

Free

2025 Greenhorn Valley



Whether you're new to the area or you have tried-and-true vacation plans, it's time to get out and explore. Let us help you unplug, unwind and spend some down time in the natural beauty of the Greenhorn Valley.

Mountain Wildflower Guide Inside

2025 Greenhorn Valley Summer Guide
your guide to area hiking, camping, dining, and entertainment

Published by and as a supplement to the Greenhorn Valley View
editor@greenhornvalleyview.com

Stay and Play in the Greenhorn Valley!

May 26, LTC Fred A. Ettlman Post 7305 VFW Memorial Service, 9am, Colorado City Cemetery, E. Jefferson Street,

right on Sandy Ct *Ad on p. 10*
 June 3, Opening Day at the Colorado City Parks and Recreation Swimming Pool, 5000

Cuerno Verde Rd, Colorado City.
Open Swim: Tues - Sat, 12:30 - 4:30pm, Monday, 6-8pm. Daily admission - \$4. *See ad on p. 4*

June 13-15 & 20-22, Shakespeare in the Sangres, Fri & Sat at 6:30pm, Sun 2pm. Westcliffe Performing Arts Jones Theater, 119 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO, Jonestheater.com

June 28, Greenhorn Valley Days, Greenhorn Meadows Park Colorado City

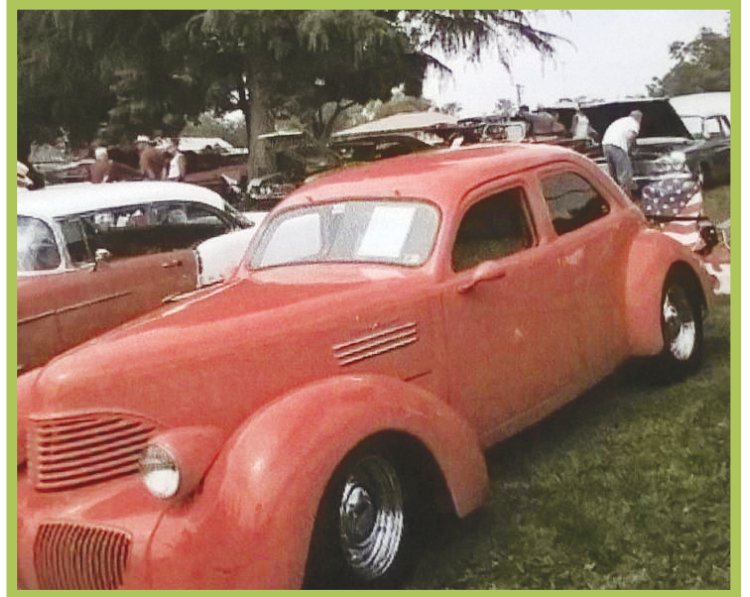
July 4, LTC Fred A. Ettlman Post 7305 VFW- Veterans, Active Military & Family - 4th of July Picnic - noon, Greenhorn Meadows Park - 676-2353

July 4, Independence Day Parade - 10am-11pm, Main Street, Westcliffe.

July 10-13, High Mountain Hayfever Bluegrass Festival, Bluff & Summit Park, Westcliffe - highmountainhayfever.org

July 18-26, Pueblo County Fair - Pueblo

August 1- 2, 69th Annual Beulah Arts & Crafts Festival- Live music, arts and crafts, food and drink, featuring the Apache Creek Fiddlers. Classic Car Show on Aug 2. Beulah School of Natu-



ral Science, beulahvalleyartscouncil.org *See ad on p. 3*

August 9, 2025 Rye Town Square Fair, Live music, Local Vendors, food trucks, 11am-4pm Main Street, Rye

August 16, SilverWest Air-Fest - 7:30am-3:30pm, Butler Field, Westcliffe

August 27 - 31, Wet Mountain Weaver Fiber Art Show and Sale, 10am-5pm, Greenstone Artworks, 100 Main St. Westcliffe
September 5 - 14, Beulah

Fine Arts Exhibition, at the Tucita, Beulah, CO. Presenting art from Beulah and beyond. beulahvalleyartscouncil.org *See ad p. 3*

September 19-21, Pueblo Chile & Frijoles Festival, Historic Downtown Pueblo/Union Avenue

October 11, Annual CC/Rye Lions Club Annual Autumn Spooktacular Car Show, 9am-3pm, Greenhorn Meadows Park. Alternate Storm Date - October 18. *See ad on p. 7*

