Introduction

There are over 15 miles of hiking trails at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. The self-guiding Petrified Forest Loop offers the best views of petrified redwood stumps. The other trails provide excellent opportunities to view scenery and explore the modern ecosystem.

Hiking Trails

All mileages, except Shootin’ Star and Twin Rock Trails, begin and end at the visitor center.

**Hornbek Wildlife Loop - 3.8 miles**
Following meadows, the trail to the Hornbek Homestead crosses land once covered by ancient Lake Florissant. The return route overlooks the ancient lake bed and the mountain ranges beyond and signs of wildlife are common. MODERATE

**Sawmill Trail - 2.7 miles**
The varied terrain provides a good example of Colorado’s Montane Life Zone. Forests of pine, spruce and fir, meadows frequented by elk, ridgetops viewing Pikes Peak, and shaded streams make this a favorite. MODERATE

**Twin Rock Trail - 2.3 miles (one way)**
This trail features quiet views of rock formations, open meadows, aspen groves, riparian or stream habitats, willows, and pond life. Signs of wildlife are common. MODERATE

**Boulder Creek Trail - 2.8 miles**
This trail begins and ends in the ponderosa pine forest. A portion of the trail skirts wet meadows and passes a formation of giant eroded granite boulders. MODERATE

**Hans Loop - 1.4 miles**
The Hans Trail is an extension of the Sawmill. Part of the trail follows a gentle ridge that provides vistas of Pikes Peak and then drops into a drainage that passes the remnants of a rustic cabin. MODERATE

**Shootin’ Star Trail - 1.6 miles (one way)**
This trail follows an old roadbed and leaves the meadows to travel through the ponderosa pine forest. The trail gets its name from a historic ranch. Look for signs of former agricultural activity. MODERATE
Self-Guided Trails and Visitor Center Area

Ponderosa Loop - ½ mile
This wheelchair accessible trail starts behind the exhibit area. This short trail leaves the exhibit area and enters the modern forest past ponderosa pines, aspen, douglas fir, and spruce trees. EASY

Geologic Trail - 1 mile
This trail highlights over a billion years of geologic history in the Florissant valley. It passes over the ancient lake bed, crosses Teller County Rd 1, then ascends past the remnants of a massive pyroclastic flow and ends at a scenic overview of the Florissant valley. MODERATE

Visitor Center Area Features

Outdoor Exhibit Area
Behind the visitor center are two shelters covering petrified redwood trees, exhibits, and the amphitheater.

Visitor Center and Bookstore
The visitor center contains exhibits, fossil displays, and the Rocky Mountain Nature Association Bookstore.

Shale Outcrop
Located just north of the amphitheater is an outcropping of shale that is a remnant of ancient Lake Florissant.

Visitor Center Area Map

Protect The Park
Protect Yourself

For More Information:
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