

Planet Path

Planet	Distance in kilometers	Distance on sidewalk in feet
Sun	0	0
Mercury	58,500,000	12.36
Venus	108,000,000	22.82
Earth	150,000,000	31.69
Mars	228,000,000	48.17
Jupiter	780,000,000	164.81
Saturn	1,431,000,000	302.36
Uranus	2,877,000,000	607.89
Neptune	4,509,000,000	952.71
Pluto	5,916,000,000	1250.00

All of the planet markers on this path are in the correctly proportional distances. The nearest star is Proxima Centauri. Its actual distance from the sun is 37,800,000,000,000 km. According to the scale used on our Planet Path, Proxima Centauri would be in the heart of Washington, D.C., 1512.65 miles away from Broomfield. No wonder we haven't been to the stars.

In order to convert the distance of the planets to the distance scale used for the sidewalk, the actual distance in kilometers is divided by 4,732,800 to get the distance in feet. To go from feet to kilometers the number of feet is multiplied by 4,732,800.

In August 2006 Pluto was reclassified as a planetoid instead of a planet.

Walk Through Time

The *Walk Through Time* is a self-guided tour through the ages of the earth. Look closely at the beautiful fossils in some of the rocks.

Credits

- Discovery Trail concept by Dan Probert, Dan@ProbertFamily.com
- The Discovery Trail was funded by a Broomfield Neighborhood Grant and a grant from The Colorado Tree Coalition/Plant-It 2020.
- Tree signs from Precision Signs, www.botanicalsigns.com.
- Flagstone provided by Camp Stone, Westminster, Colorado.
- Flagstone engravings by Norman's Memorials, Wheat Ridge, Colorado.
- Marble with engraving supplied by Gary Wagner.
- Stegosaurus foot print and egg created by Diana Wilson, Broomfield Public Art Committee.
- Many thanks to Tom Wells, City Forester and Kristan Pritz, Open Space Chairwoman for their time, help and advice.
- Labor donated by Boy Scout Troop 999 from Arvada, Colorado.

Data Sources

- Butterfly and seal used with permission of www.colo-outfitters-guides.com
- Colorado Emblems can be found at www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/History/symbemb.htm
- *Walk Through Time* web site is www.student.bvssd.k12.co.us/~bmeier/walk/dev/

Small samples of Yule marble may be obtained by e-mailing Dan@ProbertFamily.com



The Discovery Trail

The Broomfield Discovery Trail is 0.4 miles long and begins on Kohl Street, just south of Miramonte Boulevard. It follows the sidewalk north and ends at the *Walk Through Time*. Below is a link to a map of the location.

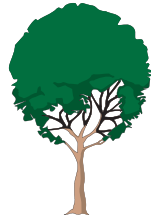
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The Discovery Trail was created in April 2005 as a Boy Scout Eagle Project by Dan Probert.

“My vision is to create an outdoor educational site where people of all ages can come to learn about the Colorado state emblems, the amazing diversity of trees and the vastness of outer space while enjoying the Colorado scenery.”

Tree Walk



Brandywine Crabapple

During summer, yellow and red flowers appear. The tiny crab apples make delicious jelly. Birds and animals like these fruits.

Bristlecone Pine or Foxtail Pine

Earth's oldest living inhabitant is "Methuselah," a 4,767 year old Bristlecone pine in California. It has lived 1,000 years longer than any other tree.

Golden Rain Tree

The autumn seed pods look like Chinese lanterns, and it has bright yellow flowers from May to July.

Kentucky Coffee Tree

The seeds and leaves may be poisonous to humans. The pod's seeds were once used as a coffee substitute. This tree has an open canopy.

Hackberry

Birds love the small fruit, which can be any color from orange to red to purple. The fruit can stain the sidewalk—and fingers!

Ginkgo Biloba

The Ginkgo tree is the only living specimen in its family and order, although plants of this order were abundant in prehistoric times. Once thought extinct, the ginkgo was been preserved in ancient Chinese temple gardens as a sacred tree. It is called a Maidenhair tree because its veins are similar to the Maidenhair fern. The ginkgo is dioecious; that is, a single-sexed tree. Male Ginkgo have cones that produce wind-distributed pollen; female trees have cones with seeds in a thick, smelly skin. Do you think this tree is male or female?

Purple Robe Locust

This tree is covered (robed) in bright pink-purple flowers in spring with brown seed pods in autumn.

Colorado Blue Spruce is the State Tree

Stroke the needles toward you. Do they feel soft? Spruce feel this way; the color makes it a blue spruce.

Mexican Pinyon Pine

Seeds found in cones are quite popular with birds and mammals, even people. Eaten raw or toasted, Pinyon Pine nuts have a wonderful flavor.

Ponderosa Pine

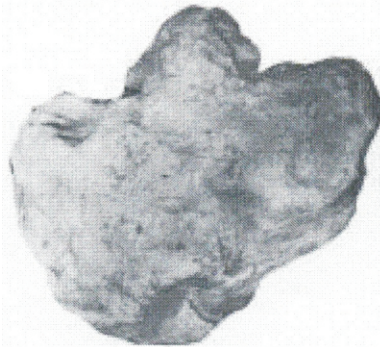
Ponderosa Pines can live up to 500 years and become quite tall and ponderous; hence the name.

Stegosaurus

Governor Richard Lamm made the stegosaurus the state fossil on April 28, 1982 because the stegosaurus was the very first dinosaur fossil found in Colorado.

This dinosaur was up to 9 feet tall and 26 feet long. The stegosaurus had 17 triangular bony plates in two rows down its back, ending at the four foot long tail spikes called thagomizers. The word thagomizer is taken from a Far Side cartoon (written by Gary Larson) in which a caveman is explaining in a lecture that the spiky tail of a Stegosaurus is called the thagomizer, named for the late caveman, Thag Simmons.

This life size footprint replica is really cool because there are only nine verified footprints in the world. One is found in Utah, four in Poland and four in Australia. The Australian Stegosaurus prints were stolen on October 16, 1996. They were removed from sacred aboriginal lands with power tools. Despite a world-wide alert, they were never recovered.



State Symbols

The white and lavender Columbine became the state flower on April 4, 1899. In 1925, the General Assembly made it the duty of all citizens to protect this rare species from needless destruction. The law prohibits digging or uprooting the flower on public lands.

The Colorado Hairstreak Butterfly became the official state insect on April 17, 1996. The butterfly is two inches wide, it has purple wings with black borders, orange accents in the corners and blue on the underside. It lives in the scrub oak on both sides of the Continental Divide at elevations of 6,500 to 7,500 feet.



A marble deposit was reported in 1882 on Yule Creek, Colorado. This white marble is made of almost pure calcite grains joined tightly together to give it a luminous quality. The outstanding quality of the Yule Marble made it the best choice for use in the basement of the Colorado Capitol as well as many United States national monuments, including the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Governor Owens made Yule Marble the state rock on March 9, 2004.