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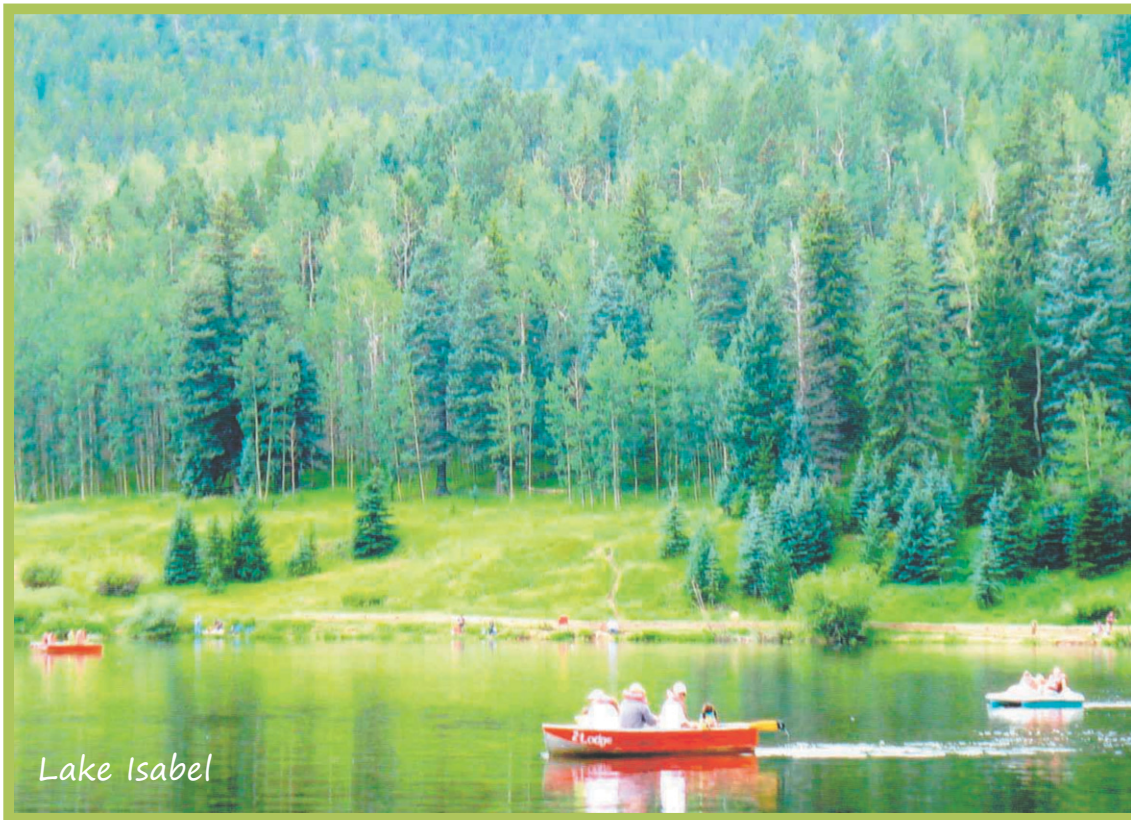
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Don't miss the serenity - fishing at Lake Isabel or Blue Lakes



Lake Isabel

The two obvious choices for fishing are Lake Beckwith in Colorado City, and San Isabel, further up highway 165. Lake Beckwith has something for everyone in that there is a wide variety of species available. For the warm-water fisherman there are Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Perch, Saugeye (Sauger and Wall-eye hybrid) and catfish, as well as stocked rainbow trout, and wild brown trout. There is deep, rocky bottom off of the dam, and a nice shallow shelf where the boat ramp is located.

Throughout the lake there are areas where there are submerged brush piles which make excellent structure for large bass and other predatory fish. This makes it an excellent location for any type of fisherman, whether it be a fly-fisherman, bait fisherman, or working structures with a spinning rod.

Boats are allowed on the lake as well as electric motors. This is a technique I like to use, in order to reach locations that the shoreline fisherman cannot.

San Isabel is also an excellent location. It does not have the variety of species that Lake Beckwith has, but makes up for it with an abundance of trout. It has lots of shoreline access, for bait, spin and fly-fishermen alike. Rainbows and/or Cuttbow Trout are stocked frequently, as well as wild Brown and Brook Trout. Fish are taken with a wide variety of techniques. Bait fisherman tend to do well with a variety of op-

tions including worms, salmon eggs and powerbait. There are a lot of spinners that work well too.

Kastmasters are always a good option, as well as 1/8 ounce Krocodiles, Jakes Spin-A-lure, and Panther Martins. Another great technique is to fish a wet fly like a Pistol Pete or Woolly Bugger behind an Adjust A Bubble. My personal favorite technique is to get out on my float tube, and cast a double dry fly rig, towards the shoreline. Often, I can find some of the wild Brown Trout patrolling there, and have an opportunity for some of the bigger fish.

There are a number of small streams around here for those willing to do a little walking and a little bit of bush whacking. The key to success on these smaller fast moving streams is to make a stealthy approach, using some of the brush to break up your outline.

Rainbow's and Brown trout are

found at the lower elevations and can be had on just about any type of well presented fly. But as you work your way upstream you will find fewer Rainbow Trout, and more Brook Trout. Finally as you get near the upper reaches of

the streams you can get into some Green-back Cutthroats as well. Check the fishing regulations manual before you fish these.

Finally, Blue Lakes, at the top of Greenhorn Mountain have had a very healthy stock of Cuttbow and Rainbow trout. They are a little bit bigger than the stockers

found in Lake Isabel and Beckwith, and are a bit more finicky as well. Blue Lakes are located at the end of Ophir Creek road at the very top of Greenhorn Mountain, with one of the prettiest camping spots around.

