



PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

APRIL 2004

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PLAN Jeffco Annual Meeting April 24, 2004

Learn about the upcoming Bioblitz and
PLAN Jeffco's trail use survey

Where: Open Space Hearing Room

When: 8:30 to 9:00 - Coffee, fruit, bagels,
conversation

8:00 to 11:00 - Welcome, business meeting,
program

But what is a BioBlitz?

It's a special 24-hour community event to discover the diversity of plant and animal life in a certain area. The Grasslands BioBlitz will happen on publicly-owned and managed grasslands near the border of Jefferson and Boulder counties. Scientists and volunteers will identify as many species as possible to create a biodiversity snapshot of about 6,000 acres, some in reserves closed to the public. Participants of all ages will have rare opportunities to:

- Interact with scientists, learn about the techniques and tools they use, and discover what they are finding,
- Observe a diversity of organisms with the help of scientists and naturalists at trailheads, including a handicap accessible location, and through interpretive programs
- Learn about grassland biodiversity through

an array of displays and scheduled presentations.

The hub of activities will be the Visitor Center at the Rocky Flats Access Road traffic light along Colorado Route 93 between Golden and Boulder. This education and science staging area for the Grasslands BioBlitz will offer exciting opportunities for families and individuals to learn together and will provide amenities such as indoor snack and break areas. Activities will range from fascinating presentations about bats, spiders, bugs and plants to projection scopes with tiny critters enabling us to see their microscopic parts, learn how they survive, and how they're distinguished from other organisms. Informational displays will let you learn more about the biodiversity of our native grasslands and groups working on their behalf. Before or after your hike, don't miss this unique set of offerings, which will only be available and open to all for free during the Grasslands BioBlitz.

Continued

BioBlitz Coming June 25th and 26th to the Rocky Flats Grasslands!

Get ready for the 2004 Grasslands BioBlitz! From noon, Friday, June 25 to noon, Saturday, June 26, this exciting opportunity will allow all to discover the biodiversity of a large swath of publicly-owned grasslands in in Boulder and Jefferson Counties. Beginning in late March you'll be able to find information about specific activities planned for you, your family, and friends at <http://www.grasslands-bioblitz.org>

Join us June 25 –26 to see scientists in action and discover the biodiversity of our grasslands. There's a lot more there than meets the eye!

The Colorado Division of Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Colorado Museum and the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department, the U. S. Department of Energy, Jefferson County Open Space, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, Boulder County

Open Space, and the Colorado Native Plant Society all are working together and collaborating with many other organizations to plan this year's Grasslands BioBlitz.

Please visit <http://www.grasslands-bioblitz.org> for more details.



Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society

The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society (TENAS) began 35 years ago with the vision of a community in touch with its natural environment. Not just focused on birds; geology, mammals, plants, water quality and conservation are within The Chapter's scope. Field trips and monthly natural history presentations draw individuals and families from West Jefferson, Park and Clear Creek Counties. Although membership is not a requirement for participation, more than 500 members directly support a mission promoting conservation and stewardship.

TENAS engages the community. Activities include field research, invasive species management, habitat enhancement, and educational programs for schools, scouts and other youth organizations. TENAS contributes to

open space acquisition and provides interpretive services to established areas of natural interest. It represents community environmental values in public policy development and serves as a community natural history and environmental resource.

The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society presentation and meeting is on the first Thursday of each month, 7 pm at the Evergreen Recreation Center. Everyone is invited.


