

# Garden Of The Gods Park: Location Map and General Description



This incredible city-owned park is truly one of a kind. The site is a National Natural Landmark, having been recognized by the Department of the Interior as "a nationally-significant natural area." The Park offers towering sandstone formations, a wonderful view of Pikes Peak, both paved and unpaved hiking paths, horseback trails, a mountain bike area, and several picnic areas. The Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site is located on the eastern portion of the Park.

Historically, the park was privately-owned until 1909, at which time 480 acres of land that includes the large rock formations was gifted to the city by the children of railroad magnate Charles Elliot Perkins. It was Perkins' wish that the park be kept forever open and free to the public. Since 1909, other lands around the original 480 acres have been acquired by the city. Currently, the Garden Of The Gods Park is 1320 acres in size. Call (719) 385-5940 for additional park information.

**Parking Areas:** The main parking lot in the north end of the Park is the best place to park in order to enjoy the Central Garden Area. A paved pathway will take you between the towering Gateway Rock Formations and into the heart of the Park. Nature walks begin at the Main Parking Lot at 10 am and 2 pm daily. A restroom facility is available.

Other parking lots include the Scotsman Picnic Area, Spring Canyon Trailhead, the Spring Canyon South Picnic Area, High Point Overlook, South Garden Parking Lot, and the Balanced Rock Area. There are also numerous pull-off areas where trails can be accessed. Please refer to the map on the other side for wheelchair accessible areas. Please remember to keep any valuables left in your vehicle out of sight, and lock your vehicle.

**Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site:** Just inside the Park entrance off 30th St. and Gateway Rd. is the Historic Site that introduces the exciting history of the people of the Pikes Peak region. Living history interpreters present the story of the land and the settlement of the area. Your visit starts at the 1775 American Indian interpretive area where you will have an opportunity to interact with interpreters and see a hide tipi. Next, a visit to a re-created 1860's homestead area, the 1890's working ranch with a blacksmith, livestock area, demonstrations of agricultural practices, and a visit inside the restored 1907 Orchard House.

## Admission is:

\$5 for seniors (55+),  
\$8 for adults (ages 18-54),  
\$4 youth/teen (6-17),  
Free children ages 5 and under



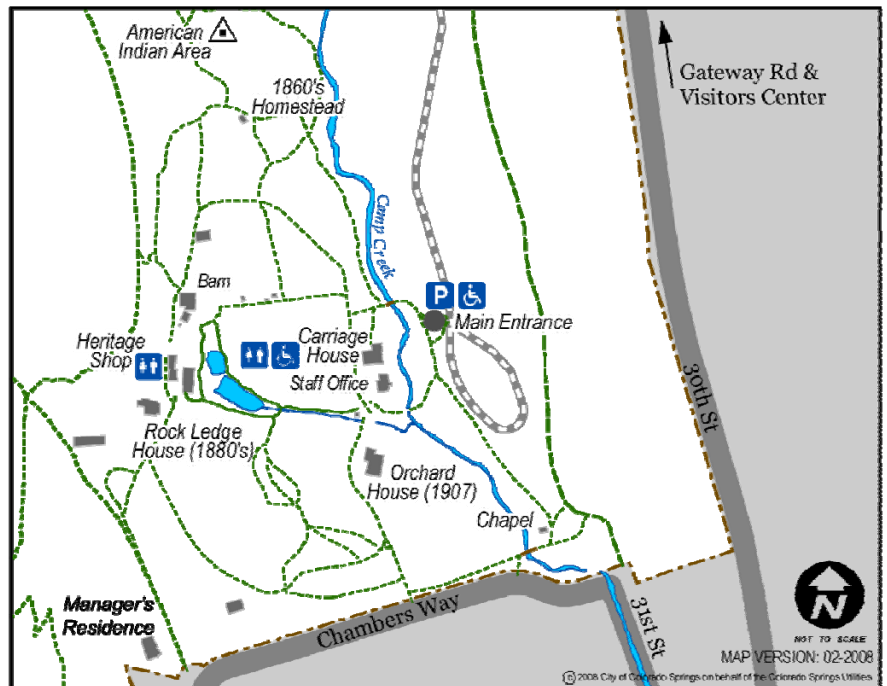
*Tickets may be purchased at the Visitor Center or at the main Ranch entrance.*

*All admissions go towards the continued preservation and restoration of the site.*

## Hours are:

June-Labor Day: Wed.-Sat.; 10 am to 5 pm

Labor Day-Sept 30 and Special Events through December: Sat.; 10 am to 5 pm



## Additional Attractions and Experiences In and Around the Garden Of The Gods Park

**Garden Of The Gods Visitor and Nature Center:** To best enjoy and understand the significance of the Park's geological, natural and cultural stories, begin your visit at the Center. Numerous interactive exhibits interpret the resources in Garden Of The Gods. An exciting multi-media presentation on "How Did Those Rocks Get There?" will help you understand the geologic story. Restrooms, food, beverage and souvenirs, guided hikes and nature talks are available. A trail leads from the Visitor Center Parking Lot into the Park. Hours of operation are: Summer: 8am to 8pm, Fall-Spring: 9am to 5pm. Call (719) 634-6666 for more information.

**Garden Of The Gods Trading Post:** Located at the southwestern edge of the Park on Beckers Ln., the Trading Post provides restrooms, food, beverages, an Art Gallery, and souvenirs. Call (719) 685-9045 for more information.

**Academy Riding Stables:** Located near the southwestern portion of the park on El Paso Blvd., the Academy Riding Stables offers a variety of guided horseback rides through the Park. Call (719) 633-5667 for more information.