



PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

OCTOBER 2003

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PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL PLAN JEFFCO DINNER MEETING WITH THE COMMISSIONERS, OSAC, AND OPEN SPACE STAFF

Thursday, November 13, 2003

PLAN Jeffco will honor Lafarge for their role in negotiating the trade for the North Table Mountain property.

November 13, 2003
Mount Vernon Country Club
Social Hour at 6:00 P.M.
Buffet Dinner at 6:45 P.M.
Dinner cost is: \$25 per person

For information and reservations, call Wanda Blackburn - 303-279-0664

Reservations also may be sent to PLAN Jeffco at,
26553 Columbine Glen Avenue, Golden, CO 80401

Enclosing payment with your reservation will be appreciated

New Administrator Praises the Quality and Strength of Jeffco's Open Space Nature Center

The nature Center, located on Lookout Mountain, has a new Administrator, Tim Sandsmark, who has been on board for about a year now and has been busily addressing the many practical and educational duties this job involves.

Tim has a lengthy background in the environmental field, his most recent job having been nine years as Director of the Greenway Nature Center in Pueblo, Colorado. Originally coming from Oconomowoc, Wisconsin and starting his college education with the University of Wisconsin extension in Eau Claire. Tim went on to complete undergraduate and Master's Degree work in Colorado, the latter from University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. He has degrees in Business, Education Media, and Outdoor Environmental Education.

Early job experiences included summer work at Curecanti National Recreation Area, located west of Gunnison.

Besides acquainting himself with a staff of eight plus two seasonals, the many educational programs offered by the center, the meeting and training of the many volunteers who assist the center in several capacities, Tim's job also includes participation in meetings of a broader nature. Two such organizations are: "Association of Nature Center Administrators," and "Colorado



Open Space Alliance."

One of the first big tasks of the 2002 summer was to handle the previously scheduled annual Summit Conference of the Association of Nature Center Administrators. The Conference was to be held at the Lookout center, also utilizing adjoining Boettcher Mansion. (This conference is held in different parts of the country, more often in an eastern state because there are proportionately more nature centers in the East.)

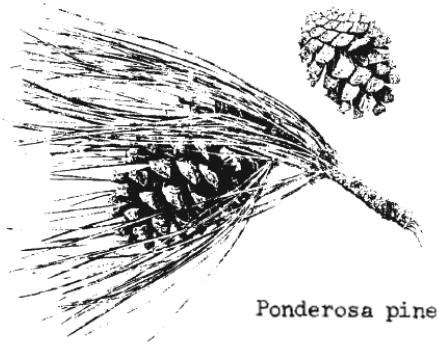
The recent meeting of the Colorado Open Space Alliance generated so much interest and covered so many topics that a follow-up meeting is being organized by Tim and Carey Robbins, from Larimer County. This meeting will focus on Educational Programming.

Staff at the Nature Center is comprised of Kelly Keena, Program Coordinator;

. Interpretive Specialists Carol English, Tabbi Kinion and Chris Barth; Susanne Kirley, Administrative Specialist and Maintenance workers John Remenar and Charles Bowman. Volunteers are trained to handle many of the school groups that visit the center as well as attending the front desk or even assisting in environmental planting at the center or in special projects at other Open Space parks.



Pied-billed Grebe



Ponderosa pine

There are always new volunteers to train and new ideas of utilizing the talents of this valuable help, and extending their responsibilities.

There has been major work done in coordination with Natural Resources in preparing large informative panels, containing interpretive media, to be mounted at the parks. Two that have recently been prepared are "Fire in the Pines" and "Sustainable Design". The Nature Center was designed with sustainable design ideas, using renewable materials or recycled materials wherever possible.

Another way to educate the public in an interesting way is to set up a small presentation, called a Vignette, at one of the parks, on a busy weekend usually, with a couple of staff members and/or volunteers on subjects relating to environmental issues in that park. Such programs would be Bird Migration, or Elk Migration, or Bear and Mt. Lion information.

The Lookout Mountain property, which also contains a group of buildings on the South edge which are used as a shop and maintenance area will be thoroughly studied and scrutinized to develop its Park Management Plan (plans are being done for all of the parks). Present and potential uses will be reviewed in the process. Each plan is written up and becomes a record and a sort of manual for how the park is used and how it is to be maintained.

