



On the Trail to Health, Heritage, and Happiness

Route 3: "East to the B.H. Eaton"

<https://goo.gl/maps/oK4RorTFL6J2>

<u>County, City/Town:</u>	Weld, Windsor
<u>One-way length:</u>	3 miles
<u>Estimated travel time:</u>	Walking time one-way and stopping to answer questions and take pictures = 1.5 hours
<u>Suggested Season:</u>	Spring
<u>Cell phone coverage:</u>	Available for entire route

Route Recommendations: The route and Points of Interest (POIs) are described travelling from west to east, beginning at County Road 13 and ending at Eastman Park. Easily complete a 6 mile round-trip by bike, walk 1.5 miles to the halfway point and then turn back to complete 3 miles, or walk the entire 3 mile route by bringing a friend and two cars — park one at the County Road 13 trailhead and the other at Eastman Park.

Getting there:

- **Trailhead at County Road 13 (recommended starting point):** The trailhead is located at 32564 County Hwy 13 (County Rd 13) in Windsor, CO. From NCRH, head east on Hwy 34 for approximately 2 miles. Turn left (north) onto County Road 13 and travel 2.5 miles to the trailhead, which will be on the east side of the road.
- **Eastman Park:** Eastman Park is located at 7025 Eastman Park Dr, Windsor, CO. From NCRH, head east on Hwy 34 for approximately 3.5 miles. Turn left (north) onto County Road 17 for 2.1 miles. At the traffic circle, take the 3rd exit onto 7th Street. Continue north on 7th Street for 2.2 miles, then turn left onto Eastman Park Drive. Pull into the parking lot.
- **Eastman Park to CR 13:** If you decide to bring two cars and leave one at each end of the route, we recommend leaving a car first at Eastman Park and then driving to CR 13 to start the route. From the Eastman Park parking lot, head east on Eastman Park Dr and turn left (north) onto 7th Street. In 1 mile, turn left (west) onto Main St / Hwy 392, and go 1.9 miles to County Hwy 13. Turn left (south) onto Hwy 13 for .5 miles until you reach the trailhead at 32564 County Hwy 13.

Make a day of it—Fun for the whole family! Looking for a fun excursion for your family? Head into Windsor and check out one or more of their great museums! The Art and Heritage Center is indoors and open year-round, and the Museum at Boardwalk Park is typically open Memorial Day through Labor Day.

- **The Art and Heritage Center** is a hub for arts, culture, and history in Windsor. It hosts a number of Town of Windsor Museum exhibits and programs throughout the year, and aspires to increase cultural opportunities for the Windsor community.
- **The Museum at Boardwalk Park** features historic buildings original to Windsor that have been masterfully refurbished and restored, and represent important chapters in the town's history. Tours of the Museum at Boardwalk Park are conducted by a trained docent allowing visitors to handle one-of-a-kind objects, ask questions, and leave comments for museum staff.

Art and Heritage Center: 116 5th St. in Windsor. 408 Mason Ct in Fort Collins. 970-221-6738. www.windsorgov.com/index.aspx?NID=632

- **Tickets:** FREE, donations appreciated
- **Hours:** Wednesday—Saturday, 12pm to 4pm.

Museum at Boardwalk Park: 100 N. 5th St. in Windsor. (970) 674-2443. www.windsorgov.com/index.aspx?NID=464

- **Tickets:** FREE, donations appreciated
- **Hours:** Open Memorial Day through Labor Day, Tuesday– Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm



Route 1: East to the B.H. Eaton” <https://goo.gl/maps/oK4RorTFL6J2>

START: Trailhead parking lot at 32564 County Hwy 13, Windsor. This section of the Poudre Trail is part of the Oxbow / Overland Trail section of the Poudre River Trail Corridor. Learn more at: <http://poudretrail.org/trail-tour/story-posts-trail-sections/oxbow-overland-trail>

POI #1: B.H. Eaton and Whitney ditch diversion structures – .7 miles

- **Seasonal Selfie:** The Whitney Ditch diversion structure routes the river north and the B.H. Eaton Ditch diversion structure routes the river south. Standing near the B.H. Eaton head gate, take a selfie that shows both diversion structures in the background.



POI #1: Eaton ditch head gate with Whitney ditch diversion in background (looking upriver) and Eaton diversion structure with head gate (looking downriver)

POI #2: Eaton ditch - chart house and Parshall flume



POI #2: Parshall Flume and Chart House on the Eaton Ditch – .71 miles

The “Dead-Beat” Whitney Ditch. Upriver from the Eaton Ditch diversion structure, is the Whitney Ditch which takes water from the north side of the river and carries it 8 miles east. It is near the site of the “old Pinkerton” trading post and sod fort. Fred Whitney, the first settler in the Windsor area, built the Whitney Ditch for direct irrigation in 1862. Charles McKelvey and George Briggs partnered with Whitney to maintain the ditch in return for benefits from it. Briggs nicknamed the ditch the “Dead-Beat Ditch” because water flowed through it so slowly that it took a long time to reach his farm at the lower end of the ditch. *Description courtesy of Preliminary Inventory of Irrigation and Water-Related Structures in the Cache la Poudre River Corridor.*

POI #3: B.H. Eaton wayside interpretive sign – .8 miles

- **Heritage Hunt Question:** Which canal that Benjamin Eaton led the construction of, was the most ambitious 19th Century water development project associated with the Cache la Poudre River?
- **Heritage Hunt Question:** Scan the QR code on the interpretive sign (or visit the website listed by the QR code: www.poudrerivertour.com/eatonditch) and listen to the *Evolution of an Economy* audio clip and answer this question: What practice undermined water rights, and put a strain on water supplies?



