope and Othniel Marsh, this area has been a significant site for the study of the late Jurassic dinosaurs since 1877. Significant finds include Stegosaurus, Diplodocus, and the first complete Allosaurus skeleton. The quarries here played a significant role in the field of paleontology, and fossils are housed in museums all over the nation. The first recorded claim to the oil spring on the east side of Fourmile Creek (also called Oil Creek) was in 1860. A number of shafts and shallow wells were dug in the vicinity of the area. This exploration eventually culminated in the discovery of the Florence oil fields in 1881.

20 RED CANYON PARK

Under the dedication of Colorado Congressman Guy U. Hardy to preserving natural lands, Red Canyon Park was granted to Cañon City in 1923. The circular roadway was constructed in 1924 by 125 local volunteers armed with hand tools and horse power. Since then, the park has been a popular destination. Pioneer Monument received its name when a bronze plaque was placed to commemorate 25 early settlers in the Garden Park area. On your way to the park, notice the small brick building on Red Canyon Road: the Garden Park School, originally built in 1895 and closed in 1961.

25 ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE & PARK

The 5,000-acre Royal Gorge Park was acquired by the City of Cañon City in 1906 through the direct efforts of Mr. Guy U. Hardy. In 1929, the Royal Gorge Bridge was built for a total of \$250,000. Miraculously, no one was hurt during the entirety of the construction process. The Royal Gorge Bridge Company now leases 160 acres of the property and manages the world-class attractions. In recent years, miles of new trails have been created to accommodate trail enthusiasts of all types and abilities. From Dream Weaver, one can look east toward the remains of the Vista Lodge, where the famed Reel California Girls provided food and entertainment during the 1920's.

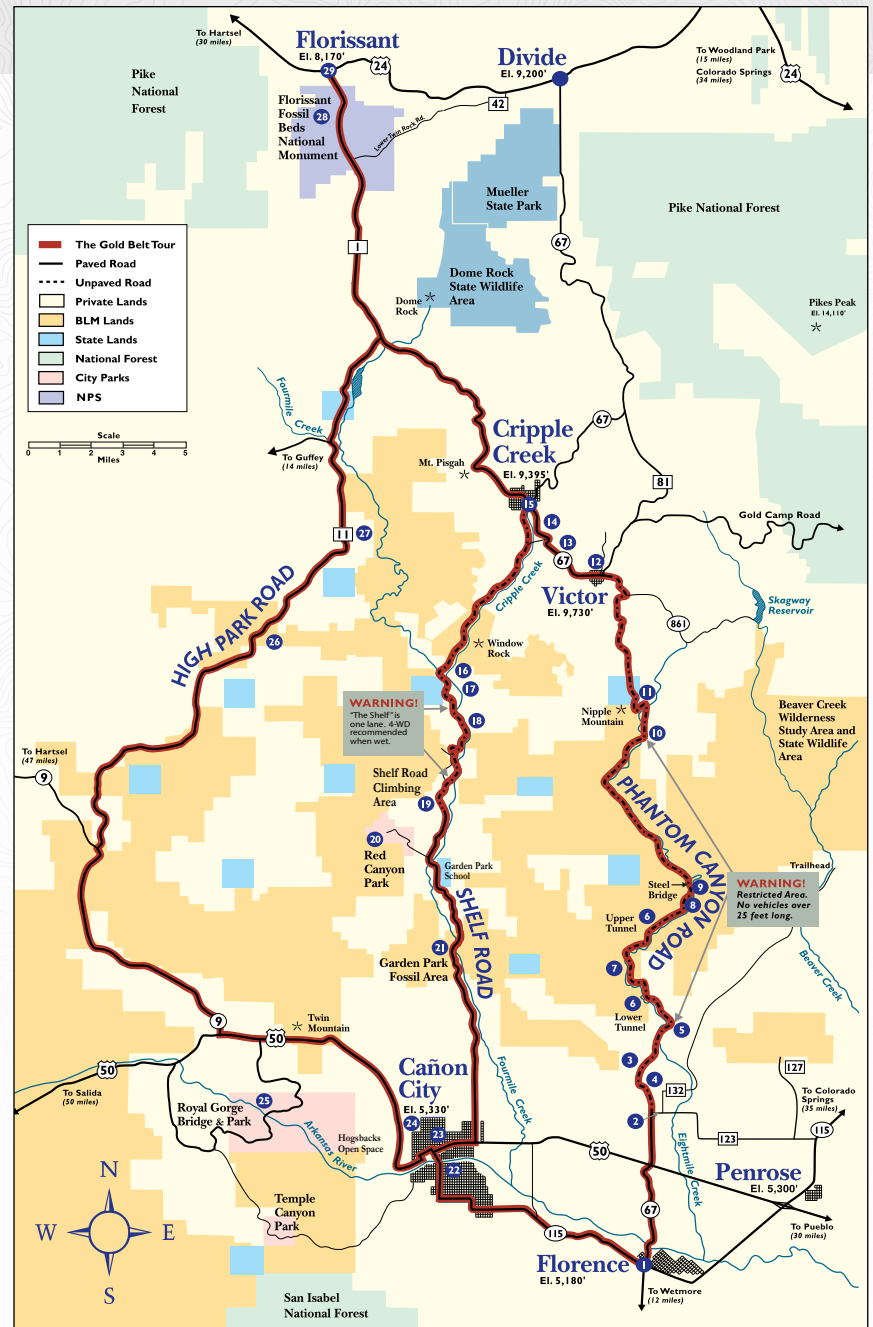
13 VINDICATOR VALLEY WALKING TRAIL

Located on the historic site of the mining town of Independence, the Vindicator Valley Trail offers walkers or bikers a peek into the past as you encounter several defunct mines. Walk past towering remnants of boom and bust gold mining, and marvel at the grand scale of their operations. The loop is about 2 miles long and has two trailheads: one across from Goldfield and one at the Vindicator Mine on CR 831.

Thanks in large part to willing landowners and generous funders; a significant portion of the Gold Belt Tour Byway has been protected in perpetuity. Local land trusts work with landowners to ensure conservation of the natural, scenic, agricultural, historic, and cultural aspects that make this area unique. This protection ensures these areas will never be developed and will continue to be an asset for community and visitors. Approximately 10,000 acres have been conserved along the Gold Belt Tour Byway since 2007. The Byway Association considers Conservation Efforts our top priority, to help preserve the nature of the byway routes.



