



Red Rocks Canyon
Open Space Trails



The **Red Rocks Canyon Open Space Trail System** is a beautiful urban open space that takes advantage of great views and interesting geologic features. This trail guide was prepared in the fall of 2006. New trails will be added in the future. Rock scrambling is prohibited in this open space area. **Rock climbing is allowed by permit only (obtain a permit at the Garden of the Gods Visitors Center).**

[Click here to view photos of this trail](#)
(Password = havefun)

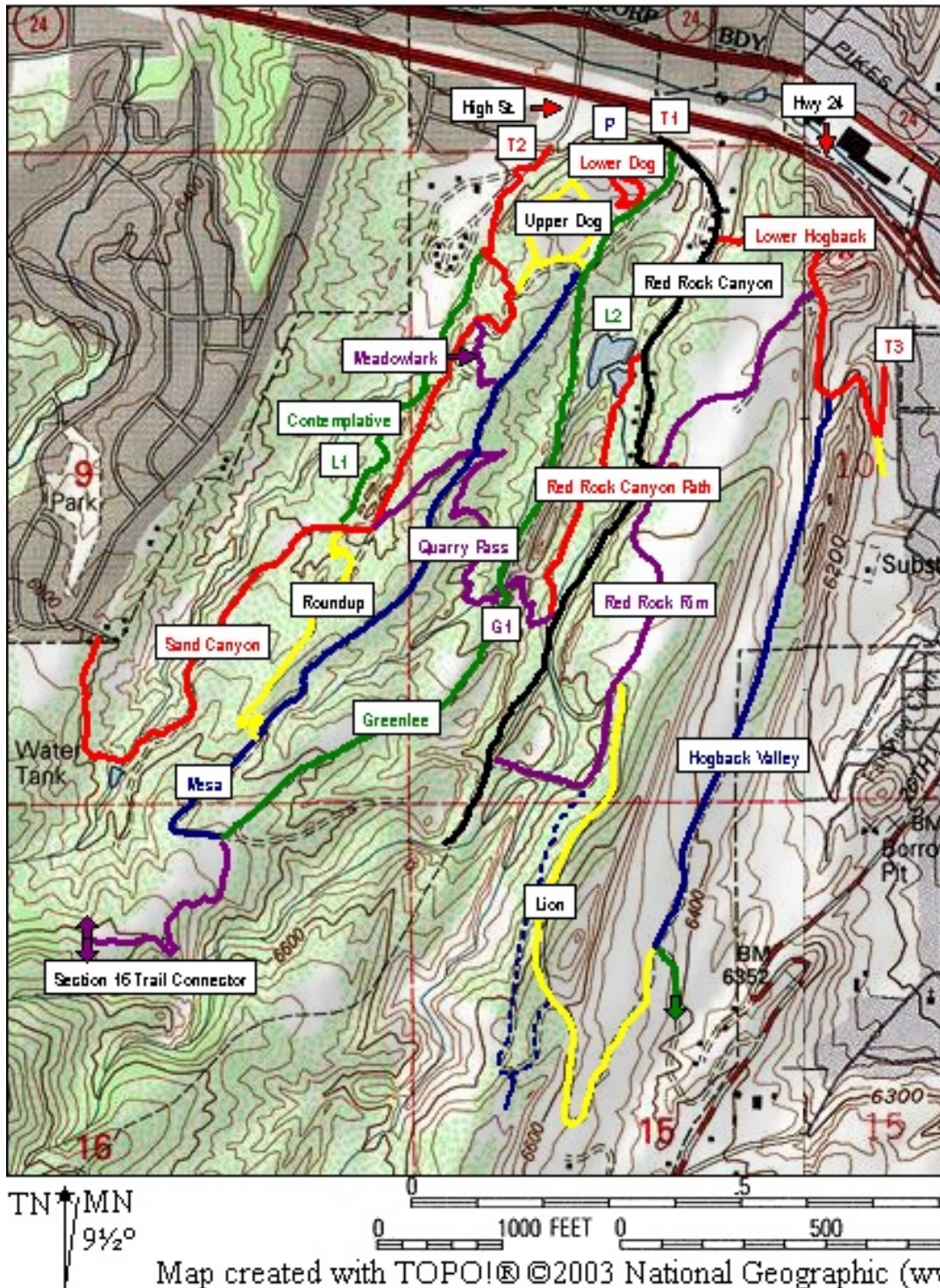
Use of Trail:	Hiking / Biking / Horse Riding (Unless stated otherwise)
Length of Trail:	Various
Elevation Gain:	Various
Hiking Difficulty:	Easy to Moderate (see ratings here)
Fees / Permits:	None
Trail Contact:	Colorado Springs Dept of Parks & Rec. 1401 Recreation Way Colorado Springs, CO. 80905 (719) 385-5940
Approx. Hiking Time:	Varies
Terrain Type:	Flat / Rolling / Mostly Open, Some Woods
Trail Characteristics:	Single & Double Track – Dirt / Gravel / Sand
Views:	City of Colorado Springs / Garden of the Gods / Pikes Peak
Pets:	Permitted on Leash Only, Owners Must Remove Pet Excrement (by City Ordinance)
Other Nearby Trails:	Red Rock Loop & Palmer Trail / Paul Intemann Memorial Trail
Geocaches / Letterboxes:	Yes

