



PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

AUGUST 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Dinner and Forum	1
Dinner	2
Candidate Forum	3
Tom Hoby	4
Tookie Scherder	5
Open Space Budget	6
PLAN Jeffco Activities	8
OSAC Notes	11

“COME ON, COME ALL”

ANNUAL DINNER WITH THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHO: Jefferson County Board of County
Commissioners, Open Space
Advisory Committee, OS staff

WHAT: Opportunity to talk to Commissioners,
OSAC members and staff

Details on page 2

COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE FORUM

WHO: Don Rosier, Republican Candidate and
Kathy Hartman, Democratic Candidate

WHAT: Your opportunity to ask questions and hear the
candidates' points of view

WHEN: 7 PM, Tuesday evening, September 21st

Details on page 3

...ANNUAL DINNER WITH THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**WHO: Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners,
Open Space Advisory Committee, OS staff**

**WHAT: Opportunity to talk to Commissioners, OSAC
members and staff**

**WHEN: Thursday evening, September 30th
Social Hour: 5:30 PM
Dinner Hour: 6:30 PM**

**WHERE: Mount Vernon County Club, 24933 Clubhouse
Circle, Golden CO 80401, Canyon Trail Room.**

**WHY: Because the Open Space Program is important
to all of us**

HOW MUCH: \$27 per person

Our new Open Space Director, Tom Hoby, will be our keynote speaker. We have invited him to speak about his long-range perspectives and strategies for Jeffco open space, to share his 5-year and 10-year goals, and to highlight what he sees as his priorities, and problems. We also want to know how he sees the role of community organizations, and what can we do to help.

Reservations are required; please contact Michelle Poolet, 303.526.1348, mapoolet@ix.netcom.com, or Don Moore, 303.816.0907, dmconifer@gmail.com. If leaving a phone message, speak slowly and clearly, spell your name, indicate how many in your party, and if anyone has special dietary needs (vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, low-sodium, etc. – we give you more options than the airlines!), and don't forget to leave a call-back number so we can confirm your request. Please reserve no later than 9/22/2010.

...COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE FORUM

**WHO: Don Rosier, Republican Candidate and
Kathy Hartman, Democratic Candidate**

**WHAT: Your opportunity to ask questions and hear the
candidates' points of view**

WHEN: 7 PM, Tuesday evening, September 21st

**WHERE: Main Hearing Room, Open Space Building, 700
Jefferson County Parkway, Golden CO 80401.**

**WHY: Because we need to know about the candidates for our
Board of County Commissioners before we vote!**

HOW MUCH: free to the public.

Thank you to our co-sponsors...

League of Women Voters

**Citizens Involved in the Northwest
Quadrant (CINQ)**

Friends of the Foothills

**Canyon Area Residents for the
Environment (C.A.R.E.)**

Citizens for Lakewood's Future

COHOPE

Canyon Courier



County Selects Tom Hoby as New Director of Open Space and Community Resources

Tom Hoby is not only our Open Space Director, he's also the Director of the Community Resources Department. As such, he has executive oversight of the Boettcher Mansion, the CSU Extension, and the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. He brings to these jobs a very wide range of experience gained in his 29 years in the industry. He is a graduate of Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Outdoor Recreation Administration. He also has completed a number of educational programs to enhance his skills, earning him the title of Certified Park and Recreation Professional.

His start in open space administration was as an Outdoor Recreation Planner for the BLM with responsibility for 30 recreation sites and two wilderness areas. Tom then moved on to Lafayette, Colorado, where he served as Recreation Director for the city. There he managed nine parks, an outdoor pool, and 300 acres of open space. During his tenure he built community support and secured funding to create Waneka Lake Park.

Following his stint in Lafayette, Tom worked for a sports field lighting company designing, installing, and servicing lighting systems. He then spent five years as the Associate Executive Director of Special Olympics in Colorado. During this time, Tom created numerous strategic plans for regional program sustainability, coordinated statewide event locations, and managed funding and the structure of an organization that serves more than 150 communities and 5,000 people with developmental disabilities who participate in 18 sports throughout the year. He did this with a team of 22 staff and more than 9,700 volunteers.

