

**AREA
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
AND PARKS**

Monument Rock:

Monument Rock and Monument Open Space Preserve are located off Mount Herman Road. Monument Rock is a majestic natural wonder and the namesake of the Town of Monument.

Extensive trails around Monument Rock are perfect for horseback riding, dog walking or a casual forest stroll. The area is accessible but relatively untouched. When hiking, it is not uncommon to see the tracks of local wildlife.

The Monument Rock area was once home of the Monument Nursery, a tree farm whose inventory was used to replant 15,000 acres on and around Mount Herman that burned in a devastating fire in the 1800's. Closed in 1965, the nursery once supported up to 25 million seedlings used for reforestation.

The old nursery is now home of the Monument Fire Center, a Training facility for wilderness fire fighters.

Monument Fire Center:

Due west of Monument is the Monument Fire Center, a predominately undeveloped network of single-track trails frequented by horseback riders, bicyclists and hikers. In the middle of the property are a collection of National Forest Service buildings, which during the summer, serve as home to the Pike Hotshots Wild Land Firefighting crew. A helicopter is stationed at the center during the summer as well.

The fire center has a rich history, dating to the early 1900's when the land was used as a tree nursery. Portions of the center still feature trees growing in straight lines-a vestige from its days as a nursery. The center is also home to Monument Rock, the natural formation from which Monument got its name.

To get to the fire center, take Third Street west though Monument, till it becomes Front Street. At Second Street, turn west, cross the railroad tracks, then turn left on Mitchell Avenue. Drive south along Mitchell until coming to Mt. Herman Road, turn west. There are several entrances to the Monument Fire Center. Turn left on Nursery Road and there are several small roadside parking areas on the north side of Mt. Herman Rd., west of Nursery Rd.

Mount Herman Road:

Four-wheel drive enthusiasts will enjoy this route. While not as challenging as trails higher in the mountains, this 10-mile back route to Woodland Park is scenic and interesting enough to be worth it. The trail is well maintained and accessible most of the year.

The road is accessible from Mitchell Avenue. Take Mt. Herman Rd. 2 ½ miles, then turn left on Forest Service Rd. 320. This part of the road offers panoramic views of Monument and the Air Force Academy, as well as the area burned in the 1989 fire. Many fascinating rock formations jut out of the mountain near its summit. The road comes out on Rampart Range Rd. Take it south to Colorado Springs, or turn on Baldwin Rd. to Woodland Park.

Several more challenging trails come off Mt. Herman Rd. Power Line Road (F.S. 318) is a very difficult trail for experienced drivers with proper equipment. Beaver Creek Rd (F.S. 315) is a moderately difficult alternative route to Rampart Range Rd. F.S. 322A leads to Balanced Rock Road (F.S. 322) Turn left for Woodland Park, right to go back down the mountain. Balanced Rock dead ends at the hiking trail to Palmer Lake.

There are several other trails, but only take those marked with white Forest Service arrows. These areas are also used by dirt bikers and hikers, so be prepared to share the road. Always pack out trash and treat the area with respect. For more information, contact the Forest Service.

Monument Lake:

Monument Lake was originally used as an Ice Harvest facility. In 1901, W. E. Doyle and Thomas Hanks leased the lake known then as the State Reservoir. Wm. Doyle owned the land on the east side of the lake. They built the original icehouse with a short chute to carry the ice from the lake. It was known as "Hanks and Doyle Ice Company". The first ice plant was built of native lumber from a sawmill located in the Black Forest. Currently the Lake is open for fishing. Adults are required to have a valid fishing license, but kids 12 and under with an adult do not need one. Non-motorized boats are allowed. Overnight camping is prohibited.

Palmer Lake:

The lake was first mapped in 1835 by an Army expedition. It was named Summit Lake, then Divide Lake, before earning its current moniker. Of the three lakes in the area, Palmer Lake is natural. As such, it slowly filled with sediment over the

years, until a five-year effort to dredge away the silt returned the lake to its natural splendor in recent years. Several recreational amenities were added in the process, including a walking trail along the shoreline and a trailhead of the Santa Fe Regional Trail. The lake water is regularly stocked with fish by the Colorado department of Wildlife. Fishing regulations apply. In June, an annual fishing derby is held for youngsters.

Palmer Lake Reservoirs:

Tucked in the mountains behind Palmer Lake are two reservoirs, which supply the town with water. Both reservoirs are accessible by a trail used by hikers and bicyclists. The lower reservoir has an open shoreline. However, both reservoirs and Monument Creek, which flows out of them, are considered part of the town's watershed. Swimming and camping are prohibited in these areas. Dogs must be kept on a leash and kept from swimming in the water.