For more information contact:
The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society
P.O. Box 523 • Evergreen, CO 80437
303.679.0661


[Http://www.dipper.org](http://www.dipper.org)

An alternate proposal to CDOT taking Jeffco Open Space


PLAN Jeffco and CARE (Canyon Area Residents for the Environment) presented, to CDOT and to the Jeffco Open Space Advisory Committee, an alternative to CDOT 's present plan to use 6 acres of existing Jeffco Open Space for a parking lot and a road. The alternative would avoid scaring the entrance to the Mt. Vernon Canyon scenic corridor, at the Gateway to the Rockies, with a 30 foot high concrete wall and condemning 6 acres of Jeffco Open Space for a parking lot and realignment of Hwy 40. PLAN Jeffco and CARE proposed that: (I) the parking lot and road be moved north along the west side of Hwy. 40 onto a 26-acre undeveloped commercially zoned parcel, (ii) that Jeffco Open Space purchase the 26 acres with the intent of adding it to the existing and future open space land that was part of the recent Lafarge transaction, (iii) and disposing some of the property to CDOT for their purposes. On February 3, 2004, Highway Commissioner, Joe Jehn agreed to consider the proposal.


PLAN Jeffco and CARE challenge CDOT to pursue this with the same creativity and openness that it used in designing the Evergreen Parkway alignment to allow the elk continued access to ponds below the road. CDOT has been requested to expend time and effort on how to accomplish this proposal, rather than on why it will not work. There should be no overriding technical issues that cannot be surmounted with a creative and "can do" approach. For the reasons described below, PLAN Jeffco and CARE believe CDOT should find a means for implementing this alternative to produce a "win-win" result for all parties.


 The strong potential for commercial development adjacent to existing and future open space properties will be eliminated which will result protecting the values of the "Lafarge" open space properties.


 Relocation of the proposed parking lot north, behind the Hogback, will significantly

lessen deleterious impact to the "Gateway to the Rockies" and to the scenic corridor.

 The 30 foot concrete walls needed on the north side of I 70 will not be needed which will not only eliminate a costly expenditure, it will eliminate another degradation of our scenic corridors.

 There will be a reduced need to excavate the land to contour it for the parking lot and road which should result in a significant cost saving.

 With relocation of the proposed parking lot, the land under the existing parking lots on the west side of Highway 40 could traded to Jeffco Open Space and these lots reclaimed, creating a scenic buffer between I 70 and the new parking lot and Hwy 40, preserving the views of the Mt. Vernon Canyon scenic corridor.

 Last but not least, a controversial, expensive and politically adverse condemnation proceeding will be avoided by all parties. In addition, the integrity of JCOS land disposal policy will be maintained with no inappropriate precedents set.

by Margot Zallen



GOCO MATTERS

A prominent article on the front page of the October 20, 2003 Rocky Mountain News expressed critical concern that Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) had not used any of the bonding authority granted by voters in November 2001 for land acquisitions. The bonding authority's purpose was to enable saving lands from development as soon as possible and while land prices were favorable.

PJ Board members Ann Bonnell and Marilyn Mueller have attended three recent GOCO meetings in which the public was invited to attend and to provide opinions and information. Subsequent to these meetings, PLAN Jeffco has submitted a letter suggesting uses for the bond funds and the Jefferson County Open Space Department submitted a project outline in response to a GOCO board request for projects they might consider for bond money funding.

A ruling was passed against using GOCO funds for land management purposes, such as weed control or forest land fire prevention management or forest fire revegetation . PLAN Jeffco had submitted a letter stressing that money should be used primarily for land acquisition and that GOCO revenues could not realistically cover the enormous budgets which would be presented continuously for such land management uses.

Observation at these meetings has indicated definite reluctance on the part of the Projects Committee as well as the regular GOCO Board to use bond funds. Those who speak, speak conservatively and what is on their mind is the high cost of using bond money. There was a request for staff to prepare payout numbers on bond amounts for further study.

Representatives from the Trust for Public Lands, Nature Conservancy, Audubon, Cattlemen's Association have all made public comment. Several environmental organizations have noted the apparent need for collaborative all day workshops to provide an up to date consensus

on the needs, the locations, and the urgency. Results of such workshops would clarify criteria and identify worthy proposals.

