



The Off Road Paws®

Boulder Dog-Friendly Hike Planner

The best dog-friendly hike isn't the one with the best photo. It's the one matched to your dog and the day.

Before you go...

- Right trail picked for your dog's age and fitness
- Current rules and closures checked (OSMP Dog Regulations Map)
- Weather and seasonal hazards checked for the day
- Water, collapsible bowl, and waste bags packed
- Voice & Sight tag on, if going off-leash on a designated trail

Flat & Easy Trails (puppies & seniors)

Trail	What makes it easy	Good to know
Wonderland Lake	Flat 1.5-mile loop with water views	Great stamina test-run close to town
Coot Lake	Flat, open, popular with dogs	Pairs with the Boulder Reservoir path
Sawhill Ponds	Flat pond-side paths with shade	Quiet and birdy, gentle footing
Bobolink Trail	Flat creekside path	Easy access, good for leash practice
Dakota Ridge	Short and gently rolling	Manageable for older dogs
Boulder Creek Path	Paved, flat, in-town	Ideal for seniors and recovery walks
Boulder Valley Ranch	Flat and open	Rattlesnake hotspot in summer

Classic Climbs (trail-fit adults)

Royal Arch, First & Second Flatirons, Bear Peak via Shanahan Ridge, Mount Sanitas (3.2 mi), Mesa Trail, and Walker Ranch Loop (7.9 mi). On Green Mountain, use the **West approach only** – the Green Mountain Loop is not dog-friendly.

Boulder Dog Rules at a Glance

- **Leash is the default.** About 89% of OSMP's ~155 trail miles require a leash.
- **Voice & Sight tag** allows off-leash on designated OSMP trails, only while the dog is under direct voice and sight control. Always leash at trailheads.
- **Seasonal leash windows:** May 1–July 31 and Aug 15–Dec 1 on some trails. County open space follows its own rules.

Summer Safety

- **Overheating signs:** heavy panting, bright red or pale gums, ropey drool, wobbliness or collapse. Get to shade, cool with cool (not ice-cold) water, call your vet.
- **Pavement test:** if it's too hot for the back of your hand, it's too hot for paws.
- **Never leave a dog in a parked car:** at 85°F, a car hits 102°F in 10 minutes.
- **Rattlesnakes:** leash up in snake season and keep dogs out of rocks and brush.

Winter & Etiquette

- Stay off frozen ponds; if your dog breaks through, call 911, don't go on the ice.
- Wipe paws after walks (ice, salt, de-icer); watch for shivering. Spring: check for ticks.
- Pack out waste, yield on shared trails, and never let your dog chase wildlife or livestock.

General guidance only, not veterinary advice. Always confirm current trail status and leash rules with the City of Boulder OSMP and Boulder County before you go.