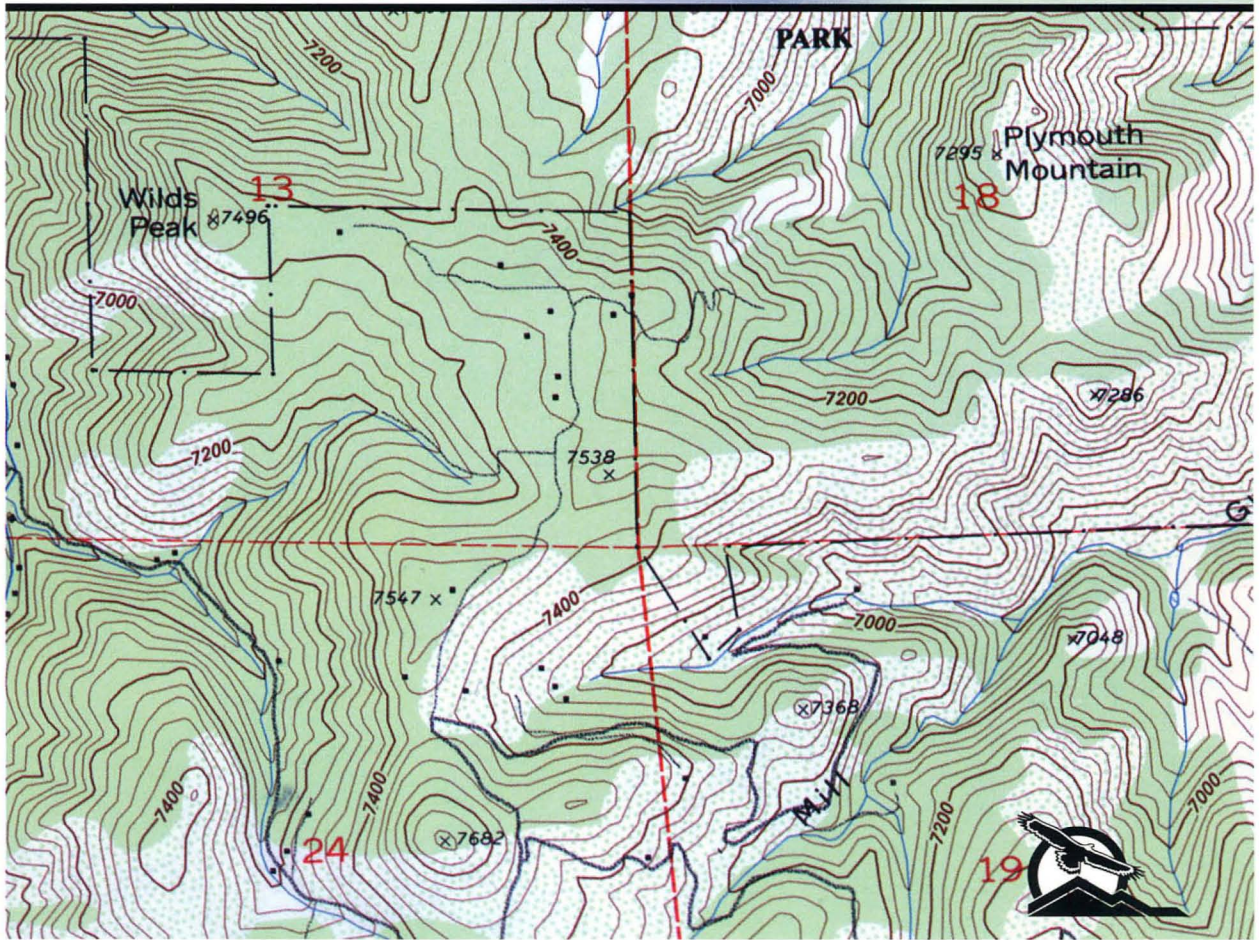


Jefferson County Open Space



5 YEAR MASTER PLAN



Jefferson County, Colorado

Jefferson County Open Space Master Plan

COMMUNITY RESOURCES - OPEN SPACE - ADOPTION OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Approval of the Open Space Five Year Master Plan by the Board of County Commissioners.

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution CC03-373 on July 29, 2003, regarding the Open Space Master Plan. Such Resolution included the following language:

“Resolved that the Board of County Commissioners approves the recommendation made by the Open Space Advisory Committee on July 10, 2003, to adopt the Jefferson County Open Space Master Plan update, Resolution Number 03-18.”

Commissioner Richard M. Sheehan, Chairman
Commissioner Michelle Lawrence, Chairman Pro Tem
Commissioner Patricia B. Holloway

Approval of the Open Space Five Year Master Plan by the Open Space Advisory Committee, Resolution 03-18 includes the following language:

“NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jefferson County Open Space Advisory Committee recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the 2003 Open Space Master Plan as is generally set forth in said Proposal...”

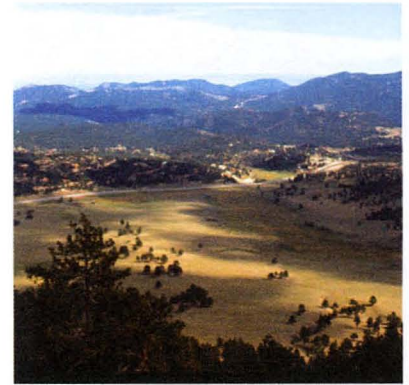
Approval of the Open Space Five Year Master Plan by the Jefferson County Planning Commission, case number 03-108896CH includes the following language:

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Open Space 5-Year Master Plan, including text and maps as set forth on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, be and hereby is APPROVED and adopted as a component of the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Section 30-28-108, C.R.S., and that said Jefferson County Open Space 5-Year Master Plan be certified to the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to Section 30-28-109, C.R.S.”



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view of Elk Meadow Park -B.J. Ellison

Jefferson County, CO

Diversity Within

Jefferson County is located on the western edge of metropolitan Denver and offers a diversified geographical and cultural setting from urban to rural communities that thrive just minutes from downtown Denver. The County is 774 square miles in size and has an estimated population of 527,000. One hundred and eighty-one thousand, six hundred and sixty-six people are living in unincorporated portions of the County, as recorded in the 2000 Census. That means that the County is the primary government service provider for more than one-third of its residents.

Location, Location, Location...

Jefferson County is the State's second most populated County and is home to one-in-eight Colorado residents. Residents enjoy easy access to all major arterial highways, which make travel into the high country or the urban metropolis quite convenient.

The County has a nationally acclaimed school district and a highly educated work force. Residents and businesses have easy access to higher educational institutions such as the University of Colorado, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado Christian University, Front Range and Red Rocks Community Colleges.

A Community Outdoors

Our residents enjoy such recreational activities as golfing, ice skating, kayaking, horse-back riding, biking and hiking, just to name a few. In addition, there are eight ski resorts located within 75 miles of Jefferson County. Other attractions include Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center, Lookout Mountain Nature Center, Boettcher Mansion, Red Rocks Amphitheater, Coors Brewing Company, Hiwan Homestead Museum and Buffalo Bill Memorial Museum and Grave.



Alderfer/Three Sisters Park -L. Long

Mission Statement

"The mission of the Open Space Program is to provide a living resource of open space lands and waters throughout Jefferson County for the physical, psychological, recreational and social enjoyment of present and future generations."



Elk Meadow Park -B.J. Ellison

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Jefferson County Open Space 5-Year Master Plan is to set or establish goals and objectives needed to ensure the continued success of the Open Space Program, as well as provide effectual information about standard procedures.

In addition, our mission is accomplished through providing efficient and effective planning, providing passive outdoor recreational access and opportunities consistent with the natural and historical values of the property.

Goals

- As an overarching priority, acquire lands including those within the Front Range Mountain Backdrop/Foreground Preservation areas, North Area Conservation Effort, cities, recreation districts and Natural Areas Plan sites
- Be a recognized leader in natural resource and passive outdoor recreation management
- Provide the highest quality experience for visitors
- Provide environmental and cultural education programs and opportunities throughout the Open Space system
- Ensure natural resources are managed and conserved through sound scientific and biological principles
- Establish contiguity for a regional trail system
- Provide Joint Venture Grant funding partnerships with cities and districts to accomplish recreational capital improvements
- Provide quality trail development, maintenance and improvements
- Maintain an effective relationship with the City of Denver to address regional policy and management issues, protect cultural and natural resources and improve passive outdoor recreational experiences

Introduction

The 2003 edition of the Jefferson County Open Space 5-Year Master Plan is an update of the 1998 version. At its 30-year anniversary, the Open Space Program had preserved over 50,000 acres. Additional lands created a need for more comprehensive management strategies that preserve and protect the natural resources of these areas, thus Park Management Plans (PMPs) are being created and implemented for every Open Space park. The plans are derived from cross-sectional representation from each section of the Open Space Department. The park vision for each plan provides for the appropriate use of Jefferson County's recreational, natural and cultural resources. See Management Tools on page 16 for further explanation.

A greater commitment by Colorado communities for the use of regional approaches to land preservation has led to such integrated undertakings as the Front Range Mountain Backdrop/Foreground Preservation project. The five Front Range counties have coordinated planning efforts to assure high quality visual features of the foothills are protected. In addition, Jefferson County Open Space has worked closely with Denver Mountain Parks to create a Management Plan that focuses on dual efforts to manage, maintain and preserve the Counties' parks and open spaces in mountain areas.

