

# RECREATION & TRAIL GUIDE

ROYAL GORGE REGION

MAPS  
& INFO

Issue 5





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Fremont Adventure Recreation is a non-profit organizaion 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](http://www.joinFAR.org) or contact [coordinator@joinFAR.org](mailto: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.



# 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](http://joinFAR.org)) for more information, events, and volunteer opportunities. Or “like” us on Facebook for updates. Get out and go FAR!



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.

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.



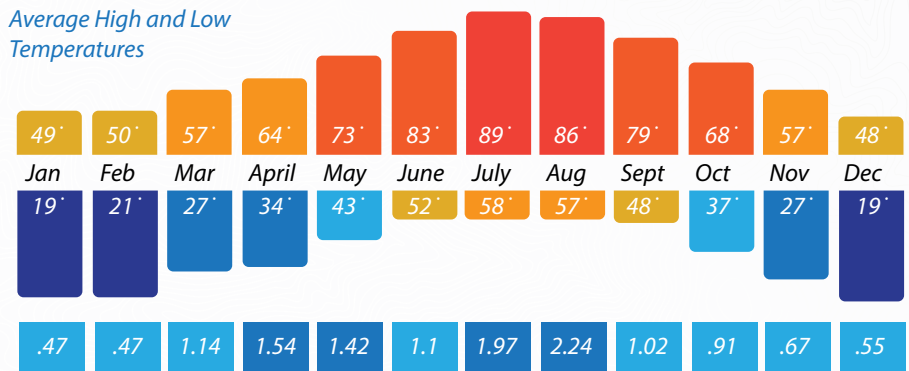
Tunnel Drive, circa 1940 / Photo courtesy of the Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center

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



Average Precipitation (Inches)

Data courtesy of U.S. Climate Data / [www.usclimatedata.com](http://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](http://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.



# RECREATION EVENTS

# ROYAL GORGE REGION

## JANUARY

**FAR New Year's Resolution Run**

## FEBRUARY

Cañon City Chocolate Walk  
**FAR Snow Queen Frosty February 5K**  
[www.snowqueen5K.com](http://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](http://www.runblossom.org)  
 CCRD Kid's Fishing Derby  
**FAR Women's Mountain Bike Session**  
 Colorado Public Lands Day  
 ZIA Rides Royal Gorge 6 & 12

Collegiate Peaks Marathon - Buena Vista  
 CKS Paddlefest - Buena Vista

## JUNE

Hardscrabble Mtn. Trail Run  
[www.hardscrabblerun.com](http://www.hardscrabblerun.com)  
**FAR Dino-Rific Kids 1K Fun Run**  
**FAR Summer Social**

FIBark - Salida

## JULY

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

## AUGUST

**FAR Cornhole Tournament at the Winery at Holy Cross Abbey**  
**FAR Group Ride at the Royal Gorge Bridge**

## SEPTEMBER

**FAR Royal 50 Mountain Bike Race**  
[www.royal50.com](http://www.royal50.com)  
**FAR Point Alta Vista Trail 5K**  
 Florence Pioneer Days  
 National Public Lands Day  
**FAR 'We Are All Made of Stars' Gala**  
 Harvest Festival at the Abbey Winery

14er Fest - Buena Vista  
 Salida Bike Fest - Salida

## OCTOBER

Rim to Rim Royal Gorge Races  
[www.rimtorimroyalgorge.com](http://www.rimtorimroyalgorge.com)  
**FAR Birthday Run**  
**FAR Bi-Annual Trash Pickup**  
**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](http://joinFAR.org) for updated information.*

*For a complete list of events in the Royal Gorge Region, please visit: [www.royalgorgetravel.com](http://www.royalgorgetravel.com)*



Centennial Park / runBlossom Races



Tunnel Drive / Snow Queen Frosty 5k / 10k



Royal Gorge Park Trails / Royal 50 MTB Race

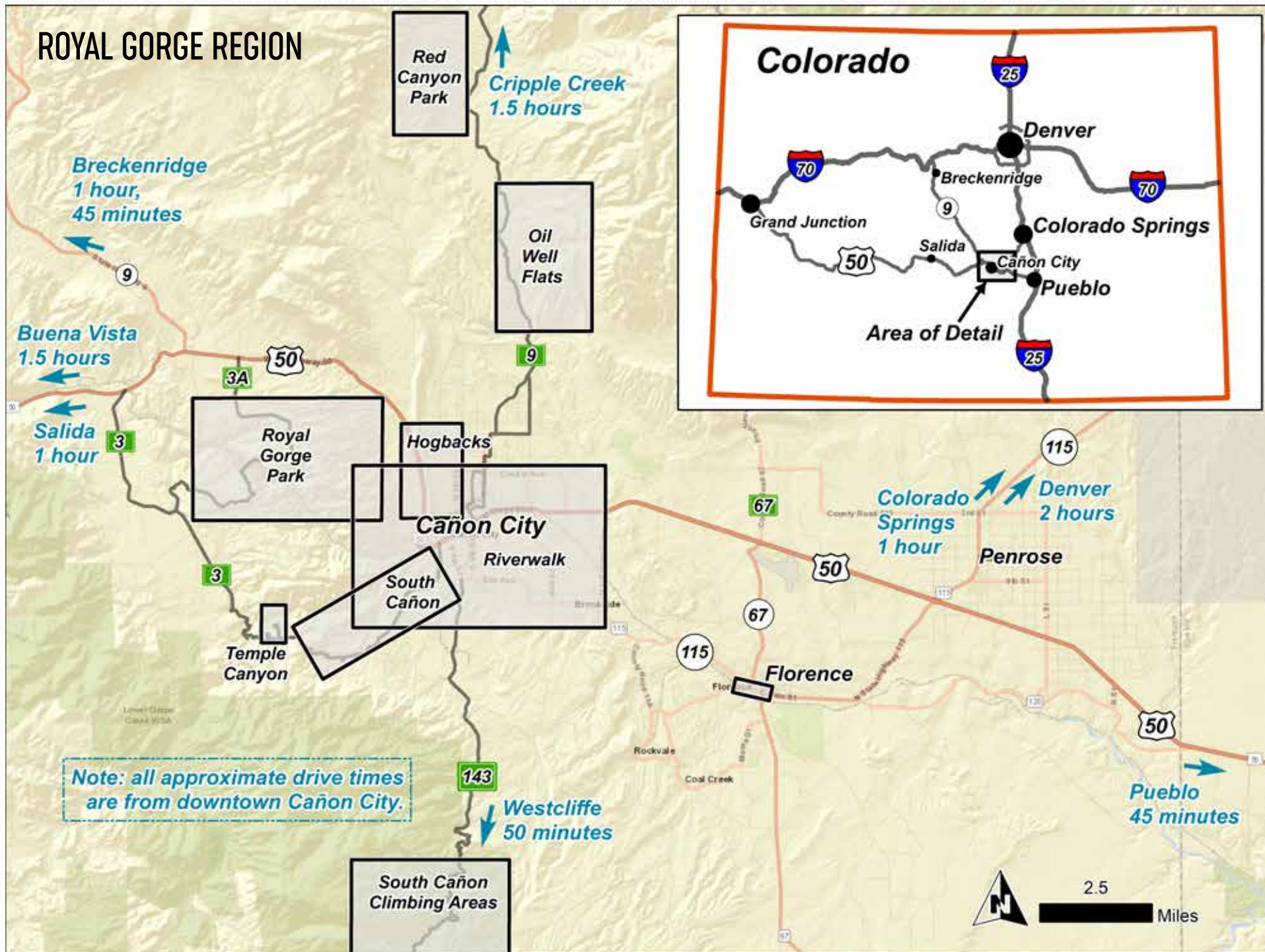


Royal Gorge Trails / Point Alta Vista Trail Race





# 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 67.)

**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.



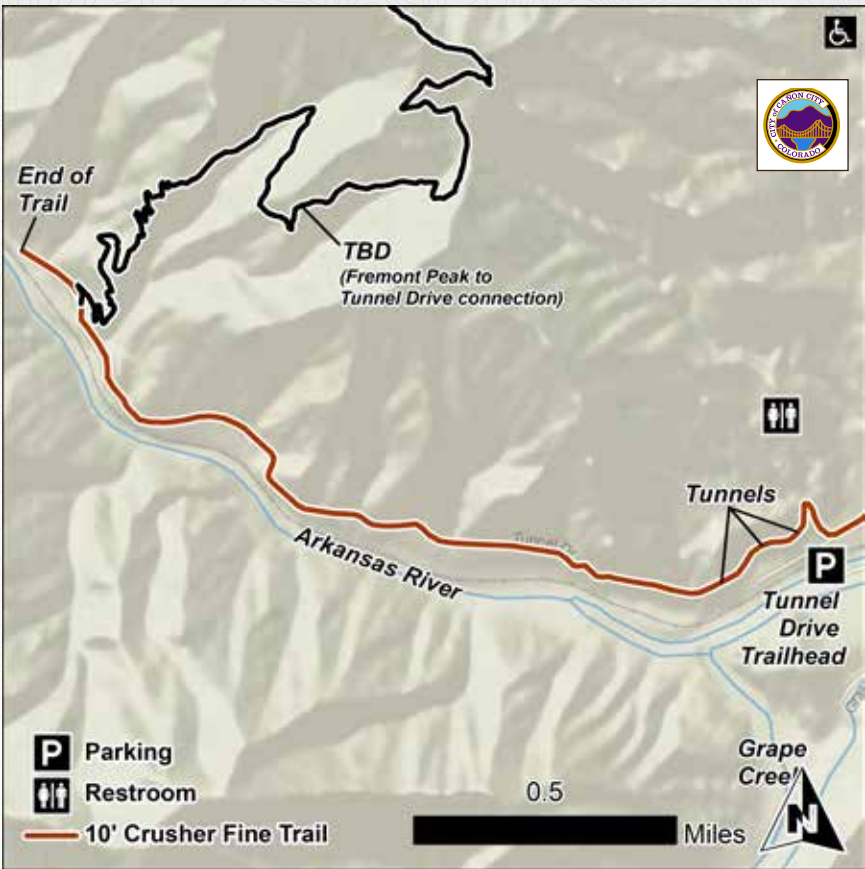
runBlossom Races - May

## 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. Not only will the wet clay stick to your boots and bike tires, but your tracks will ruin the trails! Enjoy the crusher fine trails, Greenhorn and Old Skyline Drive, during and after precipitation events.



