

# ROYAL GORGE PARK TRAILS

If you're looking for a trail run, bike, or hike that will offer some of the most awe-inspiring views in Colorado, this is it. Outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and abilities will find that the trails offer stunning views and plentiful options. Whether you're looking for views of the famous Royal Gorge or Cañon City (and beyond), you'll find it on this trail system.

**Canyon Rim Trail:** With gorge-ous views all along the Canyon Rim Trail, be sure to pack your camera! The peppy trail provides a fun, intermediate trail experience with occasional exposure.

**Fremont Peak Trail:** Fremont Peak and its trail offer amazing vistas of Cañon City, the Arkansas River, and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the distance. Be aware: the final portion of the trail is quite a loose scramble to the top.

**Elk Horn Picnic Area:** For those with a limited amount of time, pick the trail up at the picnic area and enjoy panoramic views of the gorge and mountain ranges beyond. Please note that many points along this area have severe-exposure and dropoffs. Hike with caution!



## TRAIL INFORMATION

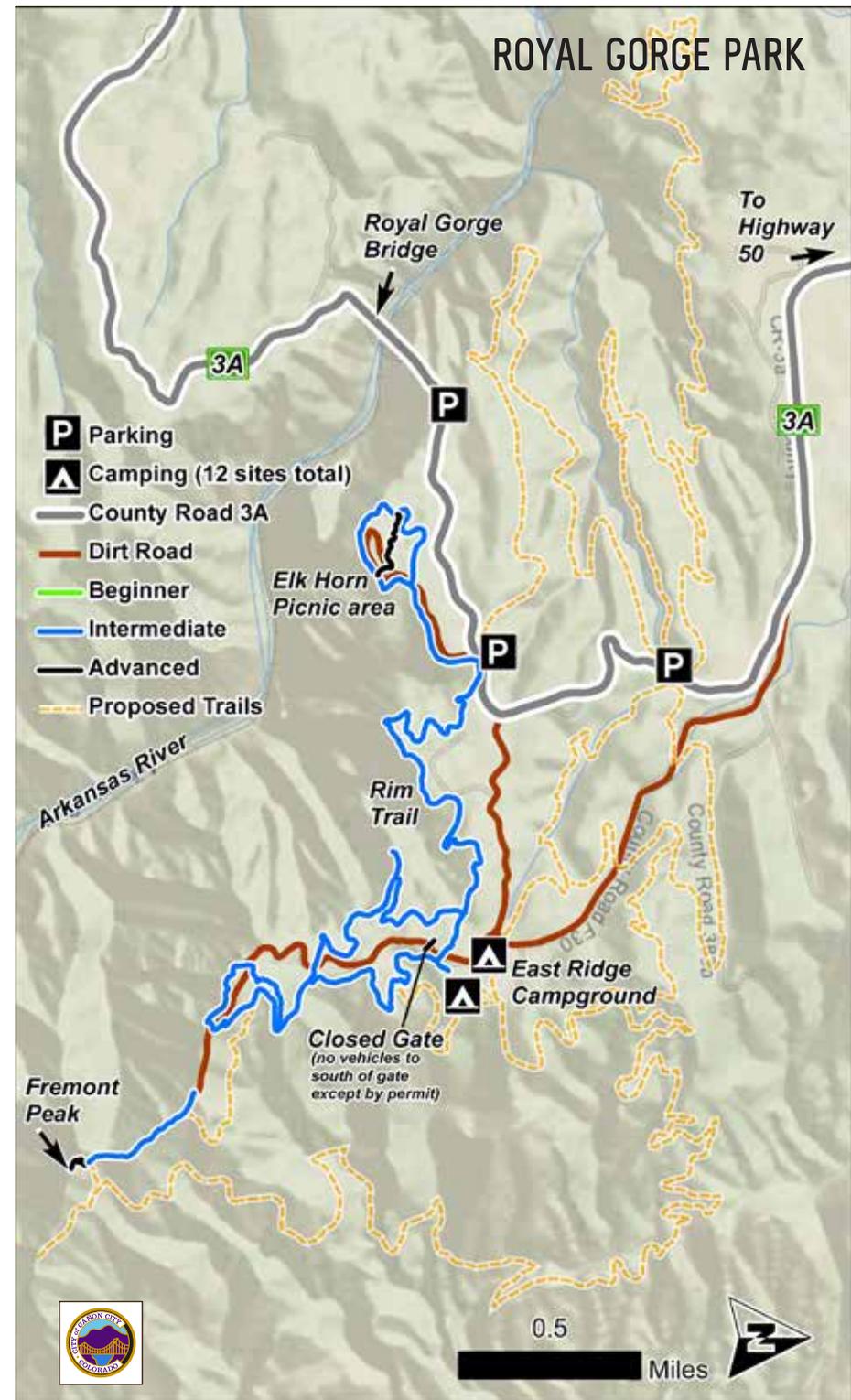
**Start:** Begin your ride/hike at the Canyon Rim Trailhead or at the East Ridge Camground area  
**Elevation gain:** ~210 feet ascent-101 feet descent  
**Fitness effort:** Mild to moderate  
**Difficulty:** Novice to intermediate  
**Terrain:** Natural surface singletrack  
**Seasons:** Best during late spring, summer, and fall.