Tim is assisting in preparing an Open Space Sampler to be put in computer form for use on the internet as well as e-mail which will broaden opportunities to keep the

public informed and advertise any open space activities available to them.

It's clear that this job requires a person capable of multi-tasking. We wish Mr. Sandmark our heartfelt welcome and best wishes!

By Marilyn Mueller

The Nature Center is open to visitors Tuesday thru Sunday, 10:00 AM. to 4:00 P.M.

Thirty-minute programs for 2-5 year olds (with an adult and no older children) are scheduled for:

November 6, 8, and 20 and December 4 and 18. Call the Nature Center for more information, 303.526.0594. Registration is required.

Some of the other programs offered this fall are listed on the following page.



Plants and People Sunday, November 2
 Native people throughout time have depended on plants for medicinal, food and cultural purposes. Discover ancient ways.
Lookout Mountain
 1:00-3:00 pm
 For individuals or families

Wonderfully Wild Halloween Trail
 Wild creatures don't scare me, they build the wild world we see!
Lookout Mountain Nature Center
 Saturday, October 25; 6-8 pm
 Sunday, October 26; 4:30-7 pm
 While all families and individuals are welcome, this program is designed for families with children ages 4-10.

Living with Mountain Lions Saturday, November 8
 Mountain Lions are our mysterious neighbors in the foothills. Learn about these creatures and ways to live with them.
West Entrance
 10:00 am and 1:00 pm

Wildlife Homes Sunday, November 9
 Learn about the homes and foods that animals need to survive. An interactive experience for children and adults!
Lookout Mountain Nature Center
 11:00 am-Noon
 For adults and children ages 3-5. (New age 2+)

Wily Wild Turkeys Saturday, November 22
 Celebrate the wily ways of Colorado's wild turkeys! Join us for an indoor/outdoor learning adventure and discover the life ways of these gobblers!
Lookout Mountain Nature Center
 1:00-3:00 pm
 For individuals or families with children

Snoozing Black Bears Saturday, November 29
 Black bears do not eat or drink for six months! How do they do it? Learn about the 'big sleep' and discover the reasons behind the habits of these amazing animals.
Lair o' the Bear Park
 1:00-3:00 pm
 For individuals or families with children 2+ only.

Nature's Gifts
Saturday, December 6
 Holiday fun for the whole family! Discover some of nature's gifts and make a gift of your own for the holiday season. Do some holiday shopping for nature-related books, toys and CD's for children and adults!
Lookout Mountain Nature Center
 Drop by between 10 am and 4 pm

Junior Astronomers Our Sun! Sunday, December 7
 Hey kids! The sun makes the earth a great place to live. Learn all about the sun and see what it looks like in a telescope!
Lookout Mountain Nature Center
 10:00 am
 Children ages 6-10 only.

Winter Solstice Skies Saturday, December 20
 Winter is an ideal time for astronomy - it gets dark early and the skies are filled with breathtaking sights. Use modern and historic telescopes to view the night sky.
Valley Ranch Observatory
 For individuals or families with children 10+

Wildlife Watch Sunday, December 14
 Join Colorado's Division of Wildlife instructors in the classroom and on the trail to master new wildlife viewing skills! A \$15 program fee goes to the Division of Wildlife.
Lookout Mountain Nature Center
 10:00 am-4:00 pm
 For individuals or families with children 13+

2003 Joint Ventures

We ran out of space to include the Joint Venture Grants in our April, 2003 Newsletter. This was an unusual year in that the requests totaled less than the funds available. Many of the projects were continuations. For Arvada this included improvements to the Majestic View Nature Center and adding baseball fields at Long Lake Ranch. For Bowles Metro District it was another phase on their Nature Park on the isthmus between Bowles and Marston Reservoirs. Columbine and Normandy Estates needed to upgrade tennis court surfaces.

Edgewater was adding landscaping to their Heritage Center and Town Park. Evergreen already found need to expand the Buchanon Rec Center parking lot and extend a trail. Foothills is adding extensive length to the Dutch Creek Trail and a playground at the Ridge Rec Center. Golden is building trails



Bear-berry



Bobcat

on both sides of Clear Creek under the new Washington Street bridge.