PLAN Jeffco requested that a detailed planning process and a statewide Master Plan for open space acquisition, that includes bond monies, be formulated and implemented immediately. Such a planning process and Master Plan could be modeled after the Jefferson County or other local open space programs. The Master Plan would be formulated by GOCO staff with the concurrence of the GOCO board and would comprise a detailed description of the vision of the GOCO program. It is also proposed that local representatives participate in this process, representing their areas. It is not intended that the GOCO plan supplant local open space plans but that it rely on them in the formulation of a state plan for disbursement of GOCO funding. That is, the GOCO funding plan would be supplied with projects by open space programs on the county and municipal levels. Furthermore, PLAN Jeffco asserts that an emphasis of GOCO open space acquisition strategies via bonding should include buffer lands between existing suburban communities as well as lands in the six county Mountain Backdrop/ Foreground project.

Items for discussion at meeting to be held March 26 are:

- Discussion of project concepts.
- Vote on bonding criteria.
- Decision on whether to proceed on bonding.
- Decision on whether to enter rule making.

Another meeting to be held June 16 will include a vote on bonding rules and a presentation of GOCO's annual spending plan.

For GOCO information:
<http://www.goco.org/bonding/bonding.html>

by Marilyn Mueller

Management of North Table Mountain Discussed at Table Mountains Conservation Fund Spring Meeting

With the acquisition of 463 acres of Lafarge land, the top of North Table Mountain now is virtually all Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS). Efforts will now turn to management of this newly acquired open space.

Anticipating these efforts, the Table Mountains Conservation Fund (TMCF) invited stakeholders and all interested citizens and parties to a workshop at its annual spring meeting, Friday evening, March 19 at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden. The workshop was intended to elicit preliminary ideas and discussion on how resources on North Table Mountain could be managed by JCOS. Approximately 100 citizens attended.

After a reception, the workshop was formally opened by TMCF board member and workshop organizer, Jane Sikoryak. After some welcoming remarks by TMCF president, Elliot Brown, JCOS representatives Roxanne Hernandez and Frank Kunze described the general elements of a JCOS park management plan and how they might be applied to North Table Mountain open space. Then attendees broke up into smaller groups where much spirited and creative discussion took place, facilitated by members of the TMCF board and aided by a number of invited experts on geological, habitat, plant, and wildlife resources. Virtually all ideas, requests and concepts with regard to potential resource management on North Table Mountain were recorded by facilitators.

At the close of the meeting Jane Sikoryak stated that TMCF intends to organize the information gathered at the workshop into a report to be disseminated to attendees, JCOS staff formulating the management plan for North Table Mountain, and other interested parties.

All those interested in the management of open space on North Table Mountain are encouraged

to continue their active participation in the public process for creation of a JCOS management plan. The next step in this process was a JCOS organized public meeting on Tuesday, March 30, 2004, 6-8 PM at the OSAC Hearing Room.

TMCF is a non-profit 501c(3) corporation based in Golden. The mission of TMCF is advocacy for the acquisition and preservation of North and South Table Mountains as open space. To accomplish this mission TMCF sponsors educational symposia, such as the North Table Mountain management workshop, informs the public and governmental entities with regard to critical issues associated with the mesas, and has facilitated the acquisition of small parcels of land on the mesa slopes as open space. TMCF volunteers constructed and help maintain two major trails on the slopes of North and South Table Mountains.

For more information on North Table Mountain and the Table Mountains Conservation Fund contact Elliot Brown at (303) 279-0664 or the TMCF website at www.tablemountains.org.

by Elliot Brown



Audubon Society of Greater Denver

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver (ASGD) was founded in 1968 by a group of bird watchers that wanted to share their passion for nature with others. They had a strong desire to become advocates for the environment and protect natural areas in the Denver-metro area. ASGD now has over 3,000 members in Jefferson, Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Denver and Douglas counties. The organization strives to protect the environment, especially the South Platte watershed, through advocacy, research and education. While many of our members still enjoy bird watching, ASGD's interests extend to include all aspects of nature.