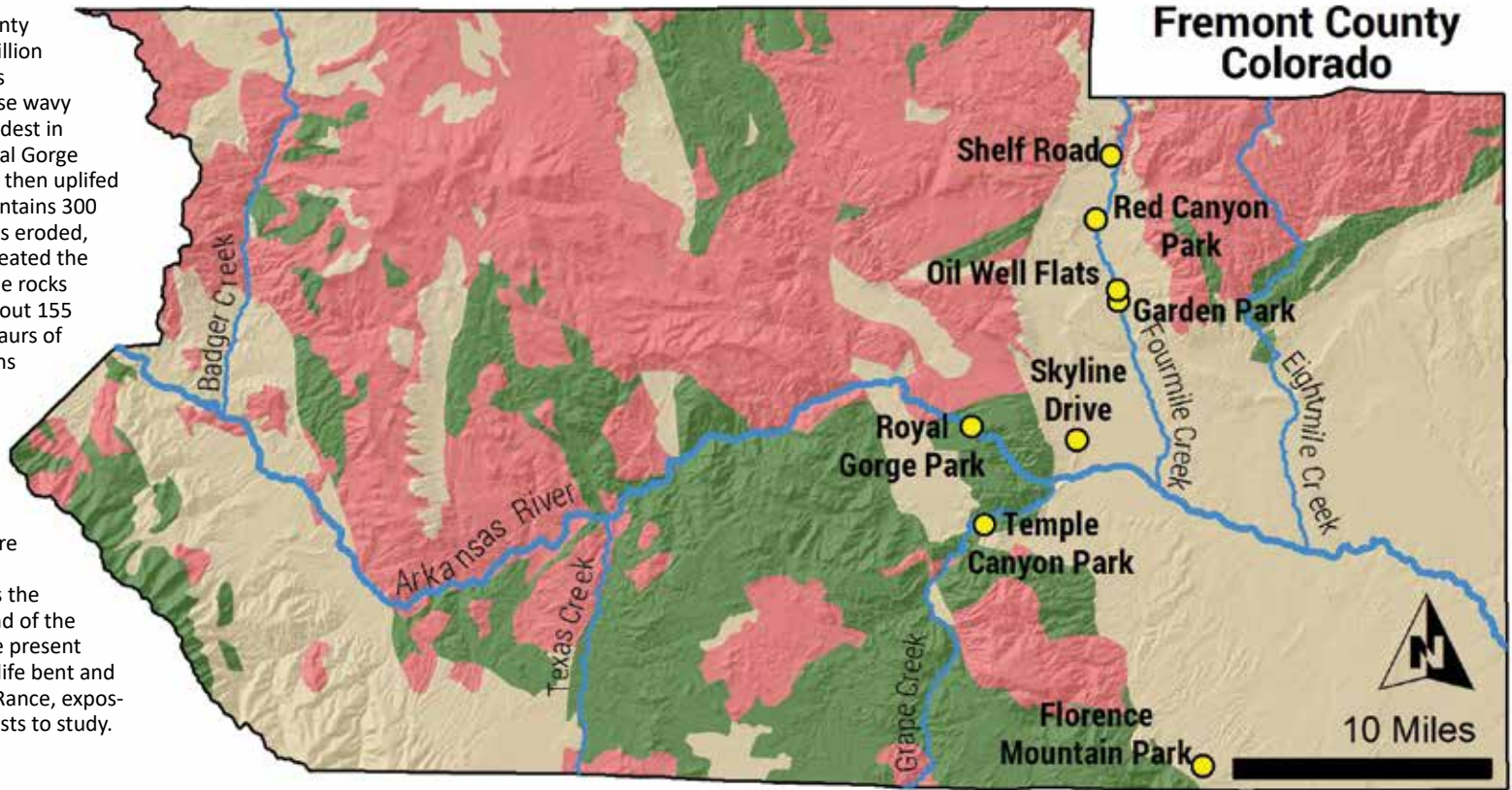
Map from The Gold Belt Tour's regional brochure used with permission. Stop by the Chamber of Commerce to pick up a complete copy.



The Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that strives to do what is best along the Byways corridor, and any assistance is greatly appreciated. Visit their website www.goldbeltbyway.com to see how you can become a member or buy one of their educational products.

REGIONAL GEOLOGY

The geologic story of Fremont County and most of Colorado begins 1.7 billion years ago, when the basement was formed by metamorphic rocks. These wavy black, pink, and white rocks, the oldest in Colorado, give the walls of the Royal Gorge their iconic look. These rocks were then uplifted to create the Ancestral Rocky Mountains 300 million years ago. As the mountains eroded, the pebbles, cobbles, and sands created the Fountain Formation, the picturesque rocks that make up Red Canyon Park. About 155 million years ago, the famed dinosaurs of Garden Park roamed the floodplains of a Jurassic forest. During the Cretaceous Period, sea levels rose and the Western Interior Seaway flooded the central United States. The footprints along Skyline Drive represent Ankylosaurs walking along the shore of this sea and the Hogbacks Open Space shows signs of marine life as the water became deeper. Near the end of the Cretaceous, the sea receded as the present day Rocky Mountains rose. This uplift bent and broke the rock layers of the Front Range, exposing the layers of history for geologists to study.



TYPES OF ROCKS



Igneous rocks are formed either deep inside the Earth as magma slowly cools or when magma is ejected from a volcano and cools very quickly. Granite can be found all over the Royal Gorge Region.



Metamorphic rocks are formed when other rocks have been heated and squeezed so much that they turn into a new type of rock. You can find examples of this at the Royal Gorge, where entire portions of the canyon walls have stripes or 'striations.'



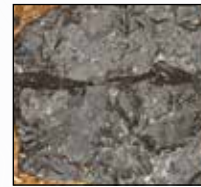
Sedimentary rocks are created when broken bits of other rocks, like sand, are pressed together until they become solid. This is where fossils can be found! There are some great examples of sandstone on Old Skyline Drive in the Hogbacks.

WHAT KIND OF ROCK IS THIS?

Can you tell what type (igneous, metamorphic, or sedimentary) and kind of rocks these are? All are examples of what you might find in the Royal Gorge Region.



