

Hiking Beaver Brook Trail from East (Windy Saddle) to West (Stapleton Drive)

Finding the Trailhead

Reverse the directions in *Best Hikes near Denver and Boulder*, and leave a car at the west trailhead first, then drive to Windy Saddle parking lot on the east to start your hike.

Miles and Directions

- 0.0 START from the east trailhead at Windy Saddle parking lot. Elevation: 6,880 feet. N39 44.21' / W105 14.70'.
- 0.25 Junction with Lookout Mountain Trail. Continue to the right on the Beaver Brook Trail.
- 0.4 The trail crosses two boulder fields.
- 0.5 Pass the 0.5 mile marker. Little red and white B/B (Beaver Brook) signs are posted every 0.5 mile.
- 0.6 The trail travels over a series of various rocks and ledges for the next 0.4 mile.
- 1.0 Pass a PRIVATE PROPERTY ON EITHER SIDE OF TRAIL sign. For the next 1.4 miles, the trail is on an easement. Please stay on the trail. You leave Jefferson County's Windy Saddle Park. The trail descends a rock (good hand- and footholds).
- 1.6 A rocky outcrop with a good view down into Clear Creek Canyon is on the right. N39 44.07' / W105 15.85'. Take a few minutes to walk out there for both the view and the interesting rocks forming the overlook.
- 2.1 The trail curves right over a creek, which when it has water in it, tumbles in a pretty little waterfall on the left.
- 2.4 Pass a PRIVATE PROPERTY ON EITHER SIDE OF TRAIL sign.
- 2.9 The trail crosses a sunny ridge between drainages.
- 4.25 Junction with the east end of Gudy Gaskill Loop. N39 43.69' / W105 17.70'. Continue straight ahead on Beaver Brook Trail.
- 4.8 Junction with a double-track trail (Mount Vernon Access) and Bald Mountain Loop. Make a right turn onto the double-track and hike down it a few feet. Beaver Brook Trail then turns left and becomes a single-track again.
- 5.1 Junction with west end of Gudy Gaskill Loop. N39 43.82' / W105 18.32'.

- 5.5 Come to a viewpoint on the right near the B/B 5.5 sign. N39 43.96' / W105 18.50'. In about 250 feet is the junction with the trail around Bald Mountain. Continue to the right on Beaver Brook Trail.
- 5.9 The trail climbs up through some rock outcroppings and enters Genesee Park.
- 6.0 The trail is in thick forest and curves right by Charm Spring. The spring may be dry. The trail descends steadily.
- 6.4 A rock outcropping to the right offers a view of Clear Creek below and Travois Trail in Centennial Cone Park above and to the north. N39 44.01' / W105 19.28'. This part of Beaver Brook Trail is in Jefferson County's Clear Creek Canyon Park.
- 6.6 The trail turns right over a creek. A blocked trail comes in from the left. Continue the steep downhill. If the trail becomes confusing as it crosses rock slabs, look for red and white B/B signs or yellow diamonds to find it. Cross a little creek. The trail makes a left U-turn up a drainage just past B/B 7.0. This point is the lowest on the hike. The trail crosses some interesting rock slabs, which require a bit of hand and foot work (rock scrambling).
- 7.1 Junction with Chavez Trail. N39 43.88' / W105 19.56'. Continue straight ahead and uphill on Beaver Brook Trail. Some narrow rocky ledges are just beyond this point. The trail climbs steeply up stone steps.
- 7.4 Trail junction at the top of the stone steps. Turn left and continue uphill on the Beaver Brook Trail.
- 7.9 Trail comes in from the right (undergoing restoration). Continue uphill on Beaver Brook Trail.
- 8.4 Junction with Braille Nature Trail, which has several interpretive signs along the way. Turn right and head uphill. The left trail leads to the east trailhead also.
- 8.7 Arrive at the east trailhead at Stapleton Drive by the bulletin board. Elevation: 7,400 feet. N39 43.02' / W105 18.90'.