Tom then returned to his Outdoor Recreation background, becoming the Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Essex,

Vermont. He managed a 2200-acre park system including 18 parks, an innumerable number of trails, an outdoor swimming pool, public buildings and recreation programs.

Tom then returned to Colorado as Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space for the Highlands Ranch Metro District. He led the efforts that created a model "green infrastructure community" with a 3,000 acre parks and open space system comprised of 24 parks, over 70 miles of trails, 2500 acres of open space, four dog parks, two skate parks, 33 buildings and shelters, and a USTA national award winning tennis center. Tom created partnerships with local, county and state parks, open space and trails agencies, non-profit organizations, utility companies, the Douglas County School District, Littleton Fire Rescue, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Douglas County Libraries, the Highlands Ranch Chamber of Commerce, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, businesses, homeowner associations and service groups.

Tom is a forward-thinking, collaborative, consensus-building leader with a 30-year record of developing innovative and outstanding parks, recreation, open space and trails programs and services. A PLAN Jeffco Board member participated in the interview process, and we are certain that Tom can effectively direct the Jefferson County Open Space program.

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, Tom will be the keynote speaker at this year's Commissioners Dinner. At that time he will have the opportunity to inform the audience of his philosophies and goals as they relate to managing Jefferson County Open Space.



TOOKIE SCHERDER, 2010'S NEWEST OSAC MEMBER



Every morning, as she drives down from Pine to her job with an engineering firm in Morrison, Tookie Scherder is reminded anew of why she moved to Colorado, and ultimately into the Foothills. “When I first moved to Colorado,” says Scherder, “I lived near the Tech Center. I would drive across town to the open spaces of Jefferson County, just because they’re so beautiful, and for a runner, the trails are just wonderful.” Scherder stayed on the southeast side of town until she became an empty-nester, at which point she re-located to Jefferson County. She laughingly tells of the frustrations experienced by her real estate agent during the search for her new home: “My agent would call me with a great deal on a property, but I would turn it down simply because it wasn’t in Jefferson County.”

Scherder’s passion for open space led her to join TUTF, the Trail Users Task Force, and various hiking groups, but even these activities weren’t enough to satisfy her need to connect with open space. So when a slot on the Jefferson County Open Space Advisory Committee opened up last winter, she quickly filled out the appropriate forms, started networking, and ultimately got the appointment. She’s an alternate, but even alternates get to attend every meeting – which she’s been doing faithfully.

As a newcomer, she says that one of the biggest challenges she faces are the terms

used in committee meetings. She claims that she told some of the other OSAC members “I reserve the right to ask lots of questions, and maybe even some stupid questions, for the entire first year.” According to Scherder, every OSAC member has greeted and treated her with respect and patience – and that makes for a tremendously good working relationship.

Born into a military family, Tookie moved around a lot as a child, and she’s seen a lot of the U.S. Visits to the family “back home” involve travel to the state of Georgia. While on this interview, she relayed the following story (and here I paraphrase):

Before heading back to Georgia, I got online and contacted some of the runners’ groups to get information on where the good running is and to find out where it’s safe to run. When I got there, I connected with some of the Georgia runners, and we went out for a run. We were running on pavement – roads, sidewalks, and the like. Then it struck me – the idea that JeffCo has had the foresight to set aside open space lands for hikers and runners and bikers and equestrians and just for breathing makes me proud to be a resident of Colorado and Jefferson County.”

When asked about her perception of the future of open space, Scherder cited the challenges to the concept of open space. In her purview, she recognizes the need for open space advocates, of which she is one. “I hope to bring the user perspective to the Board, while respecting and protecting our preserved areas. I hope to be around for a long time”, says Scherder. “I hope to stay the course, and to be able to advocate for open space, despite the upcoming challenges” – referring to various issues which will be on this November’s election ballot. “Unlike Plan Jeffco, which I think of as a crusader organization, OSAC members are advocates. Together, we can save and enhance the Open Space program.”

