

Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch Self-Guided Tour of Existing Trails

Boulder County Parks & Open Space, the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife are working in collaboration to consider options for a regional trail connection between Eldorado Canyon State Park and Walker Ranch.

To assist community stakeholders with becoming more familiar with the conceptual alignments, the project team has developed a self-guided tour along existing trails within Eldorado Canyon State Park. The self-guided tour is designed as *two separate 2-hour round trip hikes* and offer trail users an opportunity to experience the terrain and to view portions for the North and South route conceptual alignments. The first is along the existing Eldorado Canyon Trail to become familiar with the north route alignment. The second, along the Rattlesnake Gulch Trail, is the access trail to the South route option and includes stops that offer a birds eye view of the south draw portion of the south route as well as the N1 North Route.

After collaboration to complete the [Trail Feasibility Study](#) and careful consideration of the findings, the three partner agencies are jointly recommending the North Route (using segments N1-N2-N4) as the preferred alignment for an Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch multi-use trail connection. This alternative achieves the desired objective of completing the multi-use trail connection in a way the partners believe will best balance the conservation and recreation needs of the area.

North Route – Self Guided tour

Eldorado Canyon Trail – with views of North Route N1 conceptual alignment

The **Eldorado Canyon Trail**, on the north side of the canyon, allows hiking and horseback riding, but not bicycle use. The trail climbs about 500 feet over 0.8 miles before leaving the park. Multiple switchbacks have been prone to shortcutting which exacerbates erosion and resource impacts. Installation of wood steps and crib-walls has been an ongoing, labor-intensive task to maintain a safe visitor experience.

1. The access point for the proposed N1 trail alignment would be located at the Rincon parking area. Walk down the ECSP road toward the Visitor Center.
2. The Eldorado Canyon Trailhead is located east of the ECSP Visitor Center on the north side of the road.
3. While climbing the stairs along the ECT, look to the right across to view the proposed N1 that would parallel the existing trail.
4. At the rest area with the bench, look up to the northwest and down to the southeast to view the proposed N1 conceptual alignment that would cross the ECT and climb a gentler grade than the existing trail.
5. At the property boundary sign for the city of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Park land, a series of switchbacks would replace the existing ECT to improve the sustainability and trail grade.
6. As the ECT levels out, a viewpoint offers a panoramic view of mountain range in the area. The proposed conceptual alignment would generally follow the existing trail for the remainder of the N1 and N2 segment.
Hike back down the trail to return to the Visitor Center

