

## Trail Tips & Guidelines

- **Stay on Designated Trails**  
Minimize disturbance of native plants and wildlife.
- **Be Courteous & Communicate**  
Trail users have varying abilities and modes of travel, so be friendly and not startle others when passing.
- **Keep Right & Pass Left**  
This rule of thumb will eliminate indecision. Step to the right side of the trail if you stop.
- **Keep Dogs on Leash**  
Help lessen conflicts with other trail users and wildlife and protect your own dog's safety. An off-leash area is provided at Glendale Farm on 17 fenced-in acres southwest of the main trailhead.
- **Respect Private Property**  
Land outside the fences is privately owned.
- **Pack Out Your Litter**  
A bear-proof trash can is at the trailhead.
- **Obey Open Space Rules & Regulations**  
An abbreviated set is available at the trailhead. Complete rules are available at [www.douglas.co.us/openspace](http://www.douglas.co.us/openspace)
- **Appropriate Users**  
Hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and pets on leash are welcome on the trail.
- **Use Caution—Watch Your Step**  
Prairie rattlesnakes live in this area. Prickly pear cactus grows along the trail. Climbing on the rocks is not allowed. Check your dog's paws for hurtful grass seeds & thorns.



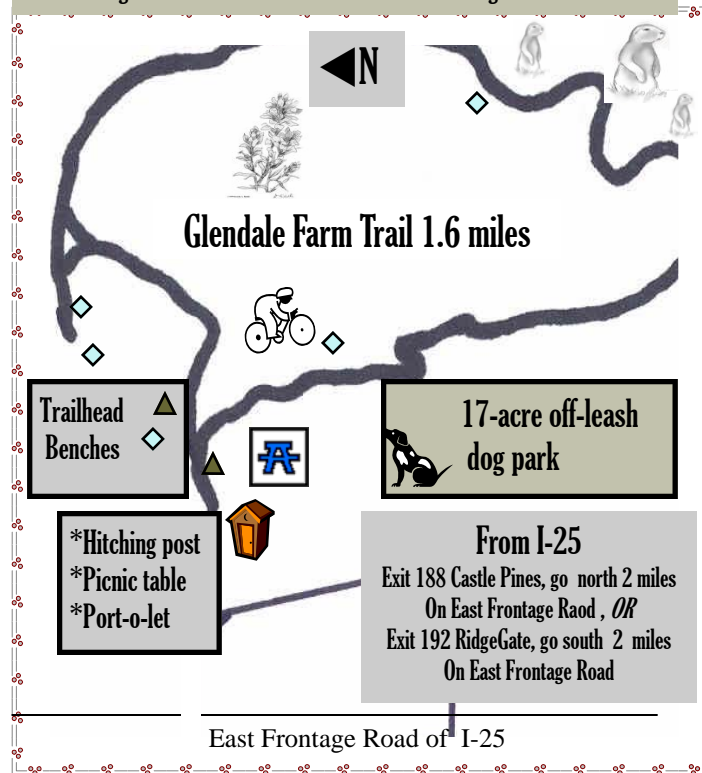
## Hey partner, did you know? We offer an off-leash area for your dog!

Douglas County Division of Open Space & Natural Resources recognizes that dogs need an open space, too!

This fenced-in 17-acre parcel is located southwest of the main trailhead and is perfect for a tail-wagging good time before hiking the habitat sensitive main trail.



Please help keep this area open!  
Adhere to ALL rules posted at the gate.  
Dogs are allowed off-leash **ONLY** in this designated area.



Douglas County Division of  
Open Space & Natural Resources  
100 Third Street, Castle Rock, CO 80104  
303-660-7495 [www.douglas.co.us/openspace](http://www.douglas.co.us/openspace)

## Glendale Farm Open Space

Connecting a trail through history and nature



Second generation homesteader Jake Kroll in front of the rocky hillside at Glendale Farm, circa 1915.



Joseph Kroll's grandson Kenneth poses with a friend by the apple orchard, circa 1928.



Division of Open Space & Natural Resources

## A Land of Humble Beginnings

Although the farm buildings no longer stand, remnants of a barnyard and orchard remind us of the dedicated spirit of the early pioneers who came to farm this challenging land. Austrian immigrant



Joseph Kroll settled here in 1885 after working the coal mines in Leadville. To develop his ranch he would return each winter to the mines, leaving his wife, Maria, and his children on the ranch.

Mrs. Kroll endured this lonely hardship each season, though she was terribly afraid of the bobcats and prairie rattlesnakes living in the area. In 1918 the Krolls sold the ranch and moved to Castle Rock. Later, son Jake Kroll opened “Kroll’s Grocery” across from the old courthouse.



Maria Eberhart-Kroll



Early games at Kroll farm included horseshoes.

Historical photos are courtesy of Teri Hanzon, Kroll family collection.

## Legend of “Happy Canyon”

Original pioneers were forced to be self-sufficient by working the land, mining and raising livestock. Some settlers subsisted on wild game, wearing buckskin when their clothes wore out. A man named Jack Johnson came to the valley in the mid 1800’s searching for work. A happy man, he could always be heard singing as he rode over the hills. Johnson’s happiness echoed through the valley and gave this region its unique name, “Happy Canyon.”

## Rich in Natural Resources Today

Glendale Farm Open Space is a truly valuable community resource that preserves scenic views and provides a natural buffer between rapidly developing Lone Tree, Castle Pines, and Castle Rock. Visitors at the top of the trail get a feel for the



Young explorers enjoy the Glendale Farm Trail.



Spiderwort

Colorado Front Range by looking at majestic panoramic views of Pikes Peak, Devils Head and Longs Peak, while only minutes from the highway.

## Who’s living at Glendale Farm today?

Glendale Farm lies in a short grass prairie and shrubland ecosystem. Cautious pronghorn graze on forbs at the top of the prairie while a young coyote scans the vast horizon, eagerly waiting to pounce on a cottontail rabbit. Thickets of Gambel oak on the lower trail offer shelter and acorns for mule deer, who are joined by foraging spotted towhees and scrub jays. Chokecherries and wild plums along the creek are favorite foods of black bears and red foxes. From rock outcroppings to the creek bed, the land here is rich in wildlife diversity.



Prairie dogs ‘bark’ to signal their colony members.

Color photos courtesy of Bill Bevington.

*“I’m grateful to be able to hike the land that my grandfather, Jake Kroll, rode his horse on a hundred years ago.” -Teri Hanzon, Castle Rock*

## A Future Formed by the Past

Picture palm trees swaying in the breeze and torrents of rainwater rushing through steep canyons. It may not sound like Colorado today, but geologists agree it was central Colorado 34 million years ago! Rock formations known as the Castle Rock Conglomerate can be seen northeast of the Glendale Farm Open Space trailhead, towering above the barn remnants. Large chunks of rhyolite stone in the conglomerate are geological evidence of catastrophic floods that once raced down through high canyons - sweeping up plants, rocks, and more than a few unsuspecting ancient rhinoceroses.



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## How did Douglas County Open Space acquire this land?

In 1997, Douglas County purchased the 160-acre Glendale Farm property from Mrs. Ruth Muller of Switzerland with funds from the Open Space, Trails, and Parks Sales and Use Tax. Voters approved this tax in 1994. For every purchase made in Douglas County, a percentage of your sales tax dollars helps to preserve vital wildlife habitat, create parks and trails, and protect land like Glendale Farm Open Space.