



Castle Rock Parks & Trails Foundation
FAMILY TRAIL GUIDE



-Episode One-

**PURSUIT OF THE
MYSTERY GIFT**

Charlie just moved to Castle Rock. He is excited about the town's many outdoor activities. His new friends, Skye and Toby, love Castle Rock's parks and trails. They plan to take Charlie on future hikes. Today is Charlie's birthday party. Charlie received a wrapped mystery gift recently in the mail. The only thing written on the gift was a riddle.

"The more you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?"

Today is Charlie's birthday. He's been waiting to open the mystery gift at his party, and he was very excited for his new friends to arrive.



As Charlie turned to greet Skye and Toby, a mischievous magpie named Bandit swooped out of the woods and swiped the mystery gift with his pointy beak. Because the gift was heavy, Bandit couldn't fly, so he had to run as fast as his little bird legs would take him.

Charlie and his friends noticed Bandit swipe the gift and ran after him. They chase Bandit to...



MADGE TRAIL

at QUARRY MESA OPEN SPACE

Bandit ran to Quarry Mesa Open Space. His pointy beak was ripping the gift wrapping, and items were falling out of the mystery box. Charlie and his friends ran to the Clue Pole nearby and picked up the two clues that Bandit left behind.



MAP TO THE CLUE POLE



ABOUT THE TRAIL

This 133 acre open space area on the west side of Rhyolite Regional Park is the site of the town's first rhyolite quarry, which opened in 1872. From the top of the grassland mesa, visitors can enjoy spectacular views of the Front Range from Pikes Peak to Longs Peak.

FOR PARENTS:

①

Once you arrive, proceed on trail until you reach clue pole.

②

At the pole, have your child record the clue symbols on page 10.

③

See page 10 for additional directions.

MITCHELL CREEK CANYON TRAIL

at MITCHELL CREEK TRAIL

From Quarry Open Space, Bandit ran through the open grassland to Mitchell Creek Canyon Trail. Charlie and his friends were close behind as more clues fell out of the mystery box.

MAP TO THE CLUE POLE

Access from
MITCHELL CREEK
PAVED TRAIL

From the trailhead, take the Mitchell Creek Paved trail north. Then veer east on the Mitchell Creek Canyon soft surface trail.

X - clue pole

TRAILHEAD
at Whisper Wind Lane

1.5 mi



ABOUT THE TRAIL

Near Founders Village, this 1.5 mile soft-surface trail travels along Mitchell Gulch. Four habitat types can be found here; canyon, riparian, ponderosa forest, and open grassland. Note: Rough Terrain



FOR PARENTS:

①

Once you arrive, proceed on trail until you reach clue pole.

②

At the pole, have your child record the clue symbols on page 10.

③

See page 10 for additional directions.

JOHN EMERSON SUMMIT TRAIL

at ROCK PARK

From Mitchell Creek Canyon, Bandit ran to Rock Park. The friends try and keep up as clues continue to fall out of the mystery gift. Charlie puts the clues in his backpack as they take in the scenery.

MAP TO THE CLUE POLE



ABOUT THE TRAIL

Visitors can climb this historic landmark through a looped single-track trail system. Hikers can reach the base of the Rock and are afforded views of Downtown Castle Rock, the I-25 corridor, Pikes Peak and the Front Range. This hike offers rocky and uneven terrain.

FOR PARENTS:

①

Once you arrive, proceed on trail until you reach clue pole.

②

At the pole, have your child record the clue symbols on page 10.

③

See page 10 for additional directions.

CHUCK'S LOOP TRAIL

at GATEWAY MESA OPEN SPACE

From Rock Park, Bandit ran to Gateway Mesa Open Space. As the mischievous magpie continued to run, he came across a rattlesnake! Startled, more clues fell out of the mystery gift. Bandit carefully backed away and continued on the trail as Charlie, Skye, and Toby followed closely.



MAP TO THE CLUE POLE



ABOUT THE TRAIL

This trail is on a bluff with steep, rock-capped cliffs. It features expansive views of the mountains. Beware of steep cliffs and rattlesnakes. You may also access this trail through Mitchell Creek Canyon Trail in the Founders neighborhood.

FOR PARENTS:

①

Once you arrive, proceed on trail until you reach clue pole.

②

At the pole, have your child record the clue symbols on page 10.

③

See page 10 for additional directions.