Volunteers are the life force of ASGD. In 2003, volunteers donated over 5,400 hours of service to ASGD's projects. Projects like ASGD's conservation action team are truly grassroots efforts. The conservation action team insures that members' voices are heard at the state and local level on environmental issues and legislation. They serve as a valuable resource to local citizens interested in improving the environmental quality within their neighborhoods.

The organization also offers field trips, workshops and travel adventures that take participants all over the Denver-metro area and beyond! Programs range from morning bird walks in local open spaces to two-week excursions exploring the ecosystems of Ecuador. ASGD field trips give people the opportunity to improve their knowledge of nature and meet new friends that share a common interest.

ASGD's main project at present is creating the Audubon Center at Chatfield State Park. The vision for the Audubon Center is to connect

people with nature and inspire a sense of stewardship in all who visit. Responding to a comprehensive market research study completed in 2001, the Audubon Center is designed especially for toddlers, preschoolers, elementary students and families. At the heart of the Audubon Center is a nature-based preschool that provides a unique opportunity for parents to introduce their love for nature to their children at an early age.

The Audubon Center site provides critical habitat for an abundance of plants and wildlife. Set alongside the South Platte River – an important wildlife corridor – the site offers visitors the chance to explore forests, shrublands, grasslands, ponds and wetland ecosystems. Designated as an Important Bird Area, the park boasts a list of 345 bird species that spend part of their year at Chatfield. More than 150 types of butterflies inhabit the site, along with a wide variety of plants and other wildlife. On a hike at the Audubon Center, you may chance upon mule deer grazing, prickly pear blooms drying in the sun, red-winged blackbirds singing loudly to defend territories or raccoon tracks left in the mud.

ASGD is affiliated with the National Audubon Society. However, ASGD remains an independent non-profit organization. Funding for ASGD projects comes from local members and donors.

For more information and to get involved, contact Susan Smith at 303-973-9530 or ssmith@denveraudubon.org.