South Route – Self Guided tour

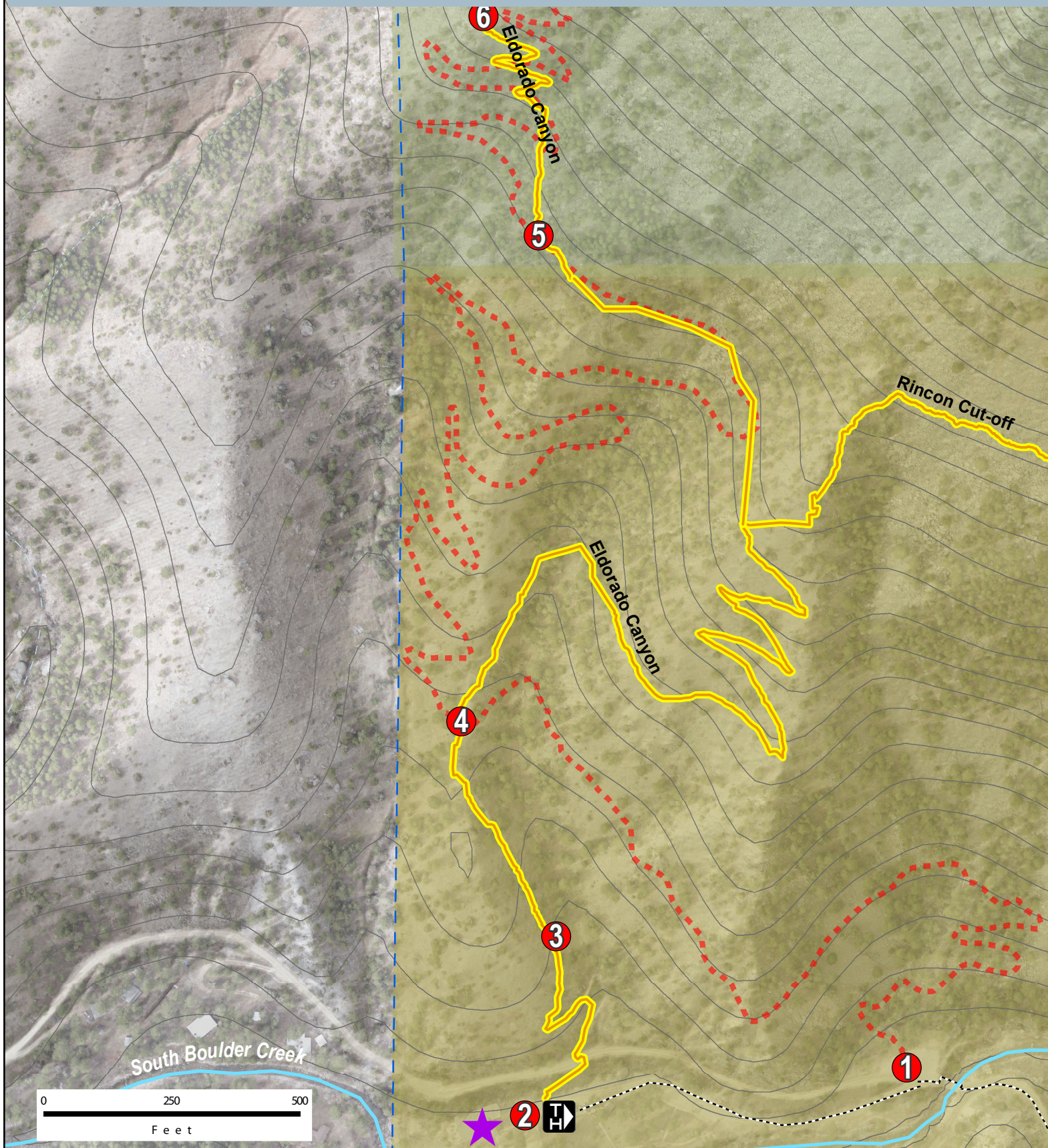
Rattlesnake Gulch Trail – South Route access trail with views of South Draw, S1 conceptual alignment

The **Rattlesnake Gulch Trail**, on the south side of the canyon, is 2.1 miles and currently the only multiuse trail in Eldorado Canyon State Park that allows bicycle use. While the Rattlesnake Gulch Trail is a part of the South Route in the sense one must travel on it as part of the overall south route, a comprehensive assessment of it is not included in the study.

1. The access point is the Fowler/Rattlesnake Gulch Trailhead located on the south side of the ECSP access road. Hike east along the Fowler trail to the junction of the Rattlesnake Gulch trail, which turns back to the west and begins to climb up the canyon.
2. Cross the pedestrian bridge and continuing along the existing trail. The Rattlesnake Gulch trail is a multi-use trail that currently allows biking. The existing trail will not meet desired bike trail standards which and is not proposed to be improved.
3. The Historic Hotel ruins are where the Rattlesnake Gulch trail splits into a loop. Continue straight passing the rest area bench on your left and continue along the right leg of the loop to the Continental Divide view point.
4. The Continental Divide viewpoint rest area offers a birds eye view across the canyon to the existing Eldorado Canyon Trail and proposed N1 conceptual alignment climbing up from the Park road.
5. Continue along the Rattlesnake Gulch trail for another 5 minutes to where the beginning of the proposed south route and S1 segment would start.
Hike back down the trail to return to the trailhead.