Fish there are caught using a

variety of standard techniques. My best advice here is to bring different options, so you can find the one that they are biting on. It's one of my favorite places to camp out and hopefully cook a couple of fresh trout while I'm at it.

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Blue Lakes

The Wet Mountain Peaks

The Wet Mountains are one of Colorado's lower and older mountain ranges. The mountain range spans for fifty miles in a north-south direction beginning at the Arkansas River near Canon City and ending at the Huerfano River just north of Walsenburg.

There are four dominant peaks

in the Wet Mountain range from south to north: Greenhorn at 12,347 feet; North Peak at 12,220; St. Charles Peak at 11,784; and Deer Peak at 11,572.

Greenhorn Mountain from base to summit boasts a height greater than Colorado's highest peak, Mount Elbert, which rises from a higher altitude within a



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mountain range.

The Bartlett Trail climbs the eastern face of Greenhorn Mountain and the Graneros Creek originates on Greenhorn Mountain, not the Greenhorn Creek which flows from the top of North Peak.

Approximately 22,000 acres of the Greenhorn Mountain, is protected by the Colorado Wilderness Act. This designation

provides an atmosphere that seems virtually untouched by humans. It also has eliminated all motor vehicle traffic, limits the number of hikers during certain periods of time, and requires strict camping guidelines.

North Peak bears a flattened top and much of the peak above timberline is visible from the valley, leading many to affectionately call it Mount Baldy. The Greenhorn Trail follows the route of the Greenhorn Creek up the east side of North Peak and over its 'bald' top to the Blue Lakes. North Peak is called many other names including 'Turtle-back Mountain.'

Between Greenhorn and North Peak, at least two other lower peaks stand out on clear days and depending on your vantage point. There are actually three peaks called 'Baldy': North Baldy (North Peak), Middle Baldy and South Baldy with Middle Baldy being the furthest west and blocked by the other peaks from most angles.

St. Charles Peak is northwest of San Isabel and can be reached by the St. Charles Trail. Deer Peak is almost directly west of St. Charles Peak and has very limited to no access.

Colorado City Parks and Recreation 2025 Swimming Pool Schedule

5000 Cuerno Verde Rd. 676-3059

POOL OPENS:		Tuesday, June 3
POOL CLOSES:		Saturday, August 9
OPEN SWIM HOURS:	Tuesday- Saturday	12:30pm – 4:30pm
	Monday	6:00pm – 8:00pm
DAILY ADMISSIONS:	Monday-Saturday	\$4.00
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SWIM LESSONS: Registration info is available online at www.colorado.gov/cocityparksandrec		
Each session is \$40.00 per student	Session 1 is June 9 to June 19	Session 2 is July 7 to July 17
LAP SWIM:	Monday through Friday	7:30 to 8:30am
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Frontier Pathway: This old frontier zone marks the intersection of Native American, Spanish, French and American territories. First were the Utes, then the European explorers, then traders, trappers, homesteaders, ranchers, and prospectors came through and left their marks on the land. Historic buildings from mining opera-

tions, Victorian towns and long lost cattle empires line the route. And the snow-capped mountains, carpeted meadows, jagged canyons, and aspen-covered hillsides have not changed.

Most folks start the drive out of Pueblo. I usually begin at Westcliffe. From Westcliffe I take State Highway 96 east, towards Pueblo. I usually just go as far as

to Ophir Campground, Deer Mountain and the Greenhorn Mountain Road. Just south of Ophir Creek is Bishop's Castle. The road is excellent and, if anything, is too short. Shortly after Bishop's Castle the road passes by Lake Isabel and then leads out onto the flatter grassy slopes of Rye and then down the Green-

McKenzie Junction in Hardscrabble Canyon and then turn right and take State Highway 165 to Rye and Colorado City. It's a beautiful drive through forested mountain countryside.

At Ophir Creek there's a hairpin turn in the paved road. In the middle of the turn there is a dirt road leading westward

horn Canyon to Colorado City and the I-25.

The drive from Pueblo to Wetmore takes you out of the high plains climate zone and into the low montane zone. This is seen by the effects of the increase in precipitation: the grasses and cacti give way to the junipers and pinons of the foothills. There are several ranches along the way that qualify as Centennial Ranches: they've been held by the same family for over 100 years. When they look like this, it's easy to see why the original homesteader's descendants have not moved on.

Take a look at: Wetmore to McKenzie Junction and McKenzie Junction to Colorado City. Then there's the section of road from McKenzie Junction to Westcliffe and that gorgeous stretch from Westcliffe to Gardner.

The Taos Trail broke into three separate routes as it approached Colorado on the way to Santa Fe. All of the routes followed ancient hunting, trading and Indian raiding trails, but they were distinctly different and all presented

unique challenges.

The shortest route (and, due to Indian attacks, the most dangerous) cut southwest through Kansas, into the Cimarron Valley, and crossed the northwest corner of Oklahoma into New Mexico. The Mountain Branch followed the Arkansas River west to Bent's Fort and onto La Junta Colorado, then southwest across the grasslands to Trinidad over Raton Pass into New Mexico.

