

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

# Staunton State Park

ENJOY YOUR STATE PARKS



[cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us)

# Help Protect Your Park

Frances H. Staunton asks you, as her beneficiary, to enjoy this land—and protect it. Please:

1. Stay on marked trails and share the multi-use trail.
2. Keep your pets on a leash no longer than 6 feet and clean up after them.
3. Grill and cook in designated areas only. Be sure your fire is out before you leave.
4. Climb without bolting or fixed protection.
5. Carry out all trash and food. Left behind, it can be harmful to wildlife.
6. Report problems or hazards to a park ranger.
7. Mountain weather can change quickly, dress in layers and carry rain gear.
8. Be sure to bring water, sunscreen and a hat to protect against sunburn and dehydration.
9. Share the rocks with the raptors that call these rocks home, watch for and abide by all posted seasonal closures for nesting raptors.

A copy of full park regulations is available at the entrance station.



## THE 7 LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.



Staunton State Park is the legacy of Frances H. Staunton. As her beneficiaries, present and future generations are entrusted with this land—to enjoy, protect, and treasure as she did.

Frances H. Staunton's parents homesteaded this site around the turn of the 20th century, established Staunton Ranch, and gradually expanded it from 160 to 1,720 acres. Frances cherished the land, maintaining it in its near-pristine condition throughout her life. Before her death in 1989, she donated it to future generations as a state park. She required in her will that the land "... be preserved, in perpetuity, for public benefit, as a natural wilderness-type park...typifying Colorado's most beautiful mountain forest and meadow region."

Evidence has been discovered of the Nuu-agma-tuvu-pu (Ute), who lived here for many thousands of years. The Cheyenne also called this area home. Look throughout the park for spirit trees marking travel to water, resources, and trade.

The park is a mosaic of low grasslands, rocky foothills, soaring granite cliffs, and lush stream corridors. Dramatic Elk Falls drops nearly 100 feet into North Elk Creek and spectacular Lions Head stands tall as the park's rocky sentry.

The Staunton Ranch is the heart of the park. Later acquisitions expanded the park to approximately 3,918 acres. These include the historic Elk Falls, Davis Ranches, property owned by former Colorado State Senator Alan Dines and by Mary Coyle Chase, Colorado's first Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and author of "Harvey." The park will be developed in phases over the next few years, so visit often to see more natural wonders and enjoy more recreational opportunities.

## Habitat Variety

From high grassy meadows at 8,100 feet, to soaring granite cliffs over 9,579 feet, the park's geology, soils, water features and climate create a rich variety of habitats—and make Staunton State Park an excellent outdoor classroom.

Mixed conifer forests and riparian areas support the highest levels of tree, plant and wildlife diversity. Grazing elk favor the aspen and conifer/aspen forests. Montane grasslands are a tapestry of native wildflowers and grasses (and their pollinators). Wet meadow systems support abundant plant and wildlife communities and contribute to the health of the watershed.

Depending on the season, sharp-eyed visitors may see yellow-bellied marmots, tufted-ear Abert's squirrels, coyotes or wild turkeys. Check the website for scheduled programs about the park's natural resources and history.

## Recreation Resources

Recreation opportunities abound year-round for visitors of all ages and abilities, including picnicking, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, hiking, snowshoeing, tent camping, biking, horseback riding and rock climbing.

## Camping

Staunton's 25 walk in tent only campsites range from 180-799 yards from the Meadow Parking lot. No fires or charcoal grills are allowed, only propane and gas stoves.

A maximum of 2 tents and 6 people are allowed per site. Make sure tents are on the provided pad. Food and scented items must be placed in the provide lockers



**All tent sites are available by reservation only and can be booked by calling 1 (800) 244-5613 or at [cpwshop.com](http://cpwshop.com)**



## Share the Trail

Staunton State Park hiking only and multi-use trails are clearly marked, so it's easy to find the right type for you. Share the trail and respect other users by:

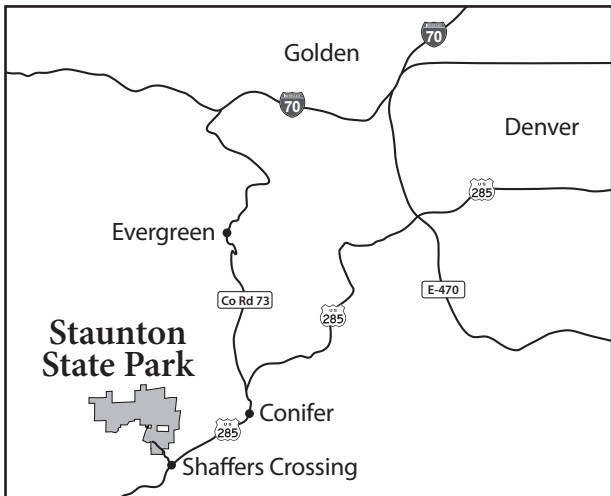
- ▶ Staying on the trail. Shortcutting destroys vegetation and increases erosion.
- ▶ Moving to the uphill side of the trail to let others pass.
- ▶ Alerting other users before you pass them.
- ▶ Admiring wildflowers and rocks, but leaving them for others to enjoy.
- ▶ Keeping your pets on a leash at all times.





## ► LOCATION

**From Denver:** Take US Highway 285 south to Shaffers Crossing, about 6 miles west of Conifer. Turn north on Elk Creek Road and follow the signs 1.5 miles to the park entrance.