The expanding County population and new forms of recreation have led to more trail user conflicts today than when the previous Master Plan was completed. The implications of these user conflicts are addressed in the Goals and the Management Tools sections.

“As an overarching priority, acquire lands including those within Front Range Mountain Backdrop/Foreground Preservation areas, North Area Conservation Effort, cities, recreation districts and Natural Areas Plan sites.”

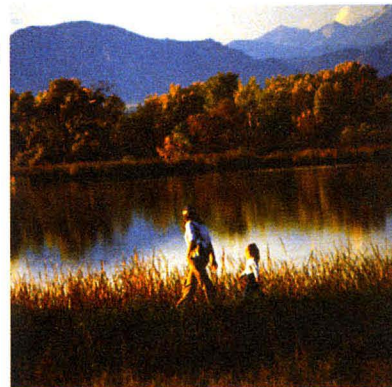
OBJECTIVES:

- Evaluate the adequacy of the Open Space fund and pursue means to maximize acquisitions
- Issue the remaining \$29 million in Bond Funds
- Secure additional funding through grant opportunities including Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)
- Expand the use of conservation easements as a preservation tool
- Increase acquisitions through the Jeffco Open Space Foundation, Inc.
- Create a detailed plan for outreach and education to achieve a higher public awareness for land donation and testamentary gifts
- Develop partnerships for mutually beneficial projects
- Utilize County programs, such as the Planning and Zoning Department’s dedication process to provide additional open space lands and trails

“Be a recognized leader in natural resource and passive outdoor recreation management.”

OBJECTIVES:

- Work toward identifying and providing zones connecting wildlife areas
- Work with cities and recreation districts within Jefferson County to identify goals, needs and concerns
- Build stronger working relationships with cities, recreation districts and other County departments to ensure effective communication
- Strengthen our image as a resource to other agencies, local and state-wide, for providing information and training including, but not limited to, trails infrastructure, facilities and natural resource management
- Ensure that Management Plans are in place, current and sensitive to the needs of all Open Space Parks
- Host regional open space planning, acquisition and management seminars



Crown Hill Park -B.J. Ellison

Goals and Objectives



Sand Lilies -B.J. Ellison

“Provide the highest quality experience for visitors.”

OBJECTIVES:

- Develop visitor and passive outdoor recreation management guidelines that provide protection of natural, cultural and historical resources
- Plan, design and install interpretive wayside exhibits in specified Open Space Parks
- Provide visitor patrol services at parks, trails and facilities
- Expand Volunteer Program opportunities
- Reduce user conflicts on trails by using a variety of techniques
- Maintain positive public relations through accessible information, routine visitor contact and assistance
- Keep pace with a growing population to ensure proper management of outdoor recreational resources
- Make certain that facilities are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Be responsive to meet the ever-changing needs of park and trail users
- Complete visitor surveys for each Open Space park every three years
- Implement sustainable design opportunities in park development
- Utilize Universal Design Standards
- Evaluate utility of regional visitor capacity brochures and support cooperative updates as needed

“Provide environmental and cultural education programs and opportunities throughout the Open Space system.”

OBJECTIVES:

- Utilize staff and volunteers to provide facility-based outreach and park specific natural and cultural history programs
- Announce and promote volunteer projects and activities which may include emails, newsletters, press releases, mailings and/or the Open Space Web site
- Promote interpretive and cultural education programs through Hiwan Homestead Museum, Lookout Mountain Nature Center and outreach programming efforts

“Ensure natural resources are managed and conserved through sound scientific and biological principles.”

OBJECTIVES:

- Create stronger inter-departmental/agency cooperation through improved communication to assure conservation, protection, enhancement and maintenance of Open Space natural resources
- Develop proactive mechanisms and methodologies for identifying pertinent natural resource issues
- Practice effective weed management through use of integrated treatment methods
- Support prescribed burning plans prepared in cooperation with the Colorado State Forest Service
- Identify, protect and monitor critical wildlife habitat, forest and vegetative communities

“Establish contiguity for a regional trail system.”

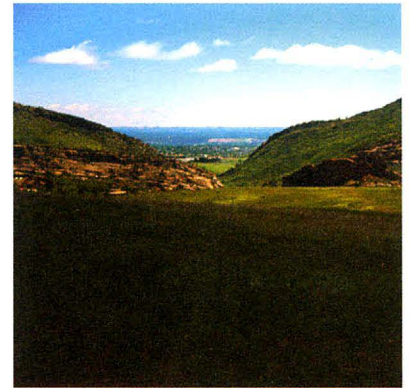
OBJECTIVES:

- Complete the remaining identified Trails 2000 projects
- Document and update data related to regional trails with the cooperation of cities and recreation districts
- Ensure regional trails are a component of the State Trails Plan, where consistent with Open Space priorities
- Update and implement the Open Space 5-Year Natural Surface Trail Objectives

“Provide Joint Venture Grant funding partnerships with cities and districts to accomplish recreational capital improvements.”

OBJECTIVES:

- Fund, administer and coordinate the Program for the eleven cities and ten recreation districts within Jefferson County
- Implement the annual grant application and review process
- Sustain a stable alliance with the cities and recreation districts in Jefferson County
- Fund County-wide priority Joint Venture projects through the 5-year budget plans



Deer Creek Canyon Park -B.J. Ellison



view of North Table Mountain -L. Long

“Provide quality trail development, maintenance and improvements.”

OBJECTIVES:

- Monitor trail system for carrying capacity and make recommendations and adjustments as necessary
- Create and implement a comprehensive trail inventory
- Apply sustainable design in trail development
- Develop at least 30 miles of additional trails within the next five years
- Work to resolve user conflicts by improving design standards
- Utilize Universal Design Standards
- Maintain involvement with the Trails Use Task Force
- Develop policy to address social trails

“Maintain an effective relationship with the City of Denver to address regional policy and management issues, protect cultural and natural resources and improve passive outdoor recreational experiences.”

OBJECTIVES:

- Implement independent planning and management for common and regional issues
- Manage impacts to significant resources and use of recreational facilities
- Monitor increasing passive outdoor recreational demands
- Encourage equitable funding mechanisms are in place by both Denver and Jefferson County Open Space

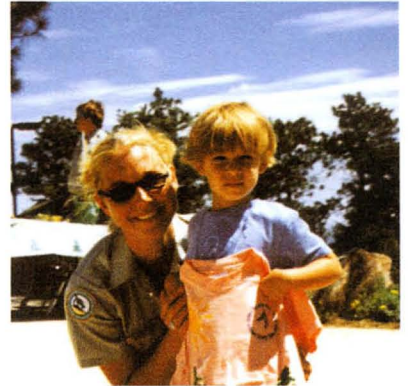
History and Background

The Open Space Program, as established in 1972, is funded by a one-half of one-percent sales tax on retail sales in Jefferson County. The residents of Jefferson County voted for a Resolution dated September 26, 1972, (see Appendix 3) which stated that funds were to be "used exclusively toward planning for, developing necessary access to, acquisition, maintenance and preservation of open space real property for the use and benefit of the public." In 1980, this Resolution was amended to allow for the expenditure of funds for construction, acquisition and maintenance of park and recreational capital improvements. A formula based on automobile registration currently allocates to cities in Jefferson County approximately one-third of Open Space funds and the larger portion, about two-thirds, for use at the County-wide level.

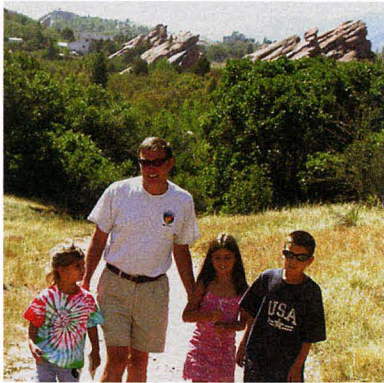
In 1998, the initiative to issue \$160 million in bond money solely for land acquisitions was placed on the ballot and passed with over 72% of the electorate supporting the measure. In May 1999, \$100 million in bonds were successfully issued and cities and recreation districts within Jefferson County received an acquisition commitment to a portion of the bond funds for priority projects based upon population figures. In May 2001, an additional \$30 million in bonds were issued.

In 2002 Open Space celebrated its thirty-year anniversary by reaching approximately 50,000 acres secured in fee, conservation easement, lease and donation. Property interests were acquired on projects such as the Legault addition to Meyer Ranch Park, Centennial Cone, North Table Mountain, Hildebrand Ranch, Blair Ranch addition to Alderfer/Three Sisters Park and significant portions of the Front Range Mountain Backdrop/Foreground Preservation area. Approximately \$29 million in remaining bond authority is anticipated to be issued within the next two years.

This Master Plan, along with the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Board of County Commissioners, guides the Jefferson County Open Space Program in its direction and operation. The Open Space Master Plan is revised approximately every five years.



