



Staunton State Park FAQs

When did the park open?

Staunton State Park opened on May 18, 2013.

How did the park get its name?

Staunton State Park is named for Frances Hornbrook Staunton and her parents, who donated 1,720 acres, including her parents' original homestead, to Colorado State Parks in 1986.

How large is the park?

3,828 acres

What is the elevation?

Elevation ranges from 8,040 feet at Elk Creek to 10,120 feet near the summit of Black Mountain with the accompanying differences in geology, soils, and climate. The combination of this more than 2,000-foot elevation gradient and broad variety of terrain has resulted in an extensive diversity of vegetation communities and wildlife.

What is the highest point in the park?

10,120 feet near the summit of Black Mountain

What is there to see/do in the park?

The park offers trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding; rock climbing, and picnic facilities. Bird watching, wildlife viewing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing, are additional opportunities. Outdoor education nature programs will be a primary theme guiding the activity proposed for the park.

Where are the trails located? How long/difficult are they?

20 miles of non-motorized use trails are located throughout the park and range in difficulty from easy to moderately difficult. Of these, 5 miles of single-track, hiking-only trails will provide access to some more sensitive locations in the park, such as the fragile canyon above Elk Falls.

Where is "Lost and Found"?

See the park Entrance Station attendant for items lost or found in the park.

Is a park pass required?

Yes. An annual Colorado State Park parks pass is \$70 per vehicle; \$35 for each additional vehicle. Seniors 64 years and older can purchase an Aspen Leaf Pass for \$60 per vehicle; \$30 for each additional vehicle. Daily passes are \$7. Walk-ins are free.

Are pets allowed?

Dogs are allowed, but must remain on leashes (max 6 ft.) at all times. Pet owners must pick up after their pets.

Is camping allowed?

Campgrounds will be added in later development phases, depending on funding.

Is hunting or fishing allowed?

Yes. Youth hunting will be featured as an education element in conjunction with wildlife officers to provide new/novice Colorado hunters with a safe, positive, and educational hunting experience to assist them in learning the skills of hunting.

Can I carry a firearm in the park?

It is best to talk to a Park Ranger to discuss the details of firearms regulations in state parks. But the open carry of a firearm is allowed in the park within the provisions of Title 18 and any other applicable laws. Those persons in possession of a concealed handgun permit, together with a valid photo id may carry a concealed handgun in the park. Target shooting in the park is strictly prohibited.

Is rock climbing or ‘scrambling’ allowed? If so, what are the rules/regulations?

Yes, rock climbing will be allowed. Guidelines for responsible climbing include: Stay on designated trails as you approach Staunton Rocks (climbing area); Minimize your impact every time you climb. Choose routes that do not disturb vegetation. Climb without bolting or fixed protection; Share the rocks with raptors that call these rocks home. Watch for and abide by all posted seasonal closures for nesting raptors.

Can I ride horses or mountain bikes in the park?

Yes. 15-miles of multi-use trails will be available for hiking, horseback riding and biking, providing access to some of the major destinations within the park.

Can I use a motorized form of transportation on the trails such as a Segway or motorized wheelchair?

Although all trails at Staunton State Park are strictly non-motorized, some exceptions are made for Other Personal Mobility Device (OPMD) use on the park’s trails. It is best to speak to a park ranger to find out the specific restrictions.

What kinds of animals and vegetation are found in the park?

Wildlife Staunton provides habitat and is a movement corridor for many wildlife species. Mountain lions, bear, fox, turkey, elk, deer, migratory birds, and other species have been documented. There is lynx habitat, but no lynx have been documented in the park. Also home to yellow-bellied marmots, Abert squirrel, raccoon, muskrat, bobcat, badger, ermin/short-tailed weasel, coyote, beaver, moose, porcupine, American mink.

Raptor nests Several birds of prey nest in the park, including hawks, falcons, and owls. Also found are Bald eagle, Golden Eagle, Cooper’s Hawk, American Kestrel, Northern Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Red-Tailed Hawk, Sharp-Shinned Hawk, and Turkey Vulture.

Old-growth ponderosa pine habitat Staunton State Park boasts some of the Front Range’s most dramatic old-growth Ponderosa Pine forests, with many trees over 150 years old.

Aspen forests Aspen stands of any size are few and far between along the Front Range, and Staunton has two larger stands that provide important habitat for wildlife and migratory birds.

Native plant communities Staunton has several intact native vegetation communities that represent a wide range of elevation gradients. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program has ranked two wetland communities as rare at Staunton. Additionally, two rare plants have been located within the park, both of which are of major conservation value and concern.

Additionally, Blue Spruce, Alder, Douglas-Fir, Quaking Aspen, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Lodgepole Pine, and Limber Pine thrive in the park.

Are there rattlesnakes in the park?

No.

What do I do if I find a tick on me?

April and May is tick season in the park. We have wood ticks that do not carry Lyme disease or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Like bee stings, people react differently to ticks. Ticks grab onto you as you walk through grass that is up to 18 inches tall. It takes them about 24 hours hiking around to find a place where they wish to roost. Their favorite place...the hair.

What do I do if I see a bear? Mountain lion?

Bear. Stay calm. Do not turn and run. Talk in a normal voice and wave your arms slowly. Try to give the bear room to get away. Back away slowly if you can. Always face the bear. Keep talking softly.

Mountain Lion. Stay calm. Maintain visual contact so you can always see what it is doing. Stop or back away slowly, if you can do it safely. Do all you can to appear larger. If the lion behaves more aggressively (eyes locked on you, ears forward, feet underneath it), yell loudly and wave your walking stick in front of you, throw stones, branches or whatever you can get your hands on without crouching down or turning your back. If the lion gets even more aggressive (crouched, tail twitching, hind feet pumping in preparation to jump), be ready to fight back. Fight back if a lion attacks you. Lions have been driven away by prey that fights back.

Does Staunton have facilities for the handicapped?

The Ranch Hand Group Picnic area and restrooms are ADA handicap accessible.