Ken Caryl is improving pedestrian access to the Community Center. Lakewood is starting development of the West portion of Gary McDonald Park and adding a skate board park to the Link Rec Center. Leawood is refurbishing a stone retaining wall. Morrison is completing the trail/greenway from C-470 through town to the Town Park.. Pleasant View now has about five grants in hand to allow them to begin development of the Camp George West ballfield site.

Prospect's requests were to upgrade and renovate facilities at the Arena and Fairmont Park. Westminster is completing development of Ryan Park and building a disc golf course at City Park. Wheat Ridge is starting major renovations to the Clear Creek Trail between Wadsworth and Kipling.

2003 Joint Ventures

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Award</u>
City of Arvada	Majestic View Park/Nature Center Improvement - Phase II	\$60,000
City of Arvada	Long Lake Ranch Park - Baseball Fields	\$250,000
Bowles Metro District	Nature Park & Learning Center - Phase 11	\$25,000
Columbine Knoll Park & Rec	Tennis Court - Resurface and Renovation - Phase II	\$22,500
City of Edgewater	Heritage Center & Town Park - Landscaping	\$89,250
Evergreen Park & Recreation	Buchanon Recreation Center-Parking/Trail Expansion	\$82,283
Foothills Park & Recreation	Dutch Creek Regional Trail	\$400,000
Foothills Park & Recreation	Ridge Recreation Center - Playground	\$50,000
City of Golden	Trails at Washington Street Bridge	\$152,000
Ken-Caryl Ranch Metro District	Community Center Improvements	\$13,875
City of Lakewood	Gary R. McDonnell Park - Improvements	\$150,000
City of Lakewood	Link Recreation Center - Skate Board Park	\$60,000
Leewood Recreation District	Raccoon Hollar Park - Stone Wall Refurbishment	\$4,410
Town of Morrison	Bear Creek Trail - Phase III, Town Park Link	\$312,000
Normandy Estates Metro Dist	Tennis Court Improvements	21,000
Pleasant View Metro District	Camp George West Park - Water Main	\$70,400
Pleasant View Metro District	Camp George West Park - East Irrigation System	\$42,020
Prospect Recreation & Park	Prospect Arena - Playground Improvements	\$50,000
Prospect Recreation & Park	Fairmount Park Improvements	\$3,246
City of Westminster	Ryan Park Improvements	\$75,000
City of Westminster	City Park - Disc Golf Course	\$15,000
City of Wheat Ridge	Clear Creek Trail - Improvements	<u>\$152,016</u>
		\$2,100,000

PROSPECT RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT - PROGRESS OF A TRANSITION

Prospect Recreation & Park District is a mosaic of parks with different ages, sources, and uses.

Arapahoe Park, 8 acres, at 44th and Indiana Street is the oldest park in the district. The property was purchased by Jefferson County in 1902 for use as a "poor farm," and was transferred to the district on its formation in 1955. Prospect's other park at the time was Prospect Park, which was transferred to Wheat Ridge when it incorporated. Arapahoe is developed for active recreation with two baseball diamonds (with soccer and football

using the outfield in the fall and spring), a basketball court, volleyball court and horseshoe pit. It also has a small shelter, playground and restrooms.

Applewood Park, 11 acres at 1840 Alkire Court, was acquired by the District in 1967 and has been developed for active recreation with a baseball field, soccer fields, horseshoe pit, and sand volleyball. It also has a shelter, playground, and restroom.

Maplegrove Park, 9.4 acres at 32nd and Garland, was purchased by the District in 1967-1969 using grants. In the 1990's, an Open Space

PROSPECT RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT - PROGRESS OF A TRANSITION

acquisition added 1.6 acres at 32nd and Howell. Maplegrove also is developed for active use with a grass volleyball court, baseball field, soccer/football/lacrosse fields, and a horseshoe pit. It also has three small shelters, a playground, and the Arbor House, community building that can be used for functions of up to about 60 people.

Prospect Arena, 52nd and DeFrame, is a lighted horse arena acquired in the early 1970's. Antique farm and ranch equipment are on display and a playground was installed in 2003.

Fairmount Park, 18 acres at 52nd and Quaker, was purchased by Jefferson County Open Space in 1979-1980. The park was developed for both active and passive uses. There are two soccer fields, a horse arena, and horseshoe pit, plus three shelters, a equi-ped path, playground, and restrooms.

