



Family Bike Ride Recommendations

Take the family out on some of our great nearby biking paths. To make your planning easier, REI employees have selected some of their favorites below.

Be sure to bring these necessities along on your ride:

- Helmet
- Drinking water
- Lunch or snacks
- Map and route directions
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- First-aid kit
- Tire mini-pump or CO2
- Spare tube or patch kit
- Tire levers



For a complete cycling checklist, visit [Expert Advice](#) on REI.com.

Here Are Five of Our Favorite Kid-Friendly Local Bike Rides

Devil's Backbone Trail

Terrain: **Unpaved trail**

Distance: **3.5 mile loop; minimal elevation gain**

Why This Ride: Cool rock formations are the highlight of this easy ride through a scenic Open Space area.

Ride Description: Though this unpaved trail extends north from Loveland to Fort Collins, the Devil's Backbone Trailhead (just west of Loveland) is the place to start. Not only is this a great ride for its sweeping open vistas and grasslands covered with wildflowers, it's a study in Colorado geology. The Keyhole rock formation is a must-see stop along the way.

Driving Directions: Take Highway 34 (Big Thompson Road) west of Loveland to just past mile marker 88 (4 miles west of the K-Mart). Turn right onto Hidden Valley Drive, just east of the old water tank. The trailhead is on your left. There is free parking at the trailhead.

Tips: There are marked stops along the trail that coordinate with an interpretive brochure describing the local flora, fauna and history of the area. You can pick up a copy at the trailhead. There are also restrooms and drinking water available seasonally at the trailhead.

Lory State Park—East Valley Trail

Terrain: **Dirt trail**

Distance: **A nearly 5-mile loop, with no elevation gain**

Why This Ride: A flat, multi-use trail in beautiful Lory State Park that's a good introduction for beginning mountain bikers.

Ride Description: Just minutes from downtown Fort Collins, the popular loop that combines the East Valley Trail with the West Valley Trail is a great entry-level mountain bike trail for youngsters curious for some off-road experience. This flat, 5-mile loop takes you through some stunning foothill scenery near Horsetooth Reservoir. The beautiful grassy open meadows and ponderosa pine forests are home to an abundance of wildlife. Watch for mule deer, wild turkeys, blue grouse, mourning doves, songbirds and many reptile species as you go.

Driving Directions: Take Harmony Road/38E west. Turn right onto County Road 23N. Proceed north until you get to the T-intersection. Turn left at the stop sign onto County Road 42C. Proceed north to County Road 25G and turn left. Proceed 1.6 miles to the park entrance where there is free parking.

Tips: Go with a group and make a day of it. Lory State Park features a group picnic area that accommodates up to 150 people and has horseshoe pits, a volleyball court, covered tables, grills, a fire ring and restrooms. There are also restrooms at the trailhead.

Pineridge Natural Area

Terrain: **Unpaved trail**

Distance: **An approximately 2-mile loop, with no elevation gain**

Why This Ride: It's close to town, but feels far removed due to the abundance of wild-life and the natural beauty of the foothills environment.

Ride Description: Start from the parking lot and head south along the west side of 40-acre Dixon Reservoir. At the second fork go left, and continue around the reservoir counter-clockwise until you return to the parking lot. Along the way, check out the large prairie and keep your eyes peeled for mule deer grazing on the shortgrass prairie or red-tailed hawks nesting in the foothills pine forest. The reservoir is also a popular spot for migrant waterfowl and other waterbirds—more than 150 species of birds have been spotted here!

Driving Directions: From REI go north on College Avenue (Highway 287). Take a left onto Horsetooth Road and then a right on South Taft Hill Road. Go left on West Drake Road, then turn right on South Overland Trail. After about a 1/2 mile turn left on CR-42C. Just after Hughes Stadium you start to go uphill and you'll see parking on the left. Parking in the Pineridge trailhead lot is free.

Tips: Watch the sun set from one of the lakeside benches, but don't forget the bug spray! There are pit toilets at the trailhead.

Poudre River Trail

Terrain: **Paved trail**

Distance: **8.35 miles one way, with no elevation gain.**

Why This Ride: For an urban ride, you'll pass through a number of different beautifully preserved natural areas as the path snakes along the Poudre River.

Ride Description: Follow the Poudre River downtown from the N. Taft Hill Road trailhead to the Environmental Learning Center on East Drake Road. This easy, paved path takes you past open meadows, ponds, wooded areas and is alive with wildflowers in the summer. Hop off your bike at Lee Martinez Park—a suitable turnaround point for beginning riders—for a picnic or a little fun time. Continue on all the way to the Environmental Learning Center, or simply turn around at any point along the way to tailor the trip length to your young ones' interest and energy level.

Driving Directions: Take College Avenue (Highway 287) north to Laporte Avenue and turn left. Follow Laporte to N. Taft Hill Road and turn right. The trailhead is on the right side of the street and there is free parking in the trailhead lot.

Tips: Check out the farm at Lee Martinez Park which features farm animals that kids can feed, a museum, the Silo store, hayrides and pony rides. There are plenty of restrooms along the path.

Spring Creek Trail

Terrain: **Paved path**

Distance: **6.6 miles one way, with no elevation gain**

Why This Ride: A fun family ride through Fort Collins, with plenty of great distractions along the way.

Ride Description: This beautiful riverside path follows Spring Creek from west Fort Collins through several parks, where it eventually connects with the Poudre River Trail. You'll want to bring along a picnic lunch, because the ride is just part of the fun on this urban adventure. Rolland Moore Park is a recommended stop along the way, where all kinds of recreational possibilities exist. Use this as a turnaround point for younger riders—after you spend some time in the park, of course!—or continue on to the confluence with the Poudre River Trail, if you're up for a longer ride.

Driving Directions: From REI go north on College Avenue (Highway 287). Turn left onto W. Drake Road and continue west until you come to S Overland Trail where you turn left. This dead ends at a playground and parking lot and you can hop on the trail here. Parking is free.

Tips: There are many restrooms along the path.



REI's PEAK program uses a fun presentation filled with hands-on activities and games to teach kids ages 6 through 12 about taking care of the outdoors.

Ask an REI team member about scheduling a free PEAK presentation for your classroom or youth group, or visit www.rei.com/PEAK for more information.



First Saturday in June The American Hiking Society's National Trails Day, sponsored by REI, is a nationwide celebration of trails. Celebrate with your family by taking a hike, or volunteering for a trail clean-up project. Ask an REI team member about how to get involved, or visit www.rei.com for more information.