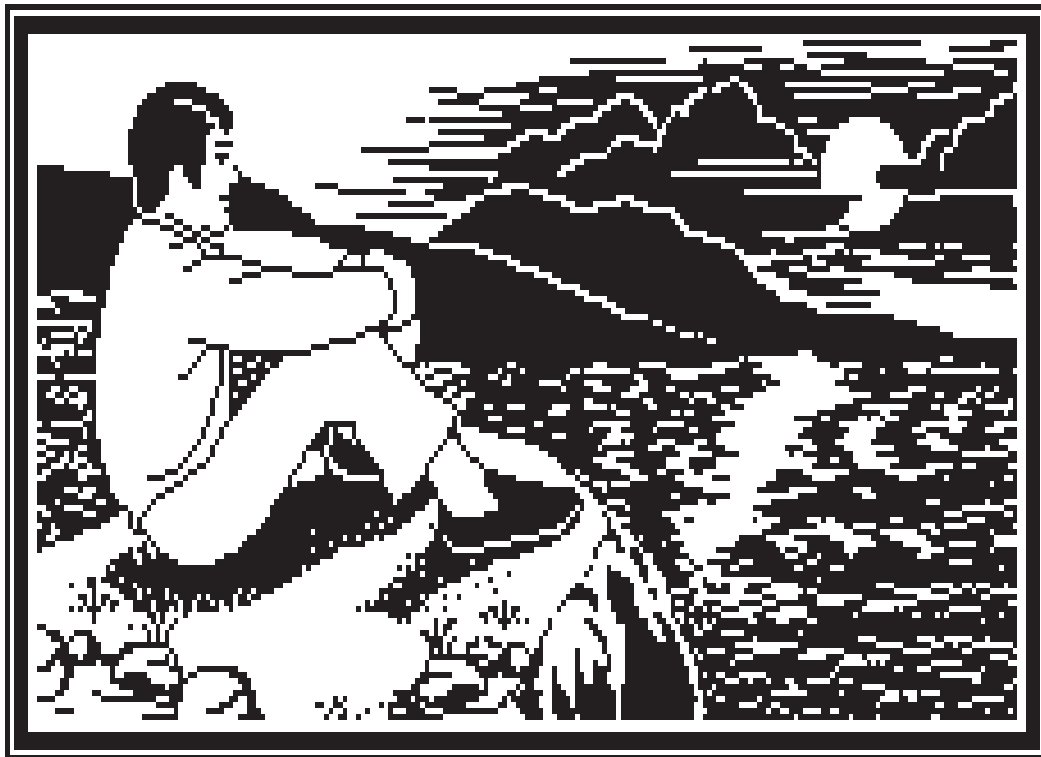
by Susan Smith, Executive Director

Bunny Clement - Thanks for caring

Bunny Clement loved the Jefferson County Open Space Program. As a County Commissioner, her continuous support was instrumental in helping the county acquire through leases, easements, land trades and fee title over 10,000 acres of open space lands during her tenure as a Commissioner. She was an accomplished horsewoman who avidly supported the acquisition and development of a county-wide Open Space trails system. These trails would not only provide unique outdoor recreational experiences within the Open Space Parks, but also enable the connection of parks, neighborhoods, and communities with over 100 miles of multi-use trail opportunities.

Commissioner Clement, through her dedicated support of the acquisition of Open Space Park lands enabled each town, city, and community to benefit in creating and sustaining the quality of life throughout the county that was envisioned by the founders of the Open Space Program. Bunny Clement was in the right place at the right time to help guide the successful growth and direction of this unique and nationally recognized land preservation program. The citizens of Jefferson County owe her an immense and heart felt THANK YOU!!

By Ray Printz



Commissioner's Dinner

Last November's annual dinner with the Commissioners, OSAC, Open Space Department and PLAN Jeffco members was attended by over 100 people who filled the room with their enthusiastic conversations, that lasted well after the dinner and speech making ended.

Guest Speaker, Dean Rundle, of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, gave an encouraging report on the development of plans to create the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, which is going through a lengthy design development and public input process. Display boards showing alternative proposals were mounted around the

room for excellent visual help in understanding the possibilities, which ranged from ecological preservation only, (little or no public access,) to a full range of public access and use.

The accompanying photograph shows PLAN Jeffco Chair, Margot Zallen presenting the annual 'tree hugger' award to Lafarge for their considerable efforts in a historic land transaction that significantly benefitted the Open Space program.

By Marilyn Mueller



2004 JV Grants

Requests for joint ventures were back to normal this year - requests were \$3.8 million for the \$2 million budgeted. Priorities were given to finishing ongoing projects and projects that would expand recreational opportunities.

Arvada is adding trail segments along Van Bibber Creek, beginning in Long Lake Park. Columbine Knolls will be expanding parking at Marker Park on a portion of the park obtained from R-1 schools. Edgewater was assisted, getting an electronic scoreboard in Citizens Park. Evergreen will add outdoor facilities to the Buchanan Rec Center to expand summer use.

Foothills was a big winner with funds to renovate the Lilley Gulch Rec Center and add

fields at the Ridge Park. Golden is building a trail from Johnson Road along-side the golf course to the Splash Aquatic Park. Ken-Caryl will be improving trails near the rec center. Lakewood will be completing Gary McDonnell Park and begin developing Aviation Club Park. Leawood will close a gap in the Lilley Gulch trail.

Morrison will be upgrading the Natural History Museum. North Jeffco is converting an unused tennis court in Apple Meadows to a skate park. Prospect Park will be replacing the restrooms at Arapahoe Park. Westminster is adding a skate park to City Park. Wheat Ridge will complete replacement of the deteriorated asphalt trail along the Clear Creek Green Belt.