The Western Branch of the Santa Fe Trail was most commonly called the Taos Trail. It followed the Arkansas River further west to its confluence with Fountain Creek in Pueblo. The trail headed south across the St. Charles river into the Greenhorn Valley. After crossing the Greenhorn River it continued south to the Huerfano River at Badito, west up Oak Creek through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains by a pass of the same name and to Santa Fe by way of Taos.

The Taos Trail also was called the War Road and the Huerfano

See *Frontier Pathways* p. 15

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Discover the Natural Waterslide below Lake Isabel



road to river's edge where the trail flattens and meanders nicely.

Continue down-stream just to the left of the river. Five minutes in, enter an Aspen grove meadow swerving slightly away from the river. On return the trail enters the river for the first time via well-placed rocks just along river's edge. A slight loop up an over the rocks follows and then coming back to the river you find a pool adequate for soaking on a warm day. (This is not the water-slide)

Continue along the pine needle cushioned trail with a nice mix of sun and shade. At about 20

minutes in, you find a second deep pool area with large, flat sunning rocks. (This is not the water-slide)

At approximately 25 minutes in, a rock shelf will

cause the trail to loop up slightly away from the river. This point also offers a stunning view of the rock wall down river. Shortly after this loop, and back at river's edge, you will cross the water's edge by stepping across rocks to a beautiful waterfall and deep pool at the trail's edge. (This is not the water slide)

The trail becomes more and more part of the rock canyon. Take your time, as the rocks can be slippery. Another large pool is found at this point. (This is not the water slide)

As you continue down-stream and then at just about 35-40 minutes in, you turn a corner to find a nice opening in the rock

where you can see a smaller upper pool with a water slide to the larger pool below. This area is surrounded by large flat rocks and towering rock wall. Most stop here, as this is the Natural Water Slide, but if you do venture further you will be delighted to find an even larger waterfall just beyond. This fall is only for viewing however and can be enjoyed from several secluded rocks.

After relaxing in sun cool pools, follow the same route up and out of the canyon.

Enjoy the last chance to get your feet wet as you cross the river and head up the very steep, but thankfully short, hike to the road.

The hike from San Isabel Lake down to the Natural Water Slide is one of the most enchanting in the San Isabel Recreation Area. The trail combines soft-pine-needled shade with sun-dappled-Aspen-grove meadows, and an occasional rock scramble.

At 8,500 feet, this area drops approximately 15 to 20 degrees in temperature from the temp in Pueblo, so bring along a sweatshirt. Although my daughter has made the hike in flip flops, sturdy shoes are advised because this easy hike offers rock-hopping at the river's edge. Keep the season in mind as spring means higher, colder water with less people at the slide, while summer will bring warmer water with more people. Although the round-trip hike takes just over an hour, allow time for the deep cool

pools, water slide, and abundant flat rocks for sunning.

After a short drive on Hwy 165, at mile marker 19 cross the San Isabel dam and find parking to the left. Cross the highway and find the trailhead beside the spillway from the dam. This is the steepest part of the hike and is approximately 100 feet from

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Mountain Wildflower Guide

Mountain hiking is a beloved activity for any adventure lover. Not only do you get to witness beautiful views, but you feel a sense of accomplishment once you reach the top of the mountain.

Depending on the mountain you are climbing, you may come across various beautiful mountain wildflowers. Mountain wildflowers can vary in terms of size, color, and fragrances.

In the colorful landscape of the Greenhorn Valley, beginning in Colorado City and traveling up to Ophir Creek and the Blue Lake region beyond, identifying the diverse array of wildflowers can be quite a task. With hundreds of different species and hybrids, it can feel overwhelming to distinguish one from another.

However, making a list of the most common and widespread wildflowers in Colorado organized by color is convenient and can make identification easier. Here are a few of our favorites.

For a more thorough listing of the numerous wildflowers in our region, consult the CSU-Pueblo Extension website. You will also

find some of the most rare species at cowildflowers.com. For the serious wildflower enthusiasts there are a multitude of field guides on the subject as well.

Yellow Wildflowers Common Sunflower



The Colorado Sunflower (*Helianthus coloradensis*) is a vibrant yellow wildflower that can be found blooming throughout the state. With its cheerful petals surrounding a dark center, this wildflower is a captivating sight.

Western Wallflower



The Western Wallflower got its name from the areas it commonly grows in: stone or mason walls and fences. These plants

have distinctive white hairs on their stems, leaves, and fruits.

The Western Wallflower is a distinctive plant that can easily be spotted by its fragrant orange or yellow flowers, which grow in dense clusters.

Yellow Wood Sorrel



Also known as: Common Yellow Oxalis, Toad Sorrel, Sourgrass, Lemon Clover

In addition to small, bright yellow flowers, Yellow Wood Sorrel has leaves that may remind you of clover.

You can find Wood Sorrel growing in woodlands, meadows, disturbed areas, and roadsides. *It is toxic to pets and livestock*

Gumweed



Also known as: Rosinweed, Tarweed

Gumweed has aromatic, daisy-like flower clusters in shades of yellow. It grows in dry prairies, abandoned croplands, and disturbed roadsides.

