



Jack Todd <jack@bicyclecolorado.org>

---

## Fwd: Canceled Events and Social Distancing Outdoors

---

Jack Todd <jack@bicyclecolorado.org>  
To: Jack Todd <jack@bicyclecolorado.org>

Thu, Mar 19, 2020 at 9:15 AM

[Get Involved](#)

[Get Outdoors](#)

[Get Up To Date](#)

[Donate](#)



**Wednesday March 18, 2020**

**Mayor Suthers has declared a state of emergency for Colorado Springs.**



Proactive efforts are underway to help protect residents in the Colorado Springs community from Coronavirus (COVID-19) by slowing the spread of infection during the pandemic. The City of Colorado Springs is suspending several programs and services offered by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services department. This includes the following:

- City Auditorium, Community Centers, Sertich Ice Center, Patty Jewett and Valley Hi golf courses are all closed until further notice.
- All youth and adult recreation programs and activities are canceled.
- The Pioneers Museum is closed.

- Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center, Bear Creek Nature Center, Fountain Creek Nature Center, and Starsmore Discovery Center are all closed.
- Pikes Peak remains open to online reservations only. Visitors will not be able to pay via credit card or cash at the gate.
- Park Headquarters, County Fairgrounds and park restrooms are closed.

All parks, trails and open spaces remain open. Visitors are highly encouraged to practice social distancing. For additional information on the City's response visit [coloradosprings.gov/covid19](https://coloradosprings.gov/covid19).

### From all of us at TOSC:

As your “eyes, ears and voice” for trails, parks and open spaces; we continue to monitor and communicate closures and cancellations that affect our active, trail loving public. We are thankful that at this time **local trails, parks and open spaces remain open to the public**. In some cities around the country that is not the case.

We are spending time outdoors on our favorite trails and taking photos to share with all of you. Come along on “virtual hikes!” And we encourage you to do the same. Share your pictures.

Anticipating that hard decisions might be made regarding parks staff in the days and weeks to come, we ask everyone to do their part to keep our parks and trails in great shape. That means cleaning up after your dogs and not leaving bags along trails. Please don't leave garbage in our parks and consider taking an empty trash bag with you on your hike and filling it up. (Then wash your hands.) Trash pick-up in our parks will continue for the time being, but we can all do our part to help.

Even our Governor is encouraging people to get outdoors. It's one of the best ways to improve both our physical and mental health. Social distancing is easy when walking or biking in any of our county or city community parks.

## COLORADO ACTIVITIES

### WITHOUT CROWDS

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| HIKING       |    |
| BIKING       |    |
| RUNNING      |    |
| SNOWSHOEING  |    |
| FISHING      |    |
| BIRDWATCHING |  |

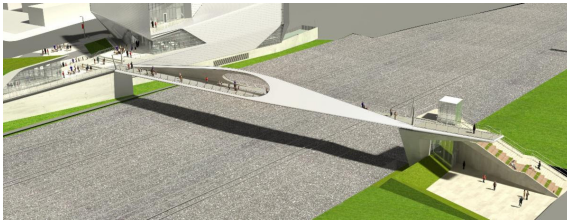

GOVERNOR  
JARED POLIS

Governor Jared Polis  
47 mins · 🌐

Looking for things to do that don't involve being around large groups of people? Luckily, we live in the best state in the country with great weather year-round. Here are a few suggestions if you're looking to get outside, but still keep our communities safe. #DoingMyPartCO

## Park and Trail Updates

Beginning Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, the Palmer-Mesa Trail on Mesa Road, between the Fontmore Road and Fillmore Street intersection and Kissing Camels Drive will be closed to allow for 2C improvements along the trail. While the trail closure is in place, trail users will be routed to the sidewalk on the western side of Mesa Road, which will remain open through construction.



