

## Trail System Town of Buena Vista & Fourmile Travel Management Area



**The Barbara Whipple Trail**, established in 1991, honors a prominent and much-respected Buena Vista citizen. Barbara Whipple (1920-1989) moved to Buena Vista from Pennsylvania in 1976 with her husband, the late Grant Heilman. An accomplished artist, she opened one of Buena Vista's first galleries on East Main Street, and co-founded the Arkansas Valley Council on the Arts. Her art was based on nature, and she enjoyed hiking and exploring the river's edge and the Midland Hill area which these trails serve.

The Arkansas River pedestrian bridge, constructed in 1990, connects the Buena Vista River Park to the Whipple Trail System, the Midland Bicycle Trail, and 100,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service public lands called Fourmile.

**The historic main Whipple Trail** follows the steep and winding 130-year old "Hack Road." From 1887 to 1918 the Midland Railroad transported passengers and freight by carriages and wagons (hacks) down to Buena Vista from its depot on Midland Hill 400 feet above the the river's east side. The railroad stayed high to maintain its Leadville-bound elevation. The hack road made a thrilling approach to town with a great view of the valley and Continental Divide for those passengers who didn't have their eyes closed in terror. The hacks and burro trains hauled the valley's agricultural products and sacks of silver and gold up to the depot for shipping to the Front Range. The Hack Road Bridge crossed the river near the second shelter's interpretive kiosk.



photo, courtesy of Buena Vista Heritage

### How to get to the Barbara Whipple trailhead

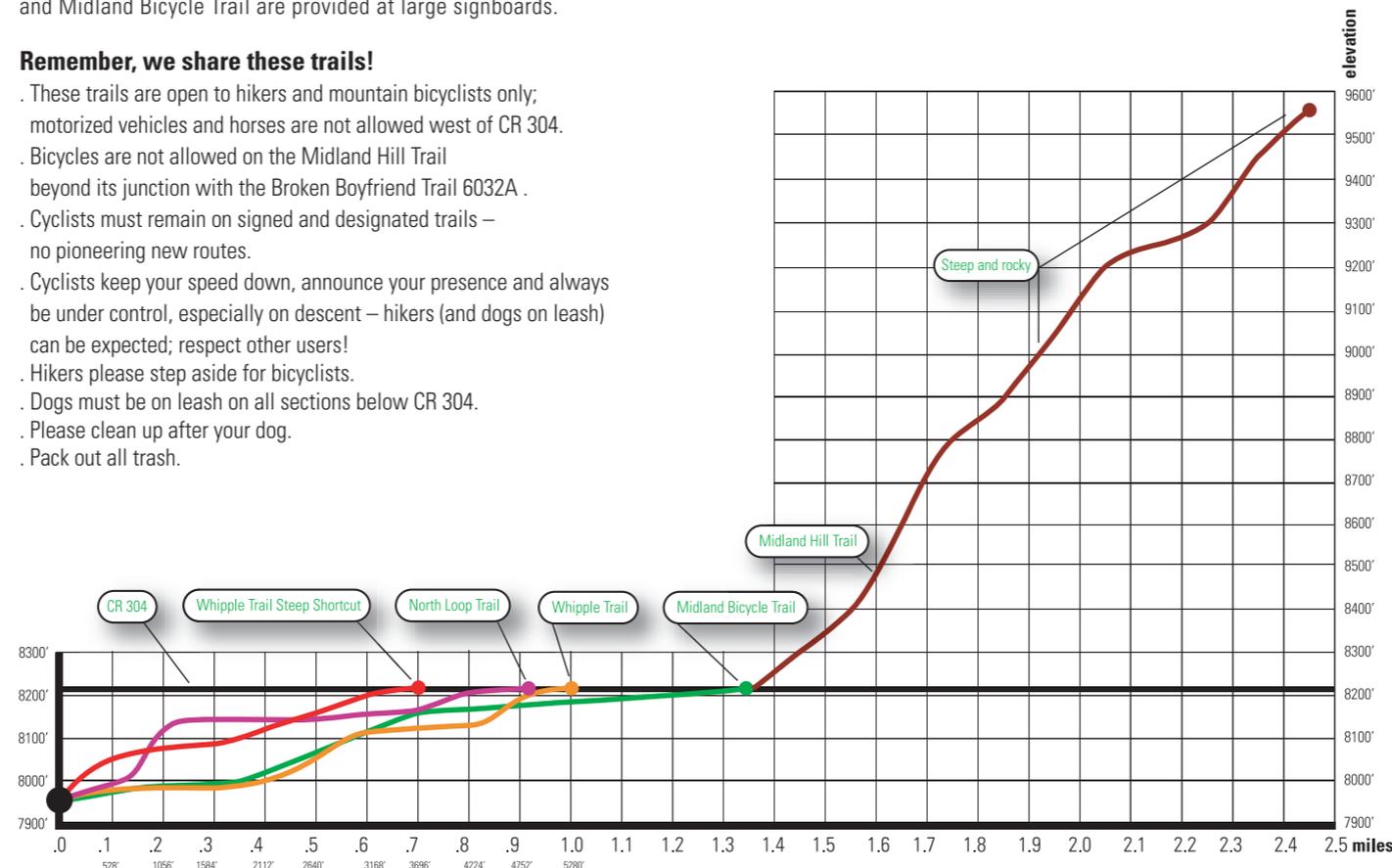
The trailhead, restrooms and parking are located at the eastern end of East Main Street in Buena Vista, adjacent to the Arkansas River at the pedestrian bridge. Brochures and large maps for the Whipple Trails, Fourmile area and Midland Bicycle Trail are provided at large signboards.

