



Trail 21--Pipeline: Burch Hollow to Elbow Fork

Duration: 2.5 hours

Distance: 3.8 miles out-and-back

Difficulty: Moderate

Trailhead: Burch Hollow

Elevation: Burch Hollow trailhead 6065'; Burch/Pipeline Junction 6515'; Elbow Fork 6666'

Avalanche: Low

Map: Mt. Aire Quadrangle 7.5' quadrangle

GPS Coordinates: Not needed

Dogs: No dogs off leash on even-numbered calendar days per county ordinance. Dogs must be leashed in all parking lots, trail heads and developed sites.

Introduction: A nice easy climb up the hollow will hook you onto the Pipeline trail. As with the other section of the Pipeline trail, the south facing aspect provides sun and warmth. This section rolls with some ups and downs and is defined by its open views of Mill Creek Canyon. Elbow Fork has a bathroom that is open during winter months. The trail is easily accessed, provides wonderful views, and makes for a nice, quick retreat from the city.

How to get there: Burch Hollow Trailhead sits 3.7 miles from the fee booth up Mill Creek Canyon, just past Porter Fork. Parking is available at the trailhead.

Trail Description: Head up the Burch Hollow wash .45 miles to connect with the Pipeline trail. A turn to the east (right) leads you to Elbow Fork, and a west (left) turn for Church Fork. Shortly after you hit the Pipeline trail, views down canyon open up. Salt Lake becomes visible and the horizontal run down the middle of the mountain levels out with views and sunshine. You can't miss your trail junctions, they are obvious. Elbow Fork sits at the termination of the trail, which empties out right onto the groomed winter road that leads up Mill Creek Canyon. Elbow Fork is also the trailhead for Mt. Aire.

Options: Once you've started down the Pipeline Trail, you'll find a sign to Burch Hollow trail. This trail climbs further up Burch Hollow but is not where we are headed on this route.