

# Going back in time at Dinosaur Ridge



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

### Clues to Earth's early inhabitants

Top, left; The stegosaurus was voted the state fossil by Colorado schoolchildren. Top, right; A lifelike replica. Bottom, right; Kids are naturally drawn to the dinosaur sculptures near the visitor center. Bottom, left; The main track site reveals two types of dinosaurs.

**Dave Gibson**  
*Golden*

Formed over eons of mountain building process and erosion, Dinosaur Ridge in Golden, Colorado, is sometimes referred to as a hogback because of its resemblance to the spine of a razorback hog. Tilted to an angle of 40 degrees, it was once a coastal plain of the Western Interior Seaway that stretched from the Arctic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. The climate was tropical with flowering plants and deciduous trees. In 1936 when Alameda Parkway was built to connect Denver to Red Rocks Park and the planned amphitheater, dinosaur tracks were unearthed in the Dakota sandstone.



The footprints laid down on Dinosaur Ridge's east side are estimated to be up to 110 million years old from the Mid-Cretaceous Period. Thirty-nine sets of tracks of two different types of dinosaurs have been identified at the main track site. The first were made by duck-billed iguanodon-like ornithopods that grew to be 25-feet long and weighed three tons. Strictly herbivores and gregarious in nature, the exact kind of ornithopod can't be determined without skeletal evidence. They traveled in small social groups with subadults moving perpendicular to the adults. Six of the trackways are parallel to one another. The other tracks are from

Continued on page 17

**The Boulder Property Network**

**Timmy Duggan**



Your Professional Choice for Nederland Area Real Estate

303.441.5611

---

**Under Contract**      **For Sale**

**.170 Golden Gate Canyon**  
**Black Hawk**  
**\$628,700**  
**6.12 Acres**

**0 5th St.**  
**Nederland**  
**Lot 12: \$173,000**  
**Lot 13: \$174,700**

**PLUMBIN' FREAKED?**  
Call the **PLUMBIN' GEEK!**

- Plumbing Repair & Replacement
- Drain Cleaning and Thawing
- Hydro-Jetting
- Water Heaters: Nat. Gas, Propane & Electric

**24 Hour Call Line**  
**303-258-3439**



**Jerry French** Licensed & Insured (#186250)  
**Matt Carhart**

# Going back in time at Dinosaur Ridge

Continued from page 16

birdlike ostrich-sized ornithomimids whose fossilized prints show no particular order. A few crocodilian footprints may also be seen.

More prehistoric clues are on display on either side of the main track site in the way of trace fossils. Trails and burrows of invertebrates such as worms and mollusks are preserved. Visible are impressions of plants, roots, driftwood and scrapes where mating ornithomimids clawed the ground in a courtship ritual seen in birds today. Ripples formed in the once sandy seafloor are frozen in time.

The farther west you travel on Alameda Parkway, the further you go back in time. A vast floodplain dominated the landscape filled with conifers, ferns, and cycads in the Late-Jurassic Period 150 million years ago. Unlike during the Cretaceous Period 40 million years later, none of the plants had flowers. For a hands-on experience at the Dinosaur Bone Quarry, you can touch the rib, limb, and pelvic bones of dinosaurs and skull fragments of a stegosaurus embedded in the rock. The bones came to rest in riverbeds and ponds when transported there by seasonal storms which covered them in a layer of mud.

At the Brontosaurus Bulges site, foot depressions through a rock stratum are three feet in diameter and one foot deep. They were formed by a sauropod. Species of sauropods include apatosaurus and brontosaurus. Spanning 75 feet in length and weighing 45 tons, they were among the largest creatures to ever roam the Earth.

Located at 16831 Alameda Parkway in Golden, Dinosaur Ridge is open to visitors from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily. You are welcome to walk the 1.5 mile trail unescorted or take the walking tour at a cost of \$10. A \$28 Dino Pass includes a bus tour, entry into the Exhibit Hall and Morrison Natural History Museum.

For more information about Dinosaur Ridge, go to [www.dinoridge.org](http://www.dinoridge.org) or call 303-697-3466.



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

### Buried for millions of years

Top; Crocodiles and ornithopods intermingled during the Cretaceous Period. Painting by Michael Skrepnick. Bottom; A quadruped ornithopod is inspected by two young bipeds.



## Worship Directory

### ALLENSPARK:

Allenspark Community Church  
16 Washington Street  
303-747-2821  
Worship 10 a.m.

New Covenant Church  
1423 County Road 84 W  
303-747-1114  
Worship 10 a.m.

### COAL CREEK CANYON:

Whispering Pines Church  
73 Gross Dam Road  
303-642-3201  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

### NEDERLAND:

Calvary Chapel  
275 Highway 72  
303-258-3502  
Adult & Teen Bible Study 10 a.m.  
Worship and The Word 11 a.m.

Nederland Community  
Presbyterian Church  
210 W. Jefferson Street  
303-258-3579  
Worship 10 a.m.

St. Rita's Catholic Church  
326 Highway 119  
303-258-3060  
Mass 9:30 a.m.

### GILPIN COUNTY:

Light On The Hill Church  
Gilpin County Justice Center  
303-783-4770  
Worship 10 a.m.

St. Mary of the Assumption  
Catholic Church  
135 Pine Street, Central City  
303-567-4662  
Mass 10:30 a.m.

Rollinsville Community Church  
Rollinsville Yacht Club  
303-258-3951  
Worship 11 a.m.

Christ the King  
Community Church  
971 Highway 46 across  
from the fairgrounds  
303-582-3301  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Rocky Mountain Evangelical Free  
Church  
331 Gregory Street, Black Hawk  
303-582-3325  
Worship 9:30 a.m.

St. James Methodist Church  
123 Eureka Street, Central City  
303-582-5882  
Worship 10 a.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
226 E. High Street, Central City  
303-582-0450  
Worship 10 a.m.

Did we miss you? Send in your information to be included in the next edition. We cover the Peak to Peak region from Allenspark to Central City, with all the communities and canyons in between!

## FULL SERVICE MUSIC STORE



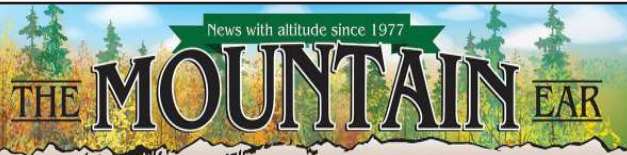
- INSTRUMENTS • ACCESSORIES •
- SET-UP AND REPAIRS •
- LESSONS •

New and used instruments in stock!  
Luthier in store Wednesday to Sunday.

Visit us online, call (303) 258-8863,  
or stop in and play!

Like us on Facebook at  
<https://www.facebook.com/BrightwoodMusic/>

Both businesses are family owned and operated at Caribou Village in Nederland!



## What's Cooking?

We WANT to know!

Put your restaurant, cafe, winery, brewery or distillery listing in "Taste of the Peaks." The listing is FREE and reaches over 150k residents & visitors in the Peak to Peak.

SUBMIT your information and photos, to take advantage of this great opportunity to share your food and drink business with everyone.

EMAIL: [info@themountaineear.com](mailto:info@themountaineear.com) or call (303) 810-5409 to get listed TODAY! Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/mtnear>

The Mountain-Ear is YOUR community source for news, since 1977. Check out our website at [www.themtnear.com](http://www.themtnear.com).

Join Brightwood Music and The Mountain-Ear for 4th Friday events and specials from May to September. The event takes place from 4-7 p.m. on May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23 at our location at 20 E. Lakeview Drive, Unit 109 in Nederland.