





Ousel Falls

# BIG SKY TRAILS



This complimentary trail map was developed by the Big Sky Community Corporation Trails Committee, with the support of local businesses who share our value of the trails resources here, including:

- Big Sky Resort
- Gallatin Alpine Sports
- Lone Mountain Ranch
- Moonlight Basin
- Grizzly Outfitters
- Big Sky Town Center

The Big Sky Community Corporation is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit entity created in 1998 to promote, acquire, preserve, and maintain land, parks, trails, and easements for the use of the people of the Big Sky community and the general public. BSCC is comprised of hundreds of dedicated volunteers who carry out our mission through various programs, including: Big Sky Trails, Parks, Historic Crail Ranch, Big Sky Softball League, Big Sky Little League, Big Sky Tennis Association, Big Sky Disc Golf, and Camp Big Sky. We exist through the generosity of volunteers and donors. To support the BSCC, call 406-995-4166 or visit our website at [www.bigs kylmt.org/bssc](http://www.bigs kylmt.org/bssc)

## 1 COMMUNITY PARK TRAIL

0.25 miles one way



**Elevation Gain:** None.

**Trail Description:** Follows the Middle Fork east from the community park.

**Trailhead Directions:** Big Sky Community Park at the picnic pavilion just off Little Coyote Road.

## 2 CRAIL RANCH TRAIL

1.7 miles one way



**Elevation Gain:** None.

**Trail Description:** A leisurely path tracing the historic Crail Ranch meadow; the original homestead is located off of Spotted Elk Road.

**Trailhead Directions:** From Big Sky Community Park at the picnic pavilion, trail heads west. Cross Little Coyote Road and pick trail back up on Spotted Elk.

## 3 SOUTH FORK LOOP

1.7 mile loop



**Elevation Gain:** 200 ft.

**Trail Description:** Pleasant forested walk along the South Fork

**Trailhead Directions:** Take Aspen Drive east from Town Center, park just past bridge over the South Fork.

## 4 OUSEL FALLS ROAD

2 miles one way



**Elevation Gain:** 100 ft.

**Trail Description:** Stretch your legs from Town Center to Ousel Falls Park.

**Trailhead Directions:** Start at Town Center or Ousel Falls Park (trail 7)

## 5 HIGHWAY 191

2.5 miles one way



**Elevation Gain:** 140 ft.

**Trail Description:** Run errands, exercise or use as a route to schools or the community library. 2.5 mile paved bike path.

**Trailhead Directions:** At Big Sky Conoco or Ophir School.

## 6 SPUR ROAD TRAIL

3 miles one way



**Elevation Gain:** 440 ft.

**Trail Description:** Rolling paved trail along Spur Road, from Town Center to Conoco – for safety please, cross Spur Road only at designated cross-walk.

**Trailhead Directions:** Start at Town Center or Big Sky Conoco.

## 7 OUSEL FALLS PARK

0.75 mile one way



**Elevation Gain:** 700 ft. up and down.

**Trail Description:** A Big Sky Classic! Well built trail descending into the South Fork ravine to beautiful Ousel Falls.

**Trailhead Directions:** Ousel Falls Road, two miles to first left past Crown Butte Road.

## 8 BEEHIVE CREEK

1 mile one way



**Elevation Gain:** 440 ft.

**Trail Description:** Pleasant walk through secluded ravine along Beehive Creek.

**Trailhead Directions:** See Beehive Basin – Upper (trail 19). Low side of the road at Beehive Basin trailhead.

## 9 LOWER BEEHIVE TRAIL

1.4 miles one way



**Elevation Gain:** 420 ft.

**Trail Description:** Forest Service trail (FS 40) from the Mountain Village to the Upper trailhead.

**Trailhead Directions:** Spur Road to Big Sky Fire Department Mountain Station (opposite intersection with Sitting Bull, just past Big Sky Resort entrance) at back of parking lot.

## 10 GRINDER TRAIL

1.5 miles one way



**Elevation Gain:** 600 ft.

**Trail Description:** A favorite trail of locals to “grind out” a good workout on a mountain bike, but also a pleasant outing from the Meadow Village.

**Trailhead Directions:** Trail leads off to the southwest from the cul de sac at the end of Partridge Lane above Deer Run condos, or head up Pine Drive from the parking lot at Gallatin Alpine Sports.

## 11 MIDDLE FORK

1.9 miles one way



**Elevation Gain:** 350 ft.

**Trail Description:** Known to locals as the “Poop Chute” - a gentle two track along the Middle Fork.

**Trailhead Directions:** Start at Mountain Village (Low Dog Road or Lone Moose) or Aspen Groves (Spur Road to Andesite Road to Autumn Trail, left to dead end at Stony Creek).

## MOONLIGHT BASIN TRAILS

### PONY LIFT

1 mile loop



**Trail Description:** Links the Moonlight Lodge to the Pony Lodge.

### MOONLIGHT LODGE

1.1 mile loop



**Trail Description:** Starts at the Moonlight Lodge and takes a scenic route to the top of the Pony Express Lift.

### ELKHORN TRAIL

1.3 miles



**Trail Description:** Out and back trail that winds up to a scenic viewpoint/picnic area, with views of Lone Peak, Fan Mountain and the Spanish Peaks.