It is a pollen source for native bees, but it's mostly ignored by wildlife because of its bitter taste.

Thin-leaved Coneflower



Also known as: Brown-eyed Susan, Three-lobed Rudbeckia, Branched Coneflower

Look for this yellow wildflower in Colorado in prairies, woodland clearings, and roadsides. Thin-leaved Coneflower lights the landscape with rich golden blooms from summer to the first frost. This wildflower is extremely easy to grow. It's self-seeding, unattractive to pests, and drought-tolerant. Plant it in perennial borders, gardens, and wildflower meadows.

Thin-leaved Coneflowers attract native bees, beneficial wasps, flies, and beetles to your garden. But watch out for deer, rabbits, and groundhogs that like to eat the foliage.

Sneezeweed



Also known as: False Sunflower, Bitterweed

To identify this yellow wildflower in Colorado, look for pretty daisy-like flowers blooming in the fall. You can find Sneezeweed along streams, ponds, swamps, and wetlands.

Common Mullein



Also known as: Flannel Plant,

See Wildflowers p. 9

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Wildflowers Continued from p. 8

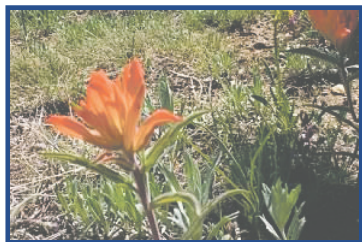
Big Taper, Velvet Dock

Common Mullein is native to Europe, Asia, and Africa, but this yellow wildflower is now considered a naturalized species in Colorado.

You can recognize this wildflower by its small yellow blooms densely grouped on a tall stem and the velvety, dense leaves at the base of the plant. As the stems shoot upwards from a base of large leaves, the overall appearance of this plant might remind you of corn.

Common Mullein is a valuable medicinal plant. In ancient times, it was used to treat pulmonary diseases, inflammations, and various ailments. Today, you can find its dried leaves, flowers, and oil extracts in health stores.

Orange Wildflowers Indian Paintbrush



The Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja* spp.) is a popular wildflower known for its vibrant orange-red bracts. It is often found scattered across meadows and open spaces, adding a burst of color to the landscape.

Identifying the Indian Paintbrush in Colorado is easy due to its stunning fiery red bracts that form in the shape of leaves and flowers. The flowers are clustered at the top and slightly hairy.

Red Wildflowers Blanket Flower



Blanket flowers look similar to regular daisies, with their rich orange flower petals and a large dark-red center.

Pink Wildflowers Wild Bergomot



Wild Bergamot is among the popular wildflowers that can be seen in Colorado's open woods, wet meadows, fields, and marshes. The flowers of the Wild Bergamot are edible, and the leaves can even be boiled as tea or chewed raw.

The flowers grow in clusters of colorful flowers, from lavender and pink to white, and resemble pompoms. The leaves are easily recognizable by their aromatic fragrance, which can be made into tea.

Bitterroot



Bitterroot is another beautiful perennial wildflower. Commonly found in states across the western US from Arizona, Colorado, and Montana, to Washington and California. Woodlands, shrublands, oak woods, or fir forests are their favorite places to grow.

Purple Wildflowers Lupine



Lupine (*Lupinus* spp.) is a genus of wildflowers known for its beautiful purple blooms. With its tall spikes of flowers, Lupine creates a striking visual display in meadows and open areas.

Rocky Mountain Penstemon



The Rocky Mountain Penstemon (*Penstemon strictus*) is a perennial wildflower that showcases stunning shades of purple. This lovely wildflower is native to the Rocky Mountains and can often be found growing in alpine meadows and subalpine zones.

Fireweed

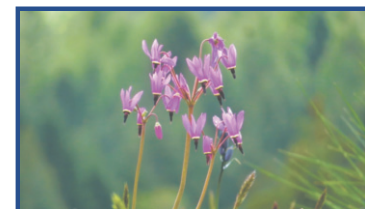
Fireweed (*Chamerion angusti-*



folium) is a striking wildflower that displays beautiful shades of pink and red. Its tall stems and spiky flowers make it a standout feature in meadows and mountainsides. As the name suggests, Fireweed often grows in areas that have been affected by fires, bringing life and color to charred landscapes.

