

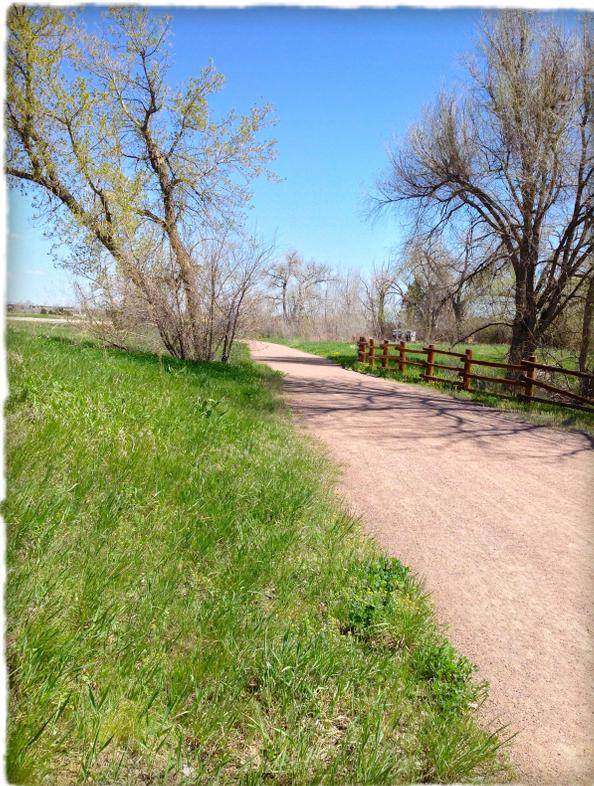


Coal Creek Regional Trail

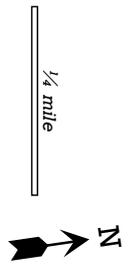
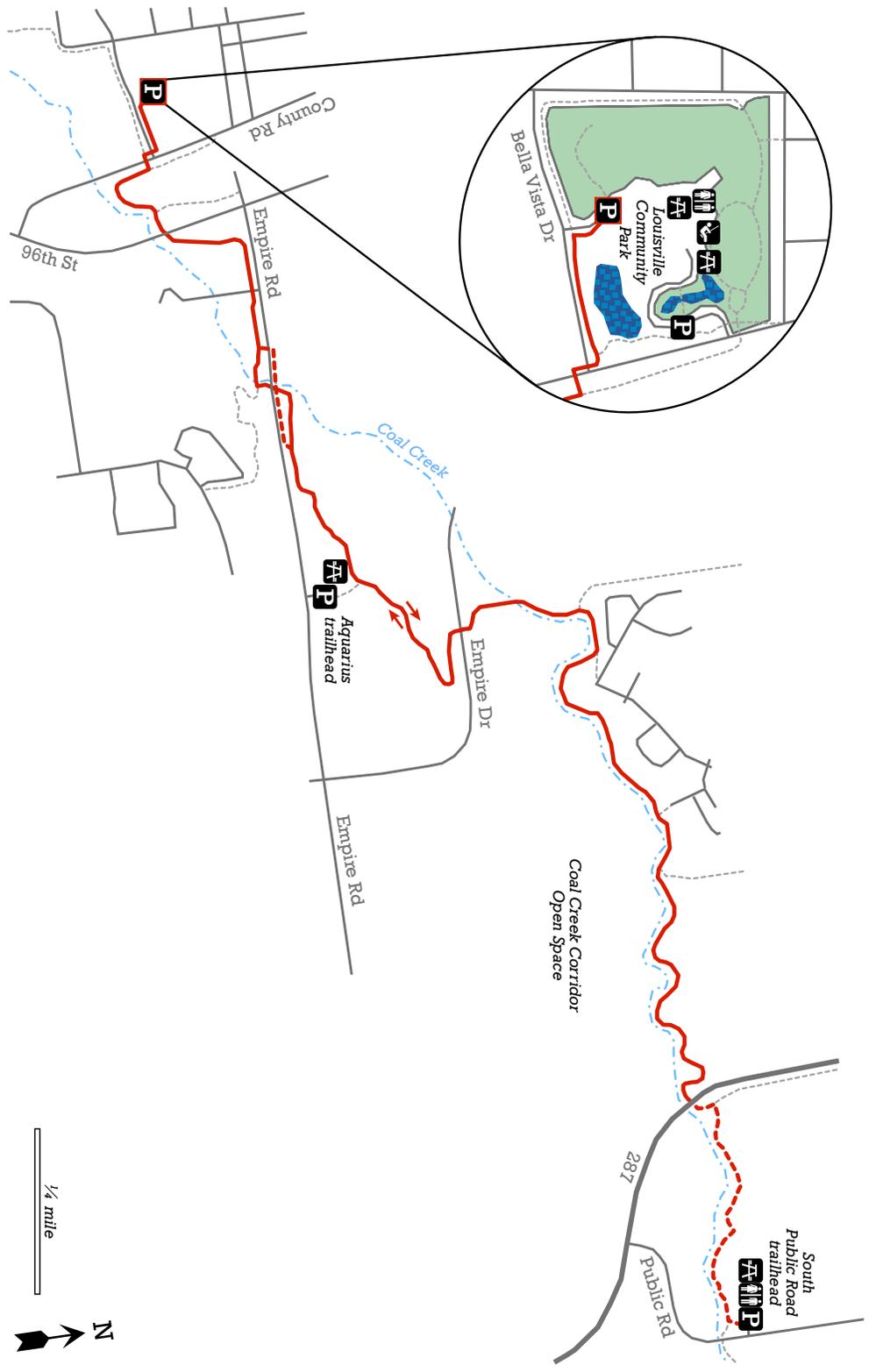
Louisville section