Lookout Mountain Nature Center -JCOS Archives



South Valley Park -B. Silver

Summary of Land Acquisitions

Unincorporated Jefferson County Fee Acquisitions:

(includes foothills and plains)

Non-bond Acres	26,950	\$78,161,219
Acres purchased with bond funds	10,994	\$74,141,262

Conservation Easements:

Non-bond	1,288	\$650,000
Acres purchased with bond funds	1,162	\$2,834,938

Unincorporated Leased Lands -annually	866	\$3,155
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City Acquisitions:

Arvada-Non bond	1,163	\$18,167,737
Arvada-Bond funds used	691	\$10,594,611

Edgewater-Non bond	12	\$751,937
Edgewater-Bond funds used	<1	\$230,088

Golden-Non bond	64	\$2,184,390
Golden-Bond funds used	129	\$3,683,503

Lakewood-Non bond	2,448	\$13,455,887
Lakewood-Bond funds used	92	\$9,022,819

Morrison-Non bond	92	\$168,000
Morrison-Bond funds used	<1	\$71,644

Mountain View-Non bond	<1	\$93,000
Mountain View-Bond funds used	0	\$0

Westminster-Non bond	1,335	\$15,348,560
Westminster-Bond funds used	1,594	\$7,205,125

Wheat Ridge-Non bond	128	\$5,010,658
Wheat Ridge-Bond funds used	217	\$2,929,616

Leased to Recreation Districts:

Non-bond	1,159	\$15,515,024
Bond funds used	566	\$6,257,907

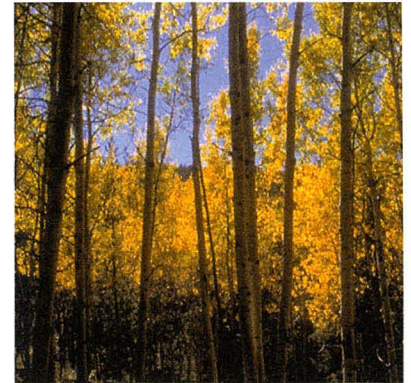
Non-bond totals	34,638	\$149,506,412
Bond fund totals	15,434	\$116,971,513
Grand total of above listed properties	50,073	\$266,477,925

All totals as of December 31, 2002 and include fee and conservation easements.

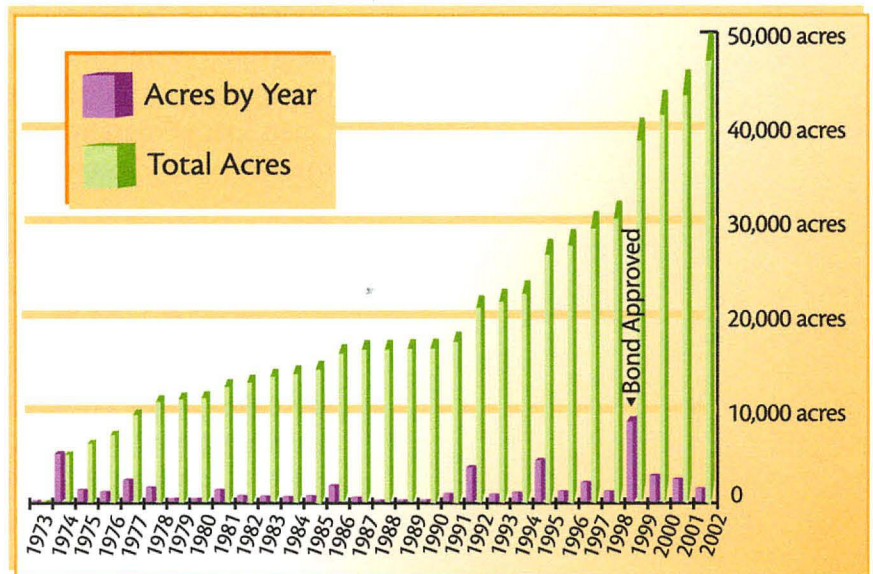
Changes in the County

In the period of time since the previous Master Plan was adopted in 1998, several factors have affected the use of open space. The number of users, locations of use and the focus on open space today are quite different from just five years ago. Some of the changes and influences on the Open Space properties can be summarized as follows:

- Increased economic activity has resulted in the attraction of thousands of new residents to Jefferson County
- The combination of increased levels of use and conflicting uses (such as mountain biking and hiking) on existing parks, have presented new challenges in the management of Open Space lands throughout the system
- User conflicts resulted in a management plan for Centennial Cone Park utilizing alternating days for different trail user types
- Day use and concentrated use by large gatherings of visitors have changed use patterns, regulation enforcement and maintenance issues
- As rapid growth continues to consume undeveloped land, it stimulates a renewed sense of urgency to preserve as much priority open land as possible
- Current population in Jefferson County is over 527,000 and projections estimate that growth in the County will increase by a minimum of 6.5% by the year 2007
- Youth, retired and Spanish-speaking population percentages are estimated to increase, potentially changing recreational needs



Meyer Ranch Park - JCOS Archives



Land Acquisitions by year and acres

The Master Plan needs to be a document that is flexible enough to adapt to changes as they arise, in a way that keeps what is best for the Program as the top priority at all times. Any policy responses to changing situations will be done with the advice and support of the Open Space Advisory Committee at the direction of the Board of County Commissioners.



*Lookout Mountain Nature Preserve
-JCOS Archives*

Current Issues in Open Space

Growth

Growth has become a top issue facing County residents and has important implications for the Open Space Program. The issue can influence the setting of departmental priorities, determine acquisition candidate areas, provide more funds for buying open space land and affect land management policies.

This complex issue is best addressed on a regional basis involving not just the cities and recreation districts within the County, but also the governments of the entire metropolitan area. The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) is currently addressing growth with its Metro Vision 2020 Plan and the Urban Growth Boundary. Cooperation on commonly shared goals is essential to tackling the wide range of issues involved. Within Jefferson County, the Planning and Zoning Department is the lead agency on growth-related issues, but the Open Space Program can be a factor in shaping growth through the various land preservation methods the Program uses.

It is important to note that the sales tax funding that supports Open Space could not conceivably provide for the fee-simple acquisition (purchase) of all the land identified as desirable open areas. It is simply too expensive to accomplish with the estimated future resources available to the Program. Only by combining several land preservation options, with different levels of government, can we preserve sufficient open space lands and begin to guide growth. Land Preservation Options are detailed on page 23.

Active versus Passive Uses

How should Open Space lands be used? On one end of this issue, some people favor completely open undeveloped land to be the primary use and purpose of Open Space. On the other end are people who want far more extensive development. Examples include a dual-trail system on each park to separate user groups, wider trails, concrete trails for more active use, active use ballfields and suburban-type park development.

Hiker-only and biker-only days are being discussed, in which certain days of the week only one type of user would be allowed at a given time. Mount Galbraith Park is the first property dedicated exclusively to hiker-only use. In addition, Reynolds Park will also implement hiker and equestrian use only.

Additional techniques used to reduce user conflicts include: speed controls, spatial management, temporal management (limited hours for a specific activity), trail design (by creating separate “treads” for various use types) and by encouraging courtesy among users.

Jefferson County is projected to add 130,900 new residents by 2020*, making it the most populous County in the region. Currently, people under the age of 18 exceed 25% of the population (133,000*) County-wide, with implications on facility needs and demands anticipated. Popular surveys indicate that trail-based recreation will continue to increase, however, changing populations and their recreational requirements will need to be monitored.

Opinions on the level or type of park use are often brought up at public meetings held in conjunction with creating individual Park Management Plans. This initial input, along with the use of the Management Unit Classification system discussed in depth on page 20, may allow Open Space lands to be used for the entire spectrum of passive uses. A balance of uses both system-wide and within many individual parks, is a goal of the Park Management Plan.

Transfer of Land

To address concerns expressed on the matter of disposing of Open Space lands, the revised 2002 Open Space Policies and Procedures states that land may only be transferred from the County when the subject property consisting of 5 acres or more has been recommended by at least 8 of the 10 Open Space Advisory Committee voting members. In addition, the property must no longer meet the purpose for which it was acquired or by disposing of the property, it would provide significant ecological, recreational or cultural benefits to the public. The recommendation from the Open Space Advisory Committee would then go to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

Trails Use Task Force

The Trails Use Task Force was established by the Board of County Commissioners in November 1995 and is comprised of members of user groups that include hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, as well as Open Space Advisory Committee members and Open Space staff. The Trails Use Task Force meets annually to identify trail conflicts and make recommendations for their solution to the Open Space Advisory Committee. Open Space

* Source: Census 2000



Centennial Cone Park -B.J. Ellison



South Valley Park -JCOS Archives

staff and the Board of County Commissioners will always make every effort to allow the park visitor a safe and enjoyable experience while considering protection of the natural resources.

Management Tools

Park Management Plans

One of the challenges that Jefferson County Open Space faces every day is balancing its resource stewardship responsibilities with its mandate to provide for passive outdoor recreational enjoyment of present and future generations. Balancing human use with resource preservation involves assessment and compromise concerning potential impacts to the area's natural and cultural resources and the public's use of the land.

To accomplish the dual mission of resource stewardship and provision of passive outdoor recreational opportunities, the Program has adopted an open space planning process that allows staff to respond to changing environmental and social conditions in a timely manner. Each Open Space Park has a Management Plan that is developed by staff from Acquisitions, Planning, Design and Development, Park Services, Citizen Outreach, and Administration and Education Services. Developing Park Management Plans with representatives from each section of the Open Space organization ensures that the plans provide the most complete picture of the parks and the most appropriate direction for effective management. To further ensure that the Park Management Plans remain relevant, they are reviewed and updated annually.

There are several main components of a Park Management Plan. The Park Vision describes the significant natural and cultural resources of the park and the kind of recreational experiences Open Space would like to offer there. This visionary language provides staff with direction for making resource and visitor management decisions.

