

The Dog Owner's Boulder Rulebook

Boulder's off-leash reputation is real, but it only applies on one authority's land. Cross an invisible boundary and the rule changes without the trail changing.

Where your dog can be off leash, and where it cannot

Where	Whose land	The rule	Worth knowing
OSMP trails (most of Boulder's system)	City of Boulder	Leash, or off leash with a Voice and Sight tag	About 89 percent of OSMP trail miles are open to dogs on leash.
Chautauqua and the Flatirons trails	City of Boulder	Leash or Voice and Sight	Some Bluebell Road segments are leash-only. It varies by segment.
Mount Sanitas	City of Boulder	Leash or Voice and Sight, but leash at the trailhead	The trailhead itself is leash-only even if you hold the tag.
NCAR Trail	Federal property	Hand-held leash only	Voice and Sight does NOT apply. It is not city land.
Eldorado Canyon State Park	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Leash required everywhere in the park	No off-leash anywhere, tag or no tag.
Betasso Preserve	Boulder County	Leash only	No Voice and Sight on county land. Different authority, different rule.
Boulder Reservoir	City of Boulder	Dogs BANNED May 15 to Labor Day	Banned from the gates and the south shoreline entirely in that window.
Boulder Creek Path and in town	City of Boulder	City leash law applies	The standard municipal leash law, not the trail rules.

The three places Voice and Sight does not work

- Betasso Preserve, because it is Boulder County land, not city.
- Eldorado Canyon State Park, because it is Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
- The NCAR Trail, because it crosses federal property. Hand-held leash only.

The one seasonal ban to diary

Boulder Reservoir bans dogs from the gates and the south shoreline entirely from May 15 through Labor Day. It is a natural summer dog destination and it is closed to them for exactly the months you would want to go.