Dakota Ridge / Photo courtesy of @ScienceCedes / @ConserVANTion

## 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.

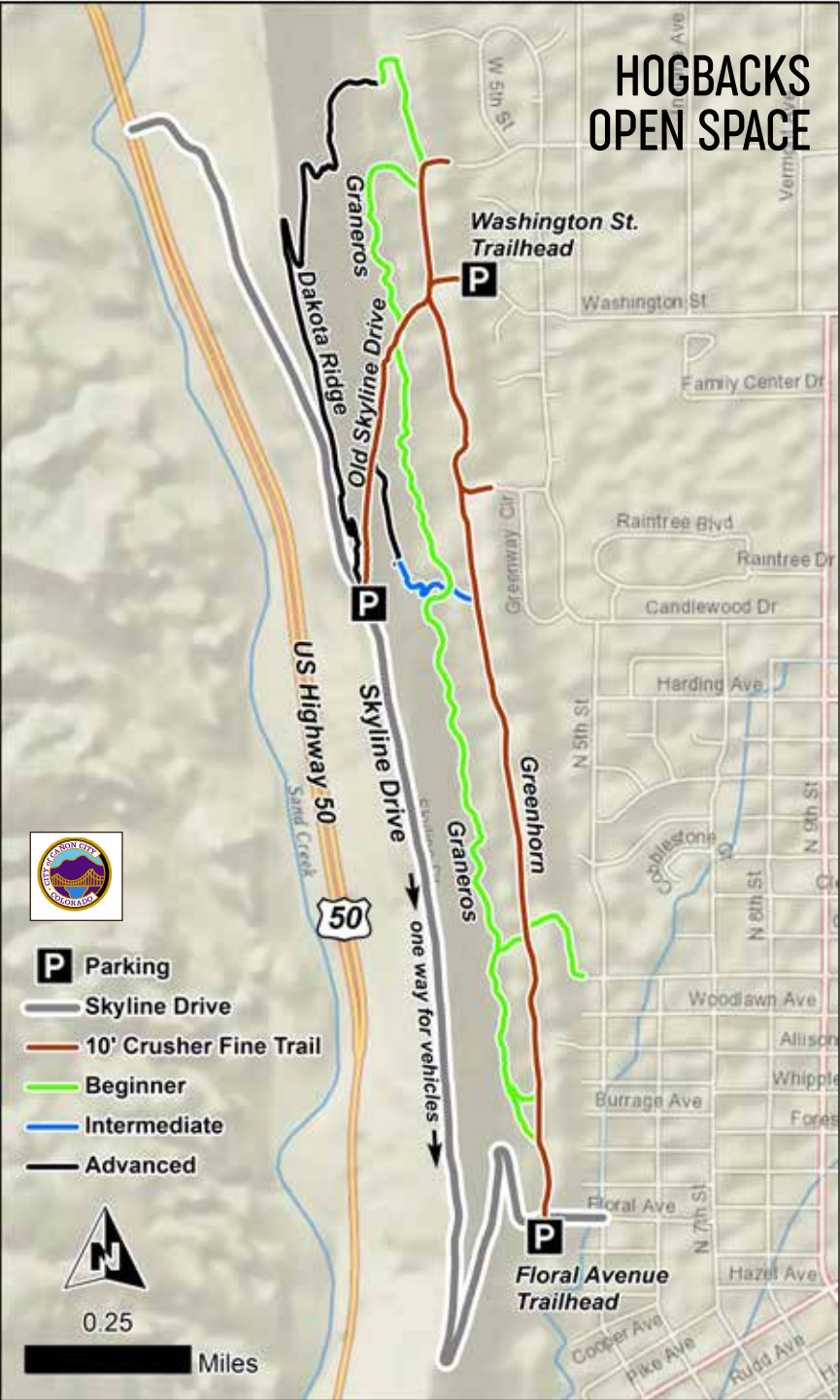
**Old Skyline Drive:** Also a wide crusher fine trail, historic Old Skyline Drive connects low and high points in the open space.

**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 Dakota Ridge formation. On the north end, the trail descends from the ridge on very steep bedrock.

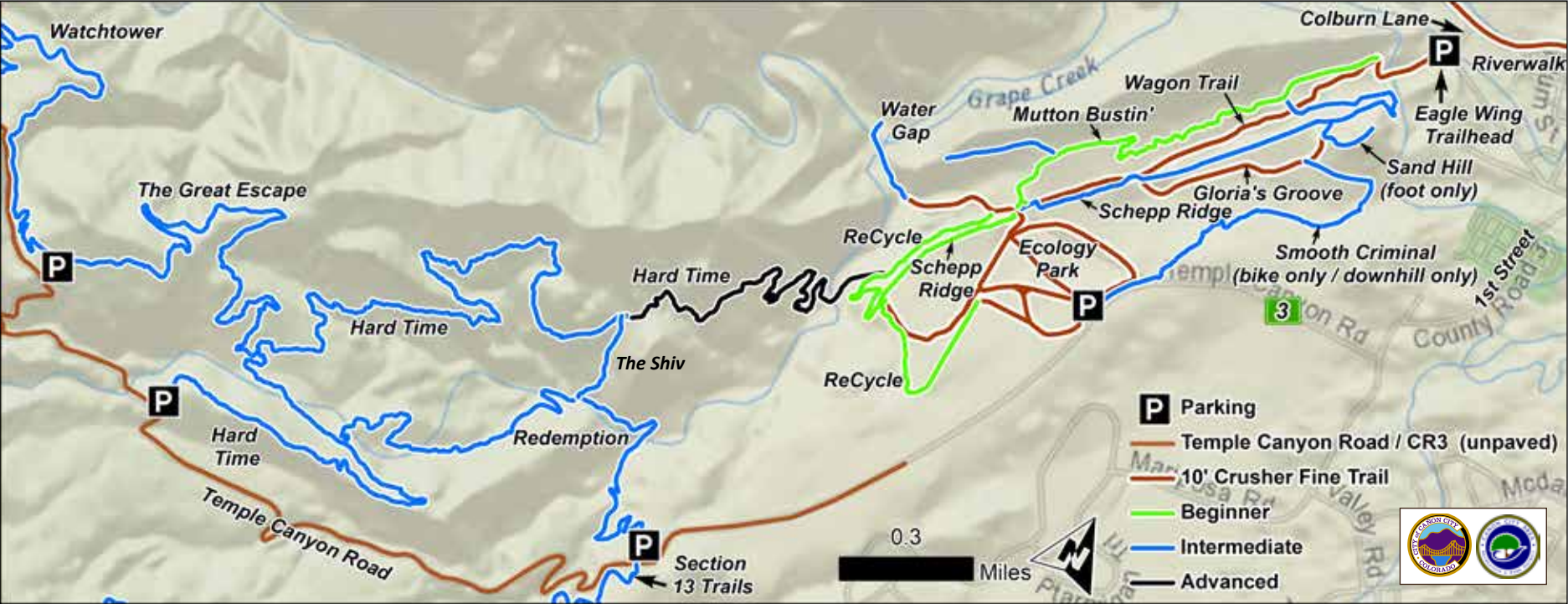
## GETTING THERE

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.)





# SOUTH CAÑON TRAILS



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.

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**BETA TIP**

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



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.



# 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

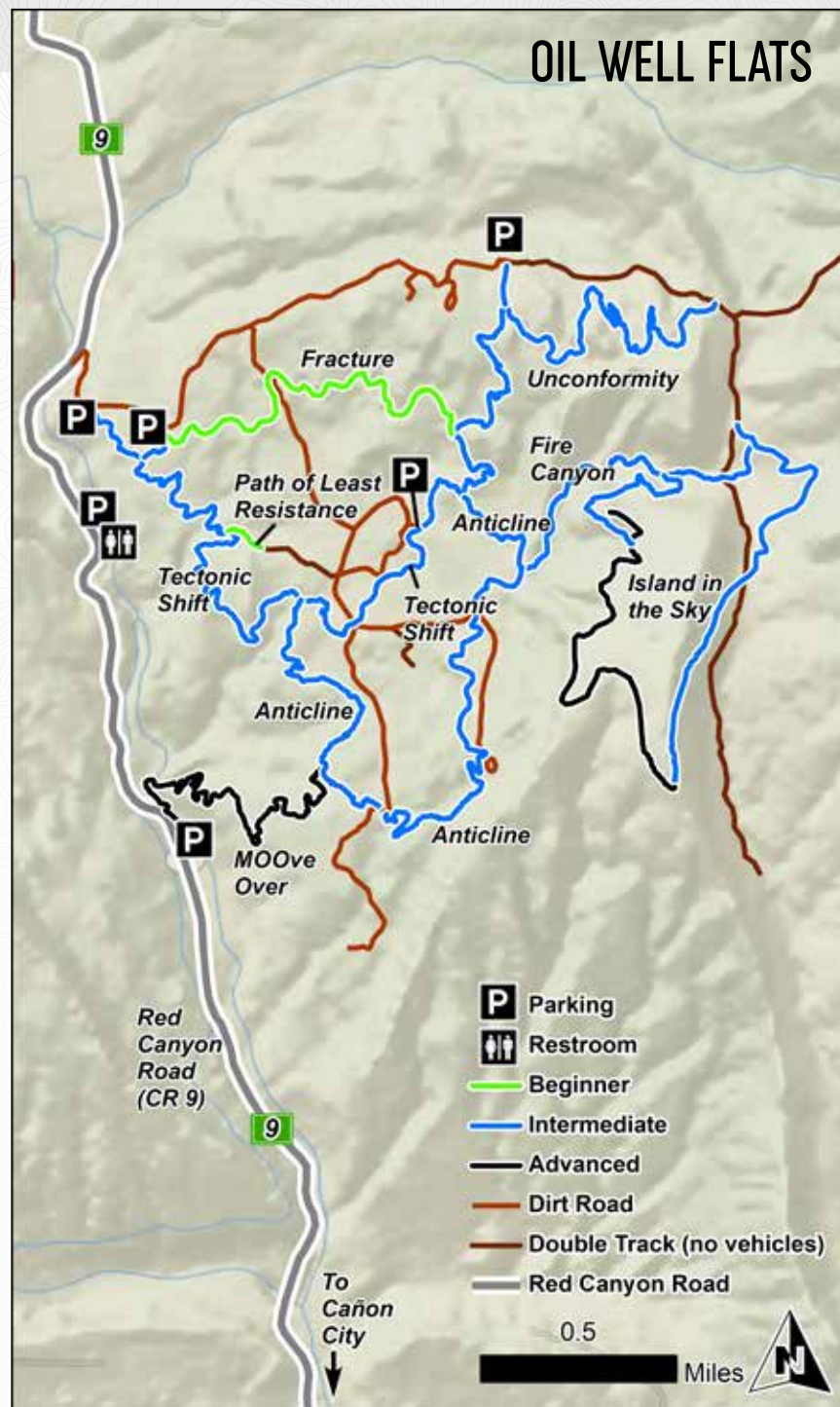
**Beginner Route:** 1st Parking Lot > Tectonic Shift > Fracture out-and-back | **Distance:** 4 mi. **Elevation:** 430 ft. | **Approximate time:** 25 mins.