Another component of the Park Management Plan is the park's Management Unit Classifications. Open Space has adopted three classifications: Sensitive Areas, Natural Areas and Parkland Recreation Areas. Sensitive Areas are those that are very special, fragile and highly valued for their natural or cultural features. Preservation and protection are the paramount considerations for these areas; thus, recreational use of these areas is restricted,

with the exception of obtaining a Special Use Permit for education or research purposes. Natural Areas are relatively large areas where ecological processes dominate and visitors can typically experience a sense of solitude and remoteness. Parkland Recreation Areas provide opportunities for a wide variety of outdoor recreation experiences while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the natural resources. Not all management units are represented at each park. In some cases, environmentally or culturally sensitive areas may warrant special management, but does not fit within the management unit designations. Each park management plan includes the guidelines necessary for the protection and use of such areas.

A third major component of a Park Management Plan is the articulation of issues related to a park and an identification of the measures staff will take to address them. These actions are incorporated into the Program's budgeting process, which requires that staff make decisions about which actions to pursue in coming years. Since staffing and funding are limited, choices must be made regarding which management actions to pursue.

Visitor Surveys

In 2001, Open Space initiated a survey program which aims to learn more about the visitors who use Open Space parks. Unlike previous studies that examined the whole system, this program seeks to obtain a statistically valid sample of visitors for each developed Open Space park. Volunteers collect surveys at trailhead locations as visitors are leaving the trail system. In parks with large numbers of Spanish-speaking visitors, Spanish language surveys are provided.

Surveys include questions about natural resource and trail management approaches, visitor perceptions of recreation conflict and crowding and a variety of other topics. Data obtained from the surveys are used to inform the park management planning process and assist staff in developing specific management actions to address a variety of park issues.

Although useful for characterizing current conditions, the on-park surveys do not collect information from former Open Space visitors. This population of recreationists that no longer visit Jefferson County Open Space parks may hold views different than those expressed by current visitors. Another constituent not represented in on-park surveys is the non-recreating public. Although this population does not use the parks directly, they



*Youth Work Program workers
-JCOS Archives*



Pine Valley Ranch Park -B.J. Ellison

likely value the open space for reasons other than recreation. Capturing these populations would require a survey that is much broader in scope and may include surrounding counties.

In addition to surveys, a variety of other tools may be used by Open Space staff to develop a deeper understanding of park issues. These include, but aren't limited to, focus groups, task forces, observation, analysis of existing records and the use of mechanical counters.

Seasonal/Temporary Closures for Resource Protection

Seasonal closures are used as a management tool to protect wildlife during a critical period in their life cycle. Temporary closures are also used to protect trails from deterioration during inclement weather conditions. The closure restricts a defined area that is normally open to public use. Criteria used to determine closures for wildlife include species status as threatened, endangered or "species of concern"; use of seasonal concentration areas; area requirements for a species and the type of impacts on a species.

Seasonal protection species include, but are not limited to, raptors, elk, deer, waterfowl and black bears. Disturbance to bear, elk and deer during feeding may cause poor health, which may result in aborted pregnancies in females. In addition, raptors also require tranquillity during the breeding cycle, which could be interrupted by climbing and other recreational activities. This issue is taken very seriously by Open Space, as any disturbance, even one time, could result in disruption of habitat, injury or death to a species member.

The Denver Mountain Parks & Jefferson County Open Space Management Plan

The Jefferson County Open Space Program (JCOS), along with Denver Mountain Parks (DMP) manages approximately 64,000 acres of land (50,000 JCOS & 14,000 DMP) in the foothills west of Denver. Faced with the inevitability of more users, the two entities are seeking strategies to address existing concerns and projected changes.

In 2001, the two agencies joined a local community group, the Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance, in pursuit of a \$50,000 Smart Growth planning grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs to plan for the future management of these systems. A portion of that grant has funded a regional recreational management plan.

The study area for the plan is comprised of those public lands located within Jefferson County, owned by the County as Open Space or the City & County of Denver Parks & Recreation Department, that provide passive recreation such as hiking or biking.

The Management Plan is guided by three broad goals:

1. Work together to address common and regional policy and management issues;
2. Protect the scenic, cultural and natural resources; and
3. Improve and enhance passive outdoor recreational experiences.

To meet these goals, the primary task of evaluating the usage and the impacts of growth on the park/open space system must be realized, which will allow the two agencies to work together to preserve resources and enhance recreational experiences.

Joint Venture Grant Program

This is a partnership effort between the County and cities and recreation districts to accomplish recreational capital improvements benefiting citizens of Jefferson County. This Program provides funding assistance to both incorporated and unincorporated areas to help meet the growing demands for recreational facilities and services.

Eligible projects include local and regional trail connections, neighborhood and regional park improvements, athletic sites and facilities, swimming pools, playgrounds, picnic shelters, ADA improvements, historic preservation, environmental education facilities and recreation centers.

An annual grant application and review process is conducted by Open Space staff and the Open Space Advisory Committee. Upon recommendations by the Open Space Advisory Committee, grant awards are then presented to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

The five-year Financial Planning Strategy 2003 - 2007 for the funding of Joint Venture Grants currently targets funding each year for this Program. Actual grant funding for each year is determined during the annual budget adoption process.

Master Planning Process

The 1998 Open Space Master Plan went into detail to identify specific acquisition candidate areas, define major trail corridors



Windy Saddle Park -B.J. Ellison



Pine Valley Ranch Park -JCOS Archives

and focus limited funds for the preservation of land. That direction continues in this Master Plan update. New data have been added to help make better planning decisions including: Census 2000 data; Park Management Plan process; the Management Plan between Denver Mountain Parks and Jefferson County Open Space; Universal Design Standards and the Goals and Objectives.

A set of inventory maps were assembled and updated to assist the County in the identification of future open space lands and trail corridors. Appendix 4 includes maps that identify existing conditions as well as planning opportunities for the following resource categories:

1. Potential Open Space Preservation Areas
2. Existing JCOS Trails and Trails 2000 Priorities
3. Existing Recreation Sites
4. Potential Trail Corridors

Management Unit Classifications

Open Space lands are classified into management units according to ecosystem and cultural resource protection requirements and their capability and suitability to provide opportunities for visitor experiences. This classification scheme assists Open Space staff in maintaining ecological integrity through a framework for the area-specific application of policy direction for resource management, appropriate activities and research. As such, management units provide direction for the activities of park staff and park visitors alike. The three classifications are:

1. **Sensitive Areas** are those that are very special, fragile and highly valued for their natural or cultural features. Preservation and protection are the paramount considerations for these areas. Visitation to these areas is limited, controlled and monitored through a special use permit system.
2. **Natural Areas** are relatively large areas where ecological processes dominate and humans can typically experience a sense of solitude and remoteness.
3. **Parkland Recreation Areas** provide opportunities for a wide variety of outdoor recreation experiences while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the natural resources.

Proposing Lands for Acquisition

Proposals for potential Open Space acquisitions are submitted to the Planning Section for processing. In addition to proposals initiated by the County, any landowner, individual, group or organization may submit a recommendation for acquisition. This process begins with the assignment of a tracking number, then a rapid assessment is completed to determine if the property meets Master Plan Acquisition Values. These values are explained in the next section.

If the proposed acquisition does not meet the Master Plan values, it is declined and archived. If the proposal does meet values, a field trip is scheduled for the appropriate staff. As information is gathered from referral comments and research, a presentation is given to Open Space Management where the Planning staff makes a recommendation to proceed or forego the acquisition. If management decides to proceed with the proposal, the property is then presented to the Open Space Advisory Committee. A resolution is also presented at this time, which includes language about the purpose for the land being acquired. However, only the Board of County Commissioners can make final decisions on whether to purchase property.

The Acquisitions Section works with the property owner(s) to negotiate the details of the contract for the sale. Final terms are presented to the Open Space Advisory Committee and if acceptable, a recommendation is made to the Board of County Commissioners to approve the agreement. Once a purchase and sales agreement is reached, the contract is signed by the landowner and by the Board of County Commissioners.

See Appendix 1: Processing a New Proposal: Flow Chart

Master Plan Acquisition Values

In an effort to evaluate which lands should be considered for inclusion into the Program, a set of values have been identified that support the Open Space mission and goals.

Natural Areas Plan Sites

Places that are essentially in a natural, undisturbed state or not seriously disturbed by human activity, which also include Natural Heritage Inventory sites.



Matthews/Winters Park -B.J. Ellison



Alderfer/Three Sisters Park -JCOS Archives

Trails 2000 or other trails

In 1992, the County worked with cities and recreation districts to determine priority trail corridors and cooperatively complete them in the near future. This completion continues to be a goal.

Contiguity

This value focuses on property that borders Jefferson County Open Space or other public or private open lands.

Unique or scenic point/corridor

Areas of visual significance that may contain unusual landforms, important geological features or other prominent topographic features that should be protected for the areas' visual character.

Threatened, endangered or species of concern

To establish through a survey or study, what species are located on the subject property and further determine if Federal protection mandates are required.

Historical/archaeological site

Areas containing historical elements reflecting the County's cultural wealth may be obtained for providing valuable educational opportunities. This may include specific buildings, ranch lands, agriculture, land sites or places that have historic and/or cultural importance.

Front Range Mountain Backdrop/Foreground Preservation

This is a cooperative effort by five Front Range counties, to identify, analyze and make recommendations on how to protect the foothills, hogback and other key visual areas from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs.

City or Recreation District-recreation/open space potential

If the proposed property is located within a city or recreation district's jurisdiction, the appropriate agency is contacted to inquire whether or not they would be interested in purchasing the property. In addition, the city or district's "Master Plan" is also referenced to determine the proposed use for the area.

Congruence with community plans

If the proposed property is located within an area in which a plan exists, it will be checked to ensure the vision of that community is recognized.

