



362000m E, 392000m E, 422000m E, 452000m E, 482000m E, 512000m E, NAD27 Zone 12T 592000m E

## Trail 32--Willow Lake

*\*kid friendly*

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Distance:** .75 mile

**Difficulty:** Short but moderate climb

**Trailhead:** Willow Heights Conservation Trail. Trail indicator: *curves-ahead* sign on SR 190

**Elevation:** Trailhead 7922'; Willow Lake 8522'

**Avalanche:** Low

**Map:** Park City West 7.5' quadrangle

**GPS Coordinates:** Willow Lake--12 T 449567/4498322

**Dogs:** Not Allowed in Big Cottonwood Canyon

**Introduction:** In 2001, Willow Heights, a 154 acre tract of land in Big Cottonwood Canyon, was purchased by Salt Lake City's watershed fund for watershed protection. This wooded property contains an aspen grove, a mountain meadow and beaver ponds. It provides prime habitat for many species of wildlife. Willow Heights is covered by a conservation easement.

Willow Heights, or the trail to Willow Lake, provides a quick pleasant outing for the days you want a short route, a quick climb, or a day with kids. The length is such that the even younger kids will stay interested. The trail provides a fun jaunt through trees, away from the road, with a destination perfect for a picnic in the snow. Though the lake lies beneath the snow, an indent where the lake sits marks the spot, and the small dirt dam on the west side of the lake helps as a locator and crossing point. Fun, fast and pleasant.

**How to Get There:** The trailhead to Willow Lake sits 11 miles from the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon and takes off directly from the road. The trailhead sign is not visible until you get a few hundred feet up the trail, so use your odometer and the yellow *CURVES AHEAD* sign to find the trail location. The trail starts right at the yellow *CURVES AHEAD* sign which lies on the north side of the road, facing east, .4 miles past Silver Fork Lodge. You must park along the road. You will see the trailhead sign, though it will be partially buried in snow, as you head up the trail.

**Trail Description:** From the curves sign on the road, head north. After a tenth of a mile start to weave your way in a northeasterly direction. You are headed north between the cleavage of the two smaller mountains. When you reach the top of the climb, cross a flat meadow-- the lake sits just over a rise on the other side. Finding your way is easy because it's just straight up and over until you reach the small indentation that marks the lake. To return to the road just head back down the mountain the way you came.

**Options:** You can make this trail longer and more difficult by continuing to the east where you can head to Powder Park, or come down Bear Trap. You can build a variety of variations on this route. Use a topographic map if you want to explore these other options.