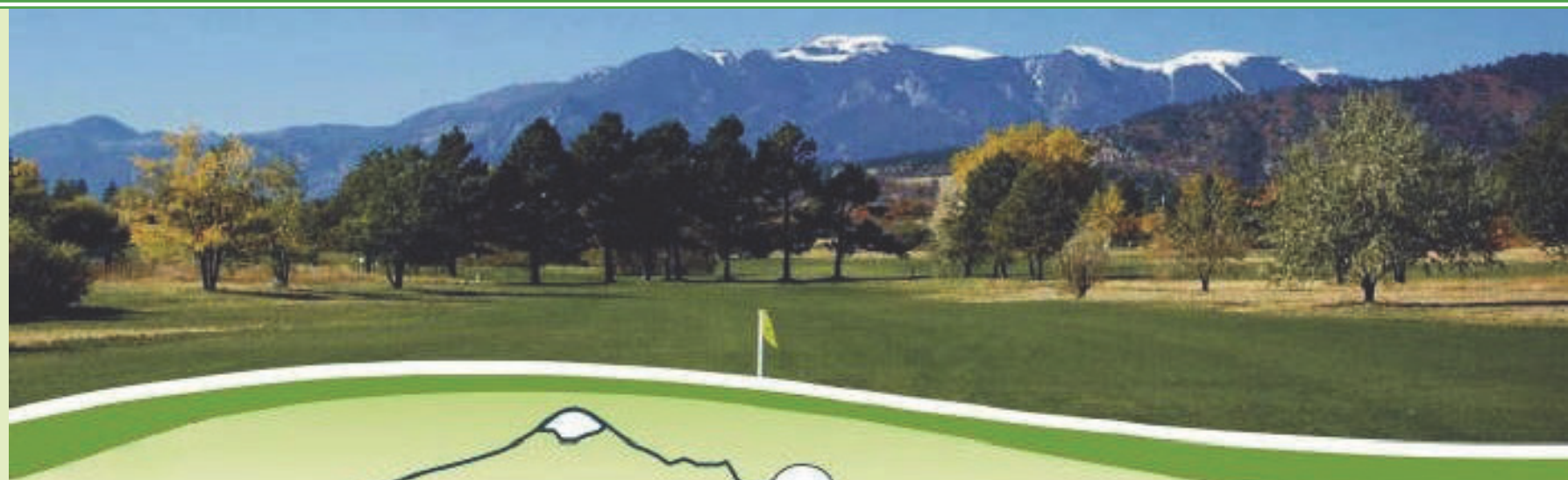
The stems grow more than 50 saucer-shaped flowers, which can be purple or pink. The leaves are narrow and, together with the stem, are tinged in light pink.

Shooting Star



Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon pulchellum*) is a delicate pink wildflower that graces the land-

See Wildflowers p. 10



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Wildflowers
Continued from p. 9

-scape with its unique shape and captivating color. Its petals are reflexed backward, giving the impression of a shooting star, hence the name. Found in damp meadows and shaded woodland areas, Shooting Star is a true delight for those fortunate enough to encounter it. The Shooting Star is a gorgeous perennial that grows in the form of low rosettes of leaves. These wildflowers love moist and well-drained soil and thrive in naturally shaded areas.

Blue Wildflowers
Colorado Blue Columbine

bol of its natural heritage. With its delicate blue petals and contrasting white center, this wildflower is an exceptional example of nature's artistry. Found in forests, meadows, and mountainsides, the Colorado Blue Columbine is beloved by residents and visitors alike.

The Colorado Blue Columbine is a gorgeous perennial wildflower that can often be seen in Colorado's moist woods, mountains, and open meadows. It enjoys moist and rocky soil, and if given the perfect conditions, it can grow 30 inches tall and self-seeding. It blooms lovely flowers from June to August, attracting pollinators such as nectar-drinking insects and hummingbirds. Flowers are large, blue, and soft white. The arrangement of the petals resembles an eagle's talons, which may be why they get the name—Aquila is Latin for eagle.



Periwinkle

The Vinca Minor commonly known in the US as Periwinkle, is an evergreen groundcover that can be seen in

The Colorado Blue Columbine (Aquilegia caerulea) is the state flower of Colorado and a sym-

Colorado in abundance throughout early spring and summer. Periwinkle usually grows in shrubs, shaded slopes, or under trees. These plants prefer shaded areas, although they can also tol-

erate sun exposure. Some people find Periwinkle to grow well on the north sides of buildings.

To identify a Periwinkle in Colorado, you need to look for a groundcover wildflower with dark green foliage and lovely, gently sky-blue flower petals.



Bluebell

The lovely Bluebell is a wildflower native to Colorado and most commonly found in meadows, mixed conifer woods, mountain brushes, and sagebrushes. These perennial wildflowers are mainly ornamental, with lovely flowers that attract attention.

Lovely, droopy, sky-blue flowers. Trumpet-like flowers grow in clusters, with five gentle petals on each flower.

Yucca



Asparagaceae (Agave Family) Semi-desert, foothills.

Yucca baccata is a common plant of the Four Corners area and along with Sagebrush and the Pinyon Pine/Juniper forests it

is symbolic of the area. Yucca baccata presents a massive and solid stature with beautiful symmetry. Leaves are broad, long, stiff, and sharp; flowers are large and creamy thick.

The Anasazi (Ancestral Puebloans) used Yucca baccata leaves for sandals and cord, the roots for soap, and the flower and fruit for food.



