

Local Trail Descriptions provided by the Lower Arkansas Bicycling Association

1. Section 13:

A moderate singletrack trail for novice & intermediate riders through junipers and piñons at the base of the Wet Mountains. LAMBA Chops takes you through the lower loop, touring more open terrain, while Hotshots offers a slightly more technical and steep experience through denser trees. It's almost 6 miles total for a round-trip, with an elevation gain of 700' to the top of Hotshots. It's best to ride during spring and fall; ride-able in winter when dry; summer can be hot and dry - bring lots of water! Why it's awesome: Section 13 is close to town with great views of Cañon City and Pikes Peak as you ride alongside deer, wild turkey, and other native wildlife.

2. Oil Well Flats:

A collection of moderate singletrack trail for the intermediate rider through junipers, piñons, and open areas caused by a 1988 fire. Several dirt roads run throughout the area and connect sections of singletrack trail. It's about 7 miles for a round-trip on the newer singletrack. It's best to ride during spring and fall; ride-able in winter when dry; summer can be hot and dry - bring lots of water! Why it's awesome: The Oil Well Flats trails are close to Cañon City with great views of the city and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the southwest.

3. Hogbacks Open Space:

Cañon's Hogbacks offer fun, roller-coaster style riding with easy-to-moderate climbs and descents. Ride up "Old Skyline Drive" for a more difficult and technical experience, or ride the double-track on the east side of the open space for an easy spree through the area. Skyline Drive also makes a nice pavement option; yield to vehicles if you're riding against traffic. It's about 4 miles for a straight out and back: south to north, and back again. It's best to ride during spring and fall, and summer mornings or late in the evening; ride-able in winter when dry. **DO NOT RIDE WHEN WET!!!** You won't make it more than 5 feet in these clay soils. Why it's awesome: The Hogbacks provide in-town riding only a few blocks from Main Street; they offer sweet roller coasters (best from N to S) and a unique geologic experience!

4. Cañon City Pump Track:

Located just east of the Train Depot, and right alongside the River Trail, this is Cañon City's newest addition for bicycle enthusiasts. A great place to hone your skills, the pump track is sure to please cyclists of all ability levels. It's brand-new, and still needs some fine-tuning, but we hope you enjoy this new facility.

Road Rides:

1. Red Canyon Road Ride:

High quality out-and-back road ride heading north from Cañon City, taking you past the city's Red Canyon Mountain Park. The ride is 28 miles round-trip (or turn around whenever you need to shorten the ride), with about 1,100' of elevation gain. This is a scenic ride that's light on traffic, and is the standard for Cañon's *Wednesday Night Group Road Ride*.

Recreational Paths:

1. River Trail:

The River Trail is an easy path that follows the Arkansas River through Cañon City. Expect to encounter many other path users, especially on nice days. Its total distance is 5.5 miles one-way end-to-end, with 200' of climbing from east to west; ride as little or as much as you want! This is for novice trail enthusiasts, families, and those looking for a calm riverside jaunt from one of the easily-accessible trailheads from town.

2. Tunnel Drive:

Tunnel Drive delivers the ease of a recreational path to the sweeping vistas of the Royal Gorge's exit to town. Two miles one-way, this is perfect for a family outing. Be sure to look up and notice the beautiful cliffs and foothills, and to enjoy the tunnels at the beginning, this trail's namesake.

(LAMBA has created maps with descriptions and directions to the trailheads for all the above rides, excluding the pump track. The \$2 maps are available at Red Canyon Cycles, with all proceeds going to LAMBA.)