

WELCOME to the RIO GRANDE TRAIL

The Rail-to-Trail Effort...

This trail is built within the former rail corridor of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad (D&RGW) Aspen Branch. Train operations along this line ceased in phases between the 1960s and the mid-1990s.



In 1997, the rail corridor and track were purchased using a combination of funding from local governments, Great Outdoors Colorado, the Colorado Department of Transportation, and Pitkin County Open Space and Trails. This purchase presented an opportunity to explore transportation

alternatives to State highway 82 congestion and the challenge of creating recreation connectivity in the Roaring Fork Valley.

In 2001, RFTA was formed as a regional transportation district creating a dedicated funding source for transit and trails. Following its completion in 2008, RFTA now manages and maintains the Rio Grande Trail with its partner agencies in the Roaring Fork Valley.

What to Expect...

The Rio Grande Trail treadway is asphalt surfaced with some sections of concrete and compacted gravel. The pavement is 8 to 10 feet wide with soft surface shoulders of 2 to 6 feet. The trail is open to those on foot, those on horseback, and those using human-powered equipment such as bicycles, in-line skates and skateboards. Wheelchairs, both motorized and non-motorized, are permitted. Other Power Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs) are permitted with restrictions. Call 970-384-4975 for more information, or go to www.rfta.com. Picnic tables and benches are provided at various locations, as are trash cans and dog waste stations. There are no potable water sources on the trail. Vault toilets will be installed in the vicinity of Cattle Creek and Catherine Store Bridge in 2012. A number of spur trails lead to services in the towns adjacent to the Rio Grande Trail corridor.

During the winter months, the trail is plowed when snowfall exceeds 3" between Glenwood Springs and Main Street, Carbondale. Other sections may be groomed for cross-country skiing or remain unmaintained. Call 970.384.4975 for the current trail conditions, or go to www.riograndetrail.com or www.rfta.com. For nordic grooming reports between Aspen and Basalt, call 925-2145 or visit www.aspen nordic.com.

Guidelines for Use

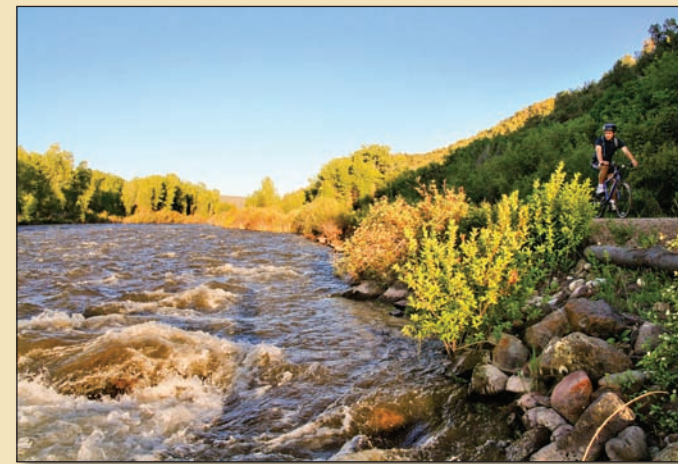
To ensure the enjoyment of this trail for all users, please observe the following regulations:

1. *Travel Right!* Please walk and ride to the right and pass only on the left.
2. *Use a bell!* Cyclists must alert other users before passing.
3. Observe all warning signs and closures, and be alert to the 20 m.p.h. speed limit.
4. *This is a human-powered trail!* No motorized equipment or vehicles, regardless of power source, are permitted with the exception of wheelchairs and approved OPDMDs.
5. Enjoy wildlife at a distance — approaching or harassing wildlife is prohibited.
6. *Use a leash!* All pets must be on a leash and under physical control of their guardian — please keep leashes to six feet or less for the safety of your pet and other trail users.
7. *Pick up the poop!* Pet wastes must be disposed of properly.
8. Respect adjacent private property by remaining on the trail.
9. Camping, open fires, fireworks and discharging firearms are prohibited.
10. Respect the Solitude — the making of excessive or obnoxious noise is not allowed.

Bikes on Buses...

RFTA provides bicycle racks on its valley fleet, allowing cyclists to ride the bus with their bikes between Aspen and Rifle and points in between. There is room for four bicycles on each RFTA bus. It is a first-come, first-served system. If the racks are full you will have to wait for the next bus or ride your bike to your destination. No three wheelers, tag-a-longs, or trailers are permitted. This is a seasonal service (mid-April to mid-November) and no bike loading is allowed after dark.

There is a \$2.00 per bike user fee, regardless of the distance traveled, in addition to the regular passenger fare. Punch passes may be used for payment. Season Pass and Monthly Pass holders must also pay the \$2.00 fee.