## Staunton State Park

12102 S. Elk Creek Rd., Pine, Colorado 80470

(303) 816-0912 • [staunton.park@state.co.us](mailto:staunton.park@state.co.us)

[cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us)

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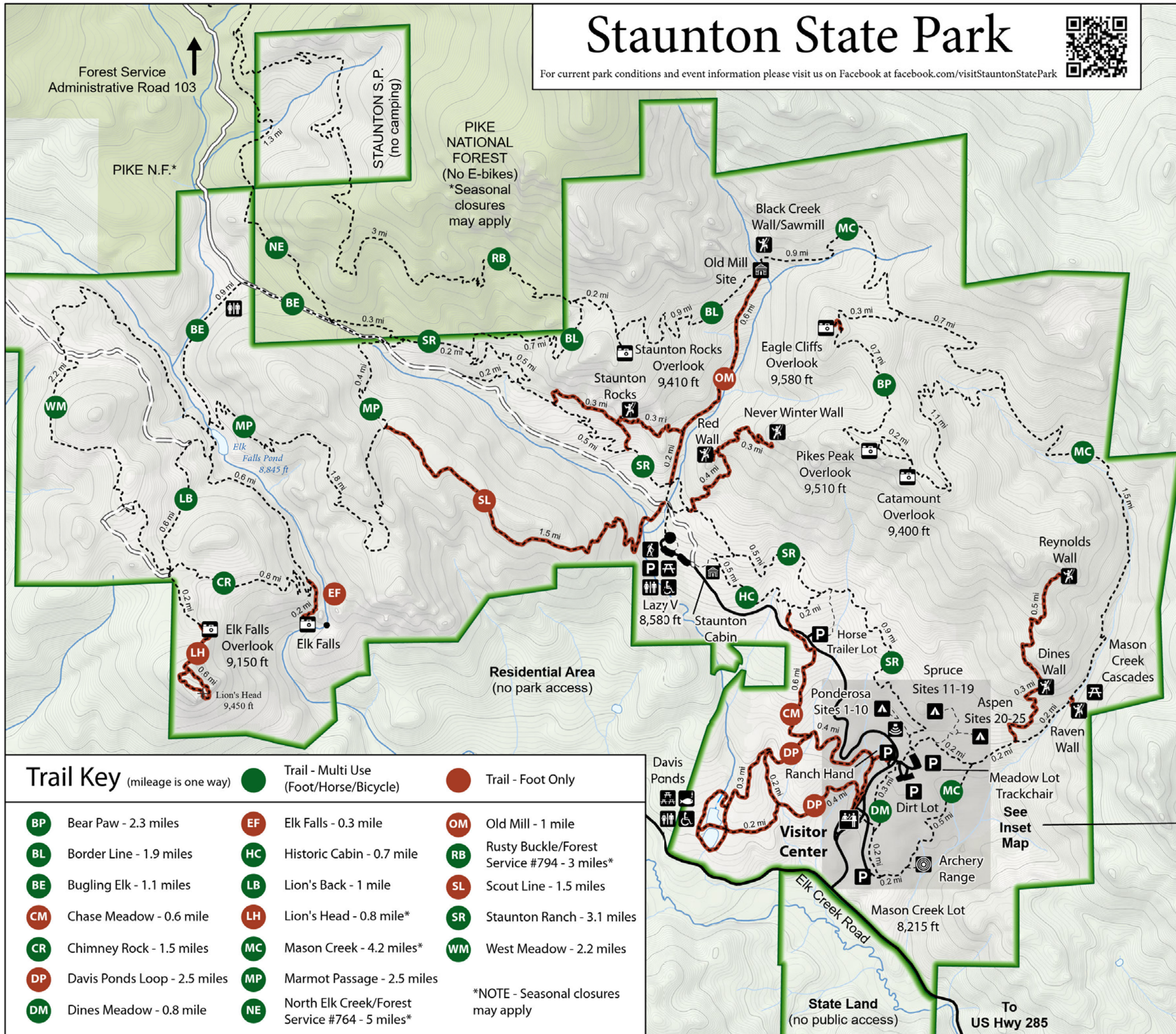
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# Staunton State Park

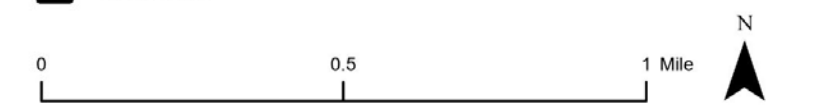


For current park conditions and event information please visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/visitStauntonStatePark



## Legend

- Amphitheater
- Archery Range
- Camping (tent only)
- Climbing Area
- Fishing
- Handicap Access
- Historic Site
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Group Picnic Area
- Restroom
- Scenic Overlook
- Track Chair Building
- Visitor Center
- Trail - Multi Use (Foot/Horse/Bicycle)
- Trail - Foot Only
- Trail - Auxiliary
- Road
- Service Road
- State Park Boundary
- National Forest
- 100 ft. Elevation Contour



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## Trail Key (mileage is one way)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Trail - Multi Use (Foot/Horse/Bicycle) | Trail - Foot Only                              |
| Bear Paw - 2.3 miles                   | Elk Falls - 0.3 mile                           |
| Border Line - 1.9 miles                | Historic Cabin - 0.7 mile                      |
| Bugling Elk - 1.1 miles                | Lion's Back - 1 mile                           |
| Chase Meadow - 0.6 mile                | Lion's Head - 0.8 mile*                        |
| Chimney Rock - 1.5 miles               | Mason Creek - 4.2 miles*                       |
| Davis Ponds Loop - 2.5 miles           | Marmot Passage - 2.5 miles                     |
| Dines Meadow - 0.8 mile                | North Elk Creek/Forest Service #764 - 5 miles* |
| Old Mill - 1 mile                      | Rusty Buckle/Forest Service #794 - 3 miles*    |
| Scout Line - 1.5 miles                 | Staunton Ranch - 3.1 miles                     |
| West Meadow - 2.2 miles                |  |

\*NOTE - Seasonal closures may apply

## Visitor Center & Campground