### Remember, we share these trails!

- . These trails are open to hikers and mountain bicyclists only; motorized vehicles and horses are not allowed west of CR 304.
- . Bicycles are not allowed on the Midland Hill Trail beyond its junction with the Broken Boyfriend Trail 6032A .
- . Cyclists must remain on signed and designated trails – no pioneering new routes.
- . Cyclists keep your speed down, announce your presence and always be under control, especially on descent – hikers (and dogs on leash) can be expected; respect other users!
- . Hikers please step aside for bicyclists.
- . Dogs must be on leash on all sections below CR 304.
- . Please clean up after your dog.
- . Pack out all trash.

### Elevation and distances

The profiles below illustrate the steepness and distance of the trails in this complex. More information is available on the map on the reverse side of this brochure.



Downloadable map at  
[www.friends-of-fourmile.org](http://www.friends-of-fourmile.org)



**Expect and respect  
other users!**

### Participants

The Barbara Whipple Trail is a part of the Buena Vista Trail System developed by the Town of Buena Vista and the Buena Vista Trails Advisory Board, with private and public support from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Department of Wildlife's Fishing is Fun program, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), Greater Arkansas River Nature Association, Buena Vista High School, Friends of Fourmile, generous private donors, and many additional community organizations and volunteers. The Midland Bicycle Trail, which begins here, is a BLM/U.S. Forest Service project, with assistance from the Friends of Fourmile and Ark Valley Velo bicycle club.

The Buena Vista Police, Chaffee County Sheriff, Bureau of Land Management and Friends of Fourmile patrol the area regularly. They will respond to concerns and advise on responsible use.

### To report a violation or for information

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, Salida  
719 539-7289

Bureau of Land Management  
Royal Gorge Field Office, Canon City  
719 269-8500

Buena Vista Department of Public Works  
719 395-6898

Buena Vista Police  
719 395-8654

Chaffee County Sheriff  
719 539-2596

**Fire and other emergency 911**

**Download** the Barbara Whipple Trail System map  
[www.friends-of-fourmile.org](http://www.friends-of-fourmile.org)

**Recycle** this brochure in kiosk boxes, please.



# BARBARA WHIPPLE

Trail System



.25 mile

.5 mile



Download this map at [www.friends-or-fourmile.org](http://www.friends-or-fourmile.org).  
Or take a digital photo of this brochure or trail kiosk map.

