

Welcome to Clear Creek Trail



Photo by Scott Dressel-Martin

History

Early on, Clear Creek served as part of the passageway used by the various nomadic bands of Native Americans living in Colorado. Clear Creek was also a lure to many farmers and gold seekers, and later included some larger gravel mining operations. These gravel mining sites have since been reclaimed as lakes. The headwaters of Clear Creek are located along the Continental Divide about 45 miles west of the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt. Originating in western Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties, Clear Creek travels east through Idaho Springs, Jefferson County, and the City of Golden before entering Wheat Ridge. The Wheat Ridge Greenbelt is located within the 100-year floodplain of Clear Creek where the elevation varies from 5,450 to 5,280 feet. This preserved open space supports an abundance of native plants and wildlife including a diverse number of bird species.



Clear Creek is the centerpiece of the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt stretching for 6.5 miles through the 300-acre open space. Boundaries begin west of Youngfield and end at Harlan Street. This section of the Clear Creek Trail and the Greenbelt are managed by City of Wheat Ridge's Parks and Recreation Department.

Our Mission: To create and offer services that foster sustainability, as well as to partner with the community to provide exceptional programs, parks, open space and facilities that enhance opportunities for personal growth, well-being and healthy lifestyles.



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Amenities

The Wheat Ridge portion of the Clear Creek trail has become a valuable open space amenity for residents and visitors alike, providing opportunities for hiking, walking, biking, horseback riding, and nature viewing. Come explore and discover the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt and the Clear Creek Trail and the following amenities:

- **4 parks with direct access to Clear Creek Trail:** Creekside; Johnson; Anderson; and Prospect Parks totaling 86 acres of parkland.
- **4 lakes near the trail:** Prospect; Tabor; Bass and West Lakes with non-motorized boating activities (no boating allowed on Bass Lake) and fishing for largemouth and small mouth bass, catfish, bluegill, crappie and perch.



- **Bass Lake boardwalk** for birds and other wildlife viewing is located around the southern edge of Bass Lake. The boardwalk, the viewing platforms and bird blind, as well as the entire Greenbelt, provides one of the top birding spots in the Denver metro area and are ADA accessible. It affords opportunities for birds and other wildlife observation and photography as well as a peaceful escape from the activity along the Clear Creek Trail.
- **6.5 miles of paved trail** stretching through 300 acres of open space.
- **Recreational gold panning** in the Arapahoe Bar area.

- **The Denver Blue Formation.** A natural rock formation created from volcanic ash when the Table Mountains (North and South) erupted and the ash settled in the Clear Creek River Valley. The formation is visible in Clear Creek adjacent to Anderson and Creekside Parks and Tabor Lake.
- **Ute ladies'-tresses orchid** inhabit the designated conservation area.
- **A healthy and thriving riparian environment.** The riparian corridor along Clear Creek is an ecological community that provides protection for native plant species such as the Ute ladies'-tresses orchid, Plains Cottonwood, Western Snowberry, and Chokecherry.
- Designated as a **National Recreation Trail** in 2007.

