



# Garden Park Fossil Locality

Colorado State Natural Area

## What to Expect

Garden Park is one of the most important Late Jurassic fossil sites in North America. The site is so rich in fossil dinosaurs and mammals that almost every major natural history museum in the United States has a showpiece specimen excavated from here. Feuding paleontologists in the 1800s excavated many quarries in the area, producing the original fossils for many important species of dinosaurs, including the Stegosaurus, the Colorado state fossil. Two rare plants, Brandegees' wild buckwheat and golden blazing star, are also found at the site associated with the same rock unit that bears fossils.



*Distant view of the Marsh-Felch Quarry*



*Visitors enjoying an interpretive talk*

## Know Before You Go

Garden Park Natural Area features a gentle  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile trail with interpretive signs that takes visitors to the historic Marsh-Felch Quarry. Help protect these ancient wonders by refraining from fossil collection. Nearby trails within Oil Well Flats offer multiple recreation opportunities. Bring sun protection, water, and keep your distance from wildlife. Restrooms, camping, and picnic areas are provided. Visit [handsontheland.org](http://handsontheland.org) for more information, including a virtual quarry and a site-specific history lesson. Visit the [BLM's website](#) or call the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office to check up to date rules and regulations.

## About the Natural Area

**Location:** Fremont County, 7 miles north of Cañon City

**Landowner:** Bureau of Land Management- Royal Gorge Field Office

**Size:** 2668 acres

**Directions:** 3501-3767 Garden Park Rd, Cañon City, CO 81212. [Google maps link to Garden Park Fossil Locality](#)



*Plateau lizard*

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