Regulations to Help Us Serve You

Open spaces are managed for diverse habitats and the wildlife they support. Regulations protect you and the natural resources of the open spaces.

- Please leave your dog at home. This is a dog-free open space. Do not leave your dog in your car.
- Share the trail ~ foot travel, non-motorized bikes and horses are welcome on designated trails.
- Please pack out all trash.
- Please do not remove rocks, plants or other natural materials.
- Do not collect cultural artifacts.
- Prevent trail conflict ~ Bikers yield to Hikers and Horses; Hikers yield to Horses

You must have a Larimer County Special Access Hunting Permit to hunt at Red Mountain Open Space. Permits can be obtained through the Larimer Special Access Hunting Permit Application process in February.

Tips

- Red Mountain Open Space is rugged and remote ~ always carefully prepare for your experience.
- Carry plenty of water and extra food.
- Watch the weather closely. Fast-moving storms and high winds are common.
- Red Mountain Open Space is closed during the winter and is open to the public from March 1 to Nov. 30.

Larimer County’s Open Lands Program

Larimer County’s Open Lands Program is funded by a ¼-cent Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax. This tax started in 1996 following a citizens’ initiative to acquire and manage open spaces. The Open Lands Program works with willing landowners to preserve and protect properties through fee simple and conservation easement transactions. The future of OUR open spaces is up to you! Being a good steward of the land and shopping locally are a few ways you can help.

Respect the Past

Never touch the artifacts left on this land by Native Americans and their ancient forbears. Native peoples with ties to this area believe that the individuals who made the artifacts still use them, and collecting disrupts the connections between past peoples and the land.

Moving an artifact means a significant amount of scientific information is lost. If you find an artifact, take a photo, mark it on the map or take GPS coordinates, and contact Larimer County Department of Natural Resources at (970) 619-4570.
Red Mountain Open Space is a recreational paradise and home to many natural and cultural wonders. The property lies along the boundary between the mountains and the plains and provides habitat to plants and wildlife from both life zones. In addition to high biological diversity, this landscape has seen human occupation for tens of thousands of years.

Perhaps the most striking feature of Red Mountain Open Space is the “Big Hole,” a geologic phenomenon where the history of the earth is written across each formation, now visible, due to millions of years of uplift, folding and erosion.

Bison were reintroduced to the northern Colorado prairie at Red Mountain Open Space and Soapstone Prairie Natural Area in 2015 through a partnership among Larimer County, Colorado State University, City of Fort Collins and USDA-APHIS. The bison are not visible to the public from Red Mountain. The bison herd can be viewed from Rawhide Flats Road looking west as you enter Soapstone Prairie.