Arvada	Van Bibber Creek Trail	\$	200,000
Edgewater	Citizens Park - Scoreboard	\$	7,275
Golden	Johnson Rd to Aquatic Park Trail	\$	162,000
Lakewood	Gary McDonnell Park - Phase III	\$	70,500
Lakewood	Aviation Club Park - Phase I	\$	150,000
Morrison	Natural History Museum Improvements	\$	25,000
Westminster	City Park Skate Park	\$	120,000
Wheat Ridge	Clear Creek Trail - Phase II	\$	150,000
Columbine Knolls	Marker Park - parking lot expansion	\$	151,000
Evergreen	Buchanan Rec Center - outside facilities	\$	84,000
Foothills	Lilley Gulch Rec Center Renovation	\$	450,000
Foothills	Ridge Park - Ball Fields	\$	187,000
Ken Caryl Metro	Community Park - Trail Improvements	\$	18,000
Leawood	Dutch Creek Trail	\$	83,000
North Jeffco	Apple Meadows skate park	\$	34,225
Prospect	Arapahoe Park Improvements	\$	108,000
		\$	2,000,000



OSAC NOTES – OSAC NOTES – OSAC NOTES

October 2, 2003 - Study Session

Began with a field trip to Edgewater to view the property (closed King Soopers) that Edgewater is purchasing to allow combining all city services in one location plus having space for a small recreation center. Regular study session was directed at a discussion of trail management. John Litz reported on the partial results of the PLAN Jeffco non-scientific survey started in late August. (Analysis of the survey will be included in the next "Update.") Ken Foelske reported that Centennial Cone will be opening with alternating week-end days for hikers only or bikers only. There also is potential to pair with Denver Mountain Parks for hiker-only trails. A discussion of conflicts and possible solutions followed.

Regular Meeting - Approved acquisition of King Soopers property for expansion of Edgewater Citizens Park. Approved purchase of the 80-acre Witbak property adjacent to Cathedral Spires. Approved 120-acre conservation easement and trail easement on Resort Valley property also adjacent to Cathedral Spires. Accepted Ramstetter donation of mineral rights underlying 1760 acres of Open Space lands North of Clear Creek being conveyed through the Jeffco Open Space Foundation. Approved negotiation for two boundary adjustments with Open Lands LLC on property adjacent to Reynolds Ranch. Open Space will gain a wider trail corridor to the Southeast from the main part of the park.

November 2, 2003 - Study Session

Foothills Park and Rec reviewed the Master Plan process for the Fehring Ranch property. The preferred plan will have multi-use fields, playgrounds, natural area along Weaver Creek, an off-leach area, tennis and basketball facilities, plus space for a field house and community center.

Mike Lee updated the Committee on the potential for a minor league baseball team to

build a baseball stadium adjacent to the R-1 football and soccer stadiums.

Regular Meeting - Approved acquisition of 40 acres adjacent to the West boundary of Reynolds Park that will allow for a loop trail from the present dead end at Eagles View. Approved the boundary adjustments with Open Lands LLC adjacent to Reynolds Park.

December 4, 2003 - Study Session

Staff presented an overview of the Leave No Trace program for educating visitors about stewardship of open space. A review of the Junior Ranger Program also was presented. The program is designed for 6 to 12-year olds

Regular Meeting Approved an easement for Blue Mountain Water District to cross Open Space to a water well-field. Approved a land trade with Westminster and R-1 School District to trade 25 acres on the Northeast corner of Standley Lake Park for 11.4 acres of R-1 property adjacent to the Westminster Off-Leash Dog Park, 18 acres West of Alkire and North of 100th Avenue, plus 25 acres North of 100th and West of Simms. CDOT's proposal for moving US 40 and building a parking lot at the I-70 / US 40 intersection was presented. CDOT desires about 6 acres of Open Space land for the project.

January 8, 2004 - Study Session

Field trip to the CDOT Proposed parking lot. Overview of Joint Venture and Conservation Trust Fund grant requests. Presentation by Foothills on their efforts toward determining a basis for the Conifer area to be included as a Foothills subdistrict such that Foothills could manage Beaver Ranch.