**Trail users:** Hikers, bikers, walkers  
**Dog friendly:** Yes. Keep all dogs on a leash and watch for cacti along the trail. Please bring waste bags and clean up after your pet.  
**Distance:** 5 miles. Reverse your loop for more distance and to enjoy views in both directions.

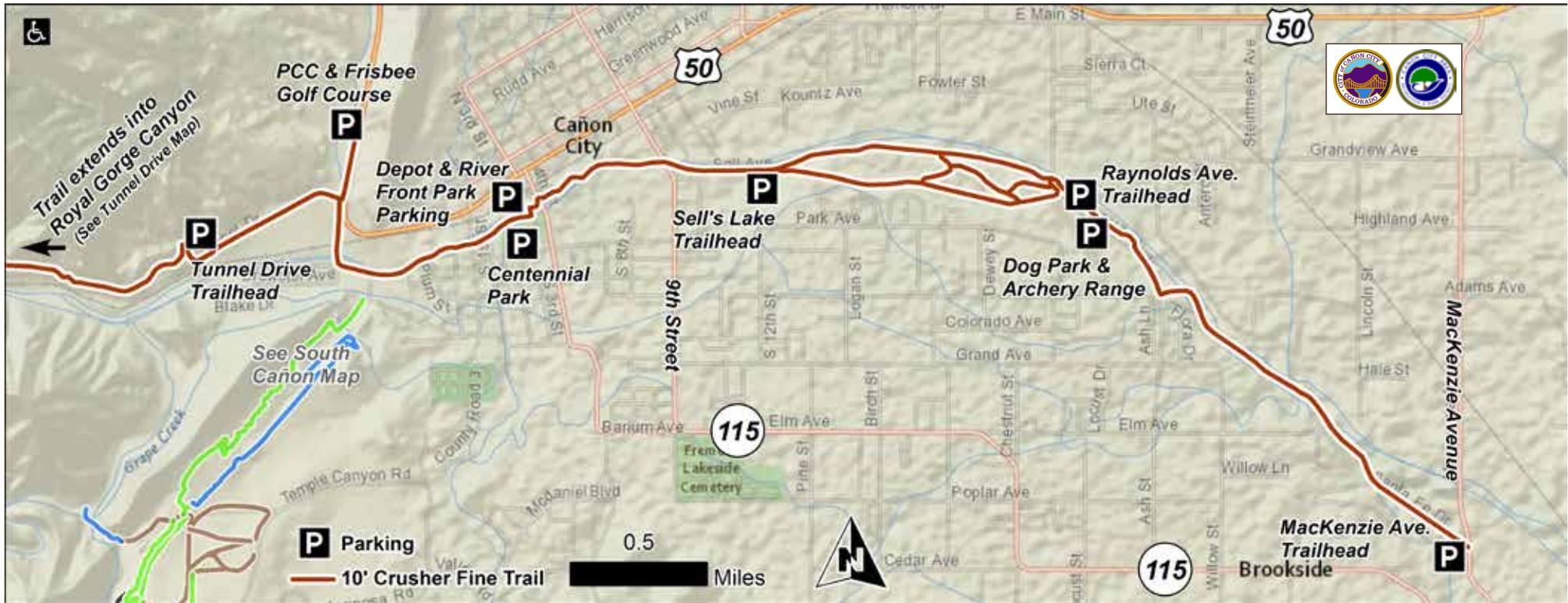
## GETTING THERE

From downtown, head west on US Highway 50. At the turnoff for the Royal Gorge Bridge, turn left (south) and follow County Road 3A for approximately 3.5 miles until you see the parking area/restrooms on the right-hand (north) side of the road. Park here and access the trail on the other side of the road.

Please remember to check weather conditions, bring adequate water, and consider your own ability level. For more information or to download a complete Recreation & Trail Guide to the area, please visit [www.joinFAR.org/adventure-guide.html](http://www.joinFAR.org/adventure-guide.html). See you on the trails!