So, if you see Scherder, running the trails of Pine Valley, Flying J, Lair O’ the Bear, or any other Open Space park, wave “hi” to our newest OSAC member, one whose passion for open space shines as brightly as her smile.

Open Space Proposed 2011 Budget

Open Space creates its budget on a 5-year basis. This allows for planning of trail and park capital improvements. Revenues for the program are approximately \$33,000,000 per year (2010) with a projected 2% annual growth. In addition Open Space may realize a \$1,700,000 savings in 2010-2011 by refinancing the 2001 series of bonds this fall.

The five-year budget is summarized in the table below. Significant items include an annual 3% increase in Operations and Management. Note that the County is proposing freezing salaries for 2011. Internal costs, for those services provided by other County agencies, are anticipated to be at or slightly below 2010 levels. Addition of two staff members are included – a Park Services Specialist (service to restrooms, shelters, and parking lots) and a Trail Specialist (trail maintenance and construction.) There has been only one staff person added to the Park and Trail Maintenance Staff since 2002.

No significant capital expenditures are anticipated. The acquisitions budget primarily covers land lease payments and water assessments. Note that property acquisitions are paid from the Bond Fund account which is not included in the budget. The Bond Fund balance presently is about \$8,000,000.

Park and trail development plans are budgeted at an average of \$2,000,000 per year and for 2011 include:

Hildebrand Ranch Park: Trailhead facilities - restroom and picnic shelter (The Jeffco Open Space Foundation will be contributing \$20,000 toward these facilities.)

Reynolds Park: Design of trailhead facilities for the connection to the Colorado Trail.

White Ranch Park: paving of the West entrance road.

Pine Valley Lodge: continue exterior restoration of the Baer Lodge.

South Table Mountain: Entry road, trail head, restroom, and parking lot from Quaker Street.

Crown Hill Park: Continue to phase in surfacing more trails with crusher fines.

Apex Park: Improving the East trailhead parking lot plus a restroom.

Van Bibber Trail: planning for the regional trail from Van Bibber Park to the Fairmont Trail. Construction is scheduled for 2010.

Auxiliary Shop: \$200,000 is included in 2011 to finish funding the shop. A design/build contract will be approved in 2010. The shop will be adjacent to the Fossil Trace maintenance facility on County-owned land.

Future Developments: - \$400,000-\$500,000 in 2012 to 2015 for not yet determined development.

Joint Venture Grants will be maintained at \$2,000,000 annually and \$300,000 is being reserved to assist R-1 in installing synthetic turf at Alameda High School.

Note that the Designated Reserve is State-mandated and becomes available in the next budget year.

Budget continued on the next page

Gambel Oak



Open Space Proposed 2011 Budget - Continued

Five-Year Budgeting Strategy - values are in Millions \$

Description	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Sales Tax, County Share	22.7	23.1	23.6	24.1	24.5	25.0	25.5
Other Income	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Operation/Maintenance	9.53	10.13	10.10	10.40	10.71	11.03	11.36
Capital Equipment	0	0.22	0	0	0	0	0
Acquisitions	0.01	0.06	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
Bond Service	9.37	10.88	13.14	13.15	13.16	13.17	13.18
Park/Trail Development	3.81	2.25	2.97	4.12	0.98	0.89	1.04
JV Grants	2.50	4.82	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Designated Reserve	0	0	1.55	1.59	1.63	1.67	1.70
Total Budget Obligation	-1.42	-4.36	-5.41	-6.41	-3.23	-4.81	-3.03
Carry forward Fund Balance	32.73	31.28	26.92	23.06	18.24	16.64	13.50
Available Fund Balance	31.28	26.92	21.51	16.65	15.01	11.83	10.47



PLAN Jeffco Active on Several Open Space Subjects

PLAN Jeffco functions as more than just a watchdog group. It observes meetings of the Open Space Advisory Committee, participates in subcommittees and issues groups, proposes and works for important acquisitions, provides advice to the Open Space Program, helps solve problems and keeps citizens informed of what is going on in their Open Space Program.”