Regular Meeting - Jefferson County Highways is planning to widen Highway 73 North of Shadow Mountain Road along-side Flying J Ranch. Approximately 3.7 acres of Open Space will be involved as the plan included moving North Turkey Creek to its original course and adding wetlands. Approved negotiations for a

trail corridor and possibly more on Colorado Christian University property between Hwy 285 and Bellview on the West side of the hogback. Staff presented summaries of the Van Bibber Park and Lair o' the Bear Park Management Plans. Ralph Schell reported that the Land Board would be proceeding with closed bids on Blue Mountain (Coal Creek), Evergreen Mountain, and a piece within the Southwest corner of Hildebrand Ranch Park.

February 5, 2004 - Study Session

Field trip to the CDOT Proposed parking lot. CDOT made a detailed presentation on their design for the proposed parking lot and realignment of US 40. Margot Zallen and Dick Bartlett presented an alternative location (see details in a separate article).

Regular Meeting - Authorized negotiations for a trail corridor through Lockheed-Martin Property South of Hildebrand Ranch Park. The trail easement would allow the trail to go through a saddle rather than over the top of the hogback. A report was presented on the 2003 park visitor surveys. This year's responders were mainly hikers and showed support for separate trails for different user types. There has been a significant decrease in reported user conflicts, especially on weekends. Ralph Schell reported that the State Land Board had tabled the bidding on the properties (see January regular meeting notes).



March 4 - Study Session

A presentation was made on Forest Management and prescribed burns. Last year prescribed burns were conducted in White Ranch. Burns are planned in Elk Meadow and White Ranch during 2004.

Regular Meeting - Approved acquisition of the Distel in holding in O'Kane Park along 1s Avenue East of Teller St. Approved negotiations for a trail corridor between Flying J Park and Conifer High School. Approved final terms for acquisition of 135 acres of the Denver Water Board's Fehringer Ranch property, see November Study Session for potential uses of the property. Staff presented summaries of the Mount Lindo, Lookout Mountain Nature Center, and Trail Corridor Management Plans.



PRICKLY POPPY

ACQUISITIONS IN 2003

Acquisitions in 2003 included:

Lafarge exchange - 60-acres exchange of Mathews-Winters natural lands for 60 acres adjacent to the Lafarge Quarry plus 463 acres of natural lands on North Table Mountain.

Westminster - 30.5 acres surrounding Lower Church Lake (West of US 36 and North of 104th). Westminster will reimburse Open Space for the \$3,000,000 purchase price during the next three years. The property is designated to be a natural area.

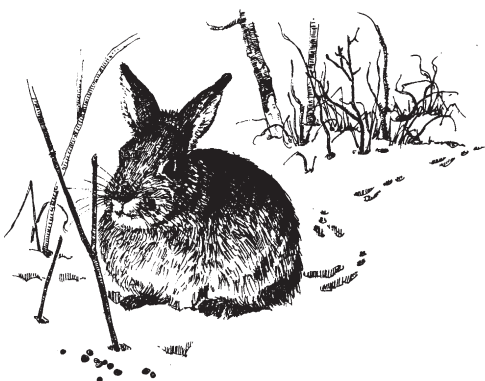
Foothills - Fee purchase, \$1,300,000, of three R-1 surplus properties totaling 29 acres that were being leased to Foothills. The three properties will be developed for ballfields.

Lakewood - 2.7 acres for Two Creeks Park
Three properties for a cost of \$181,000.
To be used for a neighborhood park.

Ternstrom - 160 acres Northwest of White Ranch in the Ralston Creek Natural Area at a cost of \$336,000..

Elmgreen - 110 acres North of I-70 on the Clear Creek County Line for \$330,000. Clear Creek County acquired a similar-sized property on the West side of the County line. The property will be a natural area with possibility of a trail corridor.