1



2



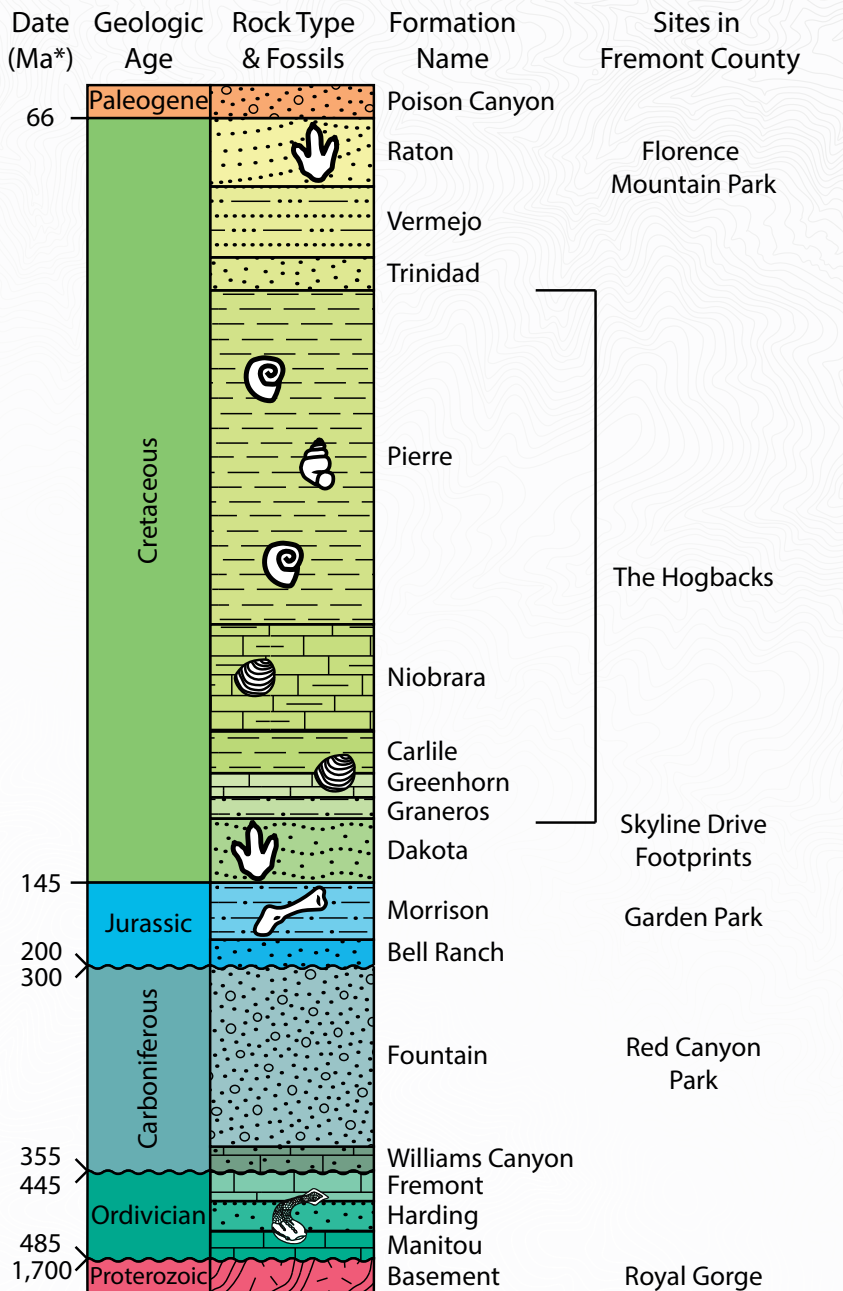
3



4

1. Sedimentary, chert breccia 2. Igneous, obsidian 3. Metamorphic, gneiss 4. Metamorphic, quartzite

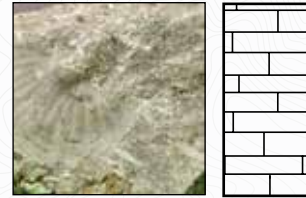
GEOLOGIC TIME



Geologists call the chart to the left a “stratigraphic column”. It shows the different layers of rock, also known as the stratigraphy, in a specific area. In Cañon City, mountain building has bent these layers, exposing them in different places.



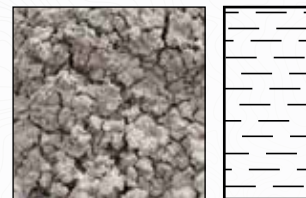
Shale is made up of many thin layers of tiny pieces of mud and clay. It is very easy to break shale and sometimes you can find fossilized shells and leaves between the layers! The thin layers and small grains mean that it formed in a deep lake or ocean, far from shore.



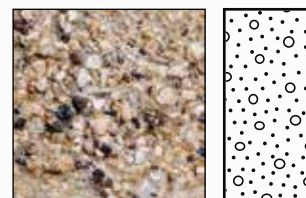
Limestone creates large cliffs because it is very resistant to erosion. If you look closely, you may find fossilized shells and corals. In fact, limestone is billions of microscopic plankton shells that settled to the sea floor after the plankton died. Over time, the shells piled up and were compressed into rock.



Sandstone is easy to identify because it looks and feels sandy. Most sandstones start as either beaches or riverbeds. Large fossils like dinosaurs bones and footprints are found in sandstones because rivers and beaches can bury the skeleton before scavengers take it away.



Mudstone is very similar to sandstone but the grains are much smaller. It also doesn't feel as gritty when you rub your finger on it. When a stream floods, it spreads mud across its floodplains. You can find a lot of dinosaur bones in mudstone because the floods will carry all of the bones to the same spot.



Conglomerate is a mix of many different sizes of sand, pebbles, and gravel. In order to move large pebbles and gravel, you need a strong river. The bigger the pebbles, the stronger the river that was once there. Most fossils in conglomerates have been smashed to pieces by the river and pebbles.



Gneiss (pronounced 'nice') is a metamorphic rock; an existing rock was buried so deep that very high temperature and pressure nearly melted it. The crystals that do melt solidify into new minerals and align themselves, creating wavy patterns. These patterns are what give gneiss nicknames like 'bacon rock' or 'ribbon candy'.

*Ma stands for Mega-annums, or millions of years; Chart is not to scale; Source: Evanoff 1996

DAKOTA HOGBACKS

The Dakota Hogbacks (an ancient fault line that caused plates to lift and shoot up towards the sky) extends all the way from southern Wyoming and into New Mexico. It happens to pass through Cañon City, too! You can see layers of earth that date back to the Jurassic period that normally would be much further underground. This makes our area great for fossil hunting!



At South Cañon Trails, near the west end of Ecology Park, you can see a great example of the Dakota Hogback formation. The ridge extends to Skyline drive, where you can actually hike to the top of the hogback, on the Dakota Ridge trail.



Check out the interpretive trail at the Hogbacks Open Space Area. Use the Floral Avenue Trailhead and head out on Greenhorn.



The Dakota Hogback has exposed many fossils, and even some dinosaur footprints! Remember to take only photos and leave only footprints!

SKYLINE DRIVE



Skyline Drive offers some of the most easily accessible fossil footprints in Colorado. These footprints were made by an ancient Cretaceous Ankylosaur. They were discovered in 1999.

There is so much to learn about geology, paleontology, and the history of the Royal Gorge Region. Check out these fun and helpful websites for more information on how to explore Cañon City, Fremont County, Colorado, and beyond!

GARDEN PARK FOSSIL AREA WEBSITE

Visit: <http://www.handsontheland.org/garden-park/>



What you'll learn:

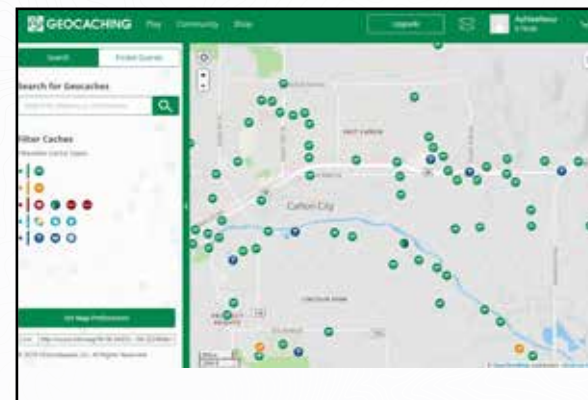
View the stories of historic paleontologists who searched for - and found - fossils in the Garden Park Fossil Area. There were many different quarries, and you can learn about each one on this informative site.

You can even access an interactive map that shows which species and fossils were found.



GEOCACHING

Visit: coord.info/GC6VRPD



If you're ready to get out and explore, geocaching might be for you! Use your phone or a GPS device to help you find geocache locations. Earth-caching works much the same way, but there are no items to exchange. Find specific Earth-cache locations and report back to the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office!