PLAN Jeffco, (PJ), operates thru its Board of Directors, which meets monthly. PJ schedules at least two major gatherings each year for the membership and interested citizens. Coming up in September will be “The Dinner with the Commissioners .” Held at Mt. Vernon Country Club, its aim is to bring together the Commissioners, The Open Space Staff, members of the Open Space Advisory Committee, PLAN Jeffco members and other citizens. In early spring, each year, there is the Annual meeting featuring a speaker or a workshop on topics of current interest.

A Candidates Forum will be held this fall. This meeting will feature the two candidates for County Commissioner, speaking and answering questions from the audience. See notices regarding the Commissioners Dinner and Candidates Forum in this issue.

Chairperson Margot Zallen and the PJ board have been busy responding to matters and events needing attention this year. Of major interest:

Trails – Continued involvement in meetings of the Open Space Trails Committee, whose purpose is to review use and conflict issues on our trails. Peter Morales (PJ Board Member) played a significant role in meetings and negotiations and actual decisions regarding the restructuring and repurposing of trails at Apex Park. Changes include directional traffic for bicyclists on odd-numbered calendar days over three segments of trail, construction of two new segments of trail and installation of trail features to add interest and moderate speed. For more information on specific trail changes and a new map of the Apex trail system, go to http://co.jefferson.co.us/jeffco/openspace_uploads/trail_use_changes_at_apex_park.pdf

Jefferson Parkway – This is the proposed extension of W470 on the north end of the Metro area, now called the Northwest Quadrant Toll Road. PLAN Jeffco has opposed this plan from the standpoint of the increased environmental impact to adjoining open space lands, the ensuing commercial and residential development which would substantially increase that impact, the fact that it would not solve the present traffic problems and would likely result in an increased tax burden on the residents of Jefferson County, to compensate for revenue short-falls.

County Master Plan Reviews – The County is revising their Master Plan and the segmented studies of the Mountain Backdrop areas in the North, Central, and South Plains areas. PJ Board members John Litz, Don Moore and Michelle Poolet have been active on this and any other present and long range planning subjects.

Staunton Park – This is a newly opened State Park, located in Jefferson County. PJ Board Member Vera Smith brought this to the Board’s attention when it was in the early planning stages, and PJ has been following the planning whenever public input has been possible. For more information on Staunton Park (and some fabulous pictures of the area) go to <http://parks.state.co.us/Parks/Staunton/Pages/Staunton.aspx>

Alex and Evelyn Rooney’s House – The house is located on county open space land and is part of a “hot button” area which includes the mountain backdrop, the Rooney Ranch and pastures, an historic Ute Indian council tree and assembly area, the Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center, and the adjoining road over and along the hogback. An additional heavy impact from the East is the Three Dinos proposed plan for a large commercial and residential development. PJ board members Sally White and Ken Foelske have worked on proposing sealing and moth-balling Alex and Evelyn Rooney’s house until a study can create a Master Plan for the many uses, inter-entity relationships, and stakeholder involvement in this special area. For more information on the Rooney Ranch, go to <http://www.rooneyranch.com/index.html>.

Identification of Desirable Additional Open Space Lands – PJ Board Member Greg Penkowsky is always on the hunt to identify additional open space land purchases and applicable sources of funding.

PLAN Jeffco is fortunate that our secretary, Betty Seeland, is also active in the League of Women Voters; this connection opens avenues of interaction between the two groups. John Litz, former PJ Chair, has been a

PLAN Jeffco Active - Continued

member of the Open Space Advisory Committee for seventeen years and his presence gives PLAN Jeffco an important link to the Open Space staff and to the Commissioners.

