

Boulder Walk 360 “Slow Marathon” Loop

Start/End:	North Broadway and Yarmouth
Distance:	~26 miles total Western half: approximately 12.5 miles Eastern half: approximately 13.5 miles
Time:	8 to 10 hours total

Overview:

Circle the “Boulder Bubble” by foot on this ~26-mile adventure around the city. This route connects dirt trails, paved multi-use paths, sidewalks, streets without sidewalks, and alleyways, giving urban hikers a whole new perspective on how systems and neighborhoods are connected throughout the city. To hike the whole route in one day, we recommend starting in the north and hiking the western segments first (counter-clockwise), but the route can also be accomplished in halves or quarters, at your leisure.

Important Notes:

- Always walk on the right-hand side of multi-use paths and trails to allow bicyclists to pass on the left. BE AWARE of bicyclists and cars around you when walking on paths and streets.
- On streets without sidewalks, walk TOWARD traffic (on the left) to be most visible to drivers.
- Be sure to download the maps (linked below) and have them available as you follow the directions below. The two go together.
- Check to see which rest stops are open and available before you embark on the hike, and always pack plenty of sun protection, water, and snacks to keep you going.

Western Half - [MAP](#)

Directions – Segment 1: North Broadway to Chautauqua Park (~6 miles)



If you want to start with a treat, begin at Amante Coffee, Spruce Confections, or another café in the North Broadway shopping center. Alternatively, you can begin at the Four Mile Canyon Creek parking lot on Lee Hill Drive.

If you start in the shopping area, walk south on 13th Street to connect with the Four Mile Canyon Creek Path. Head west under Broadway and follow the path as it turns north and ends at

Zamia Avenue. Turn left and follow 6th Street around to a footpath between houses that takes you west to the Four Mile Canyon Creek Trailhead. Turn left onto the Foothills Trail and follow it for 1 mile to Wonderland Lake.

Continue hiking south along the edge of Wonderland Lake. Cross Poplar Avenue and follow the paved trail to Wonderland Hill Avenue. Notice the colorful mural of flowers on the fence on the other side of Wonderland Hill Avenue. Turn right, cross Linden Avenue at the crosswalk, and walk down 4th Street. Look for the little white board on the split-rail fence on your left – it usually offers an inspirational phrase for passers-by.



Follow 4th Street for about 0.5 mile, then turn left onto Forest Avenue. Turn right into the dirt alleyway between 7th and 8th Streets. Look for artistic and creative works installed by residents here, and watch out for any cars passing through. Exit the alley at Dellwood Avenue (turn around and check out the artwork by Boulder street artist SMiLE on the utility box at the end of the alley), then cross over into North Boulder Park. This is a good place for a rest stop – the park has restrooms and a bottle-filling water fountain.



Walk along the western edge of North Boulder Park and continue following the alley up to Alpine Avenue. Turn right on Alpine and left on 6th Street (look for the blue metal dragon with the red heart next to a tree on

the east side of 6th Street). Turn right at Dewey Avenue and left again at 5th Street. Walk south on 5th Street for about 0.5 mile until it meets Mount View Road. Cross the road and walk through the pocket park there – Campbell Robertson Park. Take the stairs or the ramp down to Spruce Street and continue walking south on 5th Street to where it ends at Pearl Street. Cross Pearl, turn left and walk to 6th Street.

Turn right on 6th Street, cross Canyon Boulevard at the signal, and follow 6th Street just over 1 mile to Baseline. Along the way, look for the first Little Free Library registered in Colorado, in front of a bungalow-style house just south of College Avenue. At Baseline, cross the street and turn left (east) onto the Baseline Trail, which parallels the street. Enter Chautauqua Park and take a break at the Ranger Cottage, the General Store or the Dining Hall restaurant. There are restrooms and water fountains here.



Segment 2: Chautauqua Park to Table Mesa Shopping Center (~7 miles)

Starting at the Chautauqua General Store or Dining Hall, walk up the path just east of the Dining Hall to the Chautauqua Auditorium. Cross the road on the south side of the Auditorium and walk south onto the Enchanted Mesa Trail – the wide dirt trail that parallels the parking area and the back sides of several cabins. Look for a stone bridge and the first opportunity to turn right up the hill. Head uphill on the narrow, leafy Upper McClintock Trail, just past the bridge.

