Welcome to the Backcountry Wilderness Area of Highlands Ranch and the Douglas County East/West Regional Trail

This is your starting point – on foot, bike, or horse – for destinations near and far.

When we enter the Backcountry, we are privileged guests in the homes of elk, deer, raptors, bobcats, coyotes, and the occasional mountain lion and bear; as well as numerous other wild animals. Please respect this land and its inhabitants so that we may reap the benefits of this natural habitat for generations to come.

Miles of trail through the Backcountry are at your fingertips. Choose a route and experience trails through dense oak, native prairie and ponderosa pines. Take a 15 minute walk up the trail to the west to Highlands Point, one of the highest points in Highlands Ranch at 6,310 ft. There you will find a life-sized compass, area wildlife information, and a place to sit to enjoy the breathtaking views.

Trails in the Backcountry are remote, challenging, and have limited access. Be prepared for quick changing weather and other hazardous situations.

Please stay on the trail and obey all posted signs and regulations.

The Backcountry Wilderness Area of Highlands Ranch is land for open space, recreation, and wildlife protection. For more information about the Backcountry, contact the Highlands Ranch Community Association.

The Douglas County East/West Regional Trail will eventually connect the Cherry Creek Regional Trail Corridor from the east to Chatfield State Park and the Colorado Trail to the west. The Douglas County East/West Regional Trail is open to the public. There are private trails accessed via the Douglas County Trail; please read and obey all posted signs.