The 'Regional Geology', 'Geologic Time', and 'Regional Paleontology' pages were created in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management's Royal Gorge Field Office. All photos and images used with their permission.



WHICH TRAIL TO TAKE?

TRAILS CHECKLIST

Use the chart below to help you discover which system will offer you the appropriate skill level and amenities. Always read the complete trail descriptions (within this guide). Note: Weather can also effect trail, creek, and road conditions.

	EASY HIKING / BIKING	ADVANCED HIKING / BIKING	AMAZING VIEWS	INTERPRETIVE MARKERS	STROLLER / WHEELCHAIR ACC.	WATER (FOR PLAYING IN)	RESTROOMS	LESS THAN 10-MINUTE DRIVE	ROUGH ACCESS ROAD	HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE
Arkansas Riverwalk	●			●	●	●	●	●		●
Tunnel Drive	●		●		●		●	●		●
Hogbacks Open Space	●	●	●	●	●			●		●
South Cañon Trails	●	●	●			●		●		●
Ecology Park	●				●	●		●		●
Section 13		●	●					●		
Temple Canyon Park		●	●			●	●		●	●
Oil Well Flats		●	●						●	●
Red Canyon Park	●	●	●				●		●	●
Royal Gorge Park Trails	●	●	●				●			●
Newlin Creek		●	●						●	●
Pathfinder Park	●				●	●	●	●		

Each trail in the Royal Gorge Region offers something new and different - whether it's an opportunity to explore historic quarries, view the Arkansas River from 1,000 feet above, practice your mountain bike skills, or enjoy a quiet moment high above the river valley.

HOGBACKS OPEN SPACE

- Greenhorn 1.7 mi ●
- Graneros 1.8 mi ●
- Old Skyline Drive 0.5 mi ■
- Dakota Ridge 1.4 mi ◆

SOUTH CAÑON TRAILS

- Sand Hill (foot only) 0.1 mi ■
- Schepp Ridge 1.3 mi ■
- Mutton Bustin' 1.2 mi ●
- Smooth Criminal ~1.2 mi ■
- Water Gap (foot only) 0.2 mi ■
- ReCycle 1.1 mi ●
- Redemption 1.7 mi ■
- Hard Time 3.1 mi ◆
- The Shiv 0.2 mi ■
- Rerdemption 1.7 mi ■
- The Great Escape 1.8 mi ■
- Watchtower 2.5 mi ■
- LAMBA Chops 1.8 mi ■
- Hotshots 2.1 mi ■

ROYAL GORGE TRAILS

- S'Mores 0.7 mi ●
- The Maze 1.6 mi ●
- Dream Weaver 1.8 mi ■
- Darkside of the Moon 1.1 mi ■
- LeView 0.1 mi ■
- FAR Out 1.8 mi ■
- Canyon Rim 1.6 mi ■
- Cañon Vista 0.7 mi ■
- Summit Trail 1.2 mi ■
- Overlook Loop 1.2 mi ■
- Rock Hardy 0.2 mi ◆
- Twisted Cistern 1.6 mi ●
- Made in the Shade 3.3 mi ■
- One Track Mind 3.0 mi ◆
- Fremont Peak 2.5 mi ◆■
- FREfall 2.7 mi ◆

OIL WELL FLATS

- Fracture 1.7 mi ●
- Tectonic Shift 2.2 mi ■
- Path of Least Resistance 0.3 mi ●
- Anticline 2.9 mi ■
- Unconformity 2.5 mi ■
- Fire Canyon 0.9 mi ■
- Island in the Sky 3.0 mi ◆
- MOOve Over 1.4 mi ◆



Use a trail app like COTREX or Trailforks to help you discover where trailheads are and how difficult each trail is. Plan your trip accordingly.










BETA TIP




SCAVENGER HUNT



Can you find all of the items on the scavenger hunt list? Remember that it is best to leave what you find in nature so that others can enjoy leaves, plants, and rocks, too!

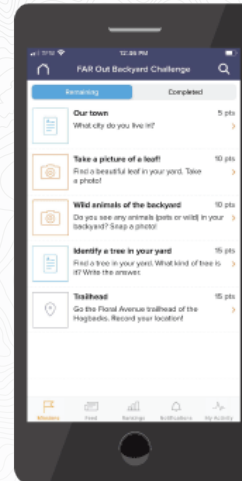
-  *Juniper Berries*
-  *Pine Cone*
-  *Common Sunflower*
-  *Prickly Pear Cactus*
-  *Lizard*
-  *Cholla Cactus*
-  *Quartz Rock*
-  *Hiking Stick*
-  *Spider Web*

-  *Cloud in the shape of an animal*
-  *Piñon Pine Tree*
-  *Sangre de Cristo Mountains*
-  *Animal Print*
-  *Bird (Any kind)*
-  *Yucca Plant*
-  *Scrub Oak Leaf*
-  *Bee*
- _____

FAR OUT VIRTUAL CHALLENGES

Do you love getting outside, fun competitions, and earning prizes? Join FAR for our series of virtual challenges, which allow you to explore new places in Fremont County.

GET STARTED



1. In your app finder, search for Goosechase.
2. Search for 'FAR Out Virtual Challenges' and click on the challenge that is live. Complete all of the missions or just the ones you want to do. It's up to you!
3. Download the mobile app through the App store / Play Store to an iOS or Android device
4. Open the app and create a GooseChase account or play as a guest (we suggest an account).
5. Use the magnifying glass icon to search for 'FAR Out' games or enter code 3K3EXZ.
6. Click 'Join Game'.

Each game is set up for 'Individuals', but that doesn't mean that a family unit can't all play together! Just one person's account to complete games, and you'll each get the participation prize.

PLAY ALONG

Once you've joined the game, participation is easy.

1. Choose a mission that sounds fun to you.
2. Each mission requires proof, which can be a photo, a GPS check-in, or a written answer. When you complete the mission, you'll earn points.
3. Earn 50 points and you can stop by the Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center at any time (during regular operating hours) to get a FREE prize. (Must show proof of completion, so bring your phone.)
4. If you have the most points at the close of the game, you'll win the grand prize basket, worth up to \$50. Check the leaderboard to see standings.



SAFETY & STEWARDSHIP



This has been a weird year, but you all know that. What started as a “normal” year for outdoor activities in January and February, completely shut down in March and April. When everyone could get out again, the natural places to go, with the new social distancing requirements, was to the trails, peaks, and backcountry...and we did... with a vengeance. Incidents of folks needing help across the state were up, sometimes to record levels. **Make sure you have the “Ten Essentials” in your pack.**

If you do need help, be prepared to sit tight while rescuers are getting to you. During this up-swing SAR teams were also grappling with the impacts of C-19 and how to keep everyone safe and continue to help people out who are having a bad day. The use of PPE (beyond gloves) and new sterilizations practices, changed our world. Think about carrying a litter with a mask on.

In this environment the ways that we raise funds to do this work have also become particularly challenging. A special “Thank You” to FAR for helping us out, by including FSAR in the Socially Distant 5K earlier this year, it really helped. You can help too, by buying a COSAR Card. This is not insurance, but it does help local SAR teams in getting reimbursed for some mission expenses. You can get a COSAR card at the following link: <https://dola.colorado.gov/sar>. You may have also heard that we have a new home. Thank you to the people of Fremont County and the County Commissioners for making this possible.