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Camping in the Greenhorn Valley



St Charles Campground

The Ophir Creek Campground is located about 48 miles southwest of Pueblo, eight miles north of Lake Isabel. This campground is situated along Squirrel Creek at an elevation of 8,900 feet. There are 31 campsites in the campground. Twelve are back-in campsites suitable for

small RVs. The remaining nineteen are walk-in tent sites. Each campsite has a picnic table and fire grate. Some of the sites are in an open meadow while the rest are shaded by spruce and aspen trees. This area is very pretty, especially in the fall and it is a great place to tent camp. Reser-

and South Creek trails. **BIKING:** Biking is available on the Second Mace, Squirrel Creek, Silver Circle, Dome Rock and South Creek trails. **MOTORIZED TRAIL RIDING:** ATVs are permitted on the Second Mace, Squirrel Creek, Silver Circle trails.

ervations are not accepted. Open May through mid October **Activities** **FISHING:** Fishing is available in Ophir Creek, Lake Isabel and St. Charles Creek. **HIKING:** Hiking is available on the Second Mace, Squirrel Creek, Silver Circle, Dome Rock

Ophir Creek Road From the campground follow Ophir Creek Forest Service Road #360 12 miles, then turn left on Greenhorn Forest Service Road #369, which continues another 13 miles. Trailheads along this road include the Cisneros, 9 miles in on FSR# 369, Pole Creek, and the western trailhead of Barlett Trail at nearly 17 miles along #369. From the origin at the Ophir Campground to elevations above 11,000 ft., witness a beautifully changing variety of wildflowers culminating with abundant purple Wild Lupine scattered among the deep forest green of towering Poderosa Pine. For the very determined, continue on FSR #369 and spend the afternoon fishing in the remote and peaceful alpine lakes at 11,2200 feet.s.

Greenhorn Meadows Campground- Located on highway 165, just a few miles from from the I-25 exit. The campground has 15 RV sites with electricity and numerous tent sites, city water, full

shower and bathroom facilities, a gazebo and a cave if you can find it!

St. Charles Campground- Located about 40 miles southwest of Pueblo near Lake Isabel, the elevation is 8,800 feet. Fifteen campsites suitable for both RVs and tents. About one mile to Lake Isabel from the campground. No hookups for RVs. Ten of the campsites are reservable and five available on a first come/first serve basis. The campground is one of three in the San Isabel Recreation Area. Firewood is available for a fee. The nearby community of San Isabel offers limited groceries, paddle and rowboat rentals and a small restaurant for a cooks night out. Hiking-Snow Slide Trail - 5 miles/Cisneros Trail - 15 miles Fishing-Brown and Rainbow trout in the reservoir and Brook trout in the St. Charles headwaters. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend.

See Camping p. 14



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Hiking the Greenhorn Mountains

The Bartlett Trail #1310

Length: 12.1 miles, Rated: moderate, Use: summer and early fall; hiking, horseback riding

The Bartlett Trail is in the Greenhorn Wilderness Area, so wilderness rules and regulations apply (especially no mechanized vehicles, including mountain bikes and hang gliders). If hiking from the Rye end of the trail, it's a long way up to the junction with the South Apache Trail on the southern shoulder of Greenhorn Mountain. At that junction, if you go north you'll come to the other trailhead for Bartlett. If you go south, you'll go deeper into the Wilderness Area. The Bartlett Trail skirts the upper part of Greenhorn Mountain by staying south and west of the upper mountain.

Access: The lower trailhead is south of Rye. Go through Rye on Main Street, turn left on Boulder, left again on Graneros Road, right on Hunter and right again on Baxter to the trailhead.

The upper trailhead is the same as for the Greenhorn Trail. Take SR 165 to Ophir Creek Forest

Service Road #360. Go west for about 12 miles and then turn left on Greenhorn Mountain Road #369, go 17 miles to the parking area at the end of the road.

USGS Maps: Rye, San Isabel

The South Apache Trail #1311

Length: 4.3 miles, Rated: hard, Use: summer and fall; hiking, horseback riding

Elevations: start 9,600', high point 9,600', end: 7,300' This trail is a hard drop off the eastern side of the Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness. The trail ends at private property so the only way out is to go back up that relentless hill. At the parking area at the end of the road, follow the signs for the Bartlett Trail. Follow the Bartlett Trail for about 5 miles to the junction with the South Apache Trail. Go right and follow the trail down the hill paralleling South Apache Creek.

Access: From State Highway 165, turn west at Ophir Creek Road (FR 360). Go about 12 miles and then turn left (south) on the Greenhorn Mountain Road #369. Go another 17 miles to the end of the road at the edge of Green-

horn Mountain Wilderness.

USGS Maps: San Isabel, Rye, Baidito Cone, Hayden Butte

Cisneros Trail #1314

Length: 10.4 miles, Rated: moderate, Use: year around; hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, ATV, Snowmobiling

Elevations: start 8,940', high point 11,220', end 11,220' This trail rises from Lake Isabel into the heart of the Wet Mountains. It winds through gorgeous country alternating between heavy forest and open parks. Lots of wildlife and great wildflowers. About three-quarters mile from the Lake Isabel Campground is a trail junction with the St. Charles Trail. St. Charles Trail will take you north onto St. Charles Peak (11,784') while the Cisneros Trail turns left and heads southwest towards Greenhorn Mountain (12,347').