**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

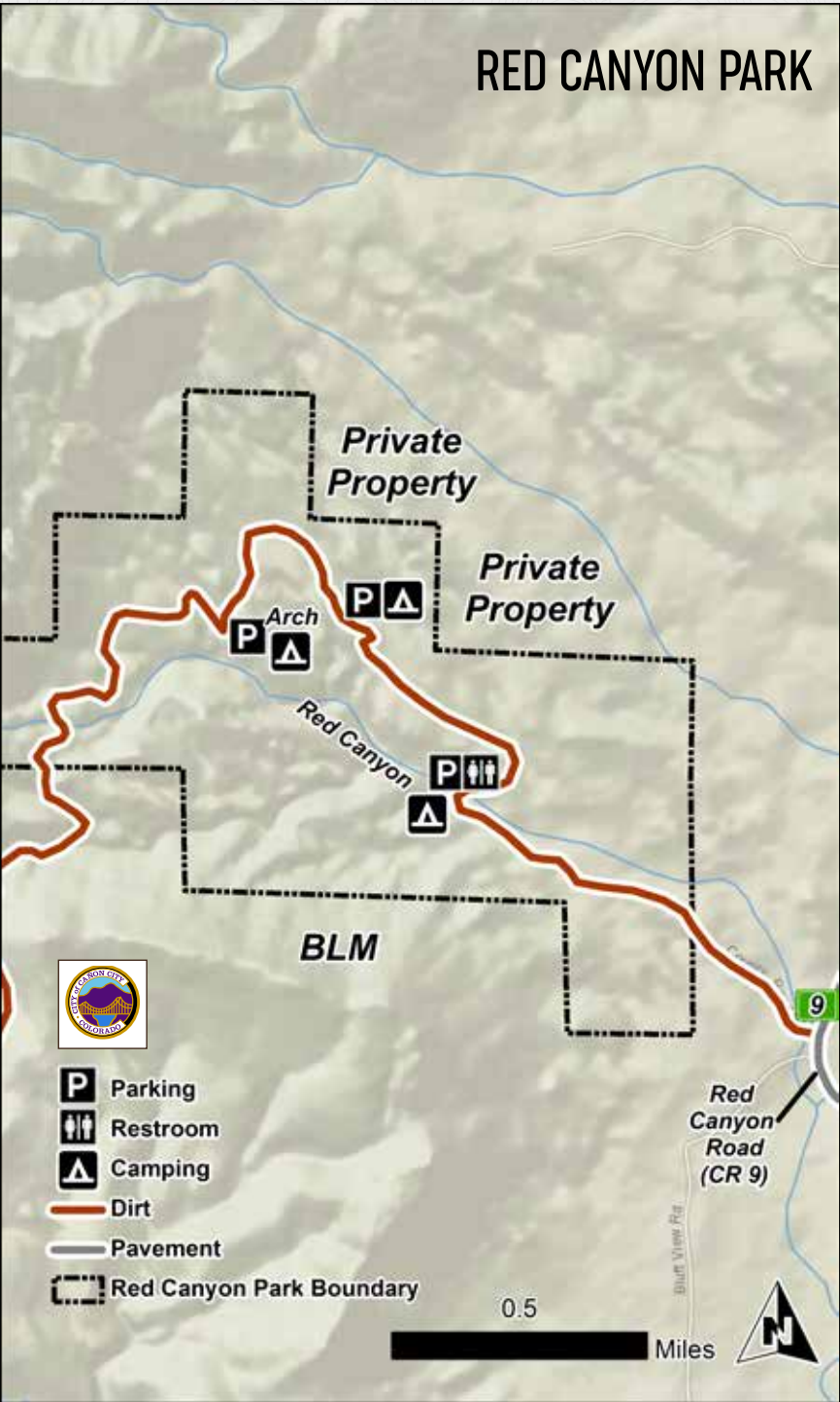
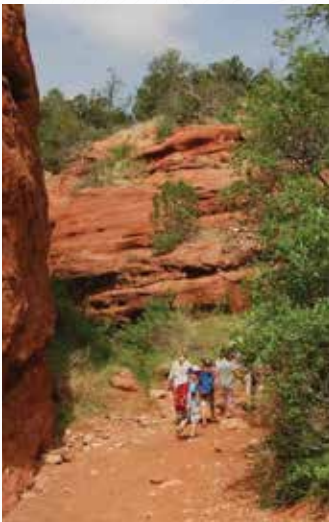
**Red Canyon Hike:** (Park at the first parking area, about a mile from Red Canyon Road, CR 29.) As you head into the main wash (dry creek bed) area, you'll notice right away how the rocks tower above, creating a small canyon-like experience. Explore the wash for as long—or as little—as you want! Please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

## 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



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).

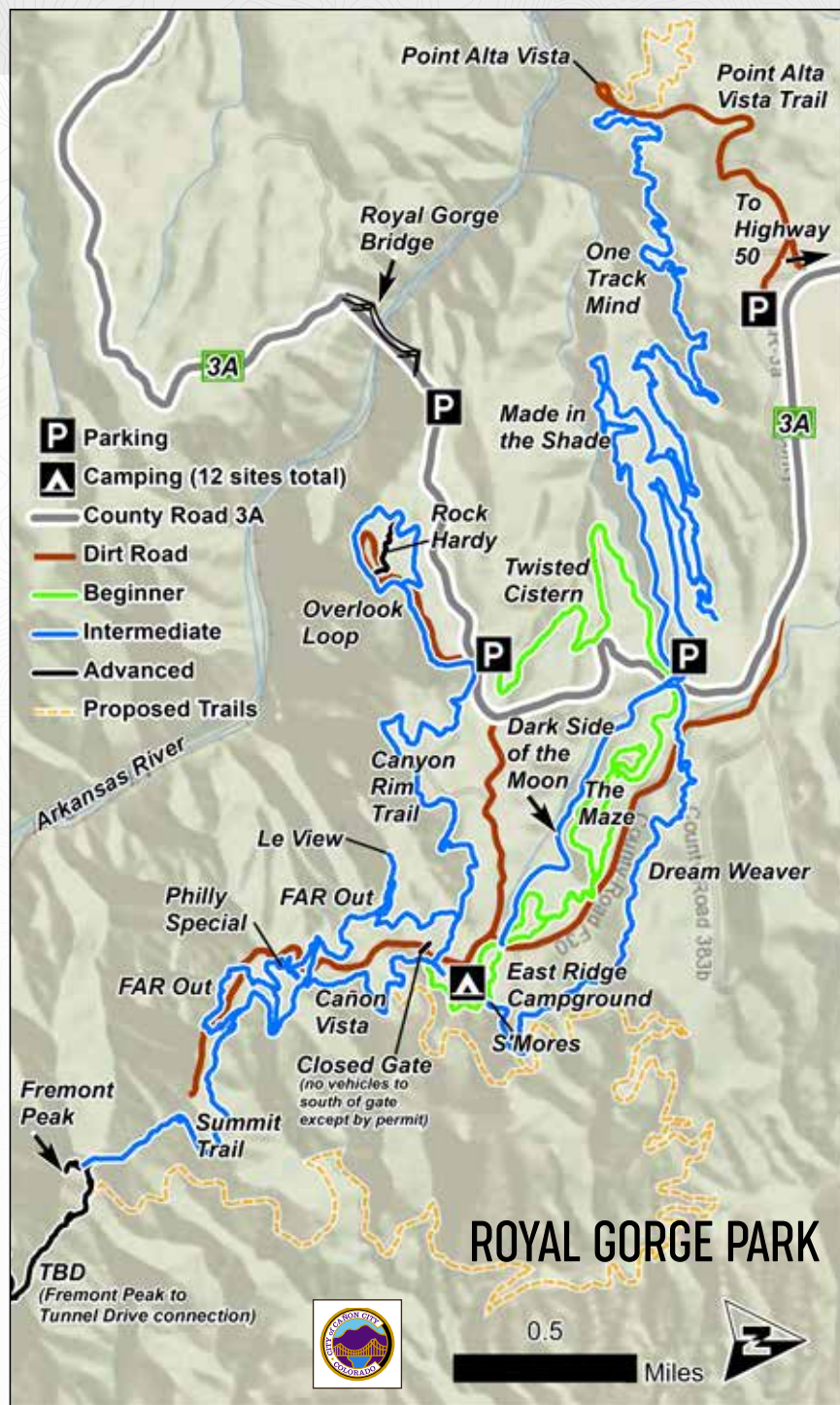
BETA TIP

## 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.

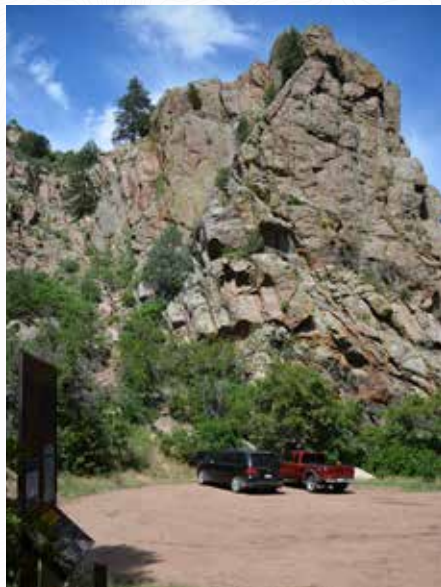


Photo courtesy of Mark Peacock



Photo courtesy of Kristan Lepik

## 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.

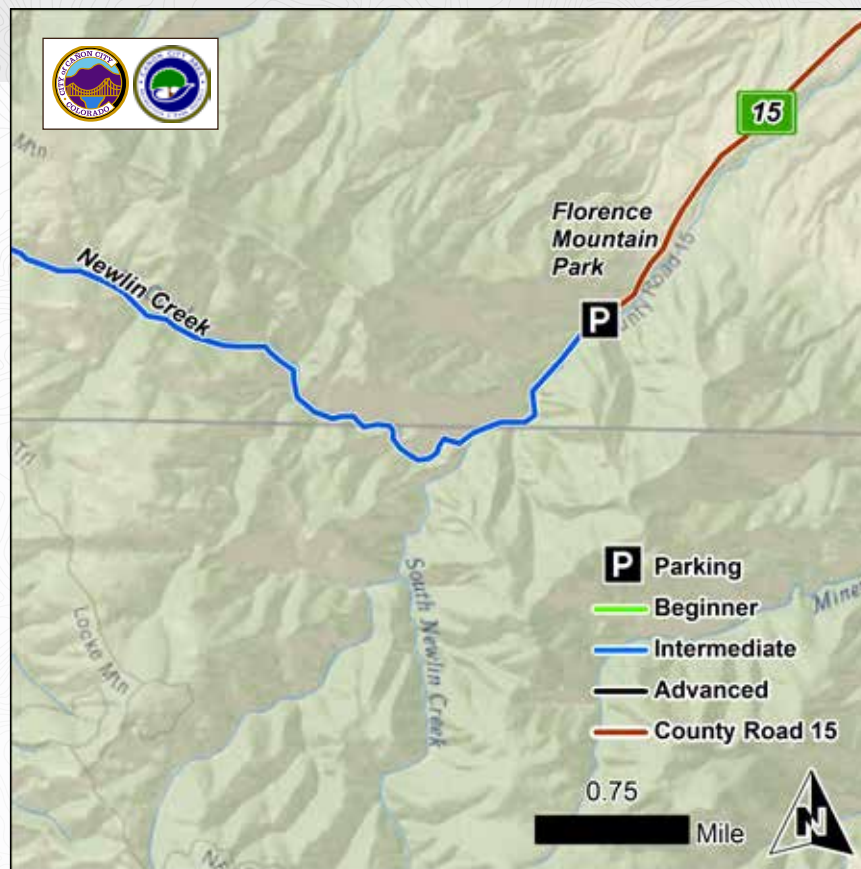
**Trail users:** Hikers and rock climbers

**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.

**BETA TIP**

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.

HIKING

ROCK CLIMBING





# PHANTOM CANYON / SHELF ROAD

*This scenic and challenging ride offers cyclists the opportunity to traverse some of Fremont County's historic roads, linking the quaint gold mining towns of Cripple Creek and Victor with Phantom Canyon Road, part of the Gold Belt Byway.*



Photo courtesy of Rodeo Adventure Labs

## ROUTE INFORMATION

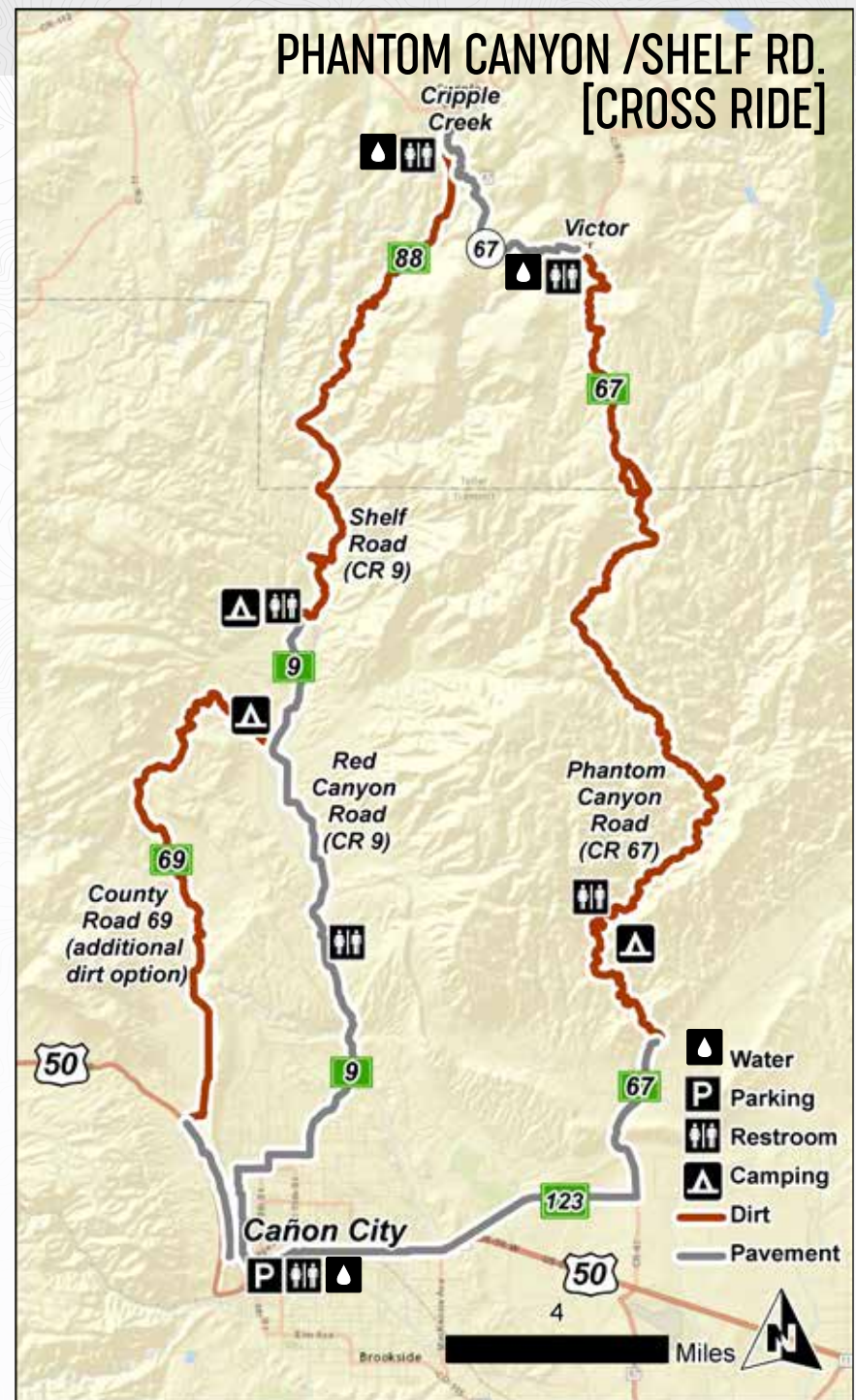
**Start:** Downtown Cañon City  
**Elevation gain:** +/- 7,940 feet  
**Fitness effort:** Moderate to strenuous  
**Difficulty:** Intermediate

**Terrain:** Dirt and pavement  
**Seasons:** Year-round, check road conditions in winter  
**Distance:** 68 miles

Head east on Hwy. 50, then east on County Road 123. At the intersection of CR 123 and CR 67, turn north on Phantom Canyon Road. The first three miles are paved, but then you'll be treated to an incredible dirt road journey up through Phantom Canyon, gaining elevation all the way. The climbing is mostly gradual, but at times kicks up to a more challenging pitch. The views of the canyon, the creek, or back to the west toward the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range are stunning, and traffic is nominal. At times the road is tight, and is typically in wash-board condition. If you ride this route counter-clockwise, however, neither are significant issues. \*Please note that this entire route can obviously be ridden in a clockwise direction, but the washboard descent on Phantom Canyon is more difficult.

Higher in elevation, you'll roll through conifers and ranches into the old mining community of Victor. You are now in the high country, and the wide open expanse is exceptional. At Victor, grab Highway 67 for a quick, paved jaunt to Cripple Creek. Be mindful that Highway 67 sees both tourist and commercial mining traffic. The views are great, but stay focused on the road.

At Cripple Creek, you'll have reached the ride's high point, at well over 9,000 feet in elevation. From this point you'll travel back to the south via the legendary Shelf Road (CR 9). The dirt descent is both steep and sometimes a bit dicey, depending on road conditions. The road is narrow, so be mindful of traffic and steep exposure. You'll be treated to a beautiful 14 miles of dirt road. Once County Road 9 turns back to pavement, you simply cruise back into Cañon City on the section of the Red Canyon Road described on pages 32-33.





# RED CANYON ROAD RIDE

*A local favorite, this out-and-back ride travels from town and takes riders to the outskirts of Cañon City, where you'll pass the iconic Red Canyon Park along with ranches, open space, and rustling cottonwood trees along Fourmile Creek. The road sees minimal traffic, but take extra care due to winding roads and gravel on the pavement in some places.*



Photo: Adam Hartman

## ROUTE INFORMATION

**Start:** Begin downtown Cañon City and head north on 5th Street

**Elevation gain/loss:** +/- 2,400 feet

**Fitness effort:** Mild to moderate

**Difficulty:** Intermediate

**Terrain:** Paved road

**Seasons:** Year-round

**Distance:** ~ 30 Miles, out-and-back

After working your way through town, you'll pass the sawmill and leave the city behind you. It's virtually impossible to get lost from this point, as the ride simply follows Red Canyon Road (CR 9) the whole distance. It's easy to set your pace to "cruise" and enjoy the scenery.

At mile 11.5 (at a 90 degree turn in the road) you'll see the historic one-room Garden Park Schoolhouse that was in use from 1895 until 1961. It has recently been listed on the Colorado Register of Historic Properties.

At mile 12.3 is the entrance to Red Canyon Park, a fun hiking area reminiscent of Garden of the Gods. See pages 26-27 for more information.

## GETTING THERE

From downtown, head north on 5th St. and make your way toward Red Canyon Road.





# TEMPLE CANYON ROAD CROSS-RIDE

Temple Canyon Road offers rolling terrain on gravel and paved road, with incredible views and the option to descend on singletrack. Surrounded by both BLM and City of Cañon City lands, this scenic, low-trafficked out and back ride can be increased in length by varying your start or turnaround, depending on time and effort commitment.



## ROUTE INFORMATION

**Start:** Begin at the Ecology Park parking lot

**Elevation gain/loss:** +/- 1,400 feet

**Fitness effort:** Moderate

**Difficulty:** Intermediate

**Terrain:** Paved and dirt road

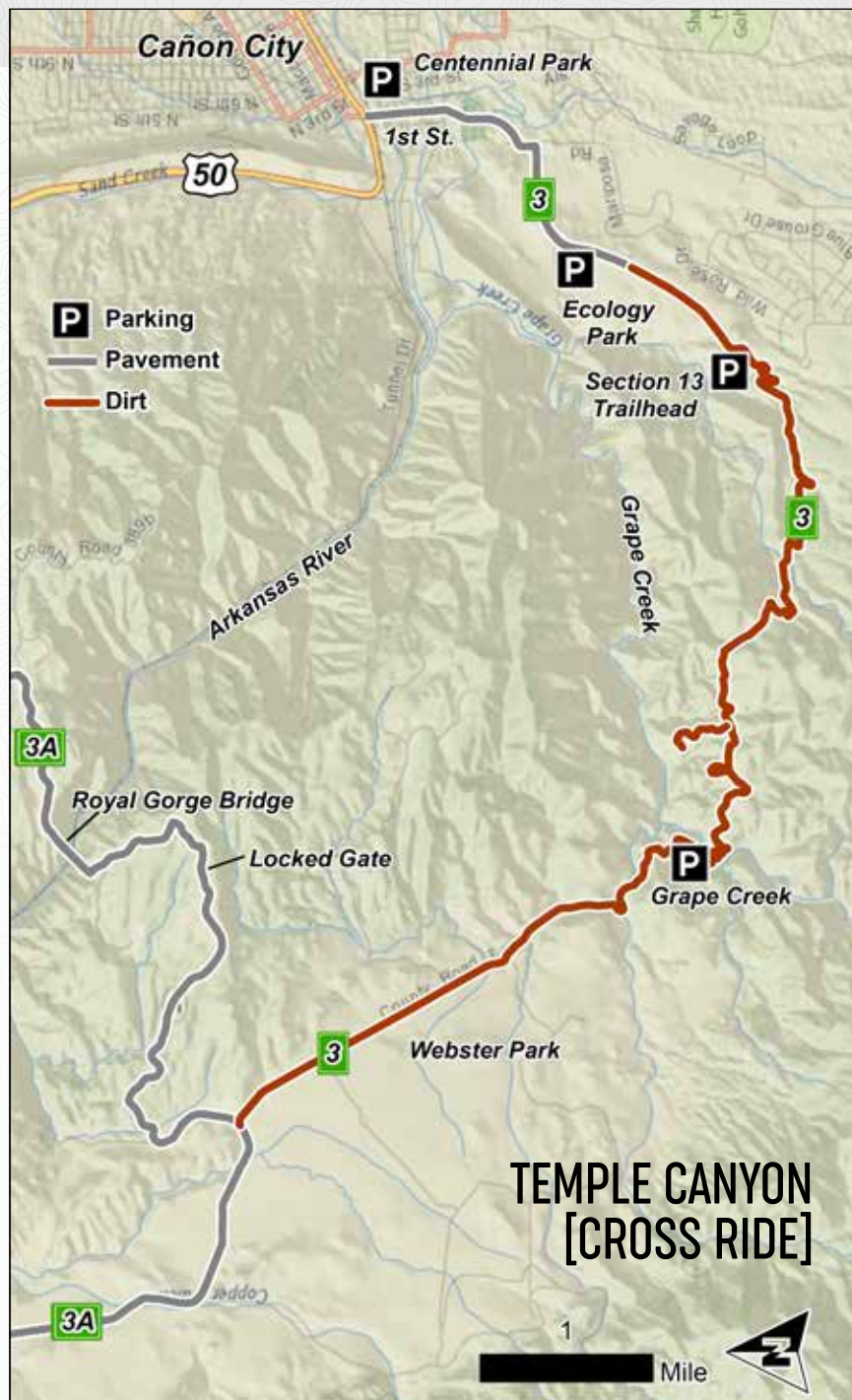
**Seasons:** Year-round

**Distance:** 18-23 miles round-trip

Starting at the Ecology Park at an elevation of 5,607 feet, head south on Temple Canyon Road passing an old auto salvage yard. A gentle climb of just over a mile will bring you to Section 13 and Redemption trailhead. Continue past the trailhead as you descend and climb short sections of the Temple Canyon. At 2.9 miles you will pass the Hard Time trailhead and drop slightly before climbing the last .6 miles to the top of the canyon. Upon reaching the top the road drops for a nice descent. At 5 miles you pass an old quarry and, shortly after, a series of seven turns and switchbacks with the road passing a vault toilet and a bridge crossing Grape Creek. Continue pedaling as the road gradually climbs where at mile 7 you will enter Webster Park. In another 2.3 miles you will meet the paved County road 3A, the utility road for the Royal Gorge Bridge. Total mileage at 9.3 with 1,493 ft of ascent and 1,010 ft of descent. If you crave more mileage, the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park's south gate is 2.3 miles away, but you will have to endure a short 13% grade and climb 500 feet to reach it. Note that while paved the narrow road has deteriorated over the last several years and has pot holes and loose pavement. It may have utility truck traffic accessing the South Entrance and you must stop and turn around at the gate. To access the Royal Gorge Park and Bridge you must use the north entrance off of Highway 50 CR3A. Bicycle traffic is welcome from the north entrance with paid admission.

## GETTING THERE

From downtown, head south on 1st street for 1 mile. Then turn right onto Temple Canyon Rd. and park in the Ecology Park parking lot on the right.





# HARDSCRABBLE LOOP

*Though only 95 miles, this scenic loop is the locals' century test piece. You certainly won't feel shorted, however, as multiple steep grade sections will leave your legs burning. Luckily, the scenery and views are well worth the effort.*



Historic Beckwith Ranch / CO-69 / Westcliffe

## TRAIL INFORMATION

**Start:** Begin downtown  
**Elevation gain/loss:** +/- 6,375 feet  
**Fitness effort:** Strenuous  
**Difficulty:** Intermediate

**Terrain:** Paved road  
**Seasons:** Year-round  
**Distance:** ~ 95 mile loop

The Strava segment starts at Highway 50 and 9th Street in the heart of Cañon City. Head south on 9th Street/Highway 115. After a warm up climb you will wander your way south east about 8 miles to Florence. At the traffic light on the far east end of Main Street (the 3rd traffic light), turn right (south) onto Highway 67. A steady rolling incline section makes its way about 12 miles south to the hamlet of Wetmore. At the "T" intersection turn right (west) onto Highway 96. Enjoy the next several of miles of relatively low incline climbing, because it's about to get real. Before too long you will realize that you are now climbing "Hardscrabble." Channel your inner "cannibal" because Hardscrabble is a soul sucker. The "end" of the climb is McKenzie Junction. Stay right here on Highway 96 and keep climbing, though not as steeply, for another 10 miles.

The view of the Sange De Cristo mountain range as you approach the summit is amazing. After cresting out at just over 9,000 feet you will cruise into the small town of Silver Cliff, followed shortly by Westcliffe. You are now at the halfway mark (a little short of ½ the mileage, a little past ½ the time) and there are a couple of convenience stores to stock up at.

After a quick refueling, head west through town to the Highway 69 intersection. Turn right (north) and roll out of town, headed generally downhill now to the north. After about 15 miles the downhill will get serious as you plummet into Texas Creek at the Highway 50 intersection (hours for the local convenience store vary). Turn right (east) on Highway 50 and head back toward Cañon City. Save energy for the climb up the back side of 8 Mile Hill (at mile 85), you're going to need it. Following the last 2.5 mile climb, it is generally flat across the top of 8 Mile and then all downhill back into Cañon City to complete the loop.

## GETTING THERE

From downtown, head south on 9th Street (also known as Highway 115) toward Florence.



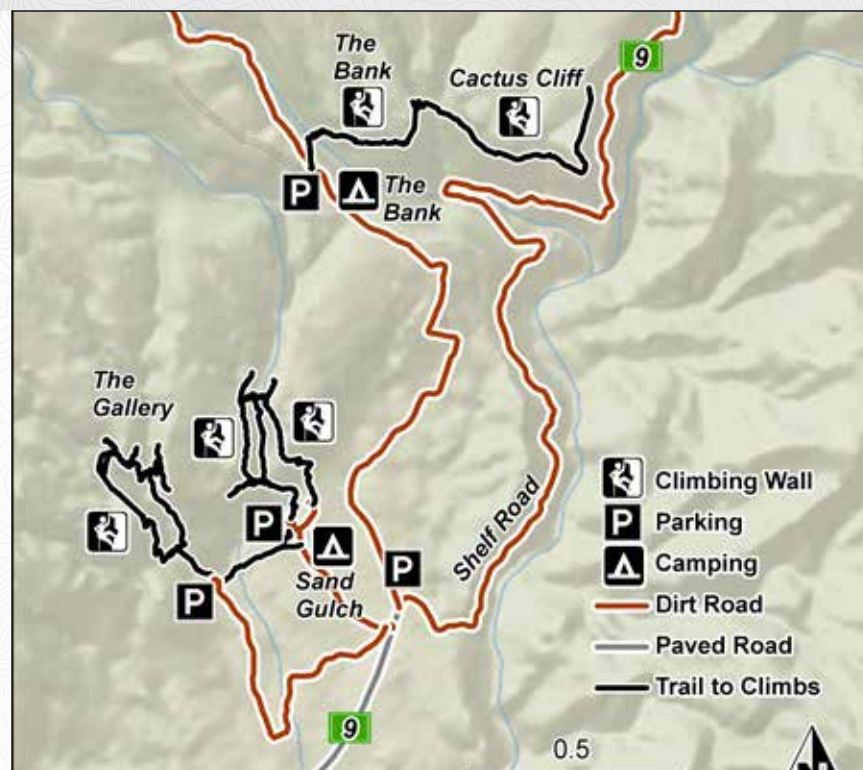


# ROCK CLIMBING

## NORTH CAÑON CLIMBING

HIKING

ROCK 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

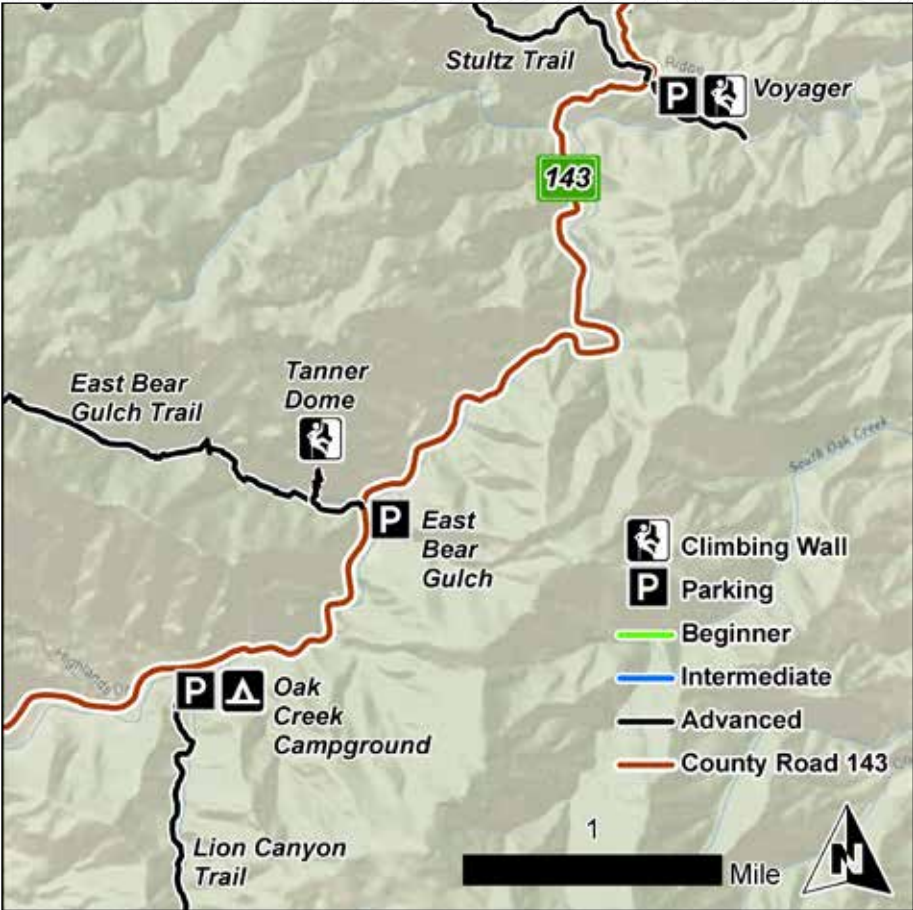
### FURTHER READING / GUIDES

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.

