



Trail 8 - North Entrance/Cutler Flats: Bicentennial Trail

Duration: 2.5 hours

Distance: 4.3 mile loop

Difficulty: Moderate

Trailhead: South Entrance to North Park

Elevation: North entrance 5660'; Bicentennial trailhead sign 5780'; top of loop 6380'

Avalanche: Low

Map: Mantua 7.5' quadrangle

GPS Coordinates: Bicentennial trailhead sign--12 T 0423738/4581980; Cutler Creek (turn around point)--12 T 0421959/4581874

Dogs: Allowed on leash

Introduction: The Bicentennial trail differs from other trails in that you have to take a 1.2 mile jaunt just to get to the trailhead. Consider this all part of the trail as the approach is beautiful and takes you through the Cutler Flats summer group camping area and past Utaba Reservoir where it's likely you'll catch sight of a moose. The area takes its name from Cutler Basin, a saddle sitting below Ben Lomond and Willard peaks. The trail is scenic, remote, and peaceful as it passes through oak brush and woods. It climbs and dips as it makes it's way up and around the mountain and then loops back to the road. The Bicentennial Trail was created in 1976 for the nation's 200th birthday. In the past 10 years Weber County's North Fork Park has become a destination cross country ski venue. Five nights a week grooming crews are out setting classic track and corduroy for the skiers. When you arrive you'll find beautifully groomed ski trails all the way to the bicentennial trail head -- share the trail by staying on the side of the groomed trail so snowshoes don't dig up the groomed surface in the middle or destroy the classic tracks on the side (the two small straight ski tracks).

How to Get There: From I-15 take the 12th Street exit and follow it east. 12th Street turns into S.R. 39 and takes you directly up Ogden Canyon. Six miles up Ogden Canyon turn left and cross over the Pineview dam toward Liberty. At a little under 4 miles you will go left at a 'Y' in the road toward Liberty. In less than a mile you'll hit a stop sign. Take a left here also. Travel 3 more miles to a 'T' and turn left on 4100 North. Two tenths of a mile from the 'T' is 3300 E. Take a right here toward North Fork. At the next Y take a left onto North Fork road and follow for another mile until you see the sign to the South Entrance: *Welcome to North Fork Park Nordic Center/Ben Lomond trailhead*. Turn in here and follow the road one mile to the parking area.

Trail Description: Begin the trail at the north entrance to North Park. The main road through the park is usually groomed and this trail will take you on a portion of that groomed road and through the Cutler Flats area on your way to the Bicentennial trailhead. From the north entrance gate, head down the snow-packed road. At .6 of a mile the road hits a 3-way intersection and curves and heads up to Cutler Flats to the right. The road to the left connects you with the rest of North Fork Park (when you return you will come down this road). As you head right, up the road, the view opens out over the vast valley and the mountains across the way. Rounding the bend, you descend into Cutler Flats, a summer group camping area. The road continues to the west, but head north across the flats and down over the ridge on the other side. A closed summer gate marks an ungroomed road on the other side of the ridge. You may not be able to see it until you get there. Follow this road as it curves around, over, and up the other side of the north fork of the Ogden River. Around this next bend is the trailhead for the Bicentennial Trail. It is marked with a large wooden sign and heads left through the trees. The Bicentennial trail is a single track biking trail in the summer. Because the trail sees this regular use you should be able to tell where it heads through the trees as it climbs its way up the mountain and then heads down to Cutler Creek—the peak of the loop. Cross the creek at 2.2 miles. From here the trail turns east and heads down to the Cutler Basin trailhead for a total of 3.45 miles. Just keep heading east and hook in with the snow-covered road. At 3.7 miles you'll hit the 3-way you passed through on your way up. Follow the road back out to your car.

Cost: North Fork Park is a winter fee area. \$5.00 per person/\$10.00 per family is charged to use the area. This helps offset the cost of grooming.