STEWART TRAIL

at RIDGELINE OPEN SPACE

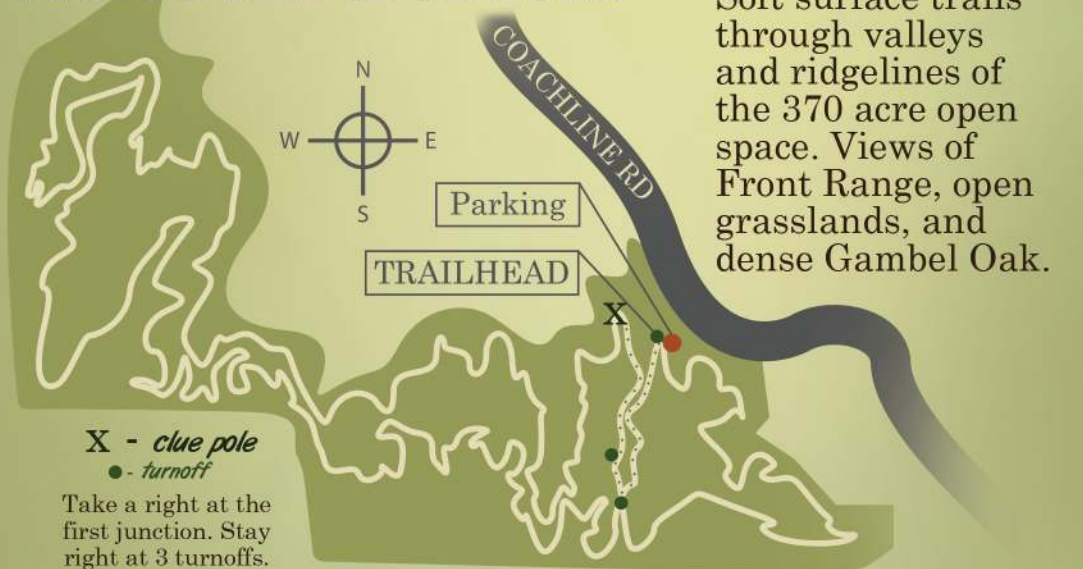
Finally, as Bandit reached Ridgeline Open Space, he was exhausted. He could no longer run from Charlie and his friends. He left the package and its remaining clues on the trail, and flew up into an oak tree to take a nap. Charlie, Skye, and Toby grabbed the last clues and headed over to the MAC at Philip S. Miller Park.



ABOUT THE TRAIL

Soft surface trails through valleys and ridgelines of the 370 acre open space. Views of Front Range, open grasslands, and dense Gambel Oak.

MAP TO THE CLUE POLE



FOR PARENTS:

①

Once you arrive, proceed on trail until you reach clue pole.

②

At the pole, have your child record the clue symbols on page 10.

③

See page 10 for additional directions.

THE MAC AT PHILIP S. MILLER PARK

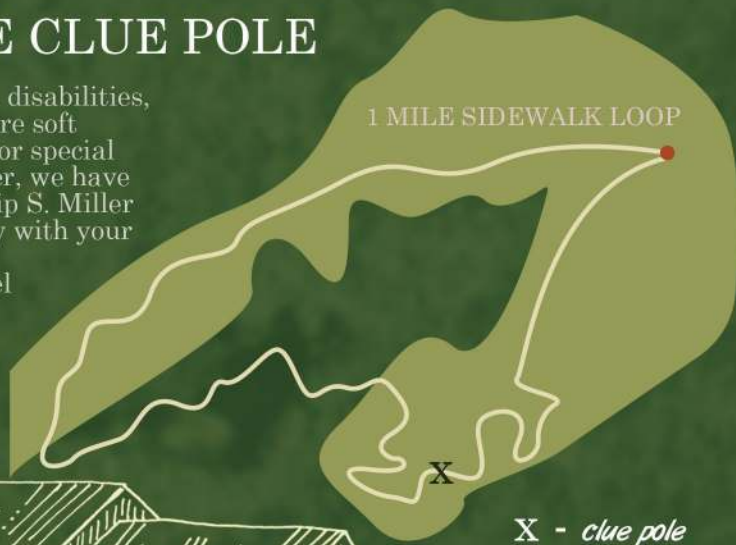
PARENTS: Once your child has completed all 10 clue squares, please go to the front counter at the MAC and have your child show this booklet to a counter representative.

The representative will review the booklet with your child and provide them with a special reward!

For Parents of Children with Disabilities

MAP TO THE CLUE POLE

Dear Parents of children with disabilities, The trails in this trail guide are soft earthen trails not supported for special needs transportation. However, we have provided a paved trail at Philip S. Miller park for you to do this activity with your child. There will be 10 clue symbols on the clue poles. Feel free to have your child draw all 10 on the clue pole page then proceed to the Mac customer service counter.



FOR PARENTS:

①

Start at the paved trailhead.

②

Go to the clue pole and draw in/read all 10 clues.

③

Proceed to PSM Front Desk.

DRAW THE TRAIL CLUES!

With a pen, pencil, or crayon, have your child draw the clue symbol displayed on each trail clue pole. There are two clues per trail.

QUARRY MESA OPEN SPACE	CLUE 1	CLUE 2

MITCHELL CREEK CANYON	CLUE 1	CLUE 2

ROCK PARK TRAIL	CLUE 1	CLUE 2

GATEWAY MESA TRAIL	CLUE 1	CLUE 2

RIDGELINE OPEN SPACE	CLUE 1	CLUE 2

THE MAC	CLUE 1	CLUE 2

WIN YOUR OWN BANDIT



————— *the first* —————

100 PARTICIPANTS
who turn in a completed guide
are entered into a drawing to win
their own stuffed magpie, Bandit.



About Castle Rock Parks & Trails Foundation

Who We Are, What We Do, & How To Support Us

Established in 2012, Castle Rock Parks & Trails Foundation is a non-profit organization that works to enhance the recreational spaces that make Castle Rock unique. The Foundation works with the Town of Castle Rock, though we are a separate entity from the Town.

Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the recreational, educational, and cultural life of the community by supporting the Town park system by:

- Raising funds to support park programs, facilities and services;
- Promoting the values and benefits of our town parks; and
- Supporting park programs that educate our community.

You may also donate. Our signature fundraising program is our Legacy Brick and Stone Program. Through this program, you have the opportunity to cast your name, a special message, or business logo on a brick or stone to be placed near the Core Plaza pavilions in Philip S. Miller Park. Other ways to donate include:

- General Donations
- Project Specific Donations
- Donations for the Castle Rock Public Art Commission



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