Buffers

Lands suitable for buffers between developed areas should be protected.

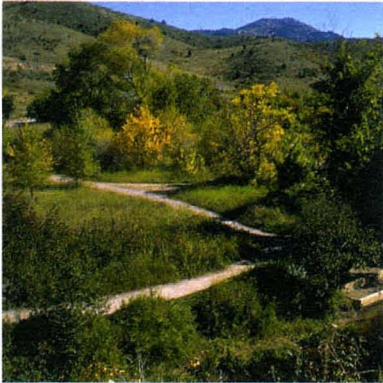
Land Preservation Options

The following are ways that the Open Space Program can acquire land for preservation.

- **Jeffco Open Space Foundation, Inc.** - This is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization that supports Open Space goals. It accepts donations of land, equipment, money, stocks, bonds and real property, in addition to applying for grants and actively supporting educational, wildlife and land protection programs.
- **Fee Simple** - The County would acquire all of the owner's property and rights from an outright purchase by the County.
- **Conservation Easements** - Conservation easements are a preservation alternative in which a landowner would convey a conservation easement to a qualified recipient, such as Jefferson County. An easement is a legal agreement where a landowner relinquishes certain property rights for specific purposes. These easements should be long-term to prevent land speculators from benefiting from reduced taxes.
- **Agreements and Leases** - The County would acquire the right to use the property for certain purposes, for a specific length of time.
- **Trail Easements** - An easement in a strip of property obtained for trail purposes, linear parks or wildlife habitat protection.
- **Land Donation** - A landowner who wants to preserve all or a portion of a significant open space area can arrange to transfer a property to Jefferson County for protection and preservation. The donation must meet the needs identified in the Master Plan before it is accepted for donation by the Board of County Commissioners.
- **Testamentary Gifts** - An owner wills land to the County yet retains ownership and control of the land until the landowners death.
- **Land Preservation Organizations** - The County as Open Space, enters into an agreement with various private land preservation organizations, which may include Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT), Trust for Public Lands (TPL), Colorado Open Lands and the Clear Creek Land Conservancy, to protect large or unique land areas.



Meyer Ranch Park -JCOS Archives



Lair o' the Bear Park -JCOS Archives

Funding Options

Grants - The County as Open Space, has applied for and obtained grants obtained from a variety of funding sources, which are used to fund land acquisitions, planning studies and development.

Joint Ventures - This is a partnership effort between the County and cities and recreation districts to accomplish recreational capital improvements benefiting citizens of Jefferson County. This Program provides funding assistance to both incorporated and unincorporated areas to help meet the growing demands for recreational facilities and services.

"...continued management of open spaces existing in Jefferson County is and will be a top priority for many years to come."

General Obligation Bonds - The County is authorized to issue bonds for acquisitions, which is allowed since the voters of Jefferson County approved using tax revenue to pay off bond issuance.

Cash Gifts, Donations and Endowments - These gifts offset development costs and enable the Program to do more with available dollars.

Long Term Payouts - The purchase of a property may be achieved over a multiple-year time period through a series of purchase, lease and option agreements.

Future Roles

Cooperative efforts from Open Space and other agencies are vital to the success of our Mission. The continued support from the recreation districts and municipalities within Jefferson County along with Denver and other surrounding counties, will play an important role in the future of open spaces.

By the year 2020, open space needs may be very different than they are today. The acquisition of parcels of land that the Program purchases in today's market, may be different in the future with the purchases of brownfields and other potential infill sites that can be used for pocket parks for various purposes.

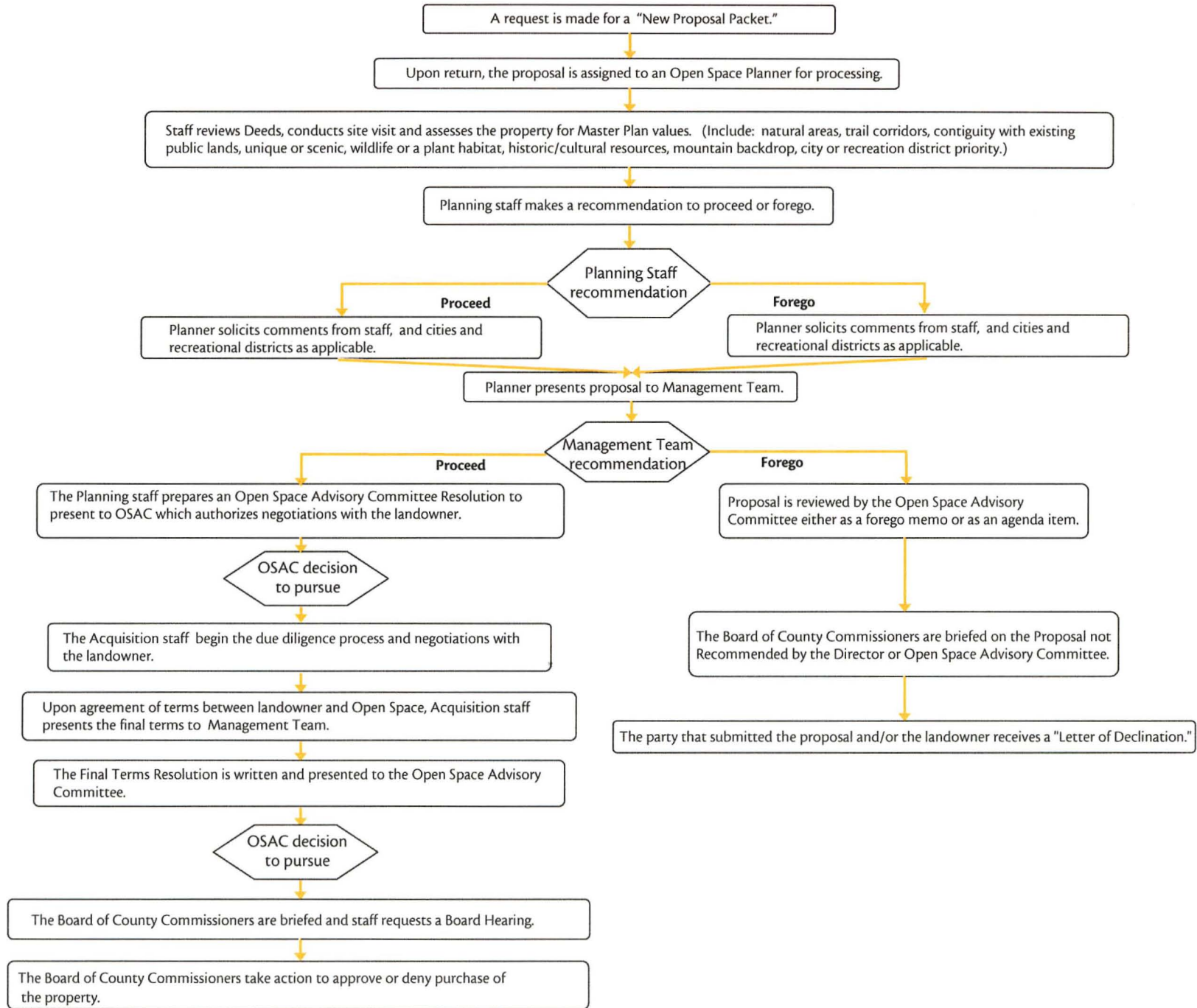
However, the continued management of open spaces existing in Jefferson County is and will be a top priority.

APPENDICES



North and South Table Mountains -B.J. Ellison

Appendix 1 - PROCESSING A NEW PROPOSAL: Flow Chart





Mount Falcon Park -JCOS Archives

Appendix 2 - SIGNIFICANT PRESERVATION AREAS Jefferson County Open Space

The following areas provide an example of the Program's top candidate areas for protection. The preservation of these areas have the support of the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Board of County Commissioners. Open Space staff will continue to evaluate land within these identified areas and pursue the acquisition of parcels that may become available.

Front Range Mountain Backdrop/Foreground Preservation

The scenic preservation of the mountain backdrop is the focal point of a coordinated planning effort begun in 1995, that involves five Front Range counties, from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs, to ensure that the quality visual features of the foothills are protected. This area has been the focus of preservation in every Jefferson County Open Space Master Plan since its inception in 1972.

North and South Table Mountain

South Table Mountain, including the side slopes and top, has been a priority acquisition since the beginning of the Open Space Program and this priority continues today. Although nearly all of North Table Mountain has already been secured for preservation, there are still some small parcels yet to be acquired.

Natural Areas Plan Conservation Sites

This preservation of natural areas may include areas that contain threatened or endangered species or species of concern and areas that contain wildlife or wildlife habitats. The Plan contains information provided by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, in the form of the Natural Heritage Inventory. The Natural Areas Plan sites include, but are not limited to, Cathedral Spires, Legault Mountain, Little Bear/Corwina/Lair o' the Bear Parks, Indian Gulch/Clear Creek Canyon, Mount Tom/Van Bibber headwaters, Ralston Creek and Coal Creek. Please see map 1 for more information.

Trails 2000 Priorities

In 1989, the County and cities and recreation districts created this optimistic plan that identified ten priority trail corridors to acquire and develop. Many of these have been successfully accomplished and many are still works in progress. Please see map 2 for more information.

North Area Conservation Effort

A preservation tool that includes lands located in northern Jefferson County, near the intersection of Highways 93 and 72, and may be suitable for scenic and landform conservation, trail and recreation purposes, and wildlife habitat and natural resource protection.