Tanglewood Park and Prospect West Tennis Courts, 8.5 acres at Denver West Circle and Denver West Parkway. The tennis courts and a shelter were constructed in 1985 on 1.5 acres. The balance of the park is leased from R-1 schools. The park development was completed in 2002 and includes baseball diamond, soccer/lacrosse fields, putting green, playground, and large stone pavilion with restroom.



Crestview Arena, initially was 1.5 acres at 54th and Kendrick consisting of an arena and trail maintained by the homeowner's association. In 1985, Prospect assumed operation of the arena. Recently, two acquisitions have added about 3 acres to the site, and a passive use master plan in progress.

Strippgen/Van Bibber is an 18-acre farm-site at Indiana Street and Van Bibber Creek. The District holds a Conservation Easement on the property and is negotiating fee purchase. About 13 acres will be restored to its natural state and the remaining 5 acres may be developed for passive uses.

Trails are an important part of the District. The Coors Tech Center Trail, across the Northwest corner of the Coors Tech Center connects at its Southern end with the Fairmount Trail that then leads North to Ralston Creek. The Crestview Trail follows the Farmers Highline Canal for 0.5 miles. Trails adjacent to roads include 32nd Avenue and 52nd Avenues. There also is a connecting trail along the I-70 West Service Road from 32nd Avenue to Clear Creek.

The Prospect District was organized in 1955 as a unit of Jefferson County with the ability to assess a 1 mill levy. The District initially stretched from Kipling to the Table Mountains and 13th Avenue to about 56th Avenue. The incorporation of Lakewood and Wheat Ridge moved the Eastern boundary to Youngfield/Ward Road and greatly reduced the District's tax base.

From inception to 1999, the District's revenue was sufficient for less than adequate maintenance and little more. Most of the acquisitions and development were funded by

PROSPECT RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT - PROGRESS OF A TRANSITION

grants from Open Space; Department of Interior - Outdoor Recreation; Colorado - Dept of Game, Fish, and Parks; Great Outdoors Colorado; and other grant sources. It took a great deal of effort for the dedicated board members to keep the District running. By the late 1990's, it was apparent that more consistent funding was necessary to meet the needs of the residents and that could only be achieved by the creation of a "Title 32, 4-mill district."

In 1999 the residents approved forming a Title 32 district not subject to TABOR amendment revenue limitations, set a 3-mill levy, and elected a new board of directors. Although being a Title 32 district has improved things, Prospect has a long way to go to become a first-class district. The main difficulty is not having the funds to catch-up with all maintenance and equipment replacements that were deferred while a 1-mill district.

The "new" district has focused on assuring that sufficient property is acquired to satisfy the long-term needs of the district - notably Crestview and Strippgen. Next has been developing plans for upgrading each park with a focus on safety and community needs. Followed by beginning the appropriate upgrading and development. Available funds still are a problem as the present operations budget takes about 90% of the revenue. Therefore, applying for grants still is a major need in order to accomplish the many goals.

Upgrading has not been totally ignored.

-  The playground at Applewood Park has been replaced.
-  Improvements have been made to the Arapahoe Park irrigation system.
-  The Fairmount was extended to add another playing field.
-  Tanglewood Park development was

completed.



District office facilities have had needed repairs.

One method of addressing community needs was to sign an intergovernmental agreement, IGA, with North Jeffco Recreation District to allow Prospect residents to pay resident fees when using North Jeffco facilities. This provides incremental income to North Jeffco; while allowing Prospect residents the opportunity for recreation center-based activities. Prospect is exploring the potential for additional IGA's.

Efforts are being made to increase revenues by boosting week-day rentals of facilities and adding recycling containers at each park.

Projects on Prospect's wish list include:



A picnic pavilion, irrigation system, and restroom at the Prospect Arena.



Complete repair of the district office and maintenance facilities.



Complete purchase of the Strippgen property



Build a connecting trail from Maplegrove Park to the Clear Creek Trail

Gambel Oak



OSAC Notes

April 3, Study Session: A draft update of the Open Space Master Plan was presented. The general tenor of the plan was accepted enthusiastically with a number of comments and suggestions.....Stanton LaBreche stated that the March snow storm collapsed some shed roofs at Hildebrand Ranch and the roof of the Hiwan Homestead was shoveled periodically. Most of the caretaker houses were without power, but because of the slow melting, damage in most of the parks was limited to trees and branches.