Climber: Biyaya Laemmel  
Photo: Jerad Friedrichs



# 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](http://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 carefull of snakes when it gets warmer.

## FURTHER READING / GUIDES

- Bruestle, Ben. 2003. The Ripper: Climbing in Colorado’s Wet Mountains. Sharp End Publishing.  
Mountain Project: Newlin Creek. [mountainproject.com/v/newlin-creek/105744415](http://mountainproject.com/v/newlin-creek/105744415)

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





## FIRST WEEKEND IN MAY

CENTENNIAL PARK in CAÑON CITY, COLORADO

**5K • HALF-MARATHON • KIDS' FUN RUN • TODDLER TROT**

Register early to save \$, or sign up on race day from 6:45-8:15 a.m.  
Awards given for 1st-3rd in division age groups. Medals awarded to all half-marathon finishers.



[runBlossom.org](http://runBlossom.org) | [facebook.com/runblossom](https://facebook.com/runblossom)



## 5K & HALF-MARATHON COURSES

Traverse the famous, historic Point Alta Vista Trestles. Join in post-race festivities at the Royal Gorge Ranch & Resort.

[pointaltavista.weebly.com/](http://pointaltavista.weebly.com/)



MOUNTAIN BIKE RACES  
CAÑON CITY | COLORADO

**WWW.ROYAL50.COM**

RIDE THE ROYAL GORGE PARK TRAILS AND  
ENJOY A POST-RIDE FESTIVAL AT THE  
ROYAL GORGE RANCH & RESORT

50-MILE AND 25-MILE OPTIONS



[RIMTORIMROYALGORGE.COM](http://RIMTORIMROYALGORGE.COM)



Run through the scenic foothills surrounding the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park, including the famed Royal Gorge Bridge - 1,000 feet above the Arkansas River. Proceeds benefit Starpoint Services.





## 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](http://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.

**Spikebuck:** At higher water flows, avoid the large rock in the center of the river and the curling standing wave just after it. Spikebuck 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		●			●	



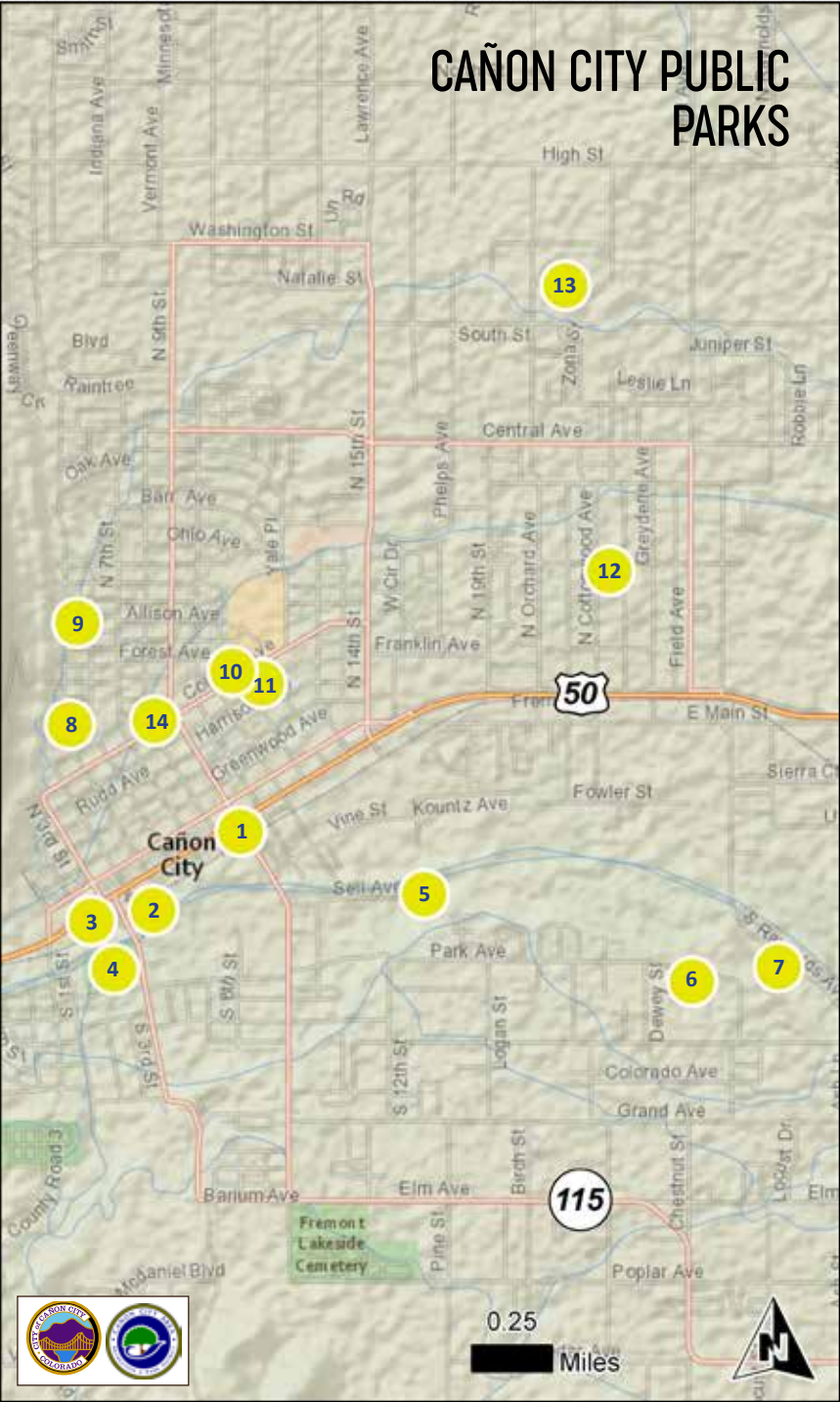
Splash pad at Centennial Park



Mountain View Park



Whitewater Kayak and Recreation Park at Centennial Park





# 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	●		●	●	●	\$\$





# 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 Forence 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

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY ADVENTURES

### RIVERWALK

There are parks, benches, and restrooms all along the Riverwalk. Walk through the three giant tunnels on Tunnel Drive - used for the water pipeline long ago. They're just .25 miles from the parking area / trailhead. Check out the Riverwalk and Tunnel Drive maps (pages 12-13) for more information.

### HOGBACKS OPEN SPACE

The Greenhorn and Old Skyline Drive trails are wide crusher fine trails. Graneros is a fun beginner's trail and is flowy as it winds along the flank of the Dakota Ridge formation in the Hogbacks. Check out pages 16-17 for more information.

### PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

The City of Cañon City invites you to check out its extensive park system (pages 56-57). From our splash pad and play wave at Centennial Park to the skate park located at Mountain View Park, there's something for everyone.

### OIL WELL FLATS

Fracture Trail: Maybe your whole family isn't ready yet for all of Oil Well Flats' trails, but the Fracture Trail is sure to delight novice hikers and bikers. Beautiful scenery and a fun trail will make everyone's day. See pages 22-24 for additional information.

### 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.

### SOUTH CAÑON TRAILS

Twist through junipers at an easy grade on Mutton Bustin'. You may consider a descent on Mutton Bustin' with an Ecology Park drop off and a finish at Centennial Park. Pair this with the new flow trail - Smooth Criminal - or Re-Cycle to extend your ride.

### ROYAL GORGE PARK TRAILS

S'Mores is a fun, easy trail that rings the campground at the Royal Gorge Park Trails. Kids can take a few laps and then connect to more extensive trail systems. Pair your excursion with a day at the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park for a truly memorable experience.

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

**BETA  
TIP**

*Riders: Lilliana, Rosalie, and  
Anthony Johnson*



# 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 Haplocanthosaur", which is still on display there today. For more information, visit: [www.handsontheland.org/garden-park/](http://www.handsontheland.org/garden-park/) or [www.gardenparkdinos.com](http://www.gardenparkdinos.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](http://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.