Ramstetter - conservation easement on 320 acres West of Crawford Gulch Road across from the West, White Ranch entrance road. The easement was processed through the Jeffco Open Space Foundation..



Cottontail with scats and chewed twigs



GOLDEN SMOKE

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.

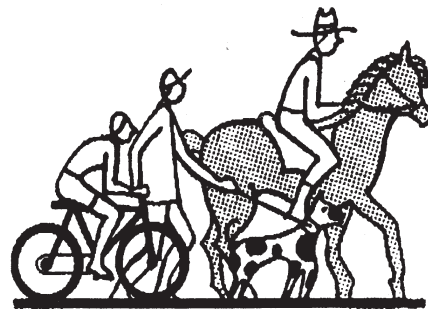
There are several main components of a Park Management Plan. The Park Vision describes the significant natural and cultural resources of the park and the kind of recreational experiences Open Space would like to offer there. This visionary language provides staff with direction for making resource and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

Excerpted from the Jefferson County Open Space 5-year Master Plan

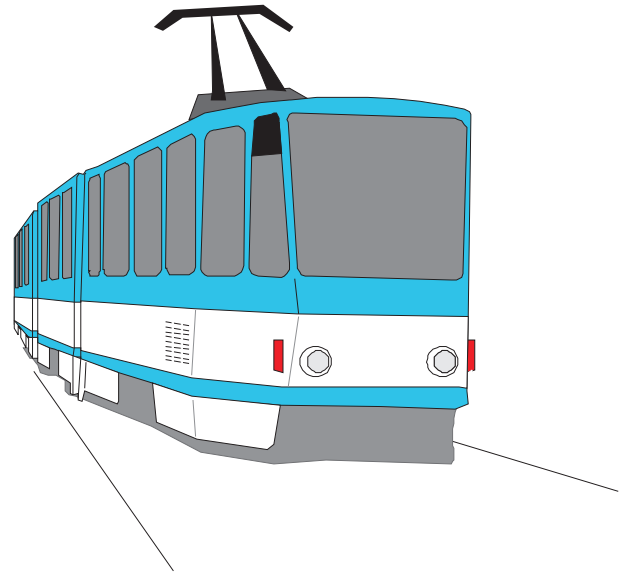


FasTracks

Environment Colorado, the new home for CoPIRG's environmental program, has accepted the responsibility for gathering petition signatures for the FasTracks ballot question this coming November.

FasTracks, the plan to expand light rail, commuter rail, and increased bus service throughout the Denver region, is moving forward. Watch your mailbox for information about the campaign, and how you can help with the all-volunteer petition drive to qualify the measure for the November ballot.

You can find more information at www.environmentcolorado.org



Nature Channels Song

*Birds sing of freedom as they
soar lightly on the air.
So may our hearts soar, high above
all curbs and care.*

*Trees, standing firm,
hold the secret of inner power.
Give us, when tested,
strength to endure.
Mountains, remote
and still, hint at higher worlds unseen.
So may our lives be: soaring and serene.*

*Rivers seek passage,
unhindered by rock or tree.
So may our lives flow,
steadfast toward the sea!
Mother, we thank you, your joy
shines in everything!
Open these channels, that the
world once more may sing"*

J. DONALD WALTERS



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

Are You wired??

If you are, PLAN Jeffco would like to have you on our email tree, so that we can inform you of special events and items that may be of concern to you. We will not share your email address without permission.

Please include with your dues payment or email to

jkclitz7@ix.netcom.com



“Walk away quietly in any direction and taste the freedom of the mountaineer. . . Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.”

JOHN MUIR



PLAN Jeffco
26553 Columbine Glenn Avenue
Golden, CO 80401

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Email: jkltz7@ix.netcom.com
Check our website
www.saveopenspace.org

Jefferson County Citizens for
Planned Growth with Open Space

PLAN JEFFCO NEWSLETTER