Get out there, have an adventure, and stay safe!



SUPPORT SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS

1. *Carrying the ‘10 Essentials’ on all excursions*
2. *Being aware of your abilities and staying safe*
3. *Checking conditions and weather before you head out*

You can support the work of Fremont SAR and other groups by purchasing a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (CORSAR) card. For just \$3 per year or \$12 for five years, you can contribute to the Search and Rescue Fund, which reimburses teams for costs incurred in search and rescues activities across the State of Colorado.

The CORSAR card is not insurance and does not reimburse individuals nor does it pay for medical transport. <https://dola.colorado.gov/sar>



HUG A TREE!



Does that sound like a funny thing to do? It is actually a very SMART thing to do in case you ever get lost! If you ever THINK you are lost, you probably are. If that happens, the best thing you can do is STOP AND STAY IN ONE PLACE! People will be looking for you and you will be much easier to find if you don't keep walking and getting more lost.

IF YOU SEE A HELICOPTER

If you hear a helicopter, move out into a clear area and make yourself big by laying down and moving your arms and legs!

IF SOMEONE IS YELLING YOUR NAME

If someone is yelling your name, yell back, "Here I am!" No one is mad at you; we just want you to hear us! Blowing a whistle is also a great idea!

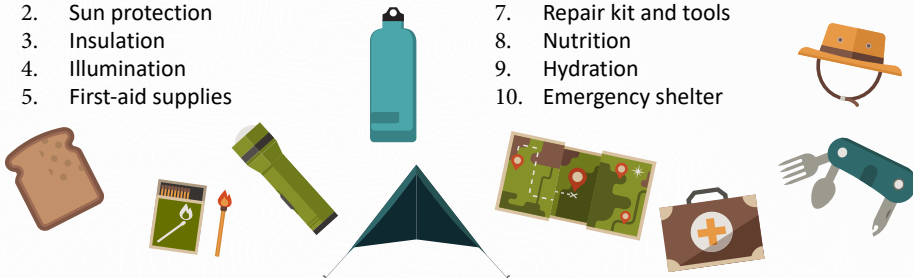
HOW NOT TO GET LOST

- Always tell an adult where you are going and when you'll be back
- Never wander off alone. It's always good to have an adult along when you are exploring or at least a trustworthy companion!
- Know exactly where you are going
- Be aware of the direction you came from and watch for landmarks that you can see from a distance
- Carry a whistle with you and take a coat or jacket in case it gets cold
- Wear bright colors whenever you go on a hike or out in the mountains. It's easier to see colors that stand out.

If someone is lost, promptly call 911 and explain to the dispatcher what your emergency is. Help will be on the way.

CARRY THE 10 ESSENTIALS

1. Navigation
2. Sun protection
3. Insulation
4. Illumination
5. First-aid supplies
6. Fire (with an adult's help)
7. Repair kit and tools
8. Nutrition
9. Hydration
10. Emergency shelter



BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE



OBSERVE ALL FIRE BANS

It is important to note that fire bans may change depending on the governing agency of the land you're camping on. Know if you are on City, County, BLM, or USFS land when you camp.

STAGE 1 RESTRICTIONS

Campfires must be in a developed site (such as a campground or picnic area) in a permanent fire pit. No charcoal grills.



STAGE 2 /3 RESTRICTIONS / RED FLAG DAY

NO WOOD OR CHARCOAL BURNING FIRES.

Exception: Stoves or grills that use liquid or gas and include a shut-off valve.



FIND LOCAL FIRE BAN INFORMATION

Fire Bans for Individual Counties in Colorado

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dfpc/fire-restriction-information>

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rocky Mountain Region Fire Ban Information

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-information/colorado/rocky-mountain-district>

United States Forest Service (USFS) Rocky Mountain Region Fire Ban Information

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r2/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5370444>

RIVER / LAKE SAFETY

ALWAYS WEAR A PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICE (PFD)

Be sure to always wear a PFD (also called a life jacket) when you're playing in the river or a lake. Water can be very powerful, especially at high water flows.

If you don't have a PFD, you can usually borrow one from the loan station at Centennial Park. These PFDs are made available to anyone, thanks to Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, the City of Cañon City's Park Department, and Royal Gorge RIO.

You can also check the water flow to see what the current conditions are for the river. Highest flows are in May and June, and taper off throughout the summer. See the QR code or check out waterdata.ugs.gov for more information.



ALWAYS SWIM OR WADE WITH AN ADULT

Always have an adult with you when you're swimming or playing near the water. Never go in the water without permission and do not swim alone.

DO NOT STAND UP IN THE RIVER

If the water is deeper than your arms are long, do not stand up in fast-moving current. If your foot were to become trapped between rocks on the bottom, you could be in trouble! Swim to the shore and stand up in very shallow water only.



BIKE PARK AND FLOW TRAIL SAFETY

SMOOTH CRIMINAL FLOW TRAIL

A flow trail is designed to facilitate speed and jumping. Flow trails like Smooth Criminal are designed so that you don't have to pedal much as you practice jumping and navigating turns. Be extremely careful the first time you ride any flow trail. Become familiar with the features before you attempt to ride with significant speed.

1. Smooth Criminal is for intermediate and advanced riders only.
2. Only bikes are allowed on the trail.
3. Ride within your ability level.
4. Do not stop on the trail at any time, especially out of view of downhill traffic.
5. Pre-ride once slow, re-ride to get a feel for the trail, then free-ride for fun.
6. More difficult features are on the left. Stay right for a more intermediate ride.

THE YARD MOUNTAIN BIKE SKILLS PARK

The skills park is for riders to advance freeride skills on two short trails with features. There is a 'green' line for beginner riders and a 'blue' line for intermediate riders. There is also a third line that is for return travel to the top of the park. Observe all directional travel and have fun! Please do not throw rocks at the park and respect all adjacent private property owners.

1. You must wear a helmet at all times.
2. Children under 14 should be supervised by an adult.
3. Do not ride when wet to prevent damage to dirt features and trails.
4. Do NOT alter the features or trail in any way.
5. Travel uphill ONLY on the return trail. Do not travel uphill on the featured lines.
6. Ride at your ability and comfort level.





The following are a selection from the Leave No Trace Seven Principles. © 2004 by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: www.LNT.org.

Each and every ride, run, or hike offers an opportunity to be a trail steward. You can help keep trails free of debris, clear of rocks, and free from long-term damage by assisting in the following areas. Thank you for maintaining our public trails and parks!

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Be prepared! Remember food and water, and clothes to protect you.
- Use maps to plan where you're going.
- Remember to bring a leash for your pet and plastic bags to pick up your pet's waste.
- Learn about the areas you plan to visit.

STICK TO TRAILS AND CAMP OVERNIGHT RIGHT

- Walk and ride on designated trails to protect trailside plants.
- Avoid stepping on flowers or small trees. Once damaged, they may not grow back.
- Respect private property.
- Camp only on designated campsites.