Hike uphill 0.2 mile to the next juncture – stone and wood stair steps to your left. Turn left, go up the steps, and then take the next right onto the Enchanted Mesa Trail. Hike 0.3 mile to the three-way juncture and turn left onto the Enchanted-Kohler Spur Trail. Take the next right-hand turn to stay on the Enchanted-Kohler Spur Trail – do not turn onto the Kohler Mesa Trail. Follow the trail around to the left and through the forest to the junction with the Skunk Canyon Spur Trail, which will take you down the hill to the south. Stop and take in the beautiful views of Skunk Canyon from this scenic promontory. Look for pointy Bear Peak, the highest peak to the southwest.



Follow the trail down to the base of the canyon, cross a wooden bridge, and walk onto the dirt Skunk Canyon Service Road, which parallels NCAR Road. Cross NCAR Road/Table Mesa Drive, then head due south on the NCAR-Table Mesa/Bear trail. This trail travels directly between a neighborhood to the left and NCAR's Table Mountain on the right. Enjoy the views of Two Tree Hill in the foreground as you near the junction with Bear Canyon Trail.



Where the trail meets Bear Canyon, turn left, go down a few steps, and take the recently renovated trail through the trees and across Bear Creek to pop out at Bear Mountain Drive. Turn right onto Bear Mountain Drive. Follow Bear Mountain as it curves around and turn left onto View Point Road. Go up the hill on the sidewalk and turn left at Cragmoor Road. At Lehigh Street (a collector road, on which the Skip bus runs), turn right and continue hiking to the top of Shanahan Ridge.

You can either follow Lehigh Street around as it becomes Greenbriar Boulevard, or take the alternate route (marked on [the map](#) in yellow) on paths through the condo communities. The two routes converge on Greenbriar at Silver Plume Lane. Continue down the hill on Greenbriar to Gillaspie Drive, which borders the Fairview High School parking lot. Turn left onto Gillaspie and continue walking on the wide sidewalk toward Harlow Platts Community Park.



Turn right where Julliard Street dead-ends at the park. Follow the path around the east side of Viele Lake. Enjoy the cool wetlands area. Walk in front of the South Boulder Recreation Center and turn right onto Gillaspie. Make the next right at Grinnell Avenue and look for the connector path that runs behind the Methodist Church on the north side of the street. Turn left onto that multi-use path. Just before the Broadway underpass (say hi to the fox!), turn left and follow the multi-use path along Broadway to the Table Mesa Shopping Center.

Relax at the Neptune Mountaineering Café or another of the restaurants or cafes in the complex!

Eastern Half - [MAP](#)

Segment 3: Table Mesa Shopping Center to Valmont Bike Park (~8 miles)

From the shopping center, walk southeast along the west side of Broadway on the multi-use path to the underpass (look for the giant fox face looking at you!). Go through the underpass and turn right. Make the next left onto Brookfield Drive and walk down the hill to the end of the street, where Brookfield Drive dead-ends at Tantra Park. Walk into the park and turn right onto the path, following it east alongside a grassy hill to your right and trees, grass, and houses to your left.



Where the paved path turns to the left into the neighborhood, continue walking straight across the grassy field onto a narrow social trail. The social trail connects with the dirt path on the CU South Campus land. Walk onto the dirt trail in the natural area and turn left (north) onto the Levee Trail, the high dirt trail between the neighborhood on your left and the CU South wetlands on your right.



Follow the Levee Trail around to the right, then take the narrow dirt trail through the bushes to your left to connect with South Loop Drive. Walk north along South Loop Drive (walk on the left side to be seen by cars). Turn right onto the wide path leading to the Table Mesa bus stop and follow the signs onto the US 36 Bikeway, a wide, paved multi-use path. Follow the US 36 Bikeway 0.8 mile to the underpass. Turn left under US 36. On the north side of the highway, open the gate and walk onto the dirt South Boulder Creek Trail.

The trail Ts at South Boulder Road; turn right, cross the bridge across South Boulder Creek and



walk east to the underpass. Turn left where the trail splits and take the tunnel under South Boulder Road. Follow the South Boulder Creek Trail 1.5 miles to the Bobolink Trailhead. Stay on the dirt pedestrian trail when the trail splits, following the water through the trees. Take a rest stop at the East Boulder Community Center if you need to (check to be sure it is open first).

At the Bobolink Trailhead, follow South Boulder Creek under Baseline Road, taking the path through the underpass. The path curves around to the east and ends at Gapter Road. Walk north along the left side of Gapter Road, taking care to stay out of the way of cars and bikes.