Regular Meeting: The meeting began with discussion of a resolution authorizing negotiations with the State Land Board, SLB, for acquisition three properties, two of which are presently leased properties. These include 160 acres contiguous to Hildebrand Ranch, 440 acres on Evergreen Mountain that are part of Alderfer/3 Sisters, and 250 acres of Section 16 on Rocky Flats. The exact procedures that the SLB will use has not been determined so the resolutions allowed for a number of options.....A Resolution was presented and approved to negotiate with Johns-Manville for a 1-acre parcel that is South of Deer Creek road and contiguous to Hildebrand Ranch.....The Management Plan for Elk Meadow was presented. A major problem at Elk Meadow is the small dog off-leash area. It is well used and subject to erosion. There is need to look for another area.....The Management Plan for Clear Creek Canyon was presented. The focus is a linear trail that connects the present Clear Creek Trail in Golden with a trail in Clear Creek County.

May 7, Study Session: Don Klima and Nora Simmons, Volunteer Coordinator, gave a presentation on the many Volunteer Service opportunities. In 2002, 1094 volunteers contributed about 22,600 hours to Open Space.....Ken Foelske presented information on the trail maps that are available and the inadequacies of many of the maps. Arvada and Westminster participated in a U.S. Regional

Bike Map and have good updated data. The consensus of OSAC was that Open Space should take the lead and prepare a high quality map data base for Jefferson County and connecting areas, that would allow preparation of accurate maps of any particular area.

Regular Meeting: A Resolution was presented to trade 95 acres of Ken-Caryl Metro District- owned property contiguous to the Southwest border of the South Valley Park for 19 acres of Hildebrand Ranch property that is North of Deer Creek road and contiguous to Ken-Caryl Metro District property. The trade, which allows orphaned properties to be managed with contiguous properties, was passed unanimously. The 19 acres still will have public access.

June 5, Study Session: Bud Simon of BHM Design presented a proposal for routing a trail through downtown Evergreen from the Hwy 73 bridge East through the business area.

Regular Meeting: Lori Shannon, with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service gave OSAC an update of their alternative actions process relative to the Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge. The Committee expressed concern that the alternatives showed poor compatibility with Jeffco's equestrian community and that there needed to be more loops, and trails that allowed connecting with trails in surrounding areas.....Ken Foelske reported that a public meeting was held on the Master Plan draft and comments were being received from cities, districts, and various groups.

July 10, Study Session: The study session was devoted to a review of the proposed 2004 Budget. The budget shows a 7% increase. This major increases are 4% merit pool for salaries and benefits and increasing the Fleet Management budget to match actual costs. The five-year budget projection had shown a potential \$500,000 increase in Joint Ventures now that 2003 was the last year for the \$2,000,000 Sports Facility grants. There was some discussion on whether or not to increase the Joint Venture amount.

OSAC Notes

Regular Meeting: Pro and Con comments were received on the Maurer property in Golden. OSAC was not due to receive the proposal until the August meeting.....The proposed 2004 budget was discussed. The consensus of the committee was that the Joint Venture amount should be held at \$2,000,000 and the additional \$500,000 be spent elsewhere. After much discussion on appropriate areas, a motion was made and passed to use the funds for accelerating the road and parking lot development at Centennial Cone. The budget then was approved.....A final draft of the Master Plan was presented. Changes that had been made were discussed and a few new changes were suggested. These changes were to be made and the Plan would then be presented to the Board of County Commissioners.....Approval was given for a drainage swale to be constructed on the Hildebrand Ranch. The Evergreen trail plan presented in July was reviewed staff and they requested moving forward. A Resolution to begin the project was passed.....A Resolution extending the State Land Board leases at Alderfer/3 Sisters and Hildebrand Ranch was approved.

