



Bear Creek Nature Center (East Side Route)



Hike Information

Rating: 4 - Easy/Moderate

Distance: 4.2 Miles

Total Elevation Gain*: 525 feet

Starting Elevation: 6,356 feet

Hike Time: ~2.0 Hours

Total Event Time: ~2.0 to 2.5 Hours**

Dog Friendly: No

** Total Elevation Gain includes total feet climbed throughout hike and does not represent difference between low and high points.*

*** Total Event Time includes Hike Time plus transportation to and from the initial meeting point.*

Hike Description

This is a 4.7-mile double-loop hike which begins at the Bear Creek Nature Center near Manitou Springs; the route travels through the Bear Creek Regional Park east to a hilltop with a fantastic overlook.

Hikers begin at the Bear Creek Nature Center and follow the outer trail northeast, eventually leaving the nature center and continuing through the regional park. At the eastern end of the route, hikers will walk clockwise along a small hilltop loop, enjoying views at the top. This is a great place to view the Colorado Springs downtown area, plus see some interesting rock benches and sculptures. Hikers then complete the loop and head back toward the Nature Center, finishing the hike along a different route.

This hike consists of dirt and rock, sometimes involving stepping up and around obstacles in the rougher places of the trail. The views are excellent along the entire route, including an overview of the city, Cheyenne Mountain, and the surrounding front range mountains.

This hike traverses both prairie and forest, and includes numerous trees, including ponderosa pine, scrub oak thickets, cottonwoods and willows. Hikers often find mule deer along this route, as well as numerous species of birds, including scrub jays and red-tailed hawks, plus many more around the main nature center. As this hike begins and ends in the nature center, dogs are not permitted on this hike.

This is a fantastic hike which can be done by hikers of nearly all ability-levels. With a focus on nature and great views, this hike will appeal to both nature-lovers and adventurers alike.

What To Bring

- Water:  = 40 ounces
- Food: Light, Healthy Snack
- Clothing: Breathable Layers (adjust for daily temps)
- Footwear: Comfortable hiking boots or shoes
- Headgear: Hat
- Safety: Sunscreen, Sunglasses
- Optional: Hiking Poles



To learn more about this location, visit:
<https://parks.elpasoco.com/el-paso-county-nature-centers/bear-creek-nature-center/>

See Next Page for Maps and Meeting Point Information

Hikers may meet at the carpool meeting point or the hike location
(Both meeting times are indicated on the Event Schedule)



Carpool Meeting Point

Buffalo Lodge Resort

2 El Paso Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80904



Buffalo Lodge can be a little tricky to navigate the first time you visit. This is a 5-acre self-enclosed lodge with numerous buildings. As you first pull into the property, you will see the main Lodge Office on the right...**this is where the group meets for the hike.**

However, please do not park up front as this is only for lodging guests. Instead, drive through the lot to the rear area and park in the large dirt lot marked "Event Parking". You will then walk to the front of the lot and meet us at the main Lodge Office.

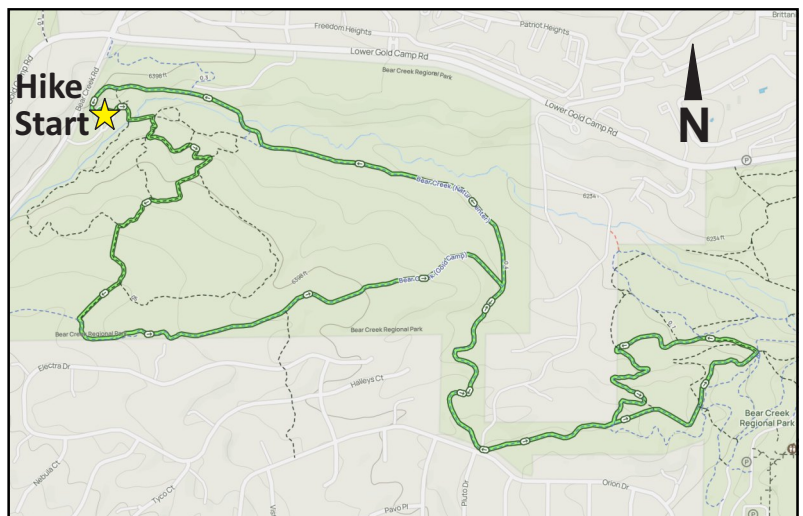
Mountain Trails members may choose to ride with someone, offer a ride to other hikers, or simply follow the caravan in their own vehicle. The priority for this hike series are the Buffalo Lodge guests; if any guest needs a ride, we will provide them with transportation.

Regardless where you choose to meet the group (Buffalo Lodge or hike meeting point), hiking club members are encouraged to visit Buffalo Lodge as they have a lounge with interesting decor, a variety of activities, a bicycle shop, and live music most nights of the week.

About the Buffalo Lodge Hike Series:

This hike is part of a partnership with the Buffalo Lodge Resort, offering guided hikes to lodge guests and members in the Manitou Springs area. Mountain Trails members are encouraged to meet here and learn more about Buffalo Lodge before proceeding to the hike (but may also choose to meet the group at the hike as shown below.)

Hike Meeting Point & Map



This hike begins and ends at Bear Creek Nature Center (245 Bear Creek Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80906). The map above shows the nature center as the start and finish of the hike.

AllTrails link:

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/colorado/bear-creek-regional-trail-with-nature-preserve>