# ARKANSAS RIVERWALK TRAIL / TUNNEL DRIVE



The Riverwalk Trail runs through some of the most scenic and historic parts of Cañon City. Along the 7-mile stretch of the trail, you'll track the river's course through the city, passing historic properties, open farmland, and cottonwood groves. The trail is a mostly flat, wide, maintained trail that is open during all seasons. A system of fitness stations has recently been added to the trail and are located near the Sell's Lake trailhead.

## TRAIL INFORMATION

**Start:** You can begin your walk along the Riverwalk Trail at a number of points. Popular parking areas are Centennial Park, Sell's Lake (off 9th Street), MacKenzie Avenue Trailhead, and Tunnel Drive.

**Distance:** Total distance = 7.5 miles one-way

**Elevation gain:** 200 feet total

**Fitness effort:** Mild

**Difficulty:** Novice

**Terrain:** The trail is mostly flat and graded natural surface

**Seasons:** January-December

**Trail users:** This trail is used by hikers, bikers, walkers, bird watchers, strollers, and runners. Horses are not allowed on most of the trail.

**Dog friendly:** Yes. Keep your dog on a leash, bring waste bags, and clean up after your pet. There is a dog park located just east of Reynolds bridge.

**Note:** At high water (late May-June), the trail may be closed at 9th Street.



## GETTING THERE

To begin at Sell's Lake Trailhead, from Highway 50 in Cañon City, take 9th Street south. After you cross the river, take a left (east) onto Sell Avenue and park at the trailhead. You can choose the bluff or river trail from this point, and can travel upstream (west) toward Tunnel Drive, or downstream (east) towards Reynolds Avenue.

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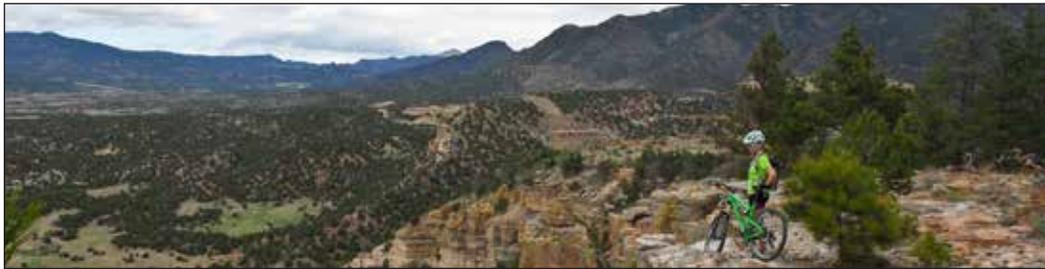
# OIL WELL FLATS

Oil Well Flats is one of the more extensive trail systems in our area. The trail system utilizes some dirt roads, but consists mostly of singletrack trails. Cruise through junipers as you ascend toward Fire Canyon and Unconformity, areas that were altered in 1988 as a wildfire scorched the area.

**Fracture** - This is a flowy, novice trail that will delight experienced riders as well. Connecting with other intermediate trails within the system, beginning riders on Fracture could be encouraged to expand their biking skill-set with these nearby trails.

**Island in the Sky** (Clockwise) - The trail leads to an open meadow where you'll begin your ascent to the top of a ridge. Rocky across the top of the ridge, you'll be rewarded with views of nearby cliffs, Cañon City, and beyond to the snow-capped peaks of the Sangre de Cristo range.

*Please be aware that Oil Well Flats is home to some grazing, and plan accordingly. This area is closed to motorized vehicles during muddy conditions. Respect all trail / gate closures to help maintain the integrity of the trails. Check the BLM or FAR website for updates on conditions and closures. Expect and be courteous to equestrians.*



## TRAIL INFORMATION

**Start:** Begin your ride at the first trailhead. Additional parking is available just 0.2 miles up the road.

**Elevation gain:** 800 feet from the first parking area to the high point - Island in the Sky

**Fitness effort:** Medium to strenuous

**Difficulty:** Novice to advanced

**Terrain:** Rocky; natural surface singletrack

**Seasons:** Best during spring and fall; rideable in winter when dry; summer will be hot

**Trail users:** Hikers, bikers, equestrians

**Dog friendly:** Be courteous of others and keep your dog on a leash, bring waste bags, and clean up after your pet. Watch for both wildlife and cattle.