This year's Annual Meeting, held last March, featured two speakers who provided us with a full morning of entertaining yet relevant information. The meeting was co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters, the Audubon Society of Greater Denver, the Clear Creek Land Conservancy, the Rocky Mtn. Bird Observatory and the Colorado Mountain Club in Golden. The Mountain Club provided the use of their excellent auditorium.

The first speaker, Dyana Furmansky, introduced and reviewed her newly published book, "Rosalie Edge, Hawk of Mercy." Dyana is a dynamic speaker; she writes about the truly important and pivotal contributions that Ms. Edge made. Starting in the early 1900's, Rosalie Edge alerted the public to the need for conservation programs protecting wild life. At that time, eagles and hawks were considered desirable hunting game. Quoting from the book jacket: "In 1930, Edge formed the militant Emergency Conservation Committee, which not only railed against the complacency of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Audubon Society, U.S. Forest Service, and other stewardship organizations but also exposed the complicity of some in the squandering of our national heritage. Edge played key roles in the establishment of Olympic and Kings Canyon National Parks and the expansion of Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks." Reading this book will definitely strengthen and motivate efforts for the protection and stewardship of our own natural environment. For additional information on Dyana and her book "Rosalie Edge, Hawk of Mercy", go to <http://www.dyanazfurmansky.com/Default.htm>

Note: Dyana Furmansky was active in the 1972 election campaign that authorized the Jefferson County Open Space program.

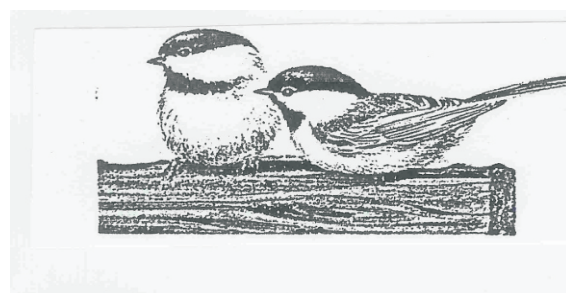
The second speaker, Jason Beson, Special Monitoring Projects Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, brought with him some "Up Close and Personal" slides of raptors found in Colorado. Not only did these slides show

how handsome and elegant these hawks and eagles are, but he pointed out identifying markings to look for when you are viewing them in the field. He also spoke about the raptor migration surveys and pointed out that one of the early spring observation periods takes place on Dinosaur Ridge, which is part of our own Dakota Hogback, west of Denver. During migration from wintering places in the South to breeding sites in the North and back again, these raptors are aided by gliding and flying with the thermal currents created from the temperature differences between the high Rockies and the adjoining lower plains. The RMBO is headquartered at Barr Lake. Excited by Jason's pictures, we recommend finding some binoculars and going out to Barr Lake to look for hawks and eagles, and in addition, check out the many other birds in that location. For more information on the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, go to www.RMBO.org.

Some of the guiding principles which guide PLAN Jeffco interests and subsequent recommendations:

1. Protection of viewshed areas
2. Protection of watersheds
3. Protection of areas important for solitude
4. Protection of dark skies (for star gazing)
5. Protection of wildlife, wildlife migration corridors, riparian areas and other critical wildlife habitats and buffer zones
6. Protection of the mountain backdrop
7. Protection of bio-diversity and endangered vegetation habitat
8. Encourage the consolidation and additions to larger rather than fragmented parcels of open space
9. Encourage the "buying and holding" of open space for long term preservation rather than the need to develop each parcel of open space acquired by the County
10. Review and consider needed amendments to the County Master Plan to support the appropriate preservation of open space

By Marilyn Mueller



OSAC Notes:

January 2010 - Meeting cancelled.

