



COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS

WALKING TOURS

Route 7: Crestwood Park

Distance: 1.2 miles

Online Map: cottonwood-heights-walking-tours-chcity.hub.arcgis.com



This scenic one-mile gravel and dirt loop follows the banks of Little Cottonwood Creek through 55 acres with splendid views of the Wasatch Mountains. "Wasatch" means "low place in the high mountains" derived from Ute or other Numic languages. The trail surface is loose gravel but is wide, well graded and easy to walk on. This trail is suitable for most children and adults of all ages and skill levels.

The land in this area was once the ancestral home of the Paiute, Goshute, Ute and Shoshone peoples. Walkara or Wakara was the most prominent chief of the Timpanogos Ute Tribe when the Latter-day Saints arrived in 1847. They were a horse riding tribe and active traders.

The increase in the Mormon population in the Salt Lake Valley caused friction with the American Indians, as both groups vied for the same water and other resources. This led to the 1853 Wakara War, which was mostly sporadic skirmishes extending across Sevier, Sanpete, Utah and Salt Lake Counties. Fighting with Wakara and others in his tribe became such a concern that Brigham Young ordered all the communities to build forts. In 1853 and 1854, a wall was built on a 10 acre plot donated by Jehu Cox to protect the small town of Union. The walls were twelve feet high and six feet thick at the base. Inside were 23 homes and a school. Eventually the need for the fort faded and the walls came down. North of this park, the fort is now the Shops at Fort Union Shopping Center.

A peace agreement was reached in 1854. Chief Wakara died in 1855. In 1865, the tribe moved to the Uintah and Ouray Reservation.

Look for red foxes. They can be seen running through the fields and hiding in the brush. New babies called kits are seen each year. The foxes can make a lot of noise at night. Deer, squirrels, raccoons and gophers are frequently sighted here also. Skunks, because they are nocturnal animals, are often smelled but not seen. Occasionally, bald eagles, elusive cougars, and mountain lions have also been spotted.

1. Swimming Pool

The Crestwood Pool and Clubhouse was built as a private club in 1959. It had a pool and a cafe grill with hot dogs for 10 cents and membership for \$30 a year. The club would entertain different groups including fashion shows, placing the runway over the swimming pool.

Salt Lake County purchased the pool and property in 1972. It can never be sold for another purpose. In 1975, the pool was rebuilt because the high water table in the area pushed the pool out of the ground when it was

drained for spring cleaning. For many years, a caretaker lived in an apartment by the pool.

Through the years the County expanded the picnic area and added the horseshoe pit, tennis courts, bathrooms, trails and playground.

2. Orienteering Course

An orienteering course created by Jeff Cardon as his Eagle Scout project starts here. He completed the project on October 17, 2005.

3. Little Cottonwood Creek

Little Cottonwood Creek starts at the headwall of Little Cottonwood Canyon, about 16 miles to the east. A massive glacier carved the canyon between 10,000 and 30,000 years ago, extending into the Salt Lake Valley. Water from Little Cottonwood Canyon plus Big Cottonwood Canyon, after being treated, provides almost 60 percent of the drinking water for the Salt Lake Valley. The flow in this perennial stream is untreated and varies depending on the snow melt from the mountains.

4. Van Valkenberg Homestead

Peter Van Valkenberg settled here with his second wife Eliza Ann. In 1874 Peter was murdered by his ex-son-in-law and a friend. In 1879 Eliza applied for and received a patent for 120 acres of land through the Land Act of 1820. Just west of the Van Valkenberg property was a large pond made by widening the banks of the creek bed. This pond was used in the winters to harvest ice which was then stored in sawdust and straw for use in the summer months. The pond no longer exists.

5. Antczak Park Neighborhood

This is a walking path entrance to the Antczak Park neighborhood. See Walk 6 Antczak Park.

6. Mountain View

Look east. Separated by Big Cottonwood Canyon, to the left or north is the Mount Olympus Wilderness Area with its namesake 9,028-foot high point, Mount Olympus. This Wilderness Area is approximately 15,800 acres consisting of narrow canyons, rugged terrain and high peaks. The carved topography is due to glaciation followed by erosion. To the right or south is the Twin Peaks Wilderness Area covering 11,436 acres. The high point is Twin Peaks at 11,319 feet. Carved primarily by glaciers, its higher elevations are characterized by large, open basins, exposed rocky ridges and a few small lakes. Federally designated as a Wilderness in 1984, both areas are closed to motor vehicles and mechanized equipment.

#7 Crestwood Park

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