TRASH YOUR TRASH AND PICK UP POOP

- Pack it in, pack it out. Put litter - even crumbs, peels and cores - in garbage bags and carry it home.
- Use bathrooms or outhouses when available. If not available, bury human waste in a small hole 6-8 inches deep and 200 feet or 70 big steps from water.
- Keep water clean. Do not put soap, food, human or pet waste in lakes or streams.

LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT

- Leave plants, rocks, and historical items as you find them so others can enjoy them.
- Treat living plants with respect. Carving, hacking, or peeling plants may kill them.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

- Use a camp stove for cooking. Stoves are easier to cook on and create less impact than a fire.
- If you want to have a campfire, be sure it's permitted and safe to build in the area. Use only existing fire rings to protect the ground from heat. Keep your fire small.
- Before gathering any firewood, check local regulations. Don't bring firewood from home. It may be contaminated with tree-killing insects or diseases.
- Burn all wood completely to ash and be sure the fire is completely out and cold before you leave.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

- Observe wildlife from a distance and never approach, feed, or follow them.
- Human food is unhealthy for all wildlife and feeding them starts bad habits.
- Protect wildlife and your food by securely storing your meals and trash.

SHARE OUR TRAILS AND MANAGE YOUR PET

- Be considerate when passing others on the trail.
- Keep your pet under control to protect it, other visitors and wildlife.
- Listen to nature. Avoid making loud noises or yelling. You will see more wildlife if you are quiet.
- Be sure the fun you have outdoors does not bother anyone else. Remember, other visitors are there to enjoy the outdoors, too.

TRAIL LOVE



Everyone can be a trail monitor and / or contribute to everyday trail maintenance.

- If you see branches, weeds, or loose rocks on the trail, stop to throw them aside.
- Do not engage in unauthorized trail modifications, including removing or altering features.
- Extensive trail issues can be reported to: trails@joinFAR.org.
- Stick to the established trails and avoid creating harmful 'social trails'.

RIDE DIRT TRAILS, NOT MUD TRAILS



After rain or snow storms, trails need time to dry out. Leaving footprints, hoofprints, or tire tracks on trails creates places where water and mud collect, leading to longer-term damage and poor surface conditions.

- Check joinFAR.org/trails for updates.
- Don't use muddy trails.
- Adhere to all trail use guidelines.

LEAVE ROCKS WHERE THEY ARE. DON'T BE A "CAIRN"



While cairns can often be placed by trail stewards to help people know which way to go, they aren't necessary at random points along the trail. We know they're fun to make, but everyone deserves an opportunity to see nature just as it is.

- Don't use rocks from off the trail to build cairns. They reduce erosion and can be habitat for small animals.
- If you do build a cairn, disassemble it before you leave.

FAR is a proud Leave No Trace member. Please consider donating to their efforts by becoming a member or shopping their online store, where you can find many useful recreation products.

MARATHON LEVEL CONTRIBUTORS



THE WINERY AT HOLY CROSS ABBEY

3011 E. Hwy. 50 | (719) 276-5191 | abbeywinery.com

The winery's historic and scenic setting will make your wine-tasting experience one to never forget! Come in for a tasting, or pick up a gift for someone special.



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An affordable, experienced, and friendly full-service firm for business owners, executives, and independent professionals!



PIZZA MADNESS

509 Main St. | (719) 276-3088 | mypizzamadness.com

Go where the locals go for delicious pizza, salads, subs, and more! Beer on tap and a fun family atmosphere, too! Kids will enjoy playing arcade games.



AUSTIN AUTOMOTIVE

2625 E. Main St. | (719) 275-5055 | austinautomotive.com

There is no better place for honest, dependable, quality automotive service for your vehicle. Stop in for diagnostics, maintenance, and more!



REAMS PALACE DRUG

601 Main St. | (719) 275-3375 | reamspalacedrug.com

Conveniently located downtown, Reams Palace Drug, Inc. has been serving the Royal Gorge Region since 1880. They offer prescriptions and delivery.



WHITEWATER BAR & GRILL

45045 West US Hwy. 50 | (719) 275-7238 | royalgorgerafting.net

Delicious food and a fun, casual atmosphere round out this local favorite. Dine just minutes from the famous Royal Gorge Bridge and Royal Gorge Trails.



ROYAL GORGE RAFTING

45045 West US Hwy. 50 | (719) 275-7238 | royalgorgerafting.net

Whitewater at its best! Raft the Royal Gorge or Bighorn Sheep Canyon with RGR and see some world-class rapids! Trips range from mild to wild.

ROYAL GORGE ZIPLINE TOURS

302 Royal Gorge Blvd. | (719) 275-9477 | royalgorgeziplinetours.com

Add more adrenaline to your vacation by booking a thrilling zipline tour through the beautiful Arkansas River Valley. Suitable for all skill levels.



THE BEAN PEDALER

412 Main Street | (719) 285-8169 | thebeanpedaler.com

Craft coffee, cool atmosphere, and delightful baristas make this the go-to spot for adventurers. Now serving food and beer. The perfect post ride or hike location.



ROYAL GORGE KOA

559 County Rd. 3A | (719) 275-6116 | royalgorgekoa.com

Spend a night under the stars in the shadow of the Wet Mountains at the Royal Gorge KOA. The campground features the Fun Country Amusement Park.



ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE & PARK

4218 County Rd. 3A | (888) 333-5597 | royalgorgebridge.com

Experience 360° of jaw-dropping rides and miles of natural Colorado beauty. Enjoy North America's highest bridge, or experience the NEW Via Ferrata.



ECHO CANYON RIVER EXPEDITIONS

45000 West US Hwy. 50 | (800) 755-3246 | raftecho.com

Since 1978 Echo Canyon has offered half-, full- and multi-day whitewater rafting. They feature packages, convenient luxury accommodations, and dining.



GATZKE HOMES AT HOMESMART PREFERRED REALTY

501 Royal Gorge Blvd. #1 | (719) 458-9559 | GatzkeHomes.com

Real estate sales and marketing services in Cañon City, Florence, Penrose, Pueblo West, and the Royal Gorge Region. Explore the best Colorado has to offer!



ROYAL GORGE ROUTE RAILROAD

1 block south of Hwy 50 & 3rd St. | (719) 276-4000 | royalgorgeroute.com

Experience America's most spectacular rail journey with great service, delicious food, and incredible scenery. First Class, Coach, Club, and Vista Dome services.



COMING HOME REALTY

729 Main St. | (719) 792-1111 | ComingHomeRealtyPros.com

Mission: To kindly match people to their perfect properties by authentically listening and learning from clients while offering skills, knowledge, and positivity.



ROYAL GORGE REGION

(800) 704-6743 | royalgorgeregion.com

Visit the Royal Gorge Region - where you can ditch the ordinary and explore the extraordinary! Your adventure starts here.



CAÑON CITY BREWS & BIKES

224 Main St. | (719) 275-2472 | canoncitybrewsandbikes.com

Combines quality bike rental with Colorado brews, outside seating area, and convenient downtown location. This is a go-to spot for cyclists, hikers, and locals.