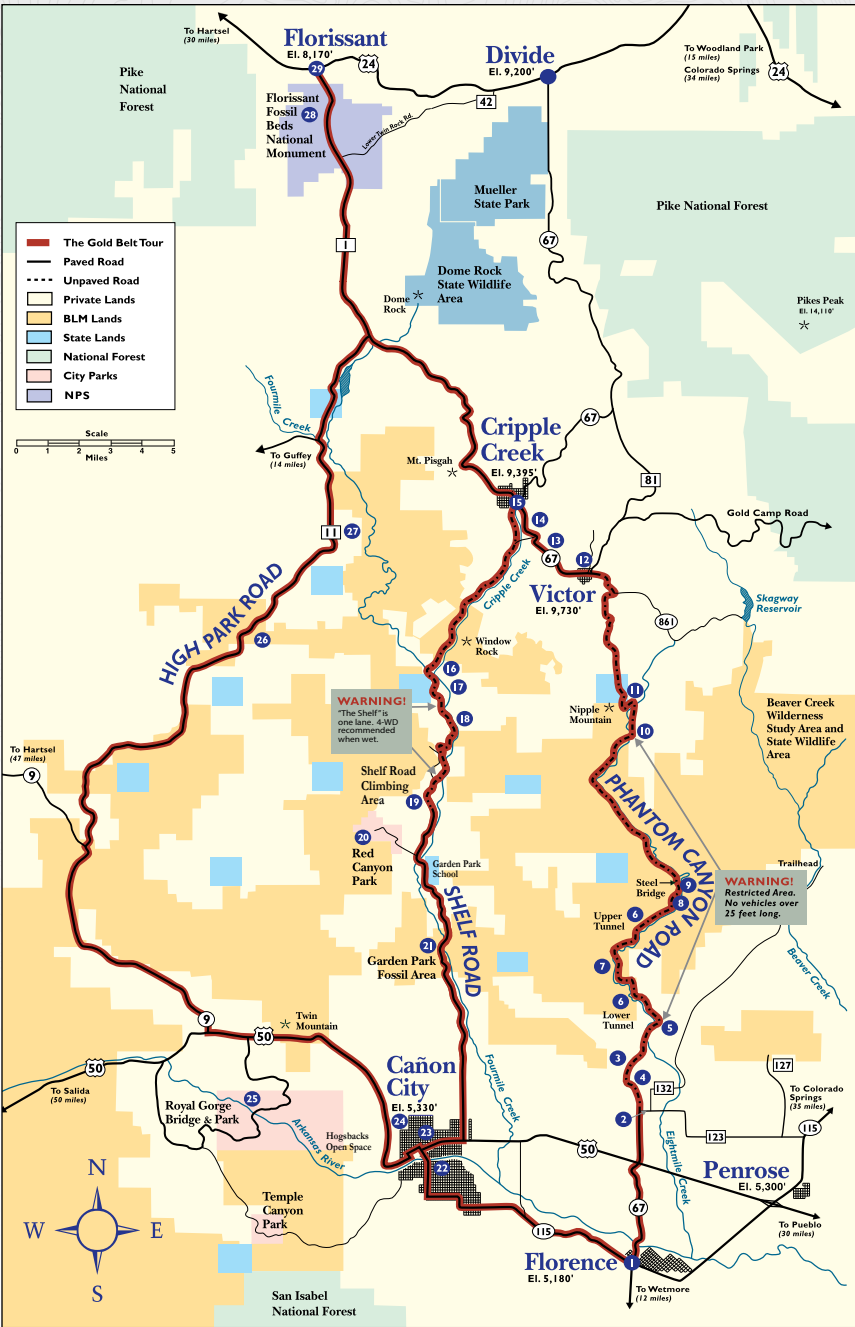
## 13 VINDICATOR VALLEY WALKING TRAIL

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](http://www.goldbeltbyway.com) to see how you can become a member or buy one of their educational products.



# WHICH TRAIL TO TAKE?

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	●				●	●	●	●		



Biking along the Arkansas Riverwalk near Centennial Park

# TRAIL STEWARDSHIP

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!

## TRAIL CARE



- 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](mailto:trails@joinFAR.org).
  - Stick to the established trails and avoid creating harmful ‘social trails’.

## MONITOR CONDITIONS



- 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](http://joinFAR.org/trails) for updates.
  - Don’t use muddy trails.
  - Adhere to all trail use guidelines.

## PACK OUT ALL TRASH AND WASTE



### PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT.

Please remember that waste of any kind - pet and human - is a blight on our trails. Use waste bags and dispose of waste in proper receptacles (not on the side of trails, please).

Plan to use restrooms before you head out to hike or bike. For emergencies, please carry (and use) a waste disposal bag or bury your waste at least 6” deep.



# SAFETY FIRST

## SUPPORT SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS

Fremont Search & Rescue is a volunteer organization dedicated to providing emergency aid to all who may need it. They give freely of their own time and money to acquire skills and conduct rescue operations. Please help them by:



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>



## 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.



### 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>

### 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.



# LEAVE NO TRACE SEVEN PRINCIPLES



*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](http://www.LNT.org).*

## 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.

*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.*





# TRAILS CHECKLIST

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Greenhorn	1.7 mi	●
<input type="checkbox"/> Graneros	1.8 mi	●
<input type="checkbox"/> Old Skyline Drive	0.5 mi	■
<input type="checkbox"/> Dakota Ridge	1.4 mi	◆

## ROYAL GORGE TRAILS

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

## SOUTH CAÑON TRAILS

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

## OIL WELL FLATS

<input type="checkbox"/> Fracture	1.7 mi	●
<input type="checkbox"/> Tectonic Shift	2.2 mi	■
<input type="checkbox"/> Path of Least Resistance	0.3 mi	●
<input type="checkbox"/> Anticline	2.9 mi	■
<input type="checkbox"/> Unconformity	2.5 mi	■
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Canyon	0.9 mi	■
<input type="checkbox"/> Island in the Sky	3.0 mi	◆
<input type="checkbox"/> 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**

# SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

The Royal Gorge region has a wealth of activities and local businesses to make your trip memorable. Please check the back of this guide to identify businesses that contribute to FAR and local trailbuilding efforts.

## FAMILY ITINERARY

### DAY 1

#### MORNING

- Stroll / bike along Tunnel Drive
- Play at Centennial Park splash pad and playground

#### LUNCH / AFTERNOON

- Take the train into the Royal Gorge
- Grab an ice cream cone
- Walk along Main Street

#### DINNER / EVENING

- Dinner in downtown Cañon City, or grab take-out and head to a local park
- Drive over Skyline Drive to see real dinosaur tracks
- Take a sunset hike in the Hogbacks
- Relax at your hotel or campsite

### DAY 2

#### MORNING

- Raft Bighorn Sheep Canyon or Upper Bighorn Sheep Canyon (Family-class)

#### LUNCH / AFTERNOON

- Lunch on 8-Mile Hill
- Visit a dinosaur or history museum (with dinosaur bones)

#### DINNER / EVENING

- Dinner in downtown Cañon City
- Walk along the Riverwalk Trail
- Search [royalgorgeregion.com](http://royalgorgeregion.com) for live music or festivals in the area

## ADVENTURE ITINERARY

### DAY 1

#### MORNING

- Grab a bagel breakfast in town
- Morning bike / hike at Oil Well Flats or South Cañon Trails

#### LUNCH / AFTERNOON

- Lunch in downtown Cañon City
- Stroll Main Street
- Stop in for a pint of Colorado brew

#### DINNER / EVENING

- Camp at a campground near the Royal Gorge
- Evening hike along the Royal Gorge Park trails
- Dine at the Royal Gorge Bridge
- Relax in your hammock

### DAY 2

#### MORNING

- Morning zipline tour or raft the Royal Gorge (Adventure-class)

#### LUNCH / AFTERNOON

- Lunch on 8-Mile Hill
- Afternoon bike ride or hike at the Royal Gorge Park trails

#### DINNER / EVENING

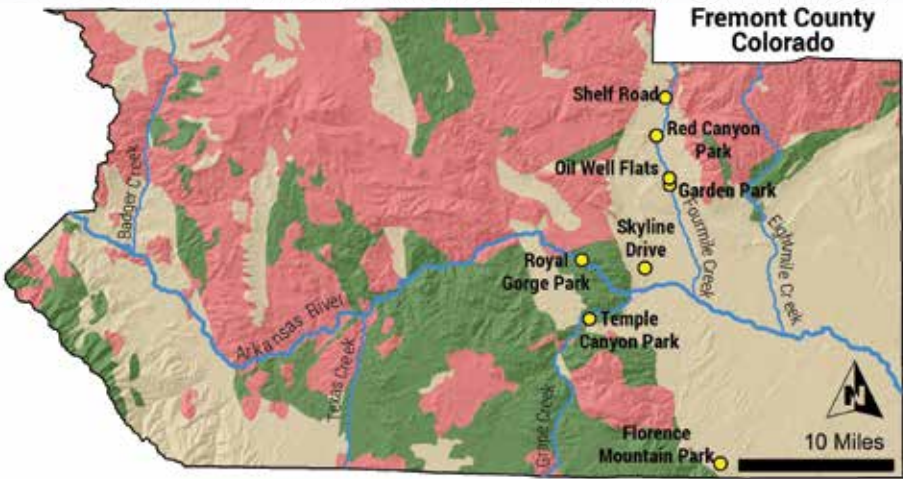
- Dinner in downtown Cañon City
- Wine tasting at a local winery
- Search [royalgorgeregion.com](http://royalgorgeregion.com) for live music or festivals in the area





# REGIONAL GEOLOGY

The geologic story of Fremont County and most of Colorado begins 1.7 billion years ago. The oldest rocks, visible in some places in Fremont County, are metamorphic rocks created during the formation of long-gone mountain ranges. With their characteristic wavy black, pink, and white appearance, they 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.



Map outlining the most common types of rock in Fremont County.

## 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 Park, where entire portions of the canyon walls have stripes or 'striations.'



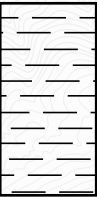
Sedimentary rocks are created when broken bits of other rocks, like sand, are pressed together until they become solid. This is where fossils are often found! There are some great examples of sandstone on Old Skyline Drive in the Hogbacks.

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



# GEOLOGIC TIME

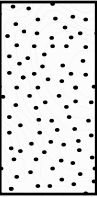
Geologists call the chart below a "stratigraphic column." It shows the different layers of rock, also known as the stratigraphy, in a specific area. In Cañon City, mountain building has bent these layers, exposing them in different places.



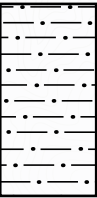
**Shale** is made up of many thin layers of tiny pieces of mud and clay. The thin layers and small grains mean that it formed in a deep lake or ocean, far from shore.



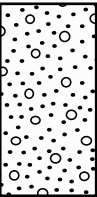
**Limestone** creates large cliffs because it is very resistant to erosion. These cliffs were once deep in the ocean; if you look closely, you may find fossilized shells and corals.



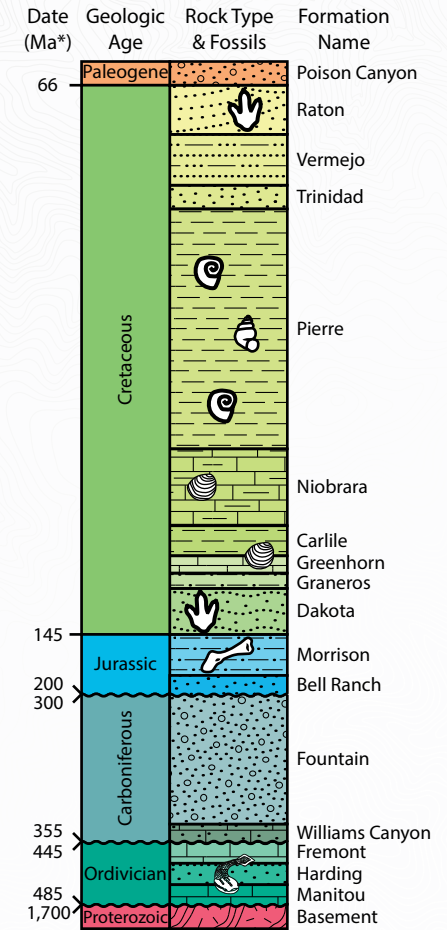
**Sandstone** is easy to identify because it looks and feels sandy. Most sandstones start as either beaches or riverbeds.