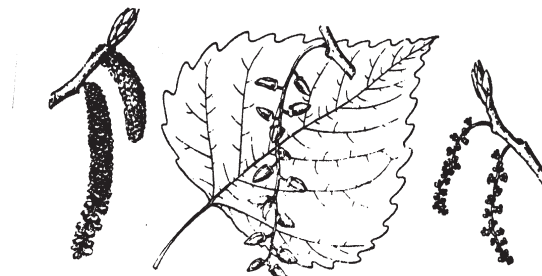
August 7, Study Session: Tim Sandsmark, Lookout Mountain Nature Center Administrator, presented information on interpretive media, mainly sign boards, that are being placed at specific locations in various parks.

Regular Meeting: Steve Glueck, Planner for Golden, presented their proposal for acquisition of the Maurer property on the West slope of south Table Mountain. Considerable pro and con public testimony was given. A field trip to the property was planned with Action to take place at the September meeting.....Joy Lucisano presented information on CDOT's proposal to acquire about 6 acres of Matthews-Winters Park for a parking lot. CDOT had been negotiating with a threat of condemnation; however a court in July ruled that CDOT could not condemn

land for parking lots. A field trip to the site was planned.

September 4, Study Session: The Study Session was a field trip to the Maurer property.

Regular Meeting: The final 2003 Master Plan was distributed to the OSAC members.....A Resolution to accept a 10-acre donated conservation easement from Denver West Realty was presented. The 10 acres are on the South east slope of South Table Mountain. The easement would be donated to the Jeffco Open Space Foundation and then transferred to Open Space. The Resolution was passed.....Acquisition of the Maurer property was discussed at length. Again there was pro and con public comment. A motion to proceed with the acquisition was defeated.....The status of the Rooney Valley soccer fields was discussed with Steve Glueck, Golden Planner. He said that the Golden Council was waiting for a financial management plan before granting approval to proceed. The Committee let Mr. Glueck know that there other opportunities available for using the \$3,000,000 allocated to this project.....The Management Plan for Hildebrand Ranch Park was presented. The plan is for a few trails looping the property and connecting to Deer Creek Park and the Chatfield Nature Preserve.



Plains cottonwood

If you have not!!! Join PLAN Jeffco or renew your Membership today!

PLAN Jeffco is the county-wide volunteer citizen's group that organized and drafted the Open Space Resolution that resulted in the formation of the Jefferson County Open Space Program in 1972. We currently function as a watchdog group, observing meetings of the Open Space Advisory Committee, participating in subcommittees, and issues groups, proposing and working for important acquisitions, and keeping citizens informed of what is going on in their Open Space Program. PLAN Jeffco provided the leadership for the successful vote for bonds in 1998.

PLAN Jeffco works for Open Space and we work for you! Please sign up or renew your membership now! Your address label shows the date of your last renewal. Call 303.526.0234 for membership information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Our membership rate is:

\$25 per year

Make checks payable to PLAN Jeffco and send to:

PLAN Jeffco
26553 Columbine Glen Avenue
Golden, CO 80401

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Please include with your dues payment or email to

jkclitz7@ix.netcom.com



Henry David Thoreau, famed for his accounting of life at Walden Pond, in New England, from July 4, 1845 until September 6, 1847. From the chapter named Spring:

“The first sparrow of spring! The year beginning with younger hope than ever! The faint silvery warblings heard over the partially bare and moist fields from the blue-bird, the song sparrow, and the red-wing, as if the last flakes of winter tinkled as they fell! What at such a time are histories, chronologies, traditions and all written revelations? The brooks sing carols and glees to the spring. The marsh hawk sailing low over the meadow is already seeking the first slimy life that awakes. The sinking sound of the melting snow is heard in all dells, and the ice dissolves space in the ponds. The grass flames up on the hillsides like a spring fire,--“et primitus oritur herba imbribus primoribus evocata,” as if the earth sent forth an

inward heat to greet the returning sun; not yellow but green is the color of the flame:-the symbol of perpetual youth, the grass-blade, like a long green ribbon, streams from the sod into the summer, checked indeed by the frost, but anon pushing on again, lifting its spear of last year’s hay with the fresh life below. It grows as steadily as the rill oozes out of the ground. It is almost identical with that, for in the growing days of June, when the rills are dry, the grass blades are their channels, and from year to year the herds drink at this perennial green stream, and the mower draws from it betimes their winter supply. So our human life but dies down to its root, and still puts forth its green blade to eternity.”



PLAN Jeffco

26553 Columbine Glen
Golden, CO 80401

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