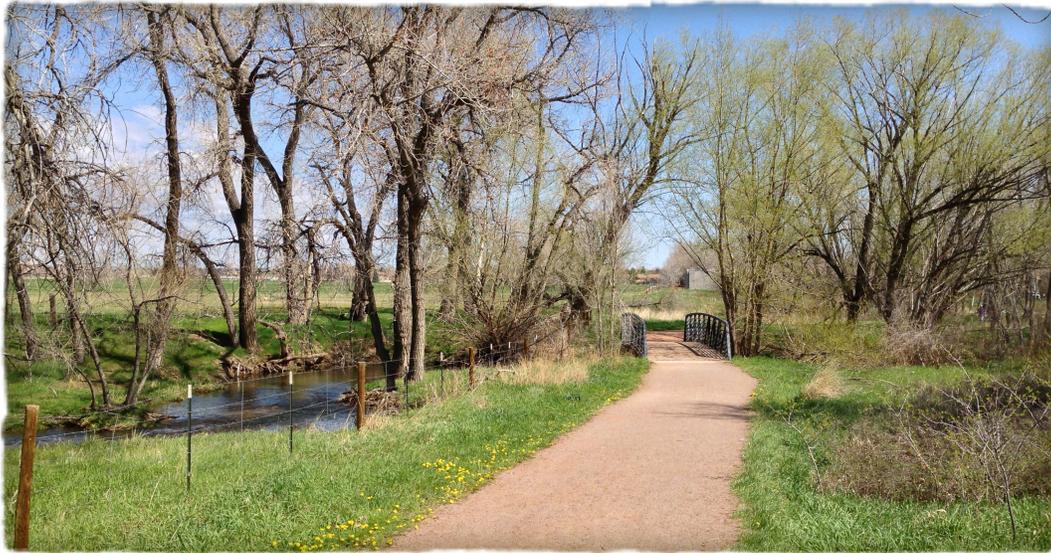
Length: 5.4 / 6.3 mi roundtrip Steepness: ▲▲▲ 3 of 5 Bumpy factor: * 1 of 5 Trail surface: dirt & gravel road; several short paved sections Trail width: 6 - 10 ft Trail condition: smooth	Location: Louisville Distance from downtown: 20 mi Drive time: 30 min Access: free
	Trailhead picnic tables: yes Trailhead restrooms: yes Trailhead water: yes Playground: yes
Starting elevation: 5,330 ft Elevation gain: 260 / 320 ft	Stroller type: all types