At Dimmit Drive, turn left to rejoin the South Boulder Creek Trail. Walk over the bridge that crosses the creek, turn right and walk north along the paved path or the dirt social trail that parallels it. Continue straight when the multi-use path turns to the left, crossing a bridge over the ditch onto Old Tale Road. Walk north for 0.5 mile on Old Tale Road, being mindful of other users.



At Arapahoe Avenue, turn right, take the underpass, and walk north on the paved South Boulder Creek Trail through a stand of beautiful, mature cottonwood trees. Stay on the paved trail heading north on a promontory overlooking an industrial/commercial area on the left (with some interesting murals!) and wetlands on the right.

You will walk past the Western Disposal compost yard, which can be pretty smelly in the summer ... but it passes quickly. The path curves around to the west/southwest; turn right at the next juncture and walk alongside the lake on your right. Follow the path alongside 57th Street, then around to the right. Take the Valmont underpass and walk along the Boulder Creek Path to the west.



The path parallels Valmont Road to 55th Street. Cross 55th at the crosswalk and continue walking west on the sidewalk for 0.3 mile to Valmont City Park. Take the first right-hand opportunity to take a paved path into the park (follow the map). Pay attention to the signage in the park and stay on the shared paths, where pedestrians are welcome (watch out for bikes!). Hike to the white farmhouse at Valmont Bike Park, where water and restrooms are available. Take a

well-deserved break here!

Segment 4: Valmont Bike Park to North Broadway Shops (~5.5 miles)

Beginning at Valmont Bike Park on Airport Road, cross the street at the crosswalk and head



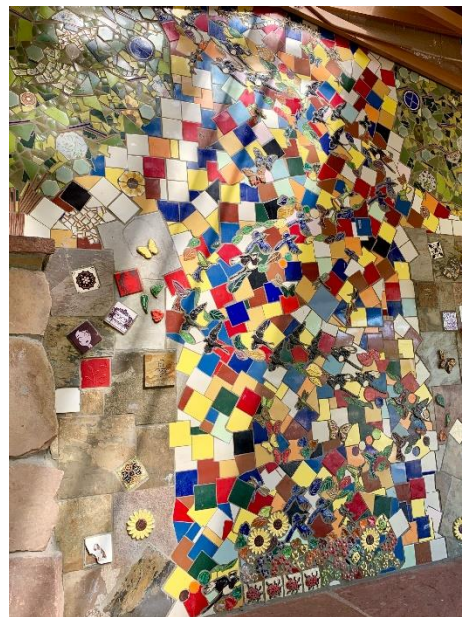
south on the sidewalk. Take the first right-hand turn onto the Wonderland Creek Path alongside the Boulder and Left Hand Ditch. Turn right where the path diverges around Kings Ridge Park and walk on the eastern edge of the park. Stay to the left where the path forks at the north end of the park. Cross Kings Ridge Boulevard and continue walking west on the Wonderland Creek Greenway.

Follow the path around a small pond to 47th Street. Cross at the crosswalk and turn right onto the Foothills Parkway multi-use path. Make the next left to walk under Foothills Parkway. The path takes you under railroad tracks to the north end of Howard Hueston Park. Stay to the right and continue walking north on the Wonderland Creek Path alongside the water. This section of the Wonderland Creek Path was completed in 2018 – enjoy the beauty of this newer path!

At the intersection of 34th Street and Iris Avenue, cross Iris and continue walking west on the wide multi-use path. Follow the path to the north at 30th Street and stay to the right to take the path down and through the Diagonal Highway underpass. On the north side of the Diagonal Highway, stay on the Wonderland Creek Path alongside the water, walking north. At Kalmia, continue straight, taking the path north to Links Drive. (Be careful NOT to take the left-hand fork to the 28th Street underpass.) You'll enter a neighborhood here; walk on the sidewalk along Paseo del Prado Street for 0.3 mile to the Four Mile Canyon Creek Trail, where Paseo del Prado ends.

Enter the path at the end of the street, cross Fourmile Canyon Creek and turn left. Walk under 28th Street and follow the Four Mile Creek Trail alongside the creek to Elks Park. Walk the length of the park (look for the fun mosaic patterns inside the shelter at Elks Park) and stay on the path until it ends at 26th Street. Turn right onto 26th Street.