BIKE LOADING STOPS INCLUDE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rifle Metro Park | Silt - Highway 6 |
| New Castle - 6th & Main | Glenwood Park & Ride |
| Glenwood - Courthouse | Glenwood - Walmart |
| CMC Park & Ride & Hwy 82 | Carbondale Park & Ride |
| El Jebel Park & Ride | Basalt Park & Ride |
| Lazy Glen | Old Snowmass |
| Aspen Village | Snowmass - Horse Ranch |
| Brush Creek Intercept Lot | Snowmass Village Mall |
| ABC/Airport | Maroon Creek Roundabout |
| Rubey Park | |

PITKIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS

constructed and manages the Rio Grande Trail from Emma to Aspen. Please contact them with any inquiries for that portion of the trail at 970.920.5232 or www.aspenpitkin.com/openspace



Trails Info
970.384.4975

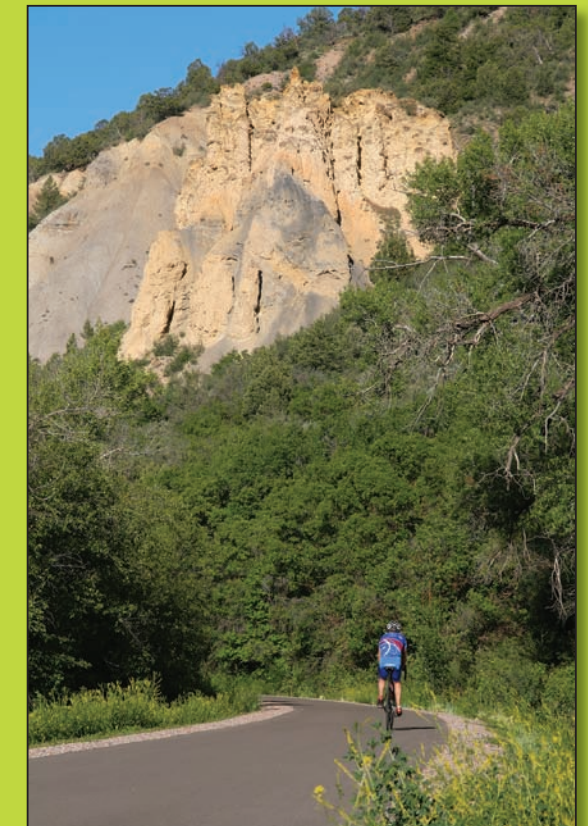
General Info
970.925.8484

Special thanks to Justin Riley for his outstanding photography.

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RIO GRANDE TRAIL MAP



www.rfta.com www.riograndetrail.com

THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL



7. Arciero/Old Snowmass Trailhead to Woody Creek Trailhead

Distance: 7.0 miles. *Please respect the seasonal closure to dogs in the area from the Arciero Trailhead to one mile to the east.* The Rio Grande Trail passes through Snowmass Canyon crossing Lower River Road twice and remaining close to the Roaring Fork River. Just past two old railcars (private residences), the trail crosses Gerbaz Way and veers away from the river to the former rail yard at Pitkin Iron Works. A short distance beyond, cross Upper River Road where *the trail turns to soft surface.* The segment ends at a parking lot just east of the crossing of Woody Creek Road. Woody Creek proper is ¾ miles to the east on Upper River Road. Please do not use the Woody Creek Tavern parking area for Rio Grande Trail parking.

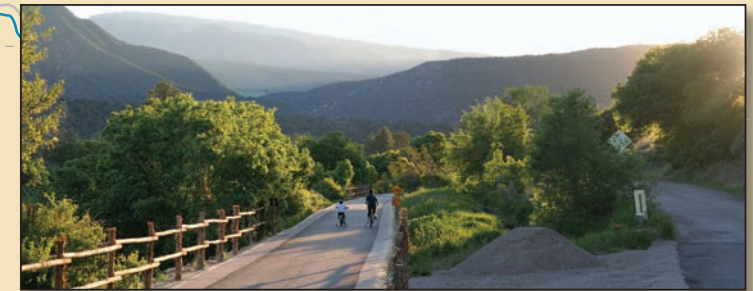
8. Woody Creek Trailhead to Stein Park Trailhead