Access: The upper trailhead: From State Highway 165, turn west at Ophir Creek Forest Service Road #360. Go about 12 miles and then turn left (south) on the Greenhorn Mountain Road #369. Go another 17 miles to the end of

the road at the edge of Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness.

The lower trailhead: Go through San Isabel around to the west end of the Lake to the upper campground. The Trail begins on the west end of the campground.

USGS Maps: San Isabel

Greenhorn Trail #1316

Length: 7.8 miles, Rated: moderate, Use: summer and fall; hiking, horseback riding

Elevations: start 7,460', high point 12,000', end 11,340' Although the summit just nudges above the timberline at 12,347 and only ranks as the 1,107 highest peak in the state. There isn't a higher mountain for over forty miles. So Greenhorn's summit provides a wonderful 360 degree view. The endless vista of the Great Plains makes up the views to the east. The spectacular and rugged looking Sangre de Cristo Mountains dominate the view to the west. Looking south the Spanish Peaks with their twin looking summits rule your vision, and Pikes Peak makes its appearance to the north.

Access: The upper trailhead:

Take SR 165 to Ophir Creek Forest Service Road #360. Go west for about 12 miles and then turn left on Greenhorn Mountain Road, go 17 miles to the parking area at the end of the road.

The lower trailhead: Turn left into Rye off highway 165 onto Main Street. It becomes Park Road. Veer right at the Y in the road veer onto Cuerno Verde Road. The road heads west and then south. After 1.6 miles there will be a small parking lot with a bridge crossing over Greenhorn Creek. This is the trailhead.

USGS Maps: Rye, San Isabel

#1317 Millset

Length: 5 miles, Rated: difficult, Use: summer and fall; hiking, horseback riding

Elevations: start 8,000', high point 11,244', end 11,244' Access: 9 miles nw of Rye 165 west side end at FDR 369

The Snowslide Trail #1318

Length: 5.7 miles, Rated: moderately difficult, Use: summer and fall; hiking, horseback riding. Elevations: start 8,720', high point 11,500', end 11,500'



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Camping Continued from p. 12

Directions-From Colorado City, CO, take State Rt. 165 west 12.2 miles to San Isabel Recreation Area sign. Turn left at sign and go 1.1 miles to campground sign.

Turn left at sign and go 0.3 miles to another campground sign. Turn right at sign into campground.

La Vista Campground

La Vista Campground is a developed campground with the following activities: hiking, fishing, and boating. At Lake Isabel, activities include non-motorized boating and fishing. St. Charles Creek is close to the campground and may be fished. Access to motorized and non-motorized trails

including Cisneros, St. Charles, and Snowslide.

From Colorado City travel west 18 miles on state Hwy 165. Turn into the south entrance at Lake Isabel, go about 1 mile and look for the La Vista campground signs. Located in South Central Colorado 43 miles southwest

Davenport Campground- Davenport campground stretches along Squirrel Creek among spruce and Aspen at an elevation of 8,500 ft. Widely spaced sites

provide a spacious feeling and privacy. The camp ground is primarily for tent camping.

Hiking-Squirrel Creek Trail #1384 (foot, horse, mountain bike & dirt bike) - 4.5 miles, Second Mace Trail #1322 (foot, horse, mountain bike & dirt bike) - 7 miles

Fishing-Brook trout Directions-From Colorado City, take State Rt. 165 west 18.2 miles to campground sign Turn left at sign onto Rt. 382 and go 1.4 miles to campground.

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Frontier Pathways
Continued from p. 6

River Trail. Historic records indicate it led native tribes, traders, trappers, the Spaniards, French, settlers and eventually a stage route through the Greenhorn Valley.

The actual location of historic trails and sites are extremely difficult to prove. Early travelers would attempt to take the easiest route depending on the weather conditions and other factors. Although remnants such as wagon ruts and historic building remains exist at some locations, such sites have not been located in the Greenhorn Valley.

To get a feel for the Taos Trail drive south from Colorado City on State Road 181, Apache City Road. The historic Greenhorn Settlement existed at the shady spot where the Greenhorn River crosses the road.

The Taos Trail headed southwest from here toward the landmark trail marker, Badito Cone*. The Bandito Cone is just above where the trail left the river and headed west up Oak Creek. Today you must continue to In-

terstate 25 and travel south to the first Walsenburg Exit.

Turn right onto County Road 69 traveling northwest heading towards Gardner. The remains of the Badito settlement are just east of Farista, about half-way between Tioga and Gardner and just south on County Road 520.

Summer Guide 2025

The Territorial Daughters of Colorado have erected a bronze marker to commemorate the Badito Crossing on the Taos Trail. Continue on County Road 520 south. Historic as well, it is commonly called the Yellowstone Road. Yellow stones appeared on the trail as by-products of mines

in the area and were called Piedra Amarillas or Yellow Rocks. The road travels about 15 miles to meet State Road 160. Turn left to return to the valley through Walsenburg.

*Several other Buttes dot the plains around the Greenhorn Mountain. The Huerfano Butte,

visible to the east of I-25 between Colorado City and Walsenburg was a trail marker on the Santa Fe Trail—Mountain Branch which parallels the highway at this point.

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