February 4, 2010 - Study Session

Reviewed an update of the definitions for the Management Unit Designations in the Park Management Plans. These designations are:

1. Sensitive Areas: portions of Open Space that are very special, fragile, bio-diverse, and in need of preservation and protection. Ecological and cultural resources are to be managed for preservation versus conservation. Public use will be restricted and guided interpretative services may be available.
2. Natural Areas: relatively large contiguous portions of Open Space to remain as naturally operating ecosystems and for habitat conservation[,] to be balanced with public recreation. To the extent compatible, moderate trail-based outdoor recreation opportunities may be provided to experience the sights, sounds, smells of nature, and to experience limited outdoor amenities.
3. Recreation Services and Amenities Areas: portions of Open Space that provide services and amenities to the visiting public, which allow for outdoor recreational opportunities and provide for social interaction and information, enabling visitors to enjoy and learn about natural and cultural resources found in Open Space, while assuring the ecological integrity and long-term sustainability of the natural resources themselves. The amenities may include trailheads, parking lots, trails, restrooms, shelters, and areas for education programs.
4. Special Protection Areas: an overlay in any of the above areas created to address a condition that requires special management actions, such as safety, park access, natural resource considerations or restoration opportunities, cultural or environmental issues, bio-diversity

enhancement, time sensitive implication, a political imperative, or other management opportunities.

The Committee then met with members of the Arvada Park Advisory Committee to discuss how each entity operated and to determine possibilities for partnerships or joint efforts.

Regular Meeting - Ralph Schell, former Director of Open Space was presented a map designating the acquisitions completed during his tenure - 19,995 acres at a total cost of \$175,000,000. Completed during Mr. Schell's tenure were three Master Plans, a system of Park Management Plans, and the opening of four major parks, with four more close to opening.

The efforts of the trails Mini-Work Crews were acknowledged. This is a group of volunteers who do trail maintenance and construction after their normal working hours. In the last four years their volunteer work has had a value of \$20,000.



WESTERN MOUNTAIN MAHOGANY
Cercocarpus ledifolius

OSAC Notes: Continued

Staff presented information on an acquisition proposal for 534 acres adjacent to County Road 26 between Pine Junction and Pine. Staff recommendation was to forego the acquisition due to low Master Plan qualities, limited access, and mostly steep terrain. After discussion with the owners, staff, and public the consensus of the committed was to agree with the staff recommendation.

Approval was given to obtaining an easement from R-1 School District to allow Open Space access to the North side of Welchester Tree Grant Park. This would allow Open Space maintenance of the trail through the park that serves as an access to Welchester Elementary School from the South.

Approval was given to an easement across Open Space property for residential lots adjacent to the West entrance to Centennial Cone Park.

Approval was given to extending the lease of 160 acres of State Land Board property that is part of Hildebrand Ranch Park.

Discussed the guidelines for gated communities which apply for Conservation Trust Fund or Open Space Joint Venture Grants. Consensus was that it was not appropriate to fund projects that lack public access.

March 4, 2010 - Study Session

Staff reviewed the current status of the acquisition projects. The 12 imminent projects to be completed in 2010 are mainly easements or disposals with a minimum cost to Open Space. The thirteen likely projects are either easements or have willing sellers and may be completed in 2010. The nine maybe projects include four easements, two disposals, and three acquisitions. One acquisition is waiting on a city's approval and participation.

Committee agreed with the following language to be included in the Guiding Position Statements relating to grant requests: "Grant fund allocation for recreational capital improvements will include consideration of