**Mudstone** is very similar to sandstone but the grains are much smaller. When a stream floods, it spreads mud across its floodplains.



**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.



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



**Gneiss** (pronounced 'nice') is a metamorphic rock; an existing rock was buried so deep that very high temperature and pressure nearly melted it, creating wavy patterns.

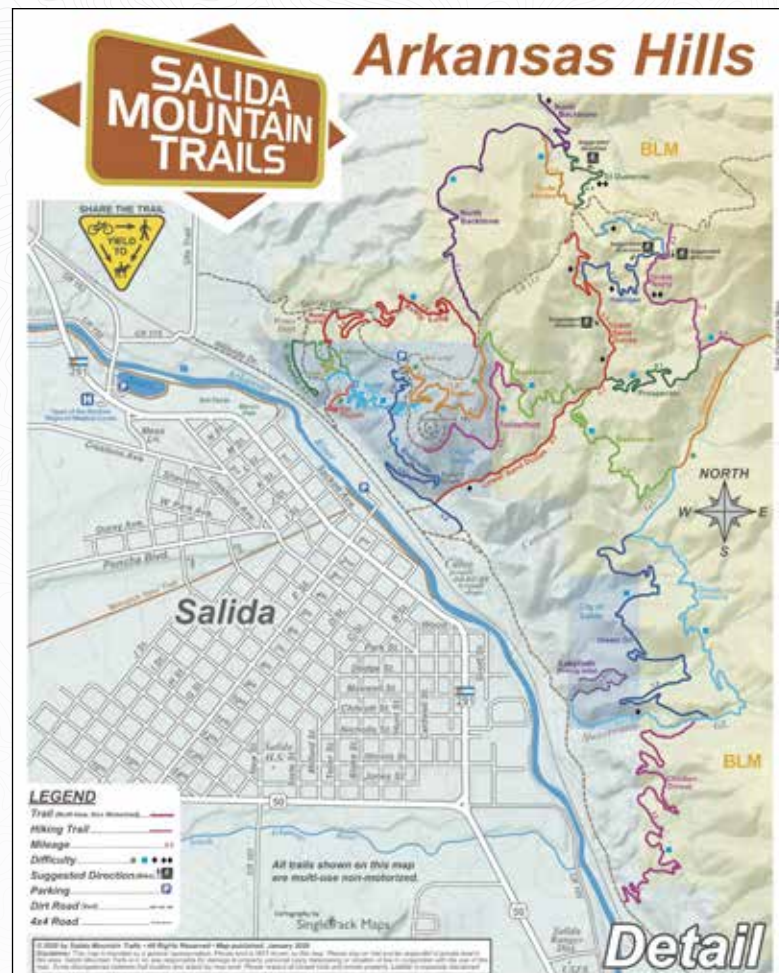




## WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

## SALIDA (1 HR. DRIVE)

Follow the river to beautiful Salida, just 1.25 hours from the Royal Gorge Region. You'll find ample opportunities to bike, hike, fish, and boat in this artistic mountain town. Enjoy trails that leave directly from downtown, or head out to Methodist Mountain for additional fun.



Salida Mountain Trails is an all volunteer organization committed to building and maintaining sustainable, non-motorized, multi-user trails on public lands adjoining the city of Salida. We also have a core commitment to maintain and sustain all the trails around Salida – those we have built as well as those that have already been established.

[salidamountaintrails.org](http://salidamountaintrails.org)

Photo by  
Scott Anderson

Photo by Scott Anderson



# BUENA VISTA (1.5 HR. DRIVE)

Located upstream along the Arkansas River, Buena Vista offers a wealth of trail systems, sub-alpine hiking and biking, and glorious views of the Collegiate Peaks. Stop downtown to peruse their quaint downtown business district and also the new pump track.



Photo by Scott Anderson

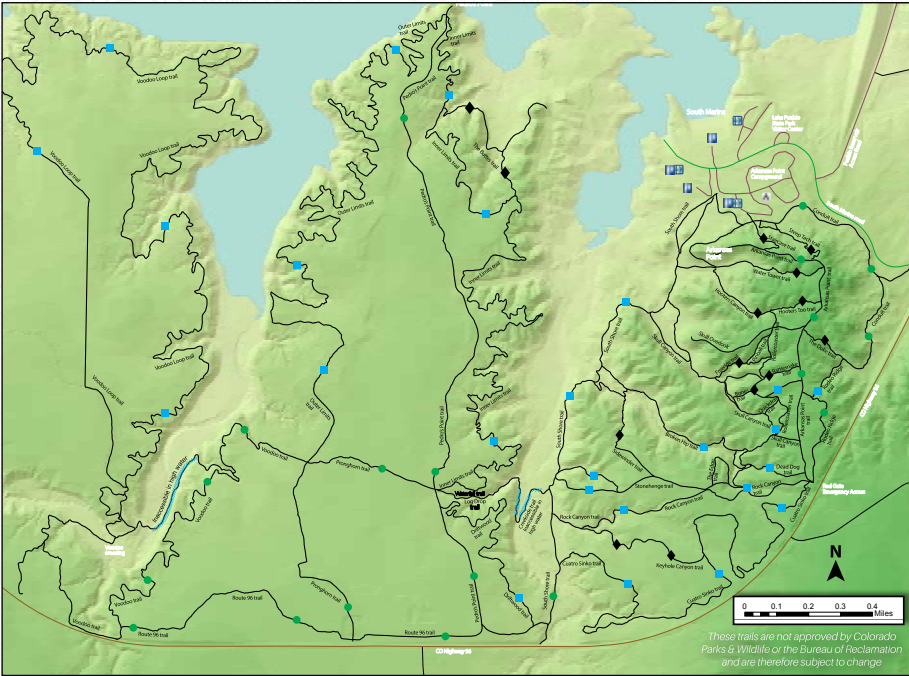
The Buena Vista Singletrack Coalition is a non-profit trail advocacy organization committed to collaborating with agencies, businesses, and locals in order to build, maintain, and steward sustainable trails for muscle-powered users. We promote responsible recreational trail use in the greater Buena Vista, Colorado area.



[bvsingletrack.com](http://bvsingletrack.com)

# PUEBLO (45 MIN. DRIVE)

Lake Pueblo Trails will take you high above the buttes surrounding the reservoir and into several challenging side canyons. With camping and boating options nearby, the trail system is a fantastic option all year, but especially during shoulders seasons.



Southern Colorado Trail Builders is a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Your donations support trail advocacy, maps, maintenance, education and outreach. Donate or volunteer today.



[lakepueblotrailers.org](http://lakepueblotrailers.org)



# MARATHON LEVEL CONTRIBUTORS



## THE WINERY AT HOLY CROSS ABBEY

3011 E. Hwy. 50 | (719) 276-5191 | [abbeywinery.com](http://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.*



## LEDOUX & GORITY, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

303 N. 7th St., Suite 201 | (719) 275-1649 | [ledouxandgosity.com](http://ledouxandgosity.com)

*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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.*



## MARATHON LEVEL CONTRIBUTORS CONT.



### 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.*



### GE JOHNSON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Offices in Colorado, Wyoming, and Oklahoma | [gejohnson.com](http://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](http://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](http://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 | [3rocksenvironment.com](http://3rocksenvironment.com)

*Providing local civil engineering expertise to our neighbors by creating custom solutions for the community we care for.*



### BOAT BARN BAGEL CO.

420 Main St. | (719) 458-1047 | [facebook.com/BoatBarnBagelCo](https://facebook.com/BoatBarnBagelCo)

*Stop in for fresh, delicious bagels and coffee before or after your adventure. With specials named after rapids and unique decor, the Boat Barn is a local favorite!*



### VALLEY-WIDE HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.

121 N. 6th St. | (719) 275-2301 | [vwhs.org](http://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](http://fourmilerealty.com)

*Dedicated to providing you with professional, superior real estate services in Fremont County and surrounding areas. Contact Karen or Tessa today!*

**BETA TIP**

*Supporting businesses listed in this guide supports Fremont Adventure Recreation! Look for the 1% for Trails or Round Up for Trails logo to contribute directly to trail construction and maintenance.*

## HALF-MARATHON CONTRIBUTORS



RED CANYON CYCLES | (719) 285-8169 | [redcanyoncycles.com](http://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 | [royalgorgevacationrentals.net](http://royalgorgevacationrentals.net)

*Enjoy affordable, luxurious vacation rentals, starting at \$499. Four convenient and scenic locations offer accommodation alongside world-class adventure.*



FOURMILE VETERINARY CLINIC | 401 Lincoln Ave. | (719) 275-6318 | [fourmilevet.com](http://fourmilevet.com)

*Your pets (large and small) deserve the best care. Trust them to Fourmile - serving Fremont County for 40 years!*



HARDSCRABBLE MOUNTAIN TRAIL RUN | Annually in June | [hardscrabblerun.com](http://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](http://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.*



THE HIVE IN DOWNTOWN CAÑON CITY: A COWORKING COMMUNITY

729 Main St. | (719) 792-1234 | [TheHiveCanonCity.com](http://TheHiveCanonCity.com)

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

RC FREMONT, LLC and C2 PROPERTIES | (719) 429-8079 | [info.rcfremont@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://coloradoquarries.com)

*Since 1930, Colorado Quarries has mined minerals and decorative aggregate in the Royal Gorge Region. They carry landscape, precast, and specialty products.*





## 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.



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!

## 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.

## SPECIAL THANKS

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Rosalie Johnson  
Anthony Johnson  
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Derrick Donnell  
Adam Davidson  
Glenn Martin

## PARTNERS



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!

## 5K DONORS

Anonymous Donor  
Mark Vail  
Mary Yang  
Steven Carter

Miles Tuttle  
Linda Crenshaw  
Maggie Frasure  
Scott Johnson

Emily Tracy  
Shana Thorson  
Keith and Leticia Buswell  
Joan and Marc Sindler

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

BETA  
TIP





# 1% FOR TRAILS



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](mailto: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

# LOCAL RESOURCES

## 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/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