ROYAL GORGE RANCH & RESORT

1 Buckskin Joe Pkwy. | (303) 419-6782 | royalgorgeranchandresort.com

Ride out. Climb on. Hike in. Enjoy. The Royal Gorge Ranch & Resort is 800 acres composed of open space, trails, luxury home lots, and marketplace space.



COLORADO LEGACY LAND

1107 Main St. | (719) 204-7035 | Owner of the 2,700-acre former Cotter mill south of Cañon City. Their focus is implementing a world-class clean-up of environmental contamination and putting the property back into productive use.



THE HIVE IN DOWNTOWN CAÑON CITY: A COWORKING COMMUNITY

729 Main St. | (719) 792-1234 | TheHiveCanonCity.com

Cañon City's cutting-edge coworking space for digital nomads and entrepreneurs.

MARATHON LEVEL CONTRIBUTORS CONT.



GE JOHNSON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
 Offices in Colorado, Wyoming, and Oklahoma | gejohnson.com
GE Johnson Construction Company enriches communities by leading and building projects with the best people and ideas and is proud to support FAR.



CAÑON CITY MUGS
 1520 Royal Gorge Blvd. | (719) 276-5348 | canoncitymugs.com
With a full-service restaurant, sports bar, espresso cafe, and outdoor patio, MUGS is a local favorite. Stop in for a coffee to go or stay to watch the game.



SARTORI SELLS & HOMETOWN REAL ESTATE
 1212 Main St. | (719) 269-1212 | hometowncanoncity.com
With years of experience, JoAnn and Nick can help you find the perfect home in the Fremont County area. Services for buyers and sellers with attention to detail.



3 ROCKS ENGINEERING
 425 Main St., Suite 19 | (719) 430-5333 | 3rocksenineering.com
Providing local civil engineering expertise to our neighbors by creating custom solutions for the community we care for.



VALLEY-WIDE HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.
 121 N. 6th St. | (719) 275-2301 | vwhs.org
Caring for our community and southern Colorado by providing professional, caring, complete health care and services.



FOUR MILE REALTY
 103 S. 9th St. | (719) 429-6282 | 719-334-1394 | fourmilerealty.com
Dedicated to providing you with professional, superior real estate services in Fremont County and surrounding areas. Contact Karen or Tessa today!

HAMBY ACCOUNTING
 332 Main St. | (719) 275-4166
Certified Public Accountant.

HALF-MARATHON CONTRIBUTORS



RED CANYON CYCLES | (719) 285-8169 | redcanyoncycles.com
Get maps and information on local rides, trails, and outdoor activities from the specialists at Red Canyon Cycles. The premier location for cyclists in Cañon City.



ROYAL GORGE VACATION RENTALS | (719) 285-8169 | royalgorgerafting.net
Enjoy affordable, luxurious vacation rentals, starting at \$499. Four convenient and scenic locations offer accomodation alongside world-class adventure.



FOURMILE VETERINARY CLINIC | 401 Lincoln Ave. | (719) 275-6318 | fourmilevet.com
Your pets (large and small) deserve the best care. Trust them to Fourmile - serving Fremont County for 40 years!

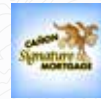
HALF-MARATHON CONTRIBUTORS



HARDSCRABBLE MOUNTAIN TRAIL RUN | Annually in June | hardscrabblerun.com
Incredible mountain scenery, a challenging course, delicious food, community involvement, and live entertainment. Proceeds benefit San Isabel Land Protection Trust.



CAÑON CITY FITNESS | 701 S. 9th St. | (719) 429-7342 | canonfitness.com
Join the community fitness center that will help you be the best version of yourself! Start your fitness goals with a skilled trainer and a supportive community.



CAÑON SIGNATURE MORTGAGE | 715 Main St. | (719) 275-2999
CanonSignatureMortgage.com | *Dave and Lynda Lambert offer USDA Financing, VA loans, FHA loans, and conventional loans. Stop in and say hello!*

RC FREMONT, LLC and C2 PROPERTIES | (719) 429-8079 | info.rcfremont@gmail.com | We offer exceptionally clean and well-maintained long term (12 month lease) rental properties. The majority of our single family homes and duplex/4plex units are two bedroom, one bath. Contact for availability and terms.



THE MORTGAGE COMPANY | 519 Main St. | (719) 275-4450 | themortgageco.com
Let The Mortgage Co. help you choose the "correct" loan, refinance your property, or utilize a home equity loan. Friendly, knowledgeable help and satisfaction is guaranteed.



ROYAL GORGE DINOSAUR EXPERIENCE | 44895 W. US Hwy. 50 | (719) 275-2726
dinoxp.com | *With a dinosaur wild walk, ropes course, paleo lab, kid's exhibit, theater, gift shop, and kid's dig, you'll find something for every dino lover at the DinoXP!*



ALISE | Courageously Authentic Body Care | 402 Valley Rd, Suite H | (719) 285-8795
AliseBodyCare.com | *Live an active and "feel good" lifestyle with 100% natural, unprocessed body care products. Made in Cañon City by Not The Same.*



COLORADO HEALING ACRES | 4498 Bear Paw Dr., Florence | (719) 784-9696
coloradohealingacres.com | *Our Pet Product Line has been formulated to ensure quality. Seed to Sale, Non-GMO, Pesticide Free, CO-Grown Hemp, 3rd Party Tested.*



COLORADO QUARRIES | 270 South 15th St. | (719) 275-6894 | coloradoquarries.com
Since 1930, Colorado Quarries has mined minerals and decorative aggregate in the Royal Gorge Region. They carry landscape, precast, and specialty products.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY CENTER | 710 South 8th St.
 (719) 275-3318 | rmdcdkids.com | *Providing quality care and education to children since 1995. Nationally accredited through NAEYC; locally owned and operated.*



ARKANSAS VALLEY WEED MANAGEMENT AND CONSULTING | (719) 237-2070 | socoweeds.com | *Professional weed control services - rangeland, industrial, right-of-way, aquatic, agriculture, forest. Veteran owned and operated.*



AXIAL BIKES | axialbikes.com | *Custom bicycles handmade in Cañon City.*

Supporting businesses listed in this guide supports FAR!

BETA TIP

HALF-MARATHON CONTRIBUTORS

PARTNERS



FARMER'S INSURANCE & THE REED AGENCY | 307 Main St. | (719) 275-8619
thereedagency.net | Cañon City's insurance company - offering life, home, auto, commercial, recreational insurance, and more.



DESERT REEF HOT SPRING | 1194 County Rd. 110, Florence | (719) 784-6134
desertreefhotspring.com | A unique hot spring pool located near Florence, Colorado. Enjoy mountain views and a hot, natural soaking pool just minutes from downtown.



OVEJA NEGRA | 144 B Old Stage Rd., Salida | (719) 293-1407
ovejanegrabikepacking.com | Top-shelf bikepacking bags designed, manufactured, and sold in Salida, CO. Creative, funky, fun, and functional products for all ages.

10K LEVEL CONTRIBUTORS



FRONTIER FEEDS | 3275 East US Hwy. 50 | (719) 275-7557
Give your pet the best products at great prices! Quality feeds and supplies with knowledgeable and friendly service.



