



LEGEND

- - Easy, flat or relatively so
- - Moderate, generally hilly
- ◆ - Difficult, steeper
- ◆◆ - Much more difficult, very steep
-  - Accessible to some people with disabilities
-  - Restroom at trailhead or in vicinity. Many restrooms are closed in the winter

Paved—Asphalt or concrete

Gravel—Gravel surface

Natural—Improved natural surface trail

Closed Trails

Severy Creek Trail
Fort Carson Trails to the public.
New Santa Fe Trail through USAFA
Ute Indian Trail (west end)

As a reminder, any of the trails on local military bases can be closed at any time for security reasons.

EL PASO COUNTY

Bear Creek Dog Loop

0.9 miles; gravel



Take 21st. St. south to Rio Grande (over the big hill and back down to the traffic light.) The trailhead for the dog loop is on the west side of 21st St. across from Rio Grande and on the north end of the park.

The Bear Creek Park Dog Loop is one of only a handful of areas in either the city or county parks system where dogs can use the trails without a leash. It is an extremely popular area for dog owners. **Dogs must be under voice command and under control at all times.**

Bear Creek Nature Center



Take Highway 24 west to 26th St., go south two miles to Bear Creek Rd. Continue and turn left at the sign.

1. **Songbird Trail** – 0.1 mile roundtrip, paved, boardwalk – handicap accessible, easy
2. **Mountain Scrub Loop Trail** – 0.5 mile roundtrip, gravel – moderate
3. **Creekbottom Loop Trail** – 0.8 mile roundtrip, gravel – moderate
4. **Coyote Gulch Loop Trail** – 1.2 miles roundtrip, gravel – moderate

A terrific place to hike a variety of trails on the west side. Scrub oak, Ponderosa pine, meadows, wildlife and a creek make for a quiet and peaceful sojourn through nature. Look for a huge variety of wildlife as you walk the trails – no bikes, horses or dogs! Enjoy the abundance of interpretive signage as you walk.

Bear Creek Trail

3 miles; paved and gravel



Go west on Hwy. 24 (Cimarron) to 21st St. Head south on 21st St to West Rio Grande Ave. for Bear Creek Park East or to Argus Blvd. for Bear Creek Terrace.



Other accesses include Wal-Mart on 8th St., the Pikes Peak Greenway, and the Bear Creek Nature Center on Bear Creek Road.

Not be confused with the trail of the same name that reaches into Pike National Forest, this is a multi-use trail that starts at the confluence of Fountain and Bear Creeks across the interstate from Wal-Mart on 8th St. It passes through Bear Creek Park near the Penrose Equestrian Center and continues across 21st Street, west through hilly sections near Upper Skyway and the Bear Creek Nature Center. This trail is heavily used by bicyclists, hikers and equestrians. Migratory birds abound. Additionally, deer, rabbits, weasels, coyotes, hawks, falcons, bears and butterflies can occasionally be seen. To schedule the equestrian cross-country course, call 520-6711. When the course is in use, warning signs are posted.

Black Forest Section Sixteen

4 miles; natural



Take Woodmen Rd. east to Black Forest Rd. Turn north and then take an immediate right past the shopping center onto Vollmer. Go 4 miles and take a left on Burgess at the flashing light to the gate. Parking for horse trailers and trail users is on the right.

Built by the Black Forest Trails Association, it runs around the periphery of the section. It is a beautiful for-

ested area suitable for all non-motorized use. The terrain is gently rolling, passing through Ponderosa pines. A variety of birds make this parcel home. You might also see deer and fox

Black Forest Regional Park

3 miles; gravel



It is located at the intersection of Shoup and Milam Roads in the Black Forest. Take Colorado Highway 83 north to Shoup road, then Shoup Road 2.5 miles east to Milam Road.



