Adult Yellow-Bellied Racer

Be aware rattlesnakes and other common snakes may live in this area.

For Your Safety:

Stay on the path, keep pets leashed and never approach a snake.

Snakes are rarely aggressive but they will bite to defend themselves if disturbed.

Please give them distance and respect.

Plains Garter Snake

Western Terrestrial Garter Snake

We can be glad snakes live here.

Snakes benefit people by eating insects, rodents and other small animals we often think of as pests. In turn, snakes are eaten by hawks and larger predators.

Snakes are ectothermic - their body temperature is regulated by the temperature of their surroundings. On cooler days or chilly mornings, you might see a snake on the trail or on a rock, basking in the sun to warm itself. On hotter days, they often seek shady shelter. Snakes hibernate through the winter.

Can you recognize these snakes found in Broomfield?

(all but the rattlesnake are non-venomous)

- plains garter snake
- western terrestrial garter snake
- yellow-bellied racer
- bullsnake
- prairie rattlesnake

Juvenile Yellow-Bellied Racer

Adult Yellow-Bellied Racer

Did you know...

Bullsnakes are often mistaken for rattlesnakes.

Like rattlesnakes, this non-venomous snake may flare its head or shake its tail when disturbed.

venomous ←

Prairie Rattlesnake

Prairie Rattlesnake - venomous

Eyes - vertical, cat-like pupils
Head - at rest, broad, "triangular"
Body - heavy, or relatively "fat" in appearance
Tail - wide and blunt, ending with rattles
(tail never tapers to a thin point)

non-venomous →

Bullsnake

Bullsnake - non-venomous

Eyes - rounded or elliptical pupils
Head - at rest, narrow, barely distinguishable from neck
Body - relatively slim or narrow
Tail - tapers to a long, thin point (never with rattles)
Fun fact: *Bullsnakes hiss when they are disturbed!*

All photos courtesy of Joe Farah, www.reptilesofcolorado.com
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