GPS Waypoint Files are also available for this trail. This file includes the GPS waypoints for each trail feature listed and can be accessed and downloaded directly to your GPS unit.

[Click here for the instructions on how to download the GPS waypoint file.](#)

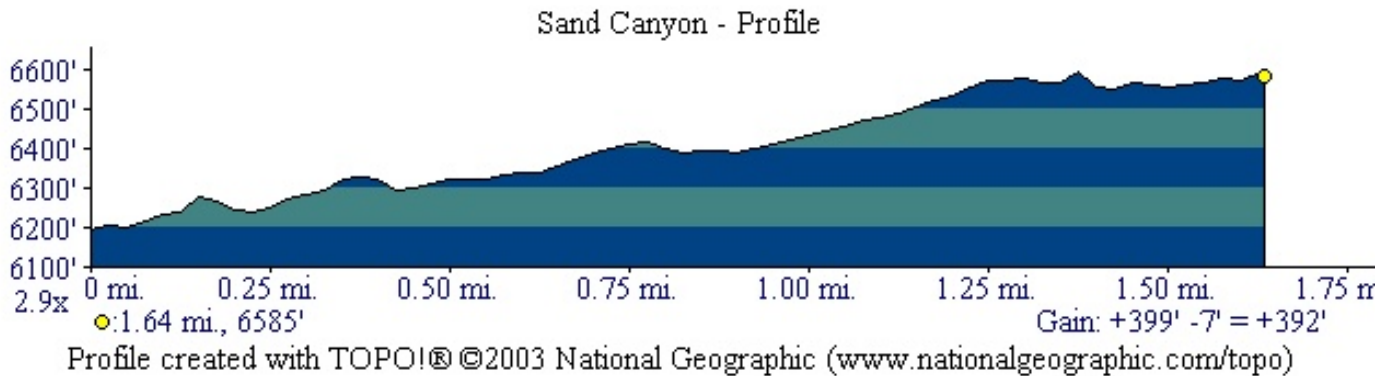
[Click here to download the GPS waypoint file for this trail.](#)

Red Rock Canyon Open Space Trails



Bear Creek / Section 16 Trail Series

Red Rocks Canyon Trails



Trailhead Directions

From the I-25 in Colorado Springs, get off at Exit 141 (Cimarron Street) and go west (towards the mountains) on State Highway 24 (or Cimarron St.). Travel about 3.5 miles to the intersection with W. High Street (on the left) and Ridge Road (on the right). Turn left onto W. High Street and within a few hundred feet there is a drive on the left which leads to a large parking lot. There are two trailheads which begin from this parking lot: **T1** is on the east side of the parking lot and connects directly to the Red Rock Canyon Trail. **T2** is on the west side of the parking lot (walk back up the drive towards the entrance) and connects directly to the Sand Canyon Trail. The **T3** trailhead is located along 31st Street (approximately 0.18 miles south of Hwy 24).

[Click here for map to trailhead T1 / T2 / T3 \(courtesy of MapQuest\)](#)

Trail Descriptions

Contemplative Trail - Length of Trail = 0.51 miles (one way); Hiking Only

This trail begins and ends at the Sand Canyon Trail (approximately .25 miles from the parking lot's west side (**T2**)). This is a beautiful trail that goes through some tight passageways and numerous towering, red rock formations. There are some smaller social trails off this trail. Stay on the main trail.

Greenlee Trail - Length of Trail = 0.73 miles (one way); Multi-use

The Greenlee Trail begins shortly (.35 miles) after leaving the parking lot (**T1**) on the Red Rock Canyon Trail. The Greenlee Trail will connect to the Upper and Lower Dog Loop Trails, the Mesa Trail's northern end, passes over the Quarry Pass Trail and ends at the end of (southern end) of the Mesa Trail. This trail consists of a steady uphill incline.