City and Recreation/ Special District Priorities

The Open Space Program has enjoyed a long and successful partnership with the cities and recreation districts throughout the County. Cooperative efforts have led to the preservation of many open space sites, as well as the development of active recreation sites.

The individual cities and recreation districts within the County have their own acquisition and development priorities and needs identified in the capital improvement plans of each entity.

The following is a listing of the possible five-year acquisition, development and joint venture projects for cities and recreation districts within Jefferson County. *The listing of these projects does not denote that Open Space funds will be forthcoming, nor does it indicate County funds will be used for the purchase or in the development of projects.* Many of the listed acquisitions and recreation projects were in progress at the time this Master Plan was prepared and some of them may be completed by the time of publication.

City of Arvada

Acquisitions:

- Webb property
- Calabrese or Tangren property - south central park site
- Hyatt Lake property
- Gochis property
- Gold Strike Park expansion
- Stenger expansion
- Boyd property
- Gravel Lake
- Smith/Rodgers property
- Bridledale acquisition/conservation easement
 - Little Dry Creek
- Leyden Creek trail corridor
- Olde Town trail connection – Burlington Northern Sante Fe corridor



Hiwan Homestead Museum -JCOS Archives



Deer Creek Canyon Park -L. Long

- Simms Street Natural Area
- Canal Corridor/Leyden Creek Trail Bridge land acquisition
- Long Lake Ranch expansion
- Tucker Lake connection
- Leyden Canyon Open Space addition
- Canal Corridor Open Space - various properties
- Memorial Park addition

Bowles Metropolitan District

Acquisitions:

- Grant Ranch

Columbine Knolls Recreation District

Development projects:

- Building a new playground structure at Columbine Knolls Park
- Purchase or rebuild the existing building for senior/community/office center

City of Edgewater

Development projects:

- Recreation center
- More facilities for expanded programs, in general
- Expanded gardening programs
- Other cooperative efforts as they arise

Evergreen Park and Recreation District

Acquisitions:

- Broce Ranch
- Andiwick
- Choate (between rodeo grounds and Kittredge)
- El Pinal
- Ralston
- Schneider

Development projects:

- Buchanan Park expansion
- Elephant Butte, north side trail corridor
- Pence Park trail corridor
- Linking trail corridors

Foothills Park and Recreation District

Acquisitions:

- Fehring Ranch
- Chatfield Bluffs

Development projects:

- Long Lake Ranch development
- Majestic View Park and Nature Center improvements
- Gold Strike Park Phase III
- Stenger/Lutz improvements
- Skateboard Park developments
- Van Bibber Creek Trail - Apple Meadows to Field Stone
- Van Bibber Trail underpass - Ward Road
- Weaver Park - additional landscaping
- Ralson Creek Trail - State Highway 93 to White Ranch Park
- Community Park Phase I development - 72nd and Beech
- Arvada Reservoir/wheelchair-accessible fishing dock
- Sunrise Ridge Park development

City of Golden

Acquisitions:

- South Table Mountain (STM)
- Maurer property (STM)
- LCB property
- Hogback property, southwest of Highway 6
- State Land Board property west of Highway 93, south of 56th Avenue
- Van Bibber Creek corridor from east of Highway 93 to the hogback
- Colorado School of Mines survey fields
- Portion of Foss Ranch, near Ford and Alaska Streets
- Hillen property
- Southeast and northeast corners of Highway 93 and 58th Avenue

Ken-Caryl Ranch Metropolitan District

Acquisitions:

- Valley Park at Ken-Caryl Ranch
- North Ranch Park
- Chatfield Bluffs Park site

City of Lakewood

Acquisitions:

- Aviation Club
- Bear Creek Greenbelt, Wadsworth Boulevard and Kipling Street locations
- Bear Creek Lake Park
- Gorrell Farm
- Jeffco Mental Health property
- Kiley parcels



Lair o' the Bear -B. Silver



aspens near Meyer Ranch Park -L. Long

- South Wright Park
- Surfside Pool
- Taylor property
- Walker/Branch Park Inholdings
- Weir Gulch
- West Two Creeks Park

Leawood Metropolitan Recreation and Park District

Acquisitions:

- Jay Court and Bowles Avenue

Development projects:

- Weaver Park Trail connection, with bridge
- Additional landscaping at Weaver Park
- Tree planting and replacement at Leawood and Raccoon Creek Parks

Town of Morrison

Acquisitions:

- Westside of C-470, south of Morrison Road, east of Soda Lakes Road

Development projects:

- Trail right-of-way from Morrison Park to Mount Falcon
- Morrison Park to Red Rocks
- Trail connection through Strain Gulch to Mount Falcon
- Bear Creek Canyon Trail

Normandy Estates Metropolitan District

Development projects:

- Major remodeling and addition to existing building
- Landscaping for the above project
- Pool improvements
- Equipment upgrading
- Parking lot resurfacing
- Neighborhood playground center

North Jeffco Park and Recreation District

Development projects:

- Fisher Swimming Pool
- Long Lake Ranch Athletic Fields (parking lot, concession/restroom building, landscaping)
- O’Kane Farm Aquatic Center
 - Free-style skate/bike park
 - Playground facilities

Pleasant View Metropolitan District

Acquisitions:

- Small part of One Horse Ranch
- Axtell parcel
- Camp George West Park

Prospect Recreation and Park District

Acquisitions:

- Arapahoe Park
- Prospect Area/Park
- Crestview Arena
- Indiana Street Conservation Easement

Development projects & trail connections:

- Applewood, the West 32nd Trail from Indiana Street to the Clear Creek Trail
- Trail along Welch Ditch, from west 32nd to Denver West
- Connecting bridge across Farmers Highline Canal south of west 50th Avenue
- Reclaim neighborhood trail north of west 44th Avenue, between Holman and Eldridge

City of Westminster

Acquisitions:

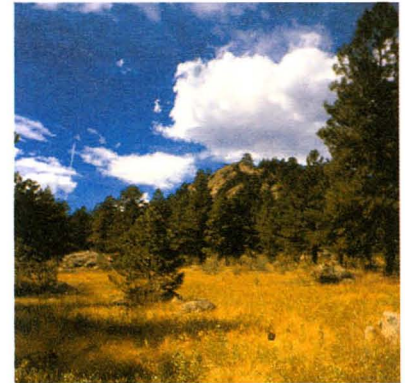
- Addition to Colorado Hills Open Space
- Additions to Walnut Creek Open Space
- Addition to City Park
- Farmer's High Line Canal Trail
- Additions to Big Dry Creek Open Space
- Additions to Standley Lake Regional Park, west end and Borrow Pit Reservoir
- Addition to Church Lake Open Space
- Dry Creek Valley Ditch
- Hidden Lake Wetland

Conservation Easements:

- 96th Avenue and Alkire Street
- Notting Ham Addition
- 72nd Avenue and Depew Street

Development projects:

- Schoenberg Farms
- Youth Sports Complex
- Jeffco Airport Golf Course expansion
- Skateboard Park
- Big Dry Creek Trail underpass
- Walnut Creek Trail underpass



Alderfer/Three Sisters Park -L. Long



South Valley Park -JCOS Archives

City of Wheat Ridge

Acquisitions:

- Highland South Park
- Kendall East
- Lot adjacent to Randall Park
- Acreage behind Church building
- Baugh Cabin property expansion

Development projects:

- Replacement of Clear Creek Trail – Wadsworth to Kipling
- Signage Plan for Wheat Ridge Greenbelt
- Neighborhood parks at 44th Avenue and Kendall, and 38th Avenue and Kipling
- Ongoing upgrade of infrastructure in parks and open space

Appendix 3 - Jefferson County Open Space Resolution

The following is the original Jefferson County Resolution that allows a one-half of one percent sales tax to go for the purchase of land for Open Space.

Mr. Commissioner Trezise moved that the Resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on the 28th day of August, 1972, relating to the adoption of the one half percent (1/2%) county-wide sales tax to be used to acquire open space land, be repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
STATE OF COLORADO

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Article 10, Chapter 138, Colorado Revised Statutes, 1963, as amended, makes provision for a county-wide sales tax; and

WHEREAS, the said Article became effective July 1, 1967; and

WHEREAS, said Article provides for the submission of such sales and services tax proposal to an election by the qualified electors of the County by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Section 4 (3) of said Article provides: "Such county-wide sales tax proposal by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners shall be submitted at the next regular general election if there be one within the next succeeding one hundred twenty days after the adoption of such resolution---"; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jefferson, State of Colorado, desires to refer to the qualified electors of the County of Jefferson, State of Colorado, to be determined by majority voting thereon the question of whether such tax shall be approved or disapproved; and

WHEREAS, a general election is scheduled within one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the said Article provides that the County Clerk shall publish the text of such sales tax proposal four (4) separate times, a week apart, in the official newspaper of the County and each city and incorporated town within the County; and

WHEREAS, the said Article provides that the proposal shall contain certain provisions concerning the amount, levying and scope of said tax.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that there shall be referred to the qualified electors of the County of Jefferson at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 1972, the following proposal:

RESOLVED, that a county-wide one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) sales tax in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, Chapter 138, Colorado Revised Statutes, 1963, as amended, is hereby imposed on the sale of tangible personal property at retail or the furnishing of services in the County of Jefferson, as provided in sub-section (5) of said Article 10, and as is more fully hereinafter set forth. For the purpose of this sales tax proposal, all retail sales are consummated at the place of business of the retailer unless the tangible personal property sold is delivered by the retailer or his agent to a destination outside the limits of the County of Jefferson, or to a common carrier for delivery to a destination outside the limits of the County of Jefferson. The gross receipts from such sales shall include delivery charges, when such charges are subject to the State sales and use tax imposed by Article 5 of Chapter 138, C.R.S. 1963, as amended, regardless of the place to which delivery is made. In the event a retailer has no permanent place of business in the County of Jefferson, or has more than one place of business, the place or places at which the retail sales are consummated for the purpose of a sales tax imposed by this proposal shall be determined by the provisions of Article 5 of Chapter 138, C.R.S. 1963, as amended, and by rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Revenue. The amount subject to tax shall not include the amount of any sales or use tax imposed by Article 5 of Chapter 138, C.R.S. 1963, as amended. The proposal shall be the same as the tangible personal property and services taxable pursuant to

Section 138-5-4, C.R.S. 1963, as amended. All sales of personal property on which a specific ownership tax has been paid or is payable shall be exempt from said sales tax of the County of Jefferson when such sales meet both of the following conditions:

- (a) the purchaser is a non-resident of, or has its principal place of business outside of, the County of Jefferson; and
- (b) such personal property is registered or required to be registered outside the limits of the County of Jefferson under the laws of the State of Colorado. The sales tax imposed shall be remitted to the Director of Revenue of the State of Colorado as provided in Article 10, Chapter 138, C.R.S. 1963, and by him shall be distributed to the County Treasurer of the County of Jefferson, Colorado. The tax imposed by this resolution and proposal shall be subject to all the provisions of Article 10, Chapter 138, Colorado Revised Statutes 1963, as amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the majority of the qualified electors voting thereon vote for approval of this county-wide one-half percent sales tax proposal, such county-wide sales tax shall be effective beginning July 1, 1973.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cost of the election shall be paid from the General Fund of Jefferson County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk shall publish the text of this sales and service tax proposal four (4) separate times a week apart, in the official newspaper of the County of Jefferson and each city and unincorporated town within this county.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any provision of this resolution or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not effect other provisions or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this resolution are declared to be severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the conduct of the election shall conform, so far as is practicable, to the general election laws of the State of Colorado.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all of the net proceeds received by Jefferson County, Colorado, from the Director of Revenue of the State of Colorado from the aforementioned sales tax shall be expended only for the planning for, developing necessary access to, acquiring, maintaining, administering, and preserving open space real property or interests in open space real property, and developing paths and trails thereon, for the use and benefit of the public, such open space real property or interests in open space real property to include but not be limited to land in its natural state, parks and recreation lands, greenbelt and agricultural buffer zones, scenic easements, floodplains, paths and trails, historic monuments, wild rivers, wilderness areas, wildlife habitats, community open space lands, etc.; or the payment of indebtedness incurred for such acquisition, and for such expenditures as may be necessary to protect such open space properties or interests in real properties so acquired from any and all threatened or actual damages, loss, destruction or impairment from any cause or occurrence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the real property or any interest therein acquired by use of proceeds of said sales tax be ever sold, exchanged, transferred, or otherwise disposed of, the consideration for such sale, exchange, transfer, or disposition shall be subject to the same expenditure and use restrictions as those set forth herein for the original proceeds of said sales tax, including the restriction set forth in this paragraph; and if said consideration is by its nature incapable of being so subject, then the proposed sale, exchange, transfer, or disposition shall be unlawful and shall not be made.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County will, if said sales tax measure be approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon, establish a citizens advisory committee to make recommendations to County and municipal officials regarding selection of open space land to be acquired, maintained, or preserved and establishment of priorities therefor; and may be separate and additional resolution promulgate such rules and regulations as may be required to implement this proposal for the best interest and preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Jefferson County, including, without limiting the generality of

the foregoing, all rules and regulations designed to assure that all proceeds from said tax and reimbursements, rebates, or refunds thereof shall be used for the purposes herein set forth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of said citizens advisory committee be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County; and that said citizens advisory committee be composed of three (3) representatives of municipal government selected from lists of nominees submitted by the individual municipalities located wholly or partly within Jefferson County, three (3) representatives of County government selected as the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County shall determine, except that at least one of said County Government representatives shall be a professional planner employed by Jefferson County, three (3) representatives of Jefferson County citizens at large, selected as the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County shall determine, and one(1) representative of recreation and/or park districts selected from lists of nominees submitted by such districts which are located wholly or partly within Jefferson County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that portions of the net proceeds from said sales tax, after deducting Jefferson County administrative expenses, shall be deemed attributable to each municipality located wholly or partly within Jefferson County in accordance with the following formula: the amount deemed attributable to the municipality shall be that amount which bears the same ratio to the entire net proceeds from said sales tax after said deduction for Jefferson County administrative expenses as the sum of Jefferson County automobile registrations within said municipality bears to the sum of all of the Jefferson County automobile registrations. In making the foregoing computations, the latest available automobile registration figures shall be used.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that fifty percent (50%) of that portion of the net proceeds from said sales tax attributable to each municipality, after deduction of Jefferson County administrative expenses, shall be, upon specific requests therefor from time to time by the municipality, expended by Jefferson County for the purposes herein set forth, subject to the condition as to use of proceeds from the sale or other disposition of such acquired real property or interests therein, and right to examine and copy the municipal audit and work papers used in producing said audit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County shall adopt regulations requiring biennial review by the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County, with citizens advisory committee participation, of the expenditures of all of the net proceeds from said sales tax made for the preceding two (2) years, and of the proposed expenditures to be made during the next succeeding two (2) years, with a view to establishing priorities therefor; and for such purpose the relevant official County and municipal audit reports and work papers used in producing said audit reports shall be made available to the citizens advisory committee and the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ballot Question on the county-wide sales and service tax for open space land proposal that shall be referred to the qualified electors of the County of Jefferson at the general election to be held on Tuesday, the 7th day of November, 1972, shall be:

OPEN SPACE LAND BY MEANS OF A COUNTY-WIDE ONE-HALF OF ONE PERCENT (1/2 OF 1%) SALES TAX

"Shall a county-wide one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) sales tax be imposed in Jefferson County, the proceeds of which will be spent only for planning for, developing necessary access to, acquiring, maintaining, administering, and preserving open space real property or interests in open space real property, and developing paths and trails thereon, for the use and benefit of the public, in accordance with the proposal in the Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners dated September 29, 1972."

Yes _____

No _____

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice of the adoption of this county-wide sales and service tax proposal by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon shall be submitted by the County Clerk and Recorder to Director of Revenue at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the effective date of such tax, together with a certified copy of this Resolution.

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jefferson and State of Colorado

that this resolution is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, safety and welfare, and that it shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Mr. Commissioner Lewis seconded the adoption of the foregoing Resolution. The roll having been called, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Commissioner Jack L. Trezise - "Aye";
Mr. Commissioner Joe B. Lewis - "Aye";
Mr. Commissioner Bill Huntsbarger, Chairman - "Aye";

The Resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jefferson, Colorado.

DATED: September 26, 1972

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss:
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)

I, Norman C. Allen, County Clerk and Recorder and Clerk to Board of County Commissioners certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted at the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held on September 26, 1972.

Date of first publication:
October 12, 1972

NORMAN C. ALLEN

Date of last publication:
November 2, 1972

By _____
Eleanor Martin, Clerk to the Board
Deputy County Clerk and Recorder
and Clerk to the Board

Mr. Commissioner Trezise moved that the following Resolution be adopted:

The following is the amendment of the Jefferson County Open space Sales Tax Resolution, which authorizes construction, acquisition and maintenance from the sales tax generated funds.

Commissioner Clement moved that the following Resolution be adopted:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY
STATE OF COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. CC80-711

RE: OPEN SPACE

Amendment of the Jefferson County Open Space Sales Tax
Resolution to authorize construction, acquisition and
maintenance of capital improvements.

WHEREAS, the Colorado General Assembly made effective on July 1, 1967, through Chapter 138, Article 10, Colorado Revised Statutes 1963, as amended, provisions for the imposition of a sales tax by counties in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County, Colorado (the "Board"), adopted a County-wide sales tax proposal by a Resolution adopted by the Board on August 28, 1972, repealed and reenacted by the Board on

September 26, 1972, and, as so repealed and reenacted, approved by the electors of the County at the election held on November 7, 1972 (the "Jefferson County Open Space Sales Tax Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Open Space Sales Tax Resolution specifies the purposes for which the funds derived from such sales tax can be expended and the interests which can be acquired therewith; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board to amend the Jefferson County Open Space Sales Tax Resolution to expand the open space purposes for which the sales tax proceeds may be expended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jefferson, State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. The 8th Resolved paragraph of the body of the Jefferson County Open Space Sales Tax Resolution which specifies the purposes for which the sales tax proceeds may be expended and the interests which may be acquired with such proceeds be amended as follows:

(New material is in capital letters; deleted material indicated by dashes through words.)

"Be it further resolved that all of the net proceeds received by Jefferson County, Colorado, from the Director of Revenue of the State of Colorado from the aforementioned sales tax WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE FOR THE OPEN SPACE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS PARAGRAPH shall be expended only for the planning for, developing necessary access to, acquiring, maintaining, administering, and preserving open space real property or interests in open space real property, and developing paths and trails thereon, AND CONSTRUCTION, ACQUIRING AND MAINTAINING PARK AND RECREATIONAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS for the use and benefit of the public, such open space real property or interests in open space real property to include but not be limited to land in its natural state, parks and recreation lands, PARK AND RECREATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, greenbelt and agricultural buffer zones, scenic easements, floodplains, paths and trails, historic monuments, wild rivers, wilderness areas, wildlife habitats, community open space lands, etc.; or the payment of indebtedness incurred for such acquisition, and for such expenditures as may be necessary to protect such open space properties or interests in real properties so acquired from any and all threatened or actual damages, loss, destruction or impairment from any cause or occurrence."