A three-mile loop trail winds through the 240-acre regional park. Park trails provide spectacular views of Pikes Peak and the Front Range from the developed area. The remainder of the park is undeveloped with primitive trails for non-motorized use. The park is a prime area for cross-country skiing, mountain biking and horses (limited equestrian parking). The park has pavilions, restrooms, playgrounds and other amenities.

Clear Spring Ranch

4 miles; natural



Take I-25 south to Exit 123 and then go east to Clear Spring Ranch Trail.

Clear Spring Ranch is home to a variety of wildlife species located near the interface of the grasslands and foothills ecosystems. It is adjacent to Fountain Creek and wooded areas. Deer, fox, turkey and a variety of songbirds and raptors make this a wonderful oasis just south of Fountain. The main trail runs north and south through the property and will eventually connect to Fountain Creek Regional Trail

Crews Gulch Trail

1.7 miles; paved and gravel



Take U.S. Hwy. 85/87 south to Widefield. Turn east on Fontane Blvd. to Widefield Park. The Crews Gulch will eventually connect Fountain Creek Regional Trail to the Big Johnson Open Space. It is currently completed from Fountain Creek Regional Trail to Fontane Blvd. It passes through Widefield Park.

Fountain Creek Nature Center

0.63 mile loop; gravel



Take I-25 south to Exit 132; go east on Hwy. 16 three-quarter miles to Hwy. 85. Go one-half mile south to Cattail Marsh Road. Turn right and follow road to nature center.



The trail loops around the Fountain Creek Nature Center Pond and connects to Fountain Creek Regional Trail. It's an area where water and wildlife come together to create outstanding habitat for over 255 species of mammals, birds, reptiles. It includes ponds, creeks, marshes and meadows. Take time to

stop in at the nature center to enjoy the exhibits and the overlooks of the pond surrounded by cattails.

Fountain Creek Trail

7 miles; gravel



Trailheads are at Hwy. 85/87, Willow Springs Ponds and Duckwood Road. You can reach the trail from the interstate at Exit 132, east on Highway 16 for one-half mile, then take Security exit to Highway 85/87 junction, turn right on 85/87 and again right onto Willow Springs Road to the park entrance. You can also access it by taking Hwy. 85/87 south off Lake Ave. (Venetucci Blvd.) to the county trailhead. Another access is the City's Seymour Cray Trailhead at the El Pomar Sports Complex to the east of Janitell Blvd. Turn south off South Circle onto Janitell Blvd. and turn east on Executive Circle.

This trail connects El Paso County's Fountain Creek Regional Park to the Pikes Peak Greenway and is the southern link in the region's 40-mile long "Spine" Trail. Starting just south of Hanson Park, the trail passes Willow Springs Fishing Ponds (closed) and numerous wetland and habitat viewing areas. A wide gravel trail winds through beautiful old cottonwood trees, bushes and tall grasses, and alongside wetlands

sanctuaries of Fountain Creek. You will find gazebos with educational displays for wetlands viewing. The area abounds with wildlife, ducks, blue herons, owls, deer, beaver, and red fox. This trail connects north to the Pikes Peak Greenway (note: there is still some flood damage between Circle and Nevada.)

Fox Run Regional Park

4.5 miles; gravel



From Interstate 25, take Exit 156A to Northgate Road; east on Northgate Road for 3.5 miles; north on Rollercoaster Road for 1.5 miles to Stella Drive. Trailheads are off Stella Drive, Rollercoaster Road at the north end of the park and the Fallen Timbers Wilderness area.

The park is in the western portion of Black Forest. Two self-guiding interpretive trails are in the park. The short "What's in a Name" trail is for hikers only. Four miles of multi-use trails wind through the Fallen Timbers Wilderness area. Interpretive displays provide information about the area. Red fox, mule deer and Steller's jays abound amid the thick forest of Ponderosa Pines which dominates the park. Most of the park has been left in a natural state. The park has picnic tables, pavilions, playgrounds, restrooms and horse trailer parking.



Homestead Ranch

Homestead Ranch Trail ●

3.25 miles of trail; natural ■



Go east on Hwy. 24 to Elbert Road, then north 5 miles on Elbert to Sweet Road. Go east 2.5 miles on Sweet to Golihar. Go 1/2 mile to park entrance.

This park on the eastern plains is nestled against a bluff with trails running up and around the top of the pine-covered bluff. It has a playground and restrooms. Other development has been put on hold due to the drought and funding limitations.

New Santa Fe Trail ●

17 miles; gravel ■



Trailheads are numerous. The northern end is located on County Line Road, one mile east and north of the Palmer Lake Trailhead. It now connects to the Greenland Trail in Douglas County.

Take Highway 105 through Palmer Lake, past the northern edge of the lake. Turn right on County Line Road, cross the tracks and turn right into the park. Trailheads are also found in Monument, at Hwy. 105, Baptist Road, the north entrance to the Air Force Academy and Ice Lake on the Air Force Academy. Enter at the south gate and cross the bridge over Monument Creek. Turn left at Pine Drive. On the sweeping curve to the right, take the gravel road left toward the power substation and cross the tracks. (Trains sometimes block the way out for several hours, so be warned.)

This trail is the northern segment of the region's north-south spine trail. It traces the old 1870 Santa Fe Railroad right-of-way. The gravel trail is used by runners, mountain bicyclists, walkers and equestrians. Views of Elephant Rock and the Front Range as well as prairie lands and pine forests make this trail fun for everyone. The trail is well marked with interpretive signs. Users must not leave the trail through the Academy grounds. Six

trailheads service its length. The trail south skirts Elephant Rock. The southern end is south of Ice Lake at the city limits where it transitions to the Pikes Peak Greenway through the City. It is also home to much of the American Discovery Trail Marathon.

Palmer-Red Rocks Loop (Section 16 Trails) ■ ◆

Take Hwy. 24 to 21st St; go south on 21st to Lower Gold Camp Road; west to Upper Gold Camp Road; then south to the Section 16 Trailhead on the west side of the road. The easiest route for the trail starts at the southern trailhead on High Drive. Go south from the Section Trailhead to High Drive and then about 1.4 mile to the trailhead on the right.

The Palmer-Red Rocks Loop Trail is a well-maintained trail partly in Section 16 that runs through scrub oak and conifers and has both steep and flat sections. It has super views and rock formations and is used by hikers, runners, mountain bikers and equestrians. The first mile from High Drive is an easy stroll. After that, you have a steeper challenge, a 1300 ft. elevation gain through mountain conifers. It's steeper from the Section 16 Trailhead.

Palmer Divide Trail ●

3 miles, gravel

Take Hwy. 83 north to Hodgen Road located in Black Forest. Head east 10 miles to Woodlake Road. The trailhead is in the southwest corner of the intersection.

This is a scenic trail in the northeast part of El Paso County. It meanders along Kiowa Creek southwest from the trailhead on Hodgen Road. Along the creek look for old farm buildings, grasslands, riparian habitat, ponds and a variety of bird species.

Palmer Lake Reservoir Trail ■

2 miles, gravel surface

Take I-25 north to Hwy. 105. Drive almost all the way to Palmer Lake and turn left onto South Valley Road (right before town). Then turn left onto Old Carriage Road. The trailhead is on the right.

This trail passes two reservoirs that are part of the Palmer Lake water system. No horses are allowed. Very pretty trail that climbs high above the town of Palmer Lake through a scenic canyon.

Rock Island Trail, El Paso County ●

9.5 miles; gravel ■



Take Hwy. 24 east to Falcon, turn left on Meridian Road and then east to the trailhead.

This easy trail runs parallel to Hwy. 24 from Falcon to Peyton. It uses the old Rock Island Railroad bed and trestles. The trail is the eastern leg of the America the Beautiful Trail.