Effective Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>, Cimino Drive, between Conejos Street and the U.S. Olympic Sport House, will be closed to allow for the construction of a new pedestrian bridge that will connect America the Beautiful Park to

downtown Colorado Springs. While the street closure is in place, the Julie Penrose Fountain will not operate. In addition, special events have been relocated and the park's pavilions are not available to rent during this time. The park, adjacent trail system and playground will remain open to the public, though parking will be extremely limited.

[Get more info.](#)

All programs have been canceled at Cheyenne Mountain State Park but the Visitor Center and the Park remain open.



## TOSC Events

TOSC is suspending all events until further notice.

### **CANCELED**

March Member Hike

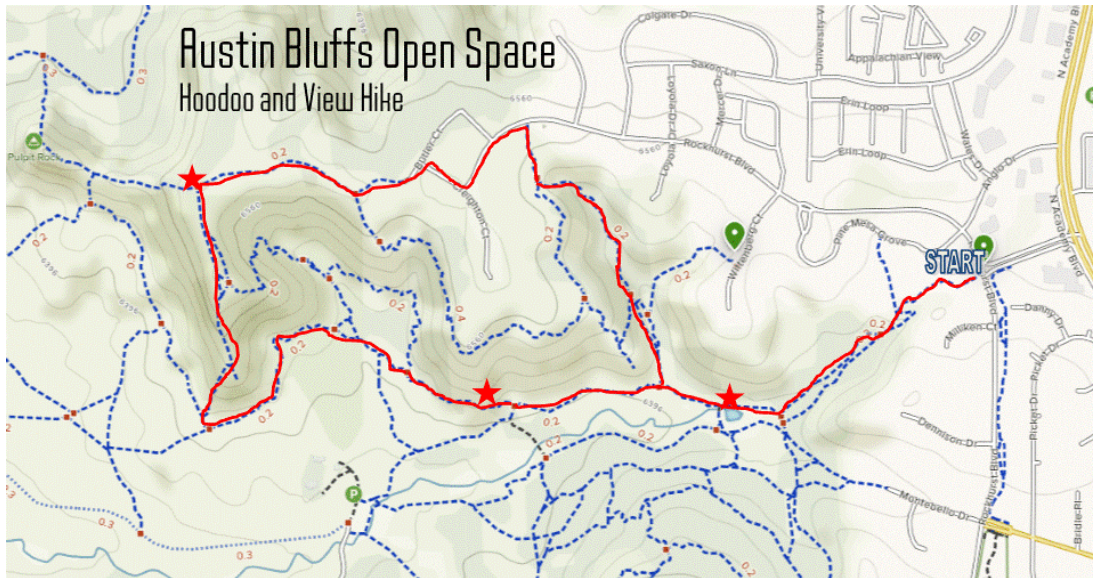
Sat. March 21, 9:00 - 12:00 pm

Austin Bluffs Open Space

Austin Bluffs Open Space is spectacular and we want to enable our community to take the hike we had planned. So, we have mapped out the route with points of interest so you can venture out on your own. This hike is 3.56 miles with a couple areas of moderate climb in elevation. There is only one official trail that is marked at this point and dozens of social trails that will soon be adopted as official trails



per the new Austin Plans Open Space master plan, there are many different variations of this hike you can do. [Download PDF](#)



**Parking/Start:** There is limited street parking on University Park Blvd. After parking, walk to the trailhead that is located at the intersection of Rockhurst and University Park Blvd.

**Points of Interest:** Along the highlighted route, there are stars in spots that make this park unique. There is a pond lined with cattails that serves as the perfect reflecting pool for pictures. Further along the trail, there are pockets of stone hoodoo rock formations. Some are near the trail while others can be appreciated from a distance. The star that is furthest west on the map is an overlook that is looking down at Pulpit Rock. To get to this overlook, there is a 535-foot elevation gain.