Distance: 6.0 miles. *Unpaved from McLain Flats Road to Stein Park — approx. 3.5 miles. Use McLain Flats Rd. to Stein Park for a paved county road alternate route.* The first 2.5 miles from the Upper River Rd. crossing to McLain Flats Rd. is dual surface with a separated soft path paralleling the paved trail on a higher bench. Superlative views of the upper Roaring Fork Valley including the Aspen Mountain and Snowmass Ski Areas

characterize the length of this trail segment. Shortly after crossing McLain Flats Rd., a spur trail heads down the bluff to Jaffee Park on the Roaring Fork where a restroom is available during the summer months. From Jaffee Park, the Aspen-Mass trail crosses the Roaring Fork on the historic Smith Bridge, climbs up the bluff to the south and heads up valley to the Brush Creek Intercept Lot (RFTA bus service and bike loading). From the Intercept Lot, the Brush Creek Trail crosses under SH82 providing a trail connection to the Snowmass Village and Droste Mountain Park trail systems. From the Jaffee Park spur junction, the main Rio Grande Trail skirts the hillside above the Roaring Fork, passing a side trail at Stein Bridge to the Airport Business Center (**STEEP — foot traffic only**), and another spur which connects to the Sunnyside Trail. The segment ends at Stein Park where a side trail along Cemetery Lane provides access to Aspen Valley Hospital, Aspen Highlands, and the West End.

9. Stein Park Trailhead to Herron Park/Neale Street

Distance: 2.4 miles. This paved segment is very popular with cyclists, walkers and joggers accessing the many parks and trails in the Aspen area. It parallels the Roaring Fork and crosses Hunter Creek near the Aspen Post Office where another spur leads to the popular Hunter Creek hiking trail. Passing the Aspen Art Museum and Rio Grande Park, the trail transects Herron Park to its up valley terminus at Neale Street. The Aspen Trail System can be accessed at this point.



1. Colorado River to CMC Park & Ride

Distance: 6.9 miles. Highlights: This segment begins at Two Rivers Park where the trail crosses over the Colorado River. The trail meanders along the Roaring Fork River utilizing the concrete-paved City of Glenwood Springs River Trail System to 23rd street where the asphalt Rio Grande Trail diverges up-valley along SH 82. Trail parking is available adjacent to the Glenwood Springs Cemetery in a signed lot. The trail continues on to the Colorado Mountain College Park & Ride at CR 154 traveling below the grade of the state highway and passing through protected agricultural and open space lands on its route up valley.

2. CMC Park & Ride to Carbondale Park & Ride

Distance: 5.3 miles. Highlights: Continuing up valley from the CMC Park & Ride, the trail crosses over Cattle Creek and passes several excellent wildlife viewing areas along the Roaring Fork. The trail remains in close alignment with the river as it passes the historic Satank Bridge, crossing to the south bank of the Roaring Fork on a former rail bridge, and ending at the Carbondale Park & Ride where trail parking is available.

3. Carbondale Park & Ride to Catherine Bridge Trailhead

Distance: 4.0 miles. Highlights: Leaving the Park & Ride, the trail crosses SH 133 at the Village Road traffic light and resumes its up valley course paralleling Carbondale's downtown where restaurants and services are available by turning south on 8th, 7th, 4th, and 2nd streets. The trail crosses Main Street and continues above CR 100 offering excellent views of Cottonwood Pass and Basalt Mountain to the north and east. The segment ends at the Catherine Bridge trail parking lot.

4. Catherine Bridge Trailhead to Hooks Lane Trailhead

Distance: 4.5 miles. Highlights: The first 2.5 miles of this segment from Catherine Bridge to Rock Bottom Ranch closely follows the south bank of the Roaring Fork River. *Dogs are prohibited on this portion of the trail year around. This section is closed to all public entry from December 1st through April 30th to protect wildlife habitat.* (The signed winter detour utilizes county roads between Catherine Bridge and Hooks Lane trailheads). The trail continues through ranch lands alongside Hook Spur Road for an additional 2 miles ending at the trailhead parking lot located at Hooks Lane.

5. Hooks Lane Trailhead to Basalt High School Trailhead

Distance: 2.9 miles. From the Hooks Lane trailhead continue up valley through ranch lands passing the former village of Emma (historic school house to south of trail and mercantile across SH82). A pedestrian underpass in the Emma vicinity allows for safe passage under SH82 to the Emma Trail which continues to Basalt. The trail segment ends at the Basalt High School where parking is available. A cross road at the school leads north one mile to the restaurants and services of Basalt, and access to the road up the Frying Pan River toward Reudi Reservoir.

6. Basalt High School Trailhead to Arciero/Old Snowmass Trailhead

Distance: 3.6 miles. Heading up valley from Basalt High School will take you through the Roaring Fork Club and over the Roaring Fork River and SH82 on the oldest and newest bridges respectively on the Rio Grande Trail. A half mile beyond is the junction with the Basalt-Old Snowmass Trail which provides down valley travelers with direct access to the Town of Basalt — *use particular care at this trail junction.* The Rio Grande Trail winds its way on to the trailhead parking lot on the north side of the Roaring Fork River, accessible from North River Road, in the vicinity of Old Snowmass.