POI #3: Eaton wayside interpretive sign with ditch in background (looking northwest)

Continue heading southeast on the Poudre Trail: The Poudre Trail follows (and crosses) the Eaton Ditch to the next POI.

POI #4: “Leaning Shack” – 1.3 miles

- **Seasonal Selfie:** Take a picture in front of this old structure (but for safety, please don’t go in it). Feel free to lean in your picture!



POI #4: Leaning Shack

POI #5: HALFWAY POINT – 1.5 mile marker.



POI #5: 1.5 mile marker—Halfway Point

Continue heading southeast on the Poudre Trail: The Poudre Trail loops around a gravel mining pond and heads directly north then east towards the next POI. As you approach POI #6, you will see a large house on the north side of the trail.



POI #6: Poudre River Trail crosses the B.H. Eaton Ditch - 2.1 miles

- **Seasonal Selfie:** Pause where the trail crosses the Eaton Ditch and take a selfie with the Eaton Ditch in the background. Choose your backdrop—view the ditch to the northwest to have oilfield operations, or view to the southeast to show houses and hills in the distance.



POI #6: The Eaton Ditch—L: Looking northwest, R: Looking southeast



Bending the Rules—Benjamin Eaton. Benjamin Eaton (1833-1904) was a founding officer of the Union Colony and was instrumental in the establishment of modern irrigation farming to Northern Colorado. In addition to serving as Colorado’s fourth governor from January 1885 to January 1887, he was one of the largest land owners in Weld and Larimer counties, at one time owning over ninety 160 acre parcels, all watered from canals and reservoirs of his own construction. Taking advantage of the new “first-in-time, first-in-right” provisions of the Colorado constitution that, he constructed the Larimer-Weld canal in 1878, diverting *above* a number of Fort Collins water users. The Fort Collins irrigators joined Union Colony irrigators to ask the Colorado legislature to pass laws to create water courts and for the State Engineer’s office to carefully administer the new water doctrine, so that Eaton’s new canal, the largest ditch in the state, would not rob those downstream of their water rights. So, inadvertently, Eaton’s new ditch played a large role in the development of Colorado Water Law. *Photo courtesy of the Papers of Delph E. Carpenter and Family, Water Resources Archive, CSU. Description courtesy of Robert Ward and the Preliminary Inventory of Irrigation and Water-Related Structures in the Cache la Poudre River Corridor.*

Continue heading east on the Poudre Trail: You will cross Laku Lake Road—continue straight on the Poudre Trail.



Straight ahead to stay on the Poudre Trail.

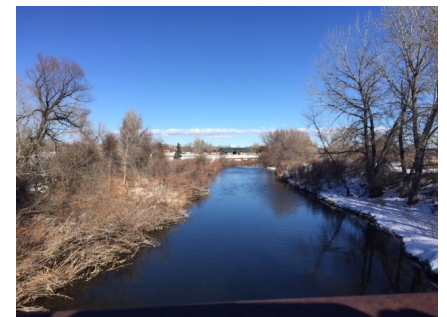
POI #7: Treasure Island Demonstration Garden - 2.6 miles. Enjoyable in all seasons, take a moment to view the many different kinds of plants. Learn more at: www.windsorgov.com/forestry or www.facebook.com/Treasure-Island-Demonstration-Garden-253227694875730/

- **Seasonal Selfie:** Take a picture with your favorite plant or garden ornament.



POI #7: Treasure Island Garden

Continue heading northeast on the Poudre Trail: The trail crosses over the Poudre River on a bridge.



View of the river from the bridge, looking east



Delightful Diversion—Oxbow Disc Golf Park. If Frisbee golf is your thing, you’ll enjoy this 12-hole Frisbee golf course. Once you cross the bridge, take the path that is immediately to your left. A course map and rules can be found here: www.windsorgov.com/index.aspx?NID=610

Continue northeast on the Poudre Trail to the final POI: The trail runs parallel to the river. Do not take the smaller path that heads to the left.



Approaching the wayside interpretive sign

POI #8: Wayside interpretive sign at Eastman Park – 3 miles

- **Heritage Hunt Question:** With what river does the Cache la Poudre River converge with on its eastern end?
- **Heritage Hunt Question:** Scan the QR code on the interpretive sign (or visit the website listed by the QR code: www.poudrerivertour.com/waterforall), watch the *Recreation Along the Poudre* video and answer this question:
What is one of the continent's fastest growing outdoor pastimes, for which the Poudre River is an excellent venue?



POI #8: Eastman Park wayside interpretive sign
(looking southwest on trail)

END: Parking lot at Eastman Park, 7025 Eastman Park Dr, Windsor. From the interpretive sign, take the portion of the trail that heads directly north past the pond and pavilion to the parking lot. The playground will be on your right.



Looking north towards the Eastman Park
pavilion and parking lot