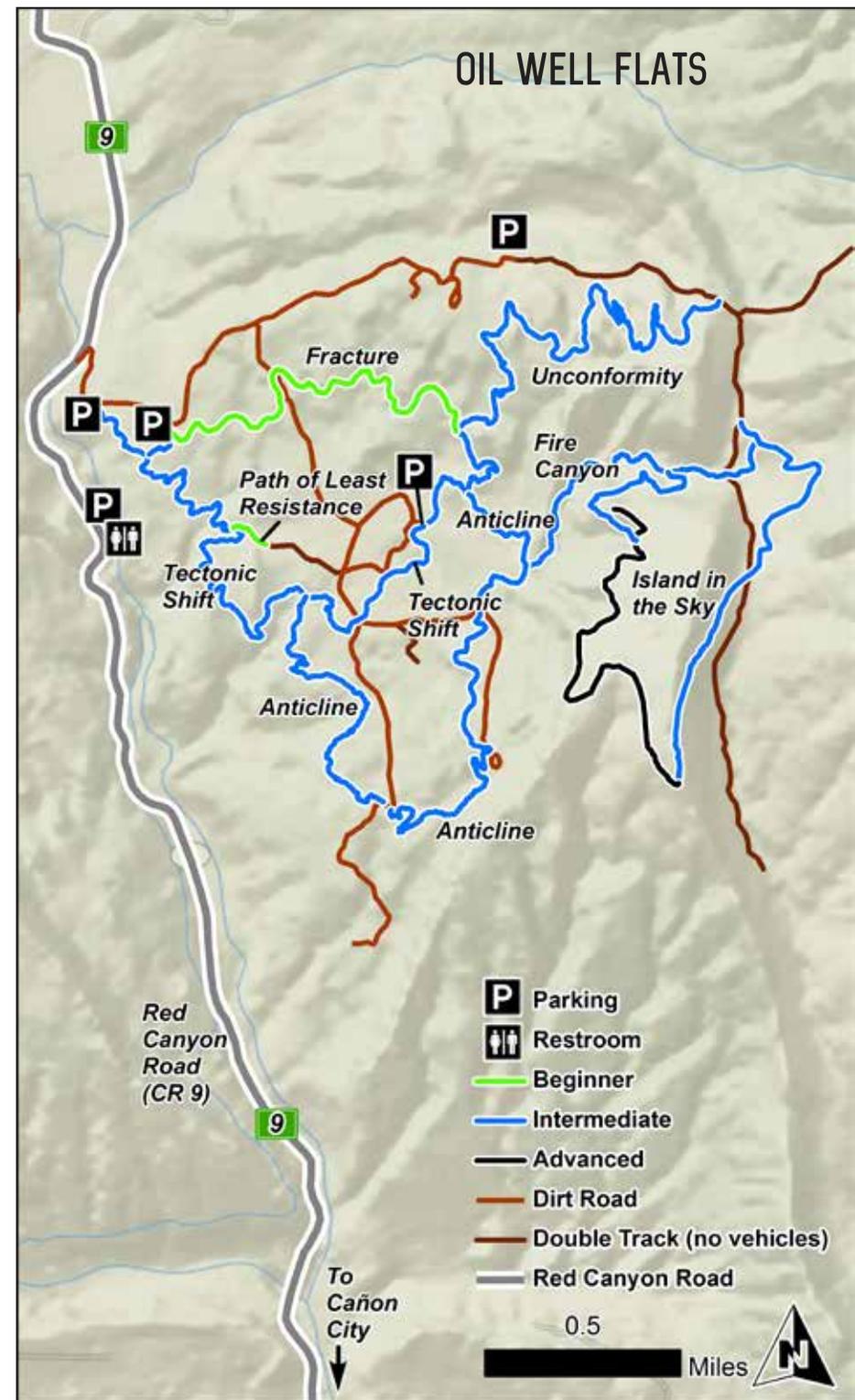
**Distance:** ~12 miles total for a round trip on the singletrack (double up or ride in reverse)

**Note:** Hikers tend to prefer the two upper parking lots to access the higher terrain, but the hiking is enjoyable wherever the trails take you! Horse trailer parking is available in the second lot.