FREMONT360 | P.O. Box 1762 | (719) 345-8812 | fremont360.com
Find Fremont360 on Facebook and on the web for recent community events and information. Subscribe to their newsletter for coupons, information, and updates.



GLENN MARTIN APERTURES | (719) 231-4611 | glennmartinapertures.com
Beautiful images and wall prints of Colorado and the West.



PRIMARY RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE, INC. | (719) 687-1511 | primeres.com/dsymes
PRMI offers a variety of home loans, and local loan officer Denise Symes has the experience to provide you with a tailored mortgage solution to fit your homebuying needs.

5K CONTRIBUTORS



ROYAL GORGE MOUNTAIN BIKE TOURS | 1420 Royal Gorge Blvd. | (719) 275-0884
RoyalGorgeBikeTours.com
Cañon City's premier mountain bike tour will show you the best of the area!



TECHSTART | 425 Main St. | (719) 275-8601 | techstart.fremontedc.com
As a community of innovation sector entrepreneurs and remote tech workers, TechStart provides a support ecosystem and regular meetups. Conveniently located downtown.



NEW ROOTS FARM | 1630 Grand Ave. | (719) 671-4273 | newrootsfarmllc.com
Homegrown, organic produce grown in the heart of Cañon City. Order for pickup online or find New Roots Farm at local farmers markets in southern Colorado.



KALEIDOSCOPE INSPIRATION | 602 Main St. | (719) 431-3461
kaleidoscope-inspiration.com | A collaborative boutique in historic downtown Cañon City with over 70 small businesses, crafters, and artisans represented.

Whether you are a local rider or a visitor, we appreciate contributions of any amount. See joinFAR.org to donate.

BETA
TIP



DAILY RECORD | 1202 Royal Gorge Blvd. | (719) 275-7565 | canoncitydailyrecord.com
Keep up with the latest news, events, and information and the Royal Gorge Region.



STITCHSHOP CLOTHING | 115 E. Main St. | (719) 372-1006 | stitchshop.mystrikingly.com
Fremont County's local clothing, gift, and sticker printing shop!



GENERATION WILD | generationwild.com
Kids grow better outside, and Generation Wild is dedicated to immersing kids in nature.



FORMULARY 55 | formulary55.com
Makers of modern botanicals for bath, body, and home.



RODEO ADVENTURE LABS | (303) 477-4136 | rodeo-labs.com/
Beautifully crafted, Colorado-made bikes for every kind of adventure.

TERRA FIRMA TRAILS | (719) 275-7565 | terrafirmatrails.com
Member of the Professional Trailbuilder's Association.



SUGAR SWIRLS | (719) 429-7677 | sugarswirlscookies@gmail.com
Beautiful, custom sugar cookies made for events and special occasions.



ROYAL GORGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB | www.qsl.net/rghc/
Providing assistance and education to our community regarding radio services.



BEEL PHOTOGRAPHY | (719) 269-1459 | beelphoto.com
Fine art portraits that will stand the test of time as beautiful and treasured memories.



ENCHANTED PLANNER | enchantedplanner.com
Party, wedding, and event coordination by the 'Fairy Godmother' of event planning.



TOUCH OF LOVE FLORIST | (719) 275-0617 | touchoflovefloristandgifts.com
Custom flower arrangements for any occasion. Gifts and unique decor, too!



ROYAL GORGE RIO | royalgorgerio.org
Committed to impacting our community via river education, safety, and conservation.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the following people for assisting with or contributing to the Adventure Guide:

Brian LeDoux

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Bryan Jordan

Justin and Ian Ensinger

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Lilliana Johnson

Rosalie Johnson

Anthony Johnson

Danyll Donnell

Derrick Donnell

Glenn Martin





The Royal Gorge Region already has a series of great hiking, biking, and walking trails. Increasingly, Cañon City's residents and out-of-town visitors are exhibiting a greater interest in outdoor recreation. Visitors to the area bring much-needed business to local restaurants, hotels, and attractions. We would like to harness everyone's spending power to create a cooperative relationship - customer dollars create great trails, and great trails bring everyone back for more!

Businesses around the region elect to add a 1% donation onto their customer's bill. Contributions are then distributed directly to FAR. All monies collected from these 1% donations are collectively used to fund trails and outdoor recreation in the Royal Gorge Region. Our 1% For Trails initiative funds all things trails and outdoor recreation: matching funds for grants, grant writing, trail building, trail design, and more. Concurrently, FAR will continue to contribute to local efforts to market to and encourage users of singletrack trails to visit our beautiful city!

Due to the generous 1% support since late April 2015, here's some of what we've spent our 1% funds on so far:

- Additional trails in the South Cañon Trail System, including Watchtower
- Rock work on the Dakota Ridge trail in the Hogbacks;
- 1.6 miles of trail in Oil Well Flats;
- Five miles of new trail in the Royal Gorge Park;
- Addition of the flow trail - Smooth Criminal - the the Ecology Park / South Cañon Trails

If you are a business owner and are interested in becoming a participant in FAR's 1% for Trails Initiative, please contact Coordinator@joinFAR.org. We'll give you promotional materials, help you set up the program at your business, and promote your business on our website and printed materials.



Trail work above the Royal Gorge / Photo (and rad trail) by Steve Thomas and Terra Firma Trails

MEDICAL

St. Thomas More Hospital
1338 Phay Avenue, Cañon City
(719) 285-2000

In an emergency situation, please dial 911.

Centura Health Urgent Care Cañon City
3245 E. Hwy. 50, Suite E, Cañon City
(719) 285-2888
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

SAFETY

Cañon City Police Department
161 Justice Center Road, Cañon City, CO
(719) 276-5600
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Fremont County Sheriff's Office
100 Justice Center Rd., Cañon City
(719) 276-5555
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
(Closed from 12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m.)
Friday, 7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

VISITOR INFO / RESOURCES

Cañon City Chamber of Commerce
424 Main St., Cañon City, CO
(719) 275-2331
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
<http://www.canoncity.com/>

Royal Gorge History Museum
612 Royal Gorge Blvd, (Hwy 50), Cañon City
Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(719) 269-9036

Cañon City Farmers' Market
Veterans Park
Tuesdays, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Eight Mile Ranch Pet Boarding
45780 US Highway 50
(719) 275-2035

Florence Farmers' Market
Pioneer Park
Thursdays, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Cañon City Public Library
516 Macon Avenue, Cañon City, CO
(719) 269-9020
Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
FREE WiFi

Visitor Cabin at Veteran's Park
200 US Hwy 50, Cañon City, CO
May and late Sept., Sat./Sun. 8 a.m. - 5p.m.
May 15-Sept 15., Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
FREE WiFi

Cañonland Hikers and Walkers
(719) 276-0974
Facebook: Canonland Hikers and Walkers

LAND MANAGEMENT

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area
307 Sackett Avenue, Salida, CO
(719) 539-7289

City of Cañon City Parks
221 Griffin Avenue, Cañon City, CO
(719) 269-9028

Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 East Main St., Cañon City
(719) 269-8599

Cañon City Area Recreation District
575 Ash Street, Cañon City, CO
(719) 275-1578
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



