



Trail 49--Round Valley

**kid friendly*

Duration: Depends upon how far you go.

Distance: Trails criss-cross the valley. How far you go is up to you.

Difficulty: The rolling hills include some climbing, flat stretches, traverses, and of course you can make your own trail. You can determine how strenuous you make your outing.

Trailhead: 1: National Abilities Center trailhead; 2: Park City trailhead; 3: Old Ranch Road trailhead

Elevation: NAC trailhead 6700'; Park City trailhead 6815'; Old Ranch Road trailhead 6470'; Highpoint in Round Valley 7100'

Avalanche: None

Map: Park City East 7.5' quadrangle

GPS Coordinates: None

Dogs: Allowed on leash; Doggie poo bags and a trash can are available at the trailhead. Always clean up after your dog.

Introduction: Round Valley is best thought of as an area rather than a trail. There are 780 acres of open space in Round Valley. The Round Valley conservation easement holds 693 acres. These were purchased with the Park City Open Space bond funds. During summer, a number of trails wind over the valley and surrounding hills interconnecting with one another. During winter months you can follow the trail others have made or make your own around the area. Round Valley holds beginner, intermediate and expert terrain. There are three trailheads: One close to Kimball Junction off Old Ranch Road; one that is more difficult to access as it winds its way through city neighborhoods; and a third trailhead which is easily accessed off SR 248 and US HWY 40, the National Abilities Center trailhead. You can loop your own trails across the 780 acres or head across to any of the trailheads for a through hike.

How to get there:

Trailhead 1: National Abilities Center trailhead: From Park City get on SR 248/Kearns Blvd. and follow to Quinns Athletic Fields, which sit just before US HWY 40. Turn left and follow the road up to the National Abilities Center. Currently they allow parking in their parking lot. The trail marker is a small thin brown marker that sits back down the road a hundred feet on the right side of the road.

Trailhead 2: From Park City's Park Avenue turn left on Kearns and left on Monitor Drive. Take a right onto Lucky John Drive, which changes into Meadows Drive. Follow for a total of 1.2 miles. Turn right on Sunny Slopes and head uphill for .22 mile where you will turn left on a road that, at the current time, has no road sign. After turning onto this road you will turn right onto Round Valley Way. The trailhead sits at the end of this road.

Trailhead 3: Old Ranch Road Trailhead: From Kimball Junction travel toward Park City on SR 224. Turn east onto Old Ranch Road; a stoplight sitting just north of The Canyons resort turnoff. Wind your way past 3 sharp curves for 2.4 miles to the trailhead. It sits on the right side of the road just after the last sharp curve.

Trail description: Big vistas, peaceful, hilly meadows, and don't forget the snow melts out early because of the lower elevation.

In the winter Round Valley does not boast of beauty. It is a space of sage brush and scrub oak, but the views as you traverse the valley include spacious ranches, ski resorts, mansions, valley views, mountains and urban sprawl. There is a quiet and solitude in the area that brings a quiet meditation.

From the National Abilities Center trailhead use the small trail marker that indicates the Round Valley area. This is your starting point for climbing into the area. Start out heading west--with full snow coverage, once you're deeper into the area, you can choose your direction of travel. Both other trailheads lie west of the National Abilities Center.

From trailhead 2 make your way north beyond the trailhead kiosk and branch out as snow cover allows. The National Abilities Center trailhead lies east of you, while trailhead 3 lies west of you.

From trailhead 3 the trail takes off to the south. This route has a steeper climb into the valley area. This trailhead provides the biggest workout of the three. Trailhead 2 lies south of here and the National Abilities Center trailhead lies east of here.