

Clear Creek Open Space Treasure Hunt



Come learn more about the beauty that surrounds us in Clear Creek County Open Space

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Treasure Map Legend

	Open Space Property	Location	Interesting Facts
1	Alvarado Open Space Park	East of Georgetown	Fishing in the pond is only for kids! Bring your own pole or feel free to borrow a pole at Alvarado Open Space during events.
2	7:30 Mine Trail	Silver Plume	Griffin Monument near the top of the trail commemorates the mine owner, who used to play violin recitals that would echo down the canyon walls into Silver Plume.
3	Scott Lancaster Memorial Trail	Hwy 6 from I-70 Exit 244	Scott Lancaster, a Clear Creek High School Senior, became the first person killed by a mountain lion in Colorado in recent times, while running in training for his competitive bike racing.
4	Game Check Trailhead	East of Idaho Springs by Twin Tunnels	The Twin Tunnels were the first Interstate tunnels built in Colorado, setting the standards for all of our other I-70 tunnels.
5	Lawson Whitewater Open Space Park	Lawson	Clear Creek County offers more rapids per mile than almost any other river in Colorado!
6	“Sheep Keep”	On Silver Creek Trail (9), look due North for the Open Space Sheep Keep	Our “Sheep Keep” is sheep habitat, preserved and managed to benefit the herds of big horn sheep residing in this area. Can you see any of the herd?
7	Geneva Basin Iron Fens	5 miles up Geneva City Road (FSR 119) off Guanella Pass Rd	The Fens formed by groundwater springs flowing over high fractured, highly mineralized bedrock rock in pyrites producing extreme alkalinity, which produces limonite (iron saturated peat) ledges and terraces.
8	Anna Trail and Chicago Lakes Road	From Sporting Times Trail at Silver Dale off Guanella Pass Rd	Silver Dale is the site of an old mining ghost town. Chicago Lakes Road was started to connect Georgetown to Chicago Lakes near Mt Evans but was not completed.
9	Silver Creek Trail	From Georgetown, off Alvarado Rd or Silver City Rd from Lawson	This trail was originally built as a wagon road from the silver producing mines at Silver Creek above Lawson to the mining mills in Georgetown.
10	Philadelphia Mill Site	North Spring Gulch Rd East of Dumont	Look around to find remnants of the railroad that ran through this site from 1870s to 1940s.
11	Ohio Gulch	Parking lot off West Dumont Rd in Dumont	Offers access to two fishing sites on Clear Creek near the County Animal Shelter.
12	Argentine Central Railroad Trail	Silver Plume	Built in 1905, this trail was a 3-foot narrow gauge railroad track to access the mining operations in Waldorf Basin.
13	Leavenworth Creek Road	Off Guanella Pass Rd	The Creek is the main watershed for Waldorf Basin which supported major silver mining operations from the 1860s to the early 1900s.
14	Mill Creek Open Space	Off Mill Creek Rd in Dumont	Miners used the Arrastra to pull a boulder chained to a wooden arm over ore rocks to crush them and release the gold.
15	Hidden Valley Open Space Park	From I-70 Exit 243 off the Scott Lancaster Memorial Trail	As you travel along the Scott Lancaster Memorial Trail, check out the stoneworks along the back edge of the meadows near treeline.
16	Peaks-to-Plains Trail – Oxbow Section	At Tunnel 5 along Hwy 6 from I-70 Exit 244	The “Oxbow” is on an old railroad grade from Denver, which is home to the “Cat Slab” – a popular climbing rock named for the old Caterpillar tractor that sat across the Creek for years.
17	Floyd Hill Open Space Park	I-70 Exit 247	Check out these awesome videos: www.comba.org/floyd-hill and youtu.be/pRpkTgXF2YU .
18	Union Pass Trail	Empire or Georgetown	Originally a wagon road connecting Georgetown to Empire in the late 1800s, became an early auto road through the 1930s.
19	Saddle Ridge Drive Trail	Off Saddle Ridge Drive at Floyd Hill	This trail leads to the top off Saddleback Mountain.
20	Tom Benhoff Trail	Around Georgetown Lake, crosses the Open Space Dunbarton Claim	Named after the former Georgetown Mayor, who enjoyed outdoor recreation and worked to develop the trail systems across our County.

For more information about these Open Spaces and Trails, check out <https://www.co.clear-creek.co.us/1169/Individual-Trail-Maps> or COTrex at trails.colorado.gov.

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20 Challenges for our 20th Anniversary!

Explore the Treasure Map and complete one Challenge for each Open Space Property in celebration of our 20th Anniversary. Remember that some of the Challenges are more appropriate for certain Properties, such as ones with creeks or ponds, so choose wisely.

Challenges	Property	Response
Catch a fish, if they're biting!		Send a pic.
Safely remove any branch or obstruction you might find on a trail. Be sure to ask for help!		
Get creative! Use something that you find here to create a piece of art - like a rock sculpture, whittled wood, or scratch art leaves – and take a picture.		Send a pic.
What is the most interesting thing you learned from one of our information kiosks?		
How far can you skip a rock?		
What do you think these stoneworks were? Maybe an old footbridge, a water diversion, the foundation of a homestead, or rockwalls from the farm that used to be?	Hidden Valley Park	
Can you find remnants or coal from where a railroad used to be?		
What are all the colors you can see in the Iron Fens?	Iron Fens	
Show us your favorite hiking stick!		
Find wildlife tracks, and tell us what animal you think made it. www.backpacker.com/skills/how-to-recognize-and-identify-animal-tracks-on-the-trail		
Give us your best silly shot!		Send a pic.
Can you find tailings from a mining operation?		
Let's see a group portrait.		Send a pic.
Which was your favorite wildflower you saw? What kind of flower was it? www.wildflowersofcolorado.com/		
Can you spot one of the four 14ers in Clear Creek County? What is its name? Can you find it on a map? www.alltrails.com/lists/14ers-in-colorado		
Take an action shot!		Send a pic.
Take a picture of a rock you like and let us know why you like it. Can you identify what kind of rock it is? www.coloradomineralsociety.org/links.html		
Which is your favorite kind of tree? And why? csfs.colostate.edu/colorado-trees/		
What direction are you facing when you enter the trail or property?		
Please pick up a piece of litter (or two) and properly throw it away!		

Ground Rules

- Follow the Open Space rules of the use, including respecting any social distancing guidelines and mask requirements required by a Public Health Order. Some access to Open Space may require 4-wheel drive.
- Unless you let us know otherwise at openspace@clearcreekcounty.us, your participation and submission of any images or pictures of you or your children in the Treasure Hunt will be deemed your consent for the Open Space Commission to use such images or pictures for promoting Open Space and events like this.
- Please contact us at openspace@clearcreekcounty.us with any questions or suggestions.

Bringing Home The Mother Lode

Each child (age 18 and under) will receive a prize for the completion of 5 Challenges, so the more Challenges completed, the more Lode earned! To collect your Lode, please submit to openspace@clearcreekcounty.us no later than 09/30/20:

- A picture of your completed Challenges page, with all the pictures and responses for each completed Challenge.
- Let us know if you do not consent to Open Space using any pictures or images you submit for promotion of Open Space.
- Your shirt and hat sizes, and the name and address to which your prizes may be delivered.

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