Tips For the Trail

Take Plenty of Water & Know Your Limitations
Water is available at the trailhead. The 4.6-mile trail from Greenland to County Line Road is fairly level, then crosses the road and loops for about 1 mile to the trailhead in Palmer Lake. The 8.5-mile Kipps Loop has about 500 feet of elevation gain.

Dress in Layers
Weather changes rapidly near the Palmer Divide.

Be Courteous and Communicate
Trail users have varying abilities and modes of travel, so be friendly and not startle others when passing.

Keep Right & Pass Left
This rule of thumb will eliminate indecision. Step to the right side of the trail if you stop.

Stay on Designated Trails
Wildlife and native plants will survive better.

Keep Dogs on Leash
Help lessen conflicts with other trail users and wildlife and protect your own dog’s safety.

Respect Private Property
Land outside the fences is privately owned.

Pack Out Your Litter
Bearproof trash cans are at the trailhead.

Obey Open Space Rules & Regulations
An abbreviated set is available at the trailhead. Complete rules available at www.douglas.co.us

Enjoy Greenland Open Space
This magnificent landscape has been protected with many partners for its conservation values. The scenic viewshed along I-25, historical value, natural resources and recreational values are tremendous. The 17,000 acres east of I-25 is protected in private conservation easements. West of I-25, 3,600 acres with the Greenland trail is open to the public. Adjacent land protected by Douglas County will be opened as trails are built.

At the Greenland trailhead, you will find plenty of parking for cars and horse trailers. An accessible group picnic shelter, patterned after Greenland’s old mercantile building, seats up to 48 people. Also available are a restroom, garbage cans, water spigot, information kiosk and horse hitch rails.

The crusher fines and natural surface trails are designed for mountain bikes, horseback riders and hikers. Benches, hitch rails and picnic tables can be found along the 10 miles of trails which wind through rolling grasslands, past ponds, and through oak shrublands and pine forests.

Greenland was once a bustling little village and shipping point. By 1871, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad extended to the site and it was platted as a 20-acre town in 1875. It continued to thrive with two general stores, a post office, school and even a saloon or two. Two railroad stations shipped out livestock, potatoes, grains, milk, building stones and pottery. The ranching industry continued even after the town declined in the 1930s.

Enjoy viewing wildlife throughout the open space. You may expect to see elk, mule deer, coyotes, turtles, leopard frogs, foxes, porcupines, thirteen-lined ground squirrels and many varieties of birds. Please keep a respectful distance.

Noe and Higby Families and Friends of Greenland

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