

# Eldorado Canyon State Park



## Who we are

Eldorado Canyon State Park is located west of the historic resort town of Eldorado Springs. A world-renowned technical rock climbing area, the canyon also offers fishing, hiking, picnicking and a quiet retreat from the city. Trails in the park connect to trails on Boulder County Open Space and City of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks lands. The park also features an award-winning "Junior Ranger" program during the summer months and outstanding opportunities for photography during all seasons.

## Top attractions

- Legendary rock-climbing destination
- Miles of hiking trails with spectacular views
- Picnicking along the scenic South Boulder Creek
- Award-winning junior ranger program
- Trout fishing and wildlife viewing
- Universally accessible education/naturalist programs.

## Our partners

- Action Committee for Eldorado (ACE) & Fixed Hardware Review Committee
- Eldorado Artesian Springs Water and Pool
- The Access Fund
- Jefferson County Parks and Open Space
- City of Boulder Mountain Parks and Open Space
- Boulder County Parks and Open Space
- Eldorado Springs and Kneale Subdivision Homeowners Association
- Rocky Mountain Fire Authority
- MountainProject.com
- Mile High Youth Corp.
- Rocky Mountain Rescue Group, Inc.
- Denver Water Board
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Boulder County Sheriff's Office and Community Corrections
- Colorado Department of Health and Environment
- Wildland Restoration Volunteers
- Teens, Inc.

## Challenges we face

- The park continues to see record high visitation each year. Eldorado Canyon reaches capacity on weekends and holidays year-round, especially between March and November. Such intensive use of the "Inner Canyon" affects the natural resources and visitor experiences.
- Staffing levels are leading to undue strains on personnel tasked with managing the high volume of visitation.
- Wildfire mitigation work in the Inner Canyon and Crescent Meadow areas continues with help from Colorado State Forest Service and other agencies.



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## Volunteer activities

- Eldorado offers a volunteer program, including raptor monitoring, trail crew work, naturalist assistance, maintenance assistance and visitor services.
- The Action Committee for Eldorado provides voluntary, fixed climbing hardware maintenance and does extensive fundraising for climbing access trail maintenance.

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Park Manager: John Carson

As of July 1, 2022

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## Manager's Message

Eldorado Canyon State Park offers many different activities, including over 1,000 rock climbing routes, miles of trails for hiking, sightseeing, interpretive programs, picnicking, fishing and hunting (in the Crescent Meadows section of the park). The geology of the inner canyon of the park creates spectacular views and climbing opportunities that draws people from around the world. While the inner canyon is less than 10 miles from Boulder and about 30 miles from Denver, it creates a unique feeling of seclusion and ruggedness common to the Colorado Rockies. It is recommended that weekend and holiday users visit Eldorado Canyon early in the mornings, later in the day or on weekdays if possible to avoid the crowds. By working with partnerships that have been formed over many years, Eldorado Canyon staff will continue to provide many safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities for park visitors while keeping the canyon from being "loved to death."

### Geography

Region: Northeast  
County: Boulder and Jefferson  
Year Acquired: 1978  
Elevation: 6,000 ft  
Miles From Denver: 30

### Acreege

Total Acres: 1,392

### Governmental

US Cong Dist: 2<sup>nd</sup>  
CO Senate: 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>  
CO House: 27<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup>

### Employees

Permanent: 5  
Temporary: 10  
Volunteers (FY 22): 40  
Volunteer Hours (FY 22): 1,839

### Annual Visitation

FY 22: ~530,000

### Facilities

11 Picnic Sites  
Visitor Center

### Trails

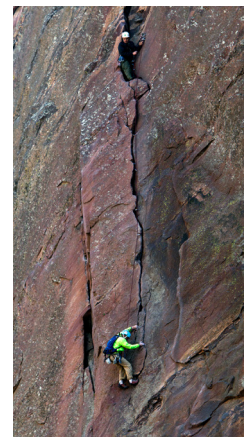
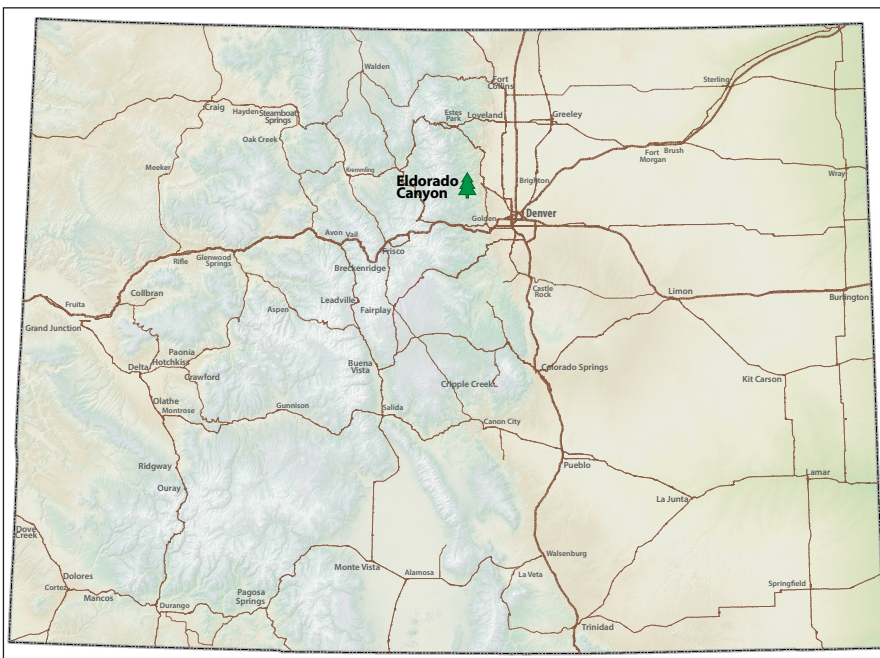
Biking: 10.8 miles  
Hiking: 17.1 miles  
Horseback: 11.3 miles  
Cross Country Skiing/  
Snowshoeing: 14.5 miles  
Total: 17.1 miles

### Roads

Unpaved: 1 mile

### Recreation

Hiking  
Rock Climbing  
Picnicking  
Fishing  
Hunting (at Crescent Meadows only)  
Award Winning  
Junior Ranger Programs  
Educational and  
Interpretive Programs  
Wildlife/Bird Viewing



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