For more information about the Moonlight Basin trails system, stop by the concierge desk at Moonlight Lodge or call (406) 995-7716.

### BIG SKY TRAILS

- Easy
- Moderate
- ◆ Strenuous

- 🚶 Hiking
- 🚴 Biking
- 🐎 Horseback
- 👤 Part of trail in designated wilderness area - biking not permitted past wilderness boundary

## 12 ELK PARK TRAIL

2.5 miles one way or 6.5 mile loop



**Elevation Gain:** 980 ft.

**Trail Description:** Old logging road with terrific views and wildlife – a great recreational loop when connected with Michener Creek Road.

**Trailhead Directions:** South on Highway 191 0.9 miles to Michener Creek Road, turn right and follow the road to a gated turnout on the left - this is the east trailhead; Michener Creek Road continues for another 4 miles to the west end of the trail.

## 13 REFLECTOR TRAIL

3.5 mile loop



**Elevation Gain:** 1066 ft.

**Trail Description:** A Big Sky Classic! Magnificent views of the Meadow and Mountain from the scenic ridge to the north of Big Sky.

**Trailhead Directions:** Little Coyote Road, .7 miles from west end of road, or 1.1 miles from east end. Look for trail in open meadow on North side of road.

## 14 GRIZZLY LOOP

5.7 mile loop



**Elevation Gain:** 1100 ft.

**Trail Description:** A Big Sky Classic! If there's a classic mountain biking route in Big Sky, this is it.

**Trailhead Directions:** See Porcupine Creek (trail 15).

## 15 PORCUPINE CREEK

6.5 miles to FS 160



**Elevation Gain:** 1430 ft.

**Trail Description:** Forest Service trail (FS 34) into an expansive drainage, lots of wildlife and wildflowers.

**Trailhead Directions:** From Big Sky Conoco head South toward West Yellowstone 2.7 miles (just South of Ophir School), take a left at the bridge over the Gallatin to the trailhead.

## 16 RIDGE TRAIL

4 miles to trail 18 (FS 402)



**Elevation Gain:** 1420 ft.

**Trail Description:** Forest Service trail (FS 166B/403) steadily climbing to overlook of North Fork and Wilson Peak.

**Trailhead Directions:** See North Fork Trail (trail 17).

## 17 NORTH FORK TRAIL

3 miles to trail 18 (FS 402), 6.7 miles to Saddle



**Elevation Gain:** 600 ft to trail 18 (FS 402), 2500 ft to saddle.

**Trail Description:** Forest Service trail (FS 16) steadily climbing to Bear Basin, great for wildflowers and alpine terrain.

**Trailhead Directions:** West on Spur Road. Just past Lone Mountain Ranch, turn right on North Fork Road to the first left (Ridge Fork), and follow signs to trailhead and parking.

## BIG SKY RESORT TRAILS

### LAKE TRAIL

0.23 miles



**Trail Description:** 0.23 mile wood chip path from Huntley Lodge to Lake Levinsky.

### “TREACHEROUS” TRAIL

0.34 mile



**Trail Description:** 0.34 mile wood chip path from Huntley past the Lodge at Big Sky to Hill, Cedar Creek and Black Bear.

### MOOSE TRACKS NATURE TRAIL

4 miles out and back



**Trail Description:** Approximately 4 mile trail, out and back from the base area.

### AMBUSH LOWER LOOP

1.9 miles



**Trail Description:** Up Pacificer, it switches back and crosses over Andesite ski runs above Arrowhead Condos, returning to the south side of Summit Hotel.

### COOLRIDGE TRAIL

4.5 miles



**Trail Description:** Begins same as Ambush Lower, but veers to the right up a cut trail on Silver Knife, gaining elevation to Elk Park Ridge, and then down to Low Dog Road.

### SUMMIT CLIMB

2.8 miles round trip



**Trail Description:** 2.8 mile round trip from top of Swift Current Lift – advanced hike with extreme exposure.

### SHEDHORN OUT & BACK

2 miles out and back



**Trail Description:** Up to 2 mile round trip to top of Shedhorn Lift from top of Swift Current Lift.

For more information about the Big Sky Resort trails system, stop by Big Sky Sports in the Mountain Mall, the Snowcrest Adventure Center (406-995-5736), or the concierge desk.

## 18 NF/BEEHIVE CONNECTOR

1 mile one way



**Elevation Gain:** 820 ft.

**Trail Description:** Forest Service trail (FS 402) connects Beehive Basin – Upper (trail 19/FS 40) and North Fork Trail (trail 17/FS 16). Rough set of rocky switchbacks!

**Trailhead Directions:** Start at Beehive Basin – Upper (trail 19/FS 40) or North Fork Trail (trail 17/FS 16).

## NORTH FORK LOOP

8 mile loop



**Elevation Gain:** 1420 ft.

**Trail Description:** A Big Sky Classic! Link these three trails into an 8 mile loop – a popular mountain biking ride.

**Trailhead Directions:** See North Fork Trail (trail 17) – most people start up the Ridge Trail, drop down the Connector and return on the North Fork Trail.