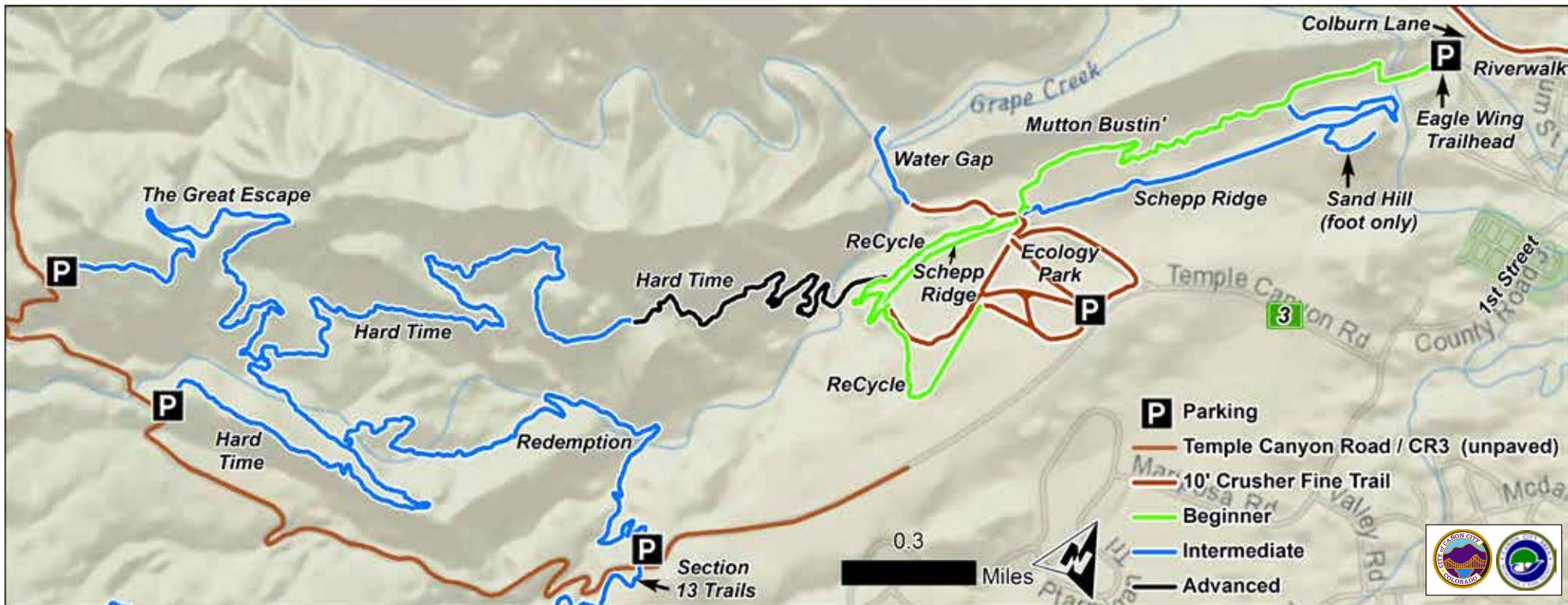
## GETTING THERE

From downtown, head east on Main Street or Highway 50. Turn left (north) onto 15th Street and continue for .9 miles. Turn right (east) on Central Avenue and continue for 1.0 miles. Turn left (north) onto Field Avenue and continue for 2.2 miles. Continue north at Y intersection with Red Canyon Road. Travel on Red Canyon Road for 3.7 miles. Turn right (east) on dirt road (first available right-hand turn after Red Canyon Road crosses to the east side of Fourmile Creek) and continue to parking lots.

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# SOUTH CAÑON TRAILS



South Cañon Trails offers something for everyone. Discover flowy, easier trails close to town, or try to master the technical climb of Hard Time.

**Mutton Bustin'** - A great trail for kids, you might even consider a downhill option by getting dropped off at the Ecology Park, to follow Re-Cycle and Mutton Bustin' back to town.

**Hard Time** - Enjoy a technical and steep climb/descent with great views all around. Further south, the trail mellows a bit as it winds through the landscape.

**Redemption** - This trail offers a fun treat: check out the mini slot canyon just off this trail, and see if you can spot the dinosaur footprints toward the top. (Foot traffic only in the slot, please.)

**The Great Escape** - This trail takes you to the way back of the system, where you'll enjoy sweet vistas of Grape Creek Canyon to the north and west.

## GETTING THERE

**Eagle Wing Trailhead:** From downtown, turn south onto 1st street, then west on Riverside Drive. Turn left (south) on Colburn Lane. The parking area will be on your right.

**Ecology Park Trailhead:** From downtown, turn right (south) onto 1st Street. Follow 1st Street to a Y in the road, where you will bear right (west) onto County Road 3. Travel about 1 mile and you will see the parking lot for Ecology Park on your right.

## TRAIL INFORMATION

**Start:** See 'getting there' above

**Elevation gain:** Varies

**Fitness effort:** Mild to strenuous

**Difficulty:** Novice to advanced

**Terrain:** Natural surface singletrack

**Seasons:** All seasons. It can be hot and dry in the summer, so bring lots of water!

**Trail users:** Hikers, bikers, equestrians

**Dog friendly:** Yes. Be courteous of others and keep your dog on a leash, bring waste bags, and clean up after your pet. This is a popular trail for dog owners.

**Distance:** Varies. See map for routes.

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