BY CIARA WOLFE
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Uplands is a great, easily accessible trail for those looking to get in a short outdoor workout or spot some of the local wildlife.

A dirt-surfaced 2.2-mile loop, Uplands has a steady uphill climb for the first mile, leading hikers, bikers and trail runners through fields of wildflowers, aspen groves and forest canopy. At the top of the loop, you’ll cross a small plateau that opens to an expansive view of Big Sky, making the climb well worth the effort. Take in Lone Mountain, Cedar Mountain and Beehive Basin before heading back down and pausing to check out a bird’s-eye view of Meadow Village and Town Center.

Uplands is a moderately difficult trail; Those looking for a bit more of a challenge can tack on another three miles of dirt exploration by continuing onto the 3-mile Hummocks Trail, which takes off from the same trailhead.

Located less than a mile from Town Center, Uplands Trail will quickly become a favorite trail due to its proximity and excellent views. Within minutes of leaving Big Sky, you can feel like you’re in the middle of the backcountry. Don’t let its nearness to town fool you though—moose and bear sightings are frequently reported, so be bear aware when recreating on the Uplands Trail.

For more information about Big Sky’s parks, trails and recreation programs, visit bscomt.org. The Big Sky Community Organization is a local nonprofit that connects people to recreational opportunities by acquiring, promoting and preserving sustainable places and programs for all.

Directions:
from Town Center, head east on Aspen Leaf Drive for three-quarters of a mile, crossing a bridge over the river and continuing up the road until you see the parking area on the east side of the road.

Sawyer Wolfe checks out the view from Uplands Trail, a loop located less than a mile from Town Center that connects to the Hummocks Trail. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE