

TRAIL - Sharptail Ridge Open Space

AREA - south of Littleton, CO

MILEAGE - 4.4 miles, one way. (total of 8.8 miles round trip, much longer if choose to go on to Swallowtail, Ringtail, and Indian Creek Trails.)

DIFFICULTY - Easy to Moderate.

**TRAIL PHOTOS can be seen at:** [RockyMountainTrails.net/TrailSharptail](http://RockyMountainTrails.net/TrailSharptail)

MANAGEMENT - Douglas County Parks & Open Space Dept. (303)660-7400 <http://www.douglas.co.us/openspace>

MILEAGE - 4.4 miles, one way. (total of 8.8 miles round trip, much longer if choose to go on to Swallowtail, Ringtail, and Indian Creek Trails.)

TRAIL LOCATION - From the I-25 & C-470 intersection, take C-470 west for 9.3 miles to Santa Fe exit (aka Hwy 85) go left/south. Take Santa Fe south for 3.9 miles to Titan Pkwy exit (top of hill), go right/west for 2.5 miles to Roxborough Park Road. Will see the brown park sign on the right/north side of the road. Turn left/south onto Roxborough Park Rd, go 3.5 miles on a dirt road to the entrance on your left/east side. A large circle parking lot can hold 10 horse trailers, park in the center of the circle (rig facing north.) Trail access is to the east of the picnic pavilion.

AMENITIES - There is a park kiosk map at the trail head, as well as a water for horses. Bring water for rider. A large mock log cabin covered picnic table area with a dozen tables. A rare treat - the north side of this pavilion is a covered area for the horses with two hitching posts! Port-o'let restroom. Large trash bin.

TERRAIN - The trail is single track (one way out, same way back.) The trail surface is packed dirt - bare hooped ok. It curves south through open grasslands, then comes to gently rolling hills. Much of the trail is on the hill tops giving exceptional views of the surrounding area. Can see the Pike National Forest to the southwest, even Chatfield Reservoir to the north and in the distant northeast downtown Denver's sky scrapers. Early in the ride's first mile, you can see Red Mesa Open Space to the west, with it's lake - as well as Roxborough State Park's lake. Towards the last stretch of the trail there are great views of the red rock formations - can also see Roxborough State Park

CAMPING - No

REGULATIONS - No fee. Open year round. There is a fine for riding off trail, as this is a designated wildlife and natural area. Sharptail is closed for big game hunting season during part of Sept. & Oct. - call management (303) 660-7495 for specific dates.

SHARED TRAIL USERS - Hikers, picnickers. No dogs or bicycles allowed. One of the \*few\* trails really setup with equestrians in mind!

COMMENTS - A \*very\* beautiful ride - this trail was just opened in Summer 2004! Suitable for practicing packing/ponying. When you come to a green gate, this ends Sharptail and begins

Nelson Ranch with Swallowtail and Ringtail Trails. Connecting trails - Swallowtail Trail and Ringtail Trail in Nelson Ranch Open Space ... Pike National Forest's County Road 5 / non motorized vehicles road ... Indian Creek Trail near Sedalia ... Waterton Canyon Dam via Indian Creek, which ties into the beginning of the Colorado Trail. In Winter and early Spring, can sometimes see elk - or deer year round. We saw a Horned Lizard also called "Horny Toad Lizard". DCP&OS recommends large groups call ahead and they will arrange for overflow parking.