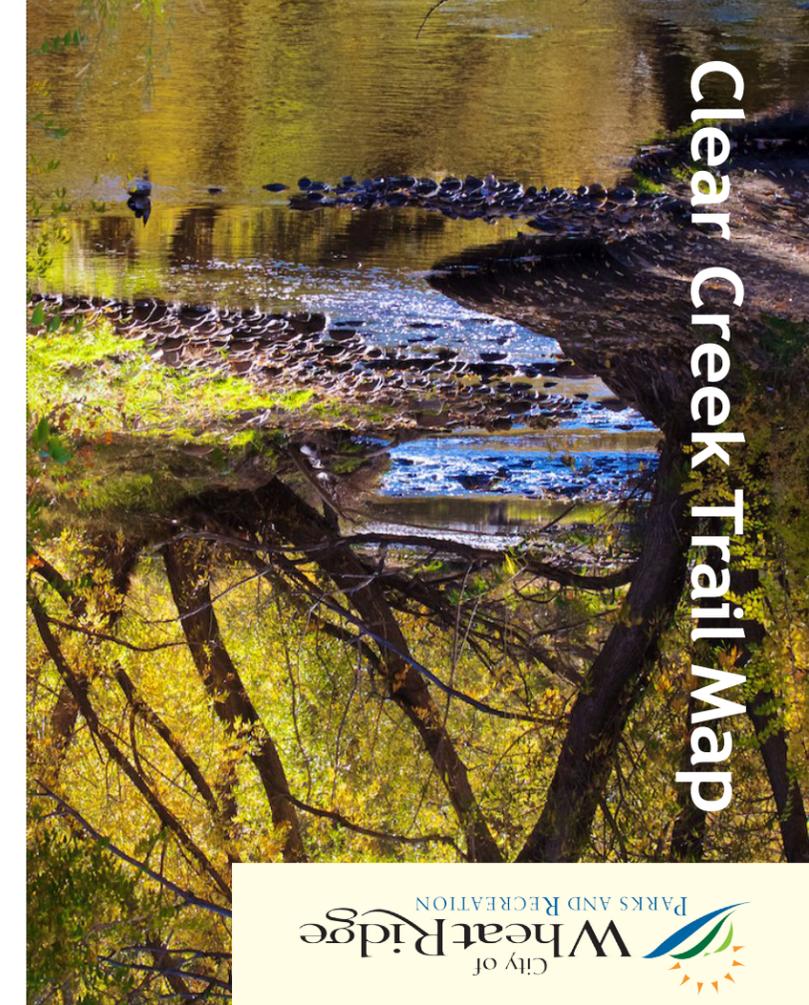


Rules & Regulations

- Wheat Ridge Greenbelt and Clear Creek Trail hours are from sunrise to sunset. Prospect, Anderson, Johnson and Creekside Park hours are 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Motor vehicles are not allowed on any portions of the trail.
- Remove all trash or place in proper containers.
- Stay on established trails and avoid restricted areas.
- All pets must be leashed, Wheat Ridge leash laws apply. Owners must pick up all pet waste.
- Please observe all signs regarding water use and safety on lakes and in the creek.
- All park rules and regulations are available on our website: www.ci.wheatridge.co.us/parksandrecreation



City of Wheat Ridge Parks & Recreation: 303-231-1300
www.ci.wheatridge.co.us/parksandrecreation
 Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency: 303-237-2220



Clear Creek Trail Map



Trail Safety & Etiquette

- Share the trail, stay right and pass on the left.
- Announce yourself when passing.
- Travel in a predictable and consistent manner.
- Travel at a speed appropriate for the trail and weather conditions that allows you to be in control.
- All users yield to those with disabilities and respect their needs.
- Maintenance workers may be present on the trail.
- Courtesy counts!

SHARE THE TRAIL



Clear Creek Trail/ Wheat Ridge Greenbelt



Historical Park Museum



Baugh House



Outdoor Pool



Gold panning along Clear Creek
Photo by Justin LeVitt



Typical informational kiosk



Recreation Center

Points of Interest

- 1** Gold Panning Area
West of Youngfield & South of Hwy 58
- 2** Tabor Lake
- 3** West Lake
- 4** Bass Lake Boardwalk
Wildlife Viewing Area
- 5** Prospect Lake/Park
- 6** Baugh House
11361 W. 44th Ave.
- 7** Wheat Ridge Historical Park
W. 46th & Robb St.
- 8** Wheat Ridge Recreation Center
4005 Kipling St.
- 9** Blue Rock Formations
Prehistoric formations of volcanic ash, dating back millions of years.



Blue Formation — Clear Creek at Anderson Park and at Creekside Park

Trailheads & Features

- T1** Youngfield Trailhead
South of W. 42nd Ave & Clear Creek on Youngfield St.
 - Informational kiosk
 - Parking
 - Restroom (year-round)
- T2** Prospect Park Trailhead
44th Ave. & Robb St.
 - Informational kiosk
 - Parking
 - Restroom (year-round)
- T3** Miller Trailhead
West of Miller St. on 41st Ave.
 - Informational kiosk
 - Parking
- T4** Kipling West Trailhead
Between W. 41st Ave. & W. 43rd Ave. on Kipling St.
 - Parking
- T5** Kipling Trailhead
42nd Ave. & Kipling St.
 - Parking
- T6** Anderson Park Trailhead
44th Ave. & Field St.
 - Informational kiosk
 - Parking
 - Restroom (seasonal)
- T7** Johnson Park Trailhead
North of 48th Ave. on Wadsworth Blvd. (Accessible only from south-bound Wadsworth Blvd. May not be vehicle accessible in certain weather conditions)
 - Informational kiosk
 - Parking
- T8** Otis Trailhead
W. 48th Ave. & Otis St., then north and west from this intersection
 - Parking
- T9** Creekside Park Trailhead
W. 48th Place and Marshall St.
 - Parking
 - Restroom (seasonal)

Parks & Amenities

- Prospect Park**
W. 44th Ave. & Robb St.
 - Water fountain (seasonal)
 - Picnic tables/BBQ grill
 - Horseshoes
 - Playground
 - Pavilion
 - Restroom (year-round)
 - Ball fields
 - Tennis court
 - Lake
 - Fishing dock
 - Boat Ramp
- Anderson Park**
4355 Field St.
 - Water fountain (seasonal)
 - Picnic tables/BBQ grill
 - Playground
 - Pavilion
 - Restroom (seasonal)
 - Ball fields
 - Basketball court
 - Outdoor pool (seasonal)
- Creekside Park**
W. 49th Ave. & Marshall St.
 - Water fountain (seasonal)
 - Picnic tables
 - Playground
 - Ball fields
 - Restroom (seasonal)

Legend

- Clear Creek Trail
- Parking at Trailhead
- Hiker only
- City of Wheat Ridge
- Wheat Ridge Greenbelt



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Peaks to Plains Trail

The Peaks to Plains planned trail system will extend from Georgetown to Denver International Airport (DIA). This map represents the Clear Creek Trail segment within the City of Wheat Ridge.