The Coal Creek Trail is the product of a joint effort between Louisville, Lafayette, Superior, Broomfield, Erie, and Boulder Counties. The segment featured here runs



along the creek in the southern part of Louisville. It begins and ends at Louisville Community Park, a nice park with ponds, a playground, picnic shelters, a dog park, and a mini spray-ground. The trail starts out deceptively flat, but has one significant hill toward the end of the first mile, earning this route the higher steepness rating. As long as you resign yourself to walking your stroller in this brief section, you will enjoy the beautiful 5.4 mile out-and-back run in a scenic setting. The final stretch is optional for a roundtrip total of 6.3 miles. Alternatively, if you want to skip the hill altogether (along with the playground), you can park at the Public Road turnaround point and explore the trail east-to-west from there (about 4 miles roundtrip).



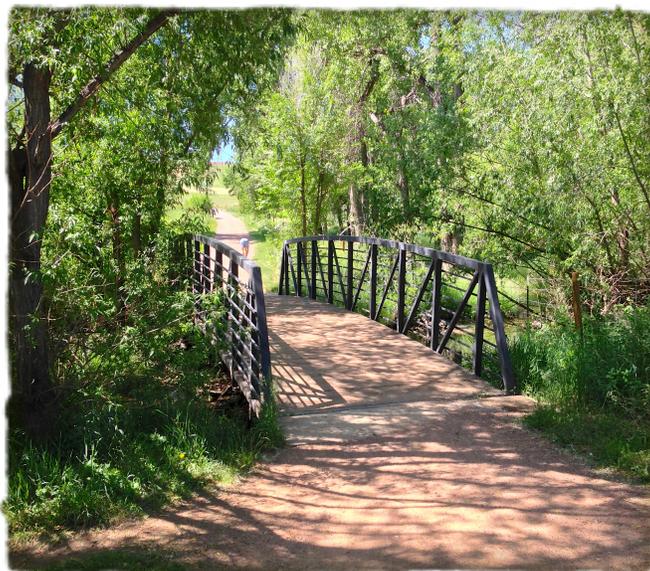


Directions

Drive north on I-25 and take exit 217A to US-36 toward Boulder. Go west on highway 36 and exit at StorageTek Drive. Turn right onto 96th St/StorageTek Dr. Just before the entrance to the Northwest Parkway toll road, turn left onto 96th St. After 1.3 miles, turn left onto County Rd. After 0.3 miles, turn left onto Bella Vista Dr. Louisville Community Park will be on your right; follow the road to the south parking lot (955 Bella Vista Dr).

Trail Description

Follow the sidewalk on Bella Vista Drive to County Road. Cross both streets, then head east (right) on the Coal Creek Trail. After the underpasses below the railroad tracks and 96th St, the trail parallels Empire Rd and then crosses underneath it. In the spring, this underpass is often flooded. If this occurs, backtrack 500 feet to a short spur trail leading up to Empire Road (see map); cross the road and run along its wide shoulder for about 800 feet; rejoin the Coal Creek Trail on the northern side of the road, just below the shoulder. After first ascending and then descending the steep grassland hill, the trail follows Coal Creek Trail more closely for





the remainder of the route. This portion is shaded by large trees and you are never too far from the creek. Beware of several side trails branching off Coal Creek Trail (often these side trails are as wide as the main trail). Turn around when you reach the Hwy 287 underpass, or make a sharp right turn and proceed along Coal Creek to the Public Road parking lot about half a mile further down the trail.

History & Info

The creek's name derives from the highly productive coal fields found in this area. The town of Louisville itself dates back to the opening of the first coal mine in 1877



(the last coal mines operating in Louisville closed in the 1950s). The central portion of the Coal Creek Regional Trail was constructed and opened in the early 1990s. Louisville Community Park opened in 2006.

Special considerations

Pedestrians, bicyclists, and dogs are allowed on the trail. Equestrians are not permitted due to Louisville city regulations. Pets must be on a leash and under control at all times. Unauthorized motor vehicles are prohibited.