#### **Aaron's Tips for Hiking this Trail/Austin Bluffs:**

- Birding is extraordinary during the spring migration. With the different pockets of water and great areas to nest, this park is great for spotting warblers, wrens, hawks, and song birds.
- The absence of trail markings and the large number of social trails makes hiking this area tricky. I suggest using All Trails to keep track of the path you are using. If you become unsure of the trail you are on, it is best to just head back the way you hiked in.
- When you are just starting to explore Austin Bluffs Open Space, I suggest allowing half a day to explore. This will allow you plenty of time to see where different paths go and to enjoy the amazing views!

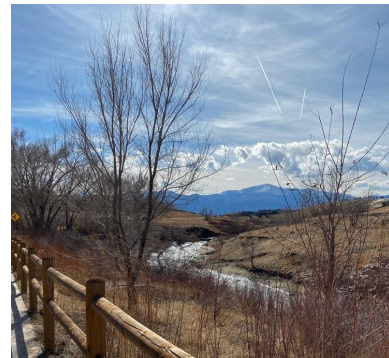
- As we get into warmer months, this park does have rattle snakes.
- There is an official trailhead on Butler Court with very limited street parking. This gives you an easy .1-mile hike to the overlook above Pulpit Rock with little elevation gain.

TOSC wants to help get more people outdoors (even if it is only through virtual reality), so we will be using Relive to share some of our adventures with you. Relive allows us to track an outing and add photos checkpoints along the way. Click the links below and watch the videos to see where TOSC staff have been.



Check out [Getting out on the Niobrara Trail in GOG on Relive!](#)  
Curtsy of Mike Rigney.

[Social Distancing at Cottonwood Creek](#)  
Bike ride with Beth Desloges.



[Walkin with Willow](#) brought to you by Sharie Dodge.

#### **TOSC Staff in the News**

Some of you may know Sharie from attending a TOSC member hike. Others might only recognize her friendly voice from when you call the TOSC office. Sharie is the backbone of the TOSC office, keeping us all organized, and managing all aspects of our operations. She even brings her foster dogs into the office for the occasional



staff pet therapy. We were thrilled that the Colorado Springs Business Journal saw fit to spotlight her as one of their Young Professionals. To read the full article and learn more about her adventure visit: <https://www.csbj.com/2020/03/13/dodge-embraces-the-unbeaten-path/>



## Partner Events



### **RESCHEDULED - June 16th**

Karma Hour - Friends of the  
Equestrian Skills Course  
Tue. March 17, 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
1604 S. Cascade Avenue



### **POSTPONED UNTIL THE FALL**

Wilderness and Remote  
First Aid Class  
Sat. Mar 21 & 28, 8:00 - 5:30 pm



### **CANCELED**

Seasoned Adventure  
Wed. Mar 18, 10:00 – 12:00 pm  
280 S Union Blvd



### **POSTPONED**

Urban Forest Management Plan  
Wed. March 18, 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
221 E Kiowa Street



### **CANCELED**

Wild Connections Spring Equinox  
Celebration  
Sat. March 21, 11:00 - 3:00 pm  
410 JL Ranch Hts



## Parties for Parks

### **CANCELED**

Parties for Parks: Eastern Region  
Wed. March 25, 6:00 – 7:30 pm  
11860 Stapleton Dr

- April 1: Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) Working Committee – cancelled
- April 6: Downtown Historic Parks community meeting – postponed
- April 9: Parks Advisory Board Meeting – cancelled
- April 18: Earth Day at Garden of the Gods Park – cancelled
- April 26: Motorless Morning in Garden of the Gods Park – cancelled
- May 2: Great American Cleanup – anticipate cancellation

## **Volunteer**

Colorado Springs Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities has cancelled/postponed all volunteer activities in the city's parks until further notice.



Trails and Open Space Coalition | 702 E Boulder St, Suite 200, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

[Unsubscribe erica@bicyclecolorado.org](mailto:erica@bicyclecolorado.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by [sharie@trailsandopenspaces.org](mailto:sharie@trailsandopenspaces.org) in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!