



City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

Colorado State Natural Areas

What to Expect

Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks holds three state natural areas that are open to the public: Boulder Mountain Park, Colorado Tallgrass Prairie, and South Boulder Creek. They are located within the foothills-plains interface, an area with an impressive diversity of vegetation communities, wildlife, and rare plants. These areas encompass an expansive variety of terrain including cool evergreen forests, shrubby foothills, tallgrass prairie, and lush riparian meadows. The spectacular 300-million year old Boulder flatirons provide a striking backdrop. Many sensitive wildlife species inhabit this rich area such as Preble's meadow jumping mice, Peregrine falcons, Townsend's big-eared bat, and more.



*View of Boulder flatirons by Owen Allen.
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Flowering big bluestem.

About the Natural Areas

Location: Boulder County, ~4 miles outside of Central Boulder

Landowner: [City of Boulder OSMP](#)

Combined Size: 8864 acres

Location: [See the Boulder OSMP Trail Map for access.](#)

Know Before You Go

There are numerous trails open year round for all abilities to explore at these natural areas. Obtain a City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) map at the Chautauqua Ranger Cottage, or check the [Boulder OSMP website](#) for recreation opportunities, guided hikes, maps, and regulations. Bring your binoculars to look for soaring raptors and wear sturdy shoes to help navigate the rocky terrain. Keep your distance from wildlife and make sure your dog is under control. Before visiting be sure to check the [Interactive OSMP Trails Map](#) for public notifications, access status, and trail type information.



Rolling hills of Colorado Tallgrass Prairie.

For more information about the Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) visit [CNAP's website.](#)