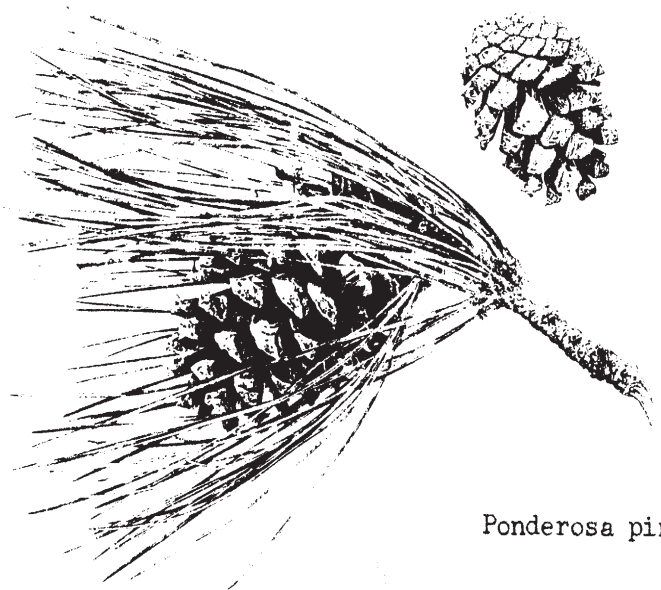
the scope of general public use, benefit, and purpose within an application. For gated or private communities, grant requests will be disfavored when public access or benefit is significantly restricted."

Regular Meeting:

Approved an agreement to allow legal access via a present road across a portion of Flying J Ranch Park to two residential lots.

A short Executive Session was held to discuss the potential purchase terms for the Cimarron Commercial property on the Southwest corner of Highways 93 and 72.

April 1, 2010 - Study Session - Field trip to the Kestral Pond in Crown Hill Park. The Pond and surrounding preserve were closed to the public for the nesting season; so the OSAC members only ventured as far as the new walkway over the east end of the pond. Up to 20 varieties of ducks and one species of coyote frequent the preserve.



Ponderosa pine

OSAC Notes: Continued

Regular Meeting

Jean Reince-Schwartz reviewed the 2009 Visitor Survey results. Parks surveyed were Alderfer/Three Sisters, Clear Creek Trail Corridor (from Golden to McIntyre), Lair o' the Bear, and Mount Galbraith. The majority of the users were male on Clear Creek and female at the parks. Average age ranged from 43 to 50. Users were: 45% to 59% Jeffco in the parks and 80% on the Clear Creek Trail; 12 to 23% Denver in the parks; and 10% of the Lair users were from Arapahoe County. Hildebrand Ranch Park and Welchester Tree Grant Park will be surveyed during 2010.

Approval was given to the acquisition of the Cimarron Commercial property on the Southwest corner of Highways 93 and 72. The commercially zoned property is 5.6 acres with highway on the North and East sides and Denver Water Board property on the South and West sides. Open Space has an option to purchase the surrounding 800 acres of Denver Water Board property if they do not use it for a reservoir. The cost for the 5.6 acres is \$2,312,305; whereas if the Water Board property is acquired its cost will only be \$13,500 per acre.

OSAC agreed with staff recommendation not to proceed with acquisition of the 2.5 acre property on the Northeast corner of Highway 73 and Barkley Road near Aspen Park. The property contains the historic yellow barn plus three commercial buildings. This was the third time that OSAC had considered the "Yellow Barn" and can see no justification for owning an old building with limited use potential.

OSAC approved including the gated community language presented in the March 4, study session (see above) in the Guiding Position Statements.

New Director, Tom Hoby, announced that Open Space had contracted with CSU and the Colorado Natural Heritage Program for a

Biological Resources Biodiversity Assessment of Jefferson County. The last such similar studies were done in 1993 and updated later by staff. This \$128,000 study will include a broader scope than the earlier studies.

May 2010 - Meeting cancelled

June 2010 - Field trip to Ralston Buttes, see separate report in this newsletter.

Regular meeting cancelled



Balsam Fir

OSAC Notes: Continued

July 1, 2010 - Study Session

Budget review, see separate report in this newsletter.

Regular Meeting -

Approval was given to extending the lease of a portion of the Rooney Soccer Complex to the Rooney Road Recycling Center Authority. The Authority contracts with A-1 Organics to recycle slash, yard waste, and other organic materials. A-1 grinds the material into mulch, of which, much is composted for use in preparing garden-ready compost, planter's soil, and top soil.

Thea Rock updated the Committee on the Hildebrand Ranch Park dedication, the Ralston Buttes field trip, the trail changes at Apex