Walk north 0.3 mile on 26th Street, then turn left onto Tamarac Avenue. Take the path at the end of Tamarac through to Vinca Court. Turn left on Upland Avenue. Walk

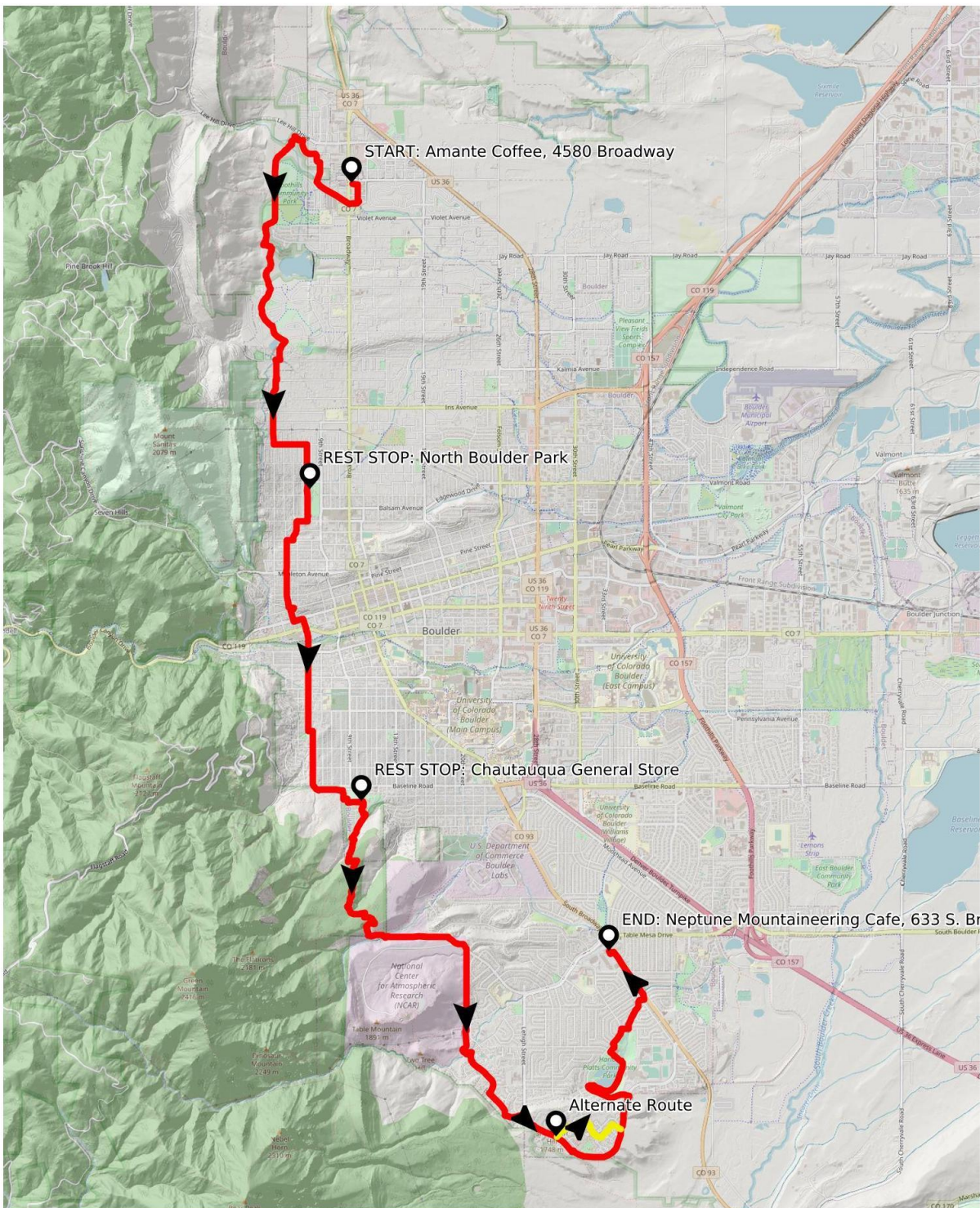


west on Upland Avenue (enjoy the sights along this street, including creative mailboxes, peacocks, and lush gardens). Cross 19th Street and turn right.

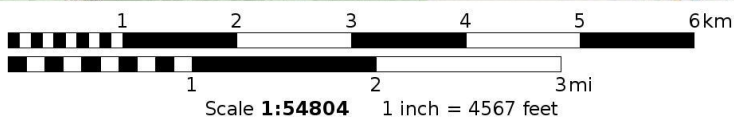
Walk north on 19th Street for 0.4 mile to Yarmouth Avenue. Turn left on Yarmouth and walk west all the way to Broadway. Finish your urban hike at Amante Coffee, Proto's Pizza (one block north at Yellow Pine Avenue) or Spruce Confections (across from Proto's)!