North Route – Self Guided tour

Eldorado Canyon Trail – with views of North Route N1 conceptual alignment



0 250 500
Feet



Tour Points



Trailhead



Visitors Center



Existing Trails



N1



Park Boundary

— 40ft Contours

----- 4 Wheel Drive Road

OSMP Properties

State Parks



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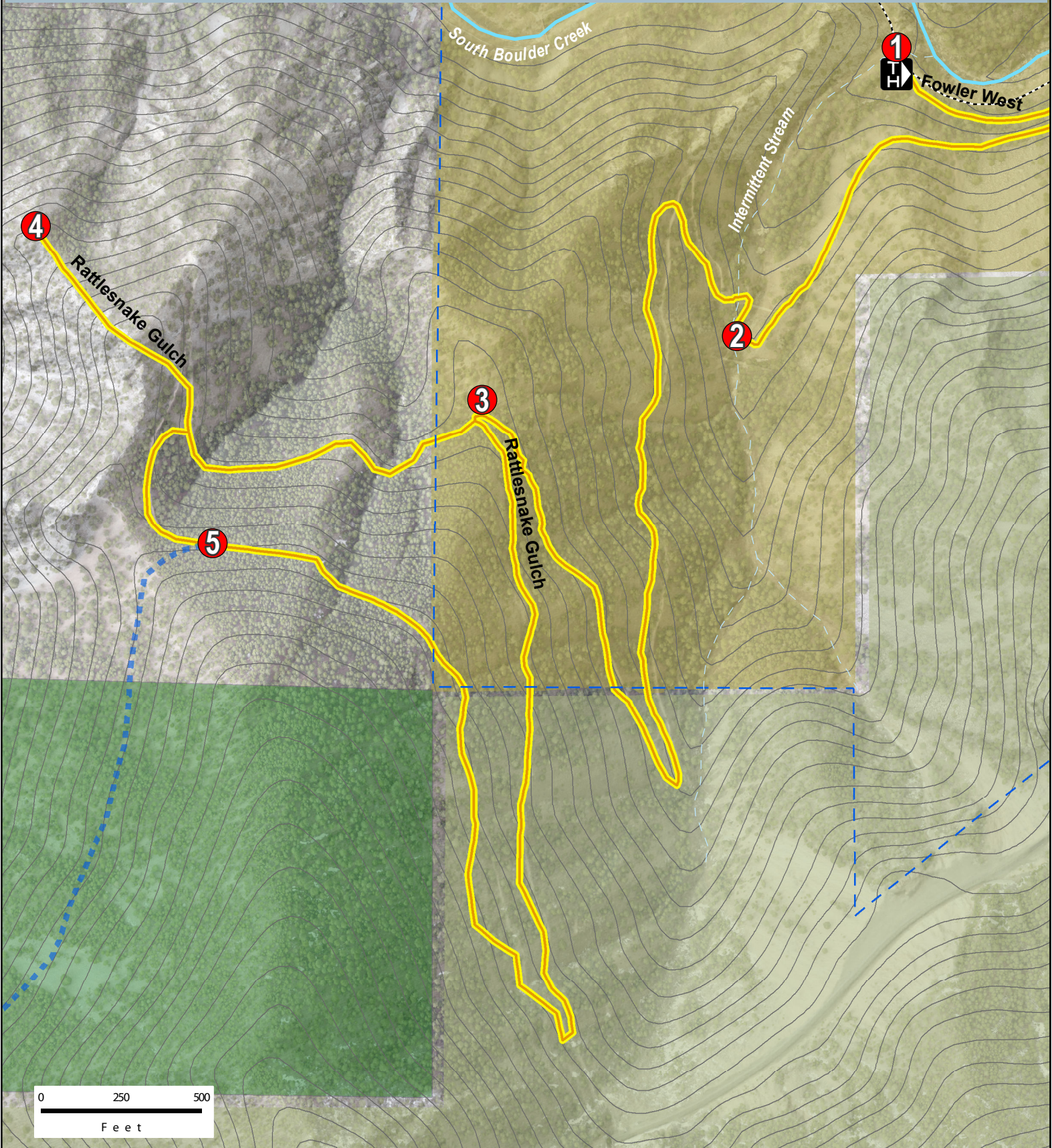
Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch Connection

South Route – Self Guided tour



Parks &
Open Space

Rattlesnake Gulch Trail – South Route access trail with views of South Draw/S1 conceptual alignment



0 250 500
Feet

2018



Tour Points



Trailhead

Existing Trails

S1

Park Boundary

40ft Contours

4 Wheel Drive Road

BCPOS Property

OSMP Properties

State Parks



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