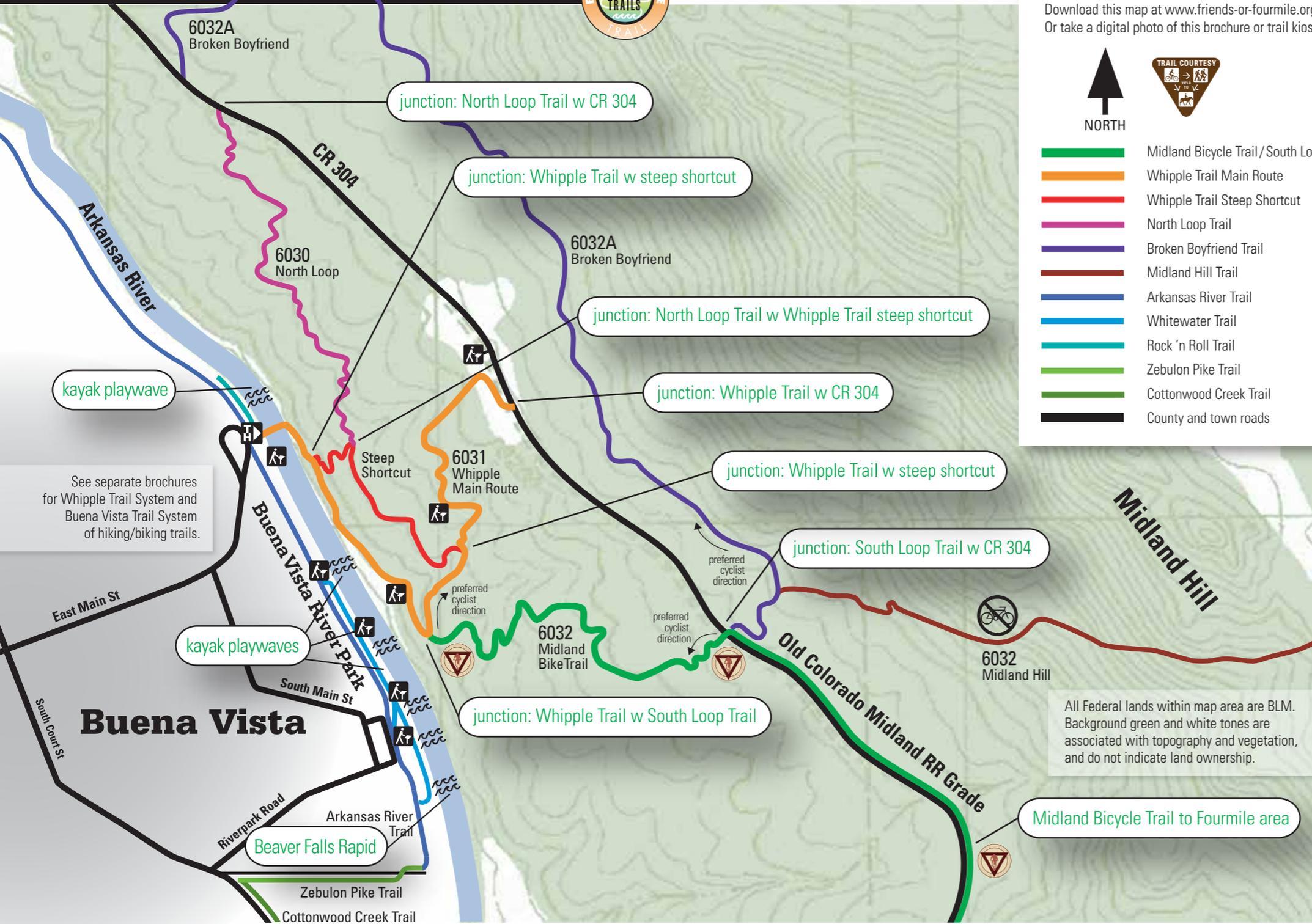


NORTH



- Midland Bicycle Trail / South Loop Trail
- Whipple Trail Main Route
- Whipple Trail Steep Shortcut
- North Loop Trail
- Broken Boyfriend Trail
- Midland Hill Trail
- Arkansas River Trail
- Whitewater Trail
- Rock 'n Roll Trail
- Zebulon Pike Trail
- Cottonwood Creek Trail
- County and town roads

2016



See separate brochures for Whipple Trail System and Buena Vista Trail System of hiking/biking trails.

All Federal lands within map area are BLM. Background green and white tones are associated with topography and vegetation, and do not indicate land ownership.

## Whipple Trail Options

**Midland Bicycle Trail MBT** This intermediate trail begins in Buena Vista and extends 18.8mi to the top of Trout Creek Pass along the historic Midland Railroad bed and several Forest Roads. For options and details see the MBT brochure and map. Although the South Loop Trail ends at CR304, the MBT continues southward on CR304.

**Whipple Trail Main Route** Originally a stage road connecting Buena Vista to the Midland RR station above the river, this is the primary, widest and most gradual route in this complex network. The trail gains 300ft over about 1 mi to CR 304 and has 4 interpretive kiosks with benches. Local cyclists usually ascend Whipple Main Route and descend South Loop Trail – see the first kiosk for more details.

**Whipple Trail Steep Shortcut** This is a good pedestrian alternative for ascending or descending, but the steep lower section with steps is not suitable for bicycles. It provides quicker access to the North Loop; about 0.7 mi to CR 304.

**North Loop Trail** An alternative up or down for a longer walk – 0.9 mi if combined with the Whipple Shortcut. A narrow single track, more challenging for cyclists than the Whipple or South Loop Trails.

**Broken Boyfriend Trail 6032A** This newly-accepted 1.5mi route adds variety to the system. Although open to hikers, horses and intermediate to advanced cyclists, it is not recommended for horses due to difficult footing and possible conflicts with other users.

**Midland Hill Trail 6032** NOT OPEN to bicycles except near CR 304 and not recommended for horses due to difficult footing. The longest trail in the complex network gains over 1,500 ft elevation in 2.4 mi (one way) from the river and is rated moderately difficult due to steep rocky sections from its mid-section to the summit of Midland Hill. Plan on 2-3 hours round trip and be prepared for weather changes. It has fantastic views of the Upper Arkansas Valley and the Collegiate Peaks 14ers.

**Arkansas River Trail** This uppermost trail along the west bank of the river makes a good nearly flat walk or bike ride of 0.6 mi, and can easily be combined with the Whitewater Trail for a river-focused loop. The trail has a packed gravel surface 4-5' wide.

**Whitewater Trail** The 0.3 mi Whitewater follows the high-water mark of the Arkansas, with great river views, fishing access, and access to several kayak whitewater play areas. Steps at the northern end require cyclists to carry their bikes up to Arkansas River Trail. It has a packed gravel surface 4-5' wide.

**Rock 'n Roll Trail** This short (0.15 mi) paved trail north of the pedestrian bridge provides wheelchair access to the riverbank for fishing and to observe the first kayak play area, constructed in 2004.