SECTION 2. ELECTION REQUIREMENT. This amendment shall be effective only upon the submission of this resolution to and its approval by a majority of the registered electors of the County voting thereon, at the general election to be held November 4, 1980.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. Subject to the requirements of Section 2 of this resolution, the effective date of this amendment shall be January 1, 1981, and shall be applicable to all sales tax proceeds available for the open space purposes specified in the Jefferson County Open Space Sales Tax Resolution, and interest thereon, which are received by the County after January 1, 1981 from the Executive Director of the Department of Revenue.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this resolution shall for any reason be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this resolution.

SECTION 5. This proposal shall constitute a separate and independent proposal for determination by the registered electors of the County, not to be dependent upon any other amendment of proposal, but to be in addition to and not in lieu of any other amendment or proposal which may be presented at such election.

Commissioner Martin seconded the adoption of the foregoing Resolution. The roll having been called, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Robert F. Clement	- "Aye";
Commissioner James E. Martin	- "Aye";
Commissioner Harold A. Anderson, Chairman	- "Absent":

The Resolution was adopted by majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jefferson, State of Colorado.

Dated: September 29, 1980

Appendix 4 - Maps

1. **Potential Open Space Preservation Areas -**

These areas are lands that are priority acquisitions and include Front Range Mountain Backdrop/Foreground Preservation Areas, Natural Areas Plan and the North Area Conservation Effort.

2. **Existing Jefferson County Open Space Trails and Trails 2000 Priorities -**

This map illustrates all trails within Jefferson County Open Space parks, completed Trails 2000 trails and Trails 2000 priorities still to be completed.

3. **Existing Recreation Sites -**

Active recreation sites, public golf courses and the recreation districts within Jefferson County are indicated on this comprehensive map.

4. **Potential Trail Corridors -**

This map includes existing Jefferson County Open Space trails and potential and existing trail corridors.



Centennial Cone Park -JCOS Archives

Glossary of Terms

1998 Jefferson County Open Space Sales Tax Revenue Bonds

Bond money used by the County to evaluate and acquire interests in real property for the use and benefit of the public for open space purposes.

Active Recreation

Activities include field sports (soccer, softball, etc.), playground facilities, swimming, skating, tennis and may include motorized use.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990)

An act to establish a clear and comprehensive prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability.

Agreements or Leases

Legally binding documents that confer rights to use property for specific purposes for a specific amount of time.

Board of County Commissioners (BCC)

Jefferson County is governed by a three-member Board of County Commissioners, as mandated by the State Constitution. The Commissioners are elected at large, for four-year staggered terms and they represent the district of the County in which they reside.

Brownfields

Vacant, urban property that has the potential for redevelopment.

Carrying Capacity

A multi-faceted concept that addresses resource quality, facility design and visitor experiences to define the maximum number of visitors a given park can support while sustaining quality.

Census

A survey of population and housing, taken every 10 years by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Conservation Easement

A legal document that contains restrictions on the use or development of land. Easements are designed to preserve values of the property such as wildlife habitat, forests, open space, agricultural lands, scenic vistas or historic structures.



Lair o' the Bear Park -B. Silver



Lookout Mountain Nature Center -B. Silver

Cultural Resources/Features

Sites or individual objects that are at least 50 years old and have local or national historical value and are associated with a person or persons, events, era or architectural style. Older archeological or paleontological finds are also considered a resource.

Denver Mountain Parks/Jefferson County Open Space Management Plan

A management tool designed to help Denver Mountain Parks and Jefferson County Open Space address visitor management issues and continuity between the two agencies.

Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)- Metro Vision 2020 Plan

The region's long-range plan of action for dealing with growth and development, which was adopted in March 1997 by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Board of Directors.

DRCOG-Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)

A plan to help distinguish between land that is urban and land that is unimproved or rural. The urban growth boundaries define land that is planned by local governments to urbanize by the year 2020. The UGB does not mean that development is not planned to occur outside this land area, but rather that the development within the UGB will be urban in character.

Fee Simple

Acquisition of a landowner's property and the rights therein.

Front Range Mountain Backdrop/Foreground Preservation Project

The scenic preservation of the mountain backdrop is the focal point of a coordinated planning effort begun in 1995, that involves five Front Range counties, from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs, to ensure that the quality visual features of the foothills are protected. This area has been the focus of preservation in every Jefferson County Open Space Master Plan since its inception in 1972.

Historical/Archaeological Site

Areas containing historical elements reflecting the County's cultural wealth.

Integrated Treatment Methods

Noxious weed control methods including Biological (the use of living agents, such as goats or

cattle) Chemical (the use of herbicides) Cultural (the use of agricultural practices, such as crop rotation) and Mechanical (the use of physical means, such as mowing or hand pulling).

Jeffco Open Space Foundation, Inc.

A 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization that accepts donations of land, equipment, money, stock, bonds and real property. This organization applies for grants and actively supports educational, wildlife and land protection programs.

Joint Venture Grant Program

This is a partnership effort between the County and cities and recreation districts to accomplish recreational capital improvements benefiting citizens of Jefferson County. This Program provides funding assistance to both incorporated and unincorporated areas to help meet the growing demands for recreational facilities and services.

Land Donation

A landowner transfer of their property to Jefferson County for protection and preservation.

Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance

A group that promotes the historical, cultural and scenic values of the Lariat Loop (a Scenic Byway in the foothills near Golden).

Management Unit Classifications

A component of a Park Management Plan that describes special land classifications of specific areas within the park.

Multi-use Trails

Trails used by a variety of visitors including bicyclists, hikers and equestrian users.

Natural Areas (Management Unit Classification)

Relatively large areas where ecological processes dominate and humans can typically experience a sense of solitude and remoteness.

Natural Areas Plan

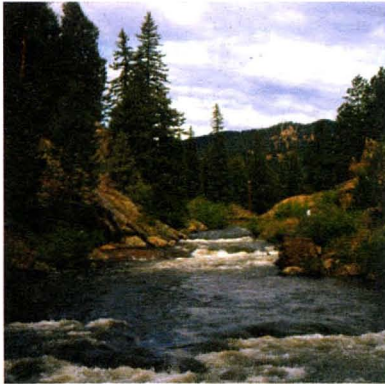
County Resolution adopted in 2002 that identified areas for preservation, including Natural Heritage Inventory sites.

Natural Heritage Inventory Sites

Areas that have been identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program as places that are essentially in a natural undisturbed state, or not seriously disturbed by human activity for potential conservation sites.



Meyer Ranch Park -B.J. Ellison



Pine Valley Ranch Park -JCOS Archives

Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)

A Committee made up of ten members and two alternates, appointed for a three-year term whose purpose is to advise and make recommendations to the Commissioners. The Committee members represent various segments of the County, with three members appointed as City Representatives, three County Representatives, three At-Large Representatives and one Representative for the recreation districts.

Park Management Plan (PMP)

A park specific document that defines a park's vision and articulates the management actions to accomplish that vision.

Park Vision

A component of the Park Management Plan that describes the significant natural and cultural resources of the park and the recreational experiences that Open Space would like to offer.

Parkland Recreation Areas (Management Unit Classification)

Areas that provide opportunities for a wide variety of passive outdoor recreation experiences while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the natural resources.

Passive Recreation

Activities include walking, hiking, biking, picnicking and nature study via interpretive signage.

Prescribed Burns

A controlled application of fire to the land to accomplish specific land management goals. Ignitions may be either human-or naturally caused.

Preservation

An area of land is secured and maintained for the protection of wildlife or natural resources.

Public Lands

Lands owned by a city, county, state or federal agency.

Regional Trail System

A trail system that covers an entire region of a county or beyond.

Regional Visitor Capacity Brochure ("Little Known Jewels")

A brochure developed in cooperation with fourteen local, state and federal land management agencies. This brochure represents 86 parks and open spaces

and is designed to help redistribute visitation from those parks that are at capacity to those areas that can sustain more use.

Seasonal Temporary Closures

A management tool that is used to protect wildlife and trails during specific times of the year. This closure restricts public use of a defined area that is normally open to the public.

Sensitive Areas (Management Unit Classification)

Areas that are very special, fragile and highly valued for their natural and cultural features.

Social Trails

Trails that are made by a community of people and are not officially Open Space trails.

Sustainable Design

The application of sensitive site development techniques such as using native plants, structures which include reused or recycled materials, energy efficiency and overall development which creates minimal environmental impact.

Testamentary Gifts

An owner wills land to the County yet retains ownership and control of the land until the landowners death.

Threatened & Endangered Species

A state or federal designation applied to wildlife and plants. Law protects these plants and animal species.

Trails 2000

A plan to build priority linking trails for cities, recreation districts and Jefferson County.

Trail Easement

An easement in a strip of property that is obtained for trail purposes, linear parks or wildlife habitat protection.

Trails Use Task Force

A group of individuals that represent different park user groups and meet as needed to review the conflicts within the parks and assist in developing programs to mitigate those conflicts.

Universal Design Standards

Design of products and environments to be usable by all people to the greatest possible extent without the need for adaptation or specialized design.



South Valley Park -JCOS Archives