## 19 BEEHIVE BASIN TRAIL

3.3 miles one way to the lake



**Elevation Gain:** 1360 ft.

**Trail Description:** A Big Sky Classic! Forest Service trail (FS 40) to splendid alpine meadow and lake.

**Trailhead Directions:** From Spur Road, turn right on to Beehive Basin Road (the last road before the Moonlight Basin Gate), and follow it 1.7 miles to the trailhead and parking.

## 20 YELLOW MULE

6.5 miles to Buck Ridge



**Elevation Gain:** 3000 ft.

**Trail Description:** Forest Service trail (FS 162) branches off Ousel Falls Park (trail 7), and climbs to Buck Ridge.

**Trailhead Directions:** See Ousel Falls Park (trail 7).

## 21 DUDLEY CREEK

8 miles one way to the lake



**Elevation Gain:** 2300 ft.

**Trail Description:** Forest Service trail (FS 404) climbing steadily through forest to Dudley Lake.

**Trailhead Directions:** From Big Sky Conoco head North toward Bozeman, 0.5 mile to left at Dudley Creek Road (narrow, rough) to trailhead parking lot on right.

zip it!

Snowcrest Adventure Center  
406-995-5736

### LOCALLY MADE, INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING TRAIL MAPS

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# Welcome to Big Sky Montana!

Welcome to Big Sky Montana! Use this map as a starting point to begin exploring the many hiking and biking trails that Big Sky offers. The trails shown are all in the immediate Big Sky vicinity, and this map will orient you to the area, these trails and their trail-heads. More information about each of these trails, and others is available at the Big Sky Community Corporation Website: [www.bigs skytrails.org](http://www.bigs skytrails.org) Here you will find one page descriptions of each trail, with topo map and other information to help you navigate and enjoy the trail; you may download and print these if you wish.

Big Sky is literally surrounded by US Forest Service trails, and of course Yellowstone National Park is also nearby. To explore these areas, beyond the scope of this map, other useful trail references include:

- Beartooth Publishing, Bozeman - Big Sky – West Yellowstone [www.beartoothpublishing.com/bozeman.php](http://www.beartoothpublishing.com/bozeman.php)
- US Forest Service, Lee Metcalf Wilderness and West Yellowstone Vicinity [rockymountainmaps.com/item/321/lee-metcalf-wilderness-and-west-yellowstone-vicinity-map](http://rockymountainmaps.com/item/321/lee-metcalf-wilderness-and-west-yellowstone-vicinity-map)
- Wildflowers of Montana, by Donald Anthony Schiemann [www.amazon.com/Wildflowers-Montana-Donald-Anthony-Schiemann/dp/0878425047](http://www.amazon.com/Wildflowers-Montana-Donald-Anthony-Schiemann/dp/0878425047)

These items can be found at outdoor shops throughout the Big Sky and Bozeman area. The businesses in this document are all great sources of information and gear to help you enjoy your hiking and biking experiences in Big Sky. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding Big Sky trails and this map, please email them to us at [info@bigs skytrails.org](mailto:info@bigs skytrails.org)

Happy trails!

### Hiking Safely in Big Sky

- Basic etiquette on multi-use trails is that bikers yield to hikers and horses, hikers yield to horses, and horses have the right of way.



- Weather happens in the mountains – just about anything can happen at any time. Take rain gear, and a warm layer you can add when you stop for a break. Plan to begin descending from higher altitudes by no later than 2pm – you really do not want to face one of our frequent afternoon storms on a ridge or a peak.
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots that are well broken in. Our trails are rocky, and your feet will appreciate some protection when you kick them.
- Take water and some snacks. You'll finish stronger if you stay hydrated and energized.
- Down is harder than up – most people think that it's all over once they reach the top. It may be easier to breathe heading down, but it's actually harder on muscles to descend than to climb. Save plenty of energy for the return to the trailhead.

- Bears – yes, they live here. Take bear spray, and know how to use it. The best way to avoid problems with bears is to not surprise them, which could trigger an instinctive reaction. Talking among your party is a simple and effective way to make them aware of your presence - "bear bells" have been found not to be effective. Do not leave bear spray inside a vehicle with all the windows rolled up on a hot day, as the heat can pressurize a leak that will make the drive home very unpleasant.

- Horses and their riders share many of our trails, and you can expect to meet parties on horseback. The best etiquette is to step off to the side of the trail in a position where the horses can see you (you do not want to surprise horses either), speak softly (letting the horses know you are humans), and let the riders pass. "Howdies" and smiles always help, too.

- Pack it in, pack it out. Our trail volunteers spend a great deal of time maintaining our trails for your enjoyment. Please cooperate by not littering, and leaving the trail as natural as you would like to find it.

- Many of our trails exist on easements within privately owned land. Please respect this privilege by staying on the trail.