Hogback Valley Trail - Length of Trail = 0.88 miles (one way); Multi-Use

The Hogback Valley Trail is an old, four wheel drive (4WD) road. Its northern terminus connects to the Lower Hogback Trail and its southern terminus ends at the intersection of the Lion Trail and a connector spur (leading down to 26th Street).

Lower Dog Loop Trail - Length of Trail = 0.17 miles (one way); Hiking Only

This trail is specifically designated as an area to walk your dog. It is primarily an open meadow, with some scattered small trees. It connects directly to the Greenlee Trail.

Bear Creek / Section 16 Trail Series

Red Rocks Canyon Trails

Lower Hogback Trail - **Length of Trail = 0.70 miles (one way); Multi-Use**

This trail begins at the **T3** trailhead (on 26th Street) and continues northwesterly until it meets the Red Rock Canyon Trail. The Red Rock Rim Trail can also be accessed from this trail.

Meadow Lark Trail - **Length of Trail = 0.24 miles (one way); Multi-Use**

This is a newer, less traveled trail that connects the Sand Canyon Trail to the Mesa Trail.

Mesa Trail - **Length of Trail = 0.33 miles (one way); Multi-Use**

This trail connects to the Greenlee Trail at its northern end, passes over the Quarry Pass Trail and terminates at the intersection of the Section 16 Trail Connector. Portions of this trail are on an old dirt road.

Quarry Pass Trail - **Length of Trail = 0.64 miles (one way); Multi-Use**

The Quarry Pass Trail travels through the old quarry mining site. It is a narrower and steeper trail with some switchbacks and stairs (etched into the rock quarry formation). The trail is a mixture of rocks and sand. When riding a bike or horseback riding through the quarry area you are required to dismount. The Quarry Pass Trail connects to the Sand Canyon Trail at its western end and terminates at the intersection with the Red Rock Canyon Trail and the Red Rock Canyon Path.

Red Rock Canyon Trail - **Length of Trail = 1.17 miles (one way); Multi-Use**

The Red Rock Canyon Trail connects directly to the parking area using the **T1** (northern) trailhead. Initially this trail is a wide dirt/gravel road that parallels Highway 24. On this trail you will see numerous unfinished trails and/or dirt roads veering off on both sides. Stay on the main trail. Eventually you will travel past some old stone buildings and ponds. A portion of this trail is surrounded on both sides by red, towering rock formations. Some sections of this trail are primarily sand.

Red Rock Canyon Path - **Length of Trail = 0.46 miles (one way); Hiking Only**

There are numerous social trails off of this trail (most of them lead to the base of the red, rock formations which surround this trail). There is also an intersection with an old dirt road that heads north. Stay on the main trail.

Red Rock Rim Trail - **Length of Trail = 1.06 (one way); Multi-Use**

This trail can be accessed at its northern most point by using the Lower Hogback Trail. It travels along the top of the rock formations that make this Open Space unique. This trail will eventually connect to the Lion Trail and ends at the Red Rock Canyon Trail.

Sand Canyon Trail - **Length of Trail = 1.64 miles (one way); Multi-Use**

The Sand Canyon Trail connects directly to the parking area using the **T2** (western) trailhead. After a steady uphill climb the trail ends on a residential cul-de-sac.

Section 16 Trail Connector - **Length of Trail = 0.38 miles (one way); Multi-Use**

This trail connects the Red Rock Open Space trails to the Paul Intemann Memorial Trail which is part of the Section 16 series of trails (including the Red Rock Loop Trail).

Upper Dog Loop Trail - **Length of Trail = 0.4 miles (one way); Hiking Only**

This trail is specifically designated as an area to walk your dog. The trail is primarily in an open meadow, with some scattered small trees. Some portions of this trail are not well defined (as of Fall 2006).

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Geocaches

- **G1** **Geocache Name:** Quarry Cache **Location:** N 38 / 50.609 & W 104 / 53.015

Check out www.geocaching.com for more information

Letterboxes

- **L1** **Letterbox Name:** Contemplative Trail - II **Location:** see www.letterboxing.org
- **L2** **Letterbox Name:** Red Rock Canyon **Location:** see www.letterboxing.org

Check out www.letterboxing.org for more information

Other Trails Accessible from this Trail ([Click on Trail Name Below to Access Trail Guide](#))

- [Red Rock Loop / Palmer Trail / Paul Intemann Memorial Trail](#)