You did it!

Map: Walk 360 Western Half
 Online: <https://caltopo.com/m/HV0K>

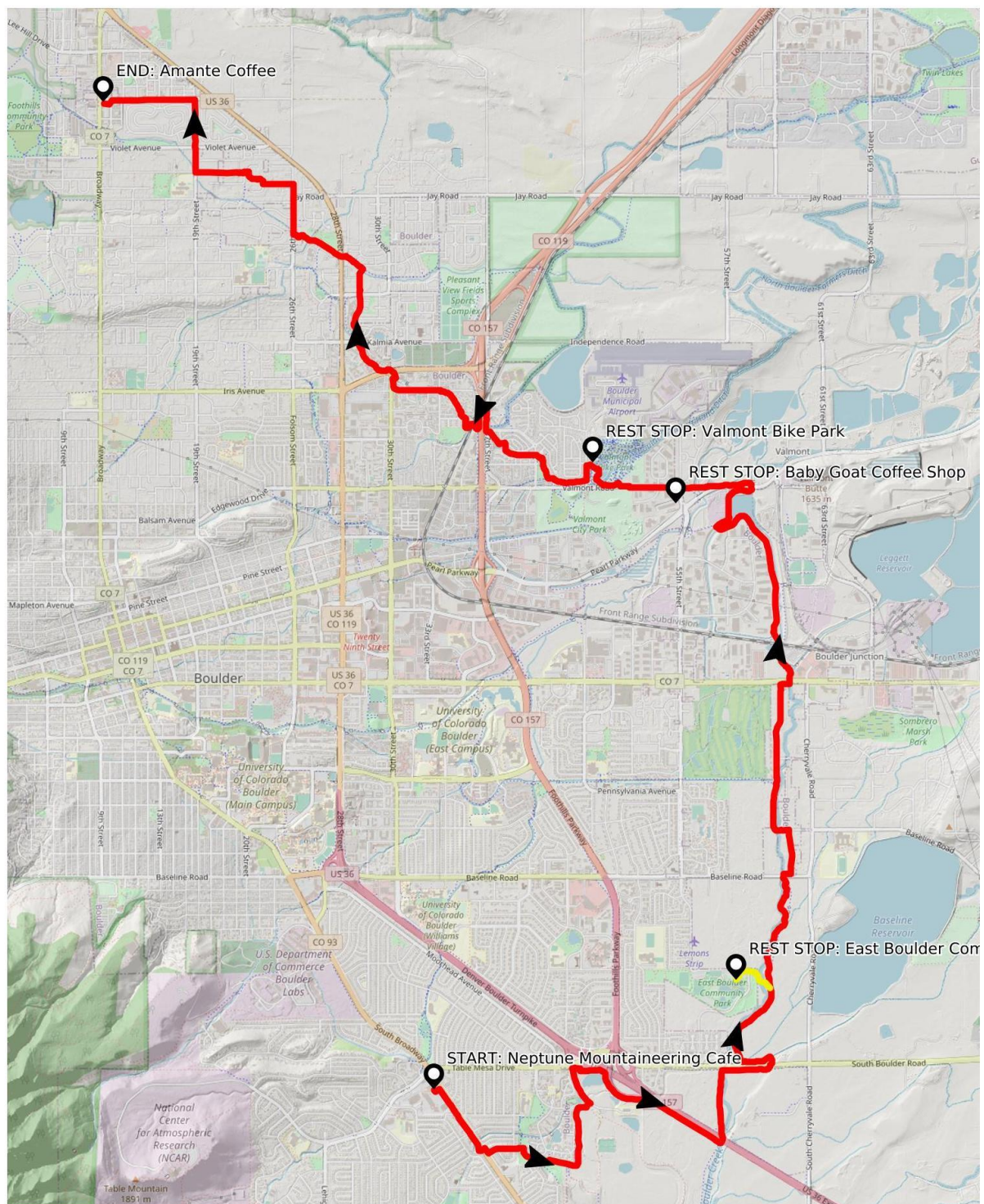


Mercator Projection
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Map: Walk 360 Eastern Half

Online: <https://caltopo.com/m/MFBJ>



Mercator Projection
WGS84
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Scale 1:42503
1 inch = 3542 feet