The Santa Fe Regional Trail:

Palmer Lake is the beginning of the 14-mile Santa Fe Regional Trail, one of the largest continuous trails in El Paso County. It follows the abandoned Atkinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad right of way.

The trail is about 6 feet wide, graveled and supports biking, hiking and horseback riding: all allowed on the trail. Dogs are also allowed, as long as they are on a leash. Weather permitting, it provides an outlet for cross-country skiers and snowshoers.

Maintained by the El Paso County Parks and Recreation Department, it features mile markers and signposts that point out various landscape features. Bathrooms and water fountains are located at the Palmer Lake Trailhead and the trails intersection with Baptist Road.

Parking areas are located at; the Palmer Lake Trailhead near County Line Road and Highway 105, near the Highway 105 and Washington Street intersection in Monument, at the Baptist Road and Old Denver Hwy intersection South of Monument, at the Northgate of the Air Force Academy and at the Ice Lake trail access at the southern end of the Air Force Academy.

Greenland Open Space:

At the Greenland trailhead, you will find plenty of parking for cars and horse trailers. An accessible group picnic shelter, patterned after Greenland's old mercantile building, seats up to 48 people. Also, available are a restroom, garbage cans, water spigot, information kiosk and horse hitch rails.

The crusher fines and natural surface trails are designed for mountain bikes, horseback riders and hikers. Benches, hitch rails and picnic tables can be found along the 10 miles of trails which wind through rolling grasslands, past ponds and through oak scrublands and pine forests.

The 4 mile trail from Greenland to County Line Road is fairly level, then crosses the road and loops for about 1 mile to the trailhead in Palmer Lake. The 8.5 miles Kipps Loop has about 500 feet of elevation gain.

Fox Run Regional Park:

The park is the larger of two regional parks in the Tri-Lakes area and features something for everyone. There is playground equipment for children, groomed grass fields, a pond with a gazebo and four miles of natural hiking trail loops, which are shared by cross country skiers, mountain bikers and horseback riders. In January, runners hit the park's trails in the first event of the Pikes Peak Roadrunners Club Winter Series. The event includes a 5K and 10K race. The past two years, ice and snow have added to the challenge of negotiating the hilly course.

Like the Santa Fe Trail, Fox Run Park's trails include trail markers describing unique features of the terrain. There are bathroom facilities, water fountains and trashcans throughout the park. Several large pavilions can also be reserved for company or family picnics.

To get to Fox Run Park, drive east on Northgate Road until it intersects with Roller Coaster Road. Turn left and continue north until it intersects with Stella Drive. Turn left and you'll find the main entrance to the park.

Black Forest Regional Park:

The Black Forest Regional Park, though smaller than Fox Run, is more rugged than its Gleneagle counterpart. A groomed grass field is the focal point of the park. However, three miles of natural single-track trails surround it.

To get to the Black Forest Regional Park, take Hwy 105 east to Hwy 83. Drive south on Hwy 83 and turn east on Shoup Road. The park is at the corner of Shoup and Meridian roads.

AREA GOLFING

Gleneagle Golf Club:

Measuring 7,276 yards from the championship tees and 5,655 yards from the ladies tees, the Gleneagle Golf Club offers a long course for area residents. The club is open to the public. However private memberships are also available.

Kings Deer Golf Club:

Located in the center of the very upscale King's Dee Subdivision, the 7,000 yard, par 72 course does not have a plethora of trees for golfers to avoid. Bunkers and a few water hazards favor the accurate golfers over the long ball hitters. The course is open to the public. Powered golf carts are also available.

Perry Park Country Club:

One of the most scenic courses in the state, the course is carved out of a densely treed area with red rock outcroppings and hosts many tournaments. The club is private and except during major events, is reserved for members and their guests.

Monument Hill Country Club (Woodmoor Pines Country Club):

Nestled in Woodmoor, a prestigious community in Monument, Colorado, Monument Hill CC offers a pristine golfing experience with spectacular views of Pikes Peak and surrounding Colorado Rockies. The 18-hole championship golf course, designed by renowned architect J. Press Maxwell, offers unparalleled views of Pikes Peak, and is known for its long, tree lined fairways that challenge even the most seasoned golfers. Monument Hill CC is a course for members only, now partnering with neighboring King's Deer Golf Club, their members have access to 36-holes of golf on two distinctly different golf courses.