

Clear Creek Canyon - for a nearby morning visit

The U.S. Route 6 highway enters the canyon on the west side of Golden, Colorado, about 10 minutes drive from our home. The twisting road physically limits speeds to between 30 and 40 MPH. This scenery is available within a half hour drive. Though a hiking/biking paved trail with multiple trailheads is still being constructed as a Peaks To Plains access route, much is already available for enjoyment and exercise. The Clear Creek water sounds are soothing.



Daily construction made everyone stop to take turns on a temporary one-lane road section about a mile long.



Road tunnel #1 is beyond the trail bridge above Clear Creek.



From this trailhead at the distant right, the trail meanders through riverside vegetation and rock type examples. The bridge connects to the Peaks to Plains trail on the left.



After the bridge, this is the uphill view from the main trail.

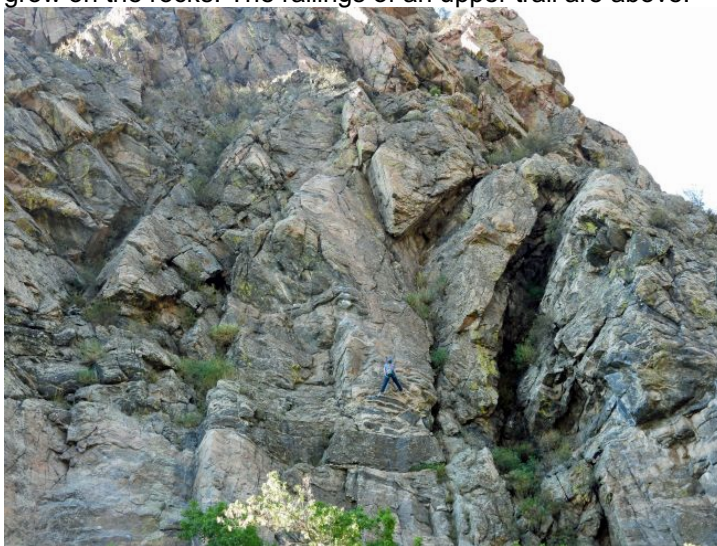
The rising of the Rock Mountains greatly stressed the original granite type rocks through much heat and pressure, transforming the rocks into metamorphic types, with different types and sizes of minerals. The rocks in this canyon show the variety of metamorphic styles, some banded, many twisted, folded, and intruded. There are abundant examples of gneiss rocks (pronounced “nice rocks”). For those who will pause their trail walk and look, there is a seemingly endless variety of designs and textures in these metamorphic rocks.



From the trail bridge near Tunnel #1, the rocks in the upper left show bandings and twistings. At the right, yellow lichens grow on the rocks. The railings of an upper trail are above.



This large metamorphic boulder shows a complex pattern of light and dark minerals.



The canyon side near Tunnel #1 is a complex of steep rocks.



Below the center of that photo is a lone woman practicing her rock climbing skills. Her rope dangles below her, not above, but may be attached to loops (like at top) bolted to the rock.



Beyond the right edge of the above photo a flock of ordinary Rock Pigeons show off their variety of feather color patterns while enjoying their morning excursion from the city.

We also saw Steller's Jays, Western Flycatchers, and a Lesser Goldfinch.

From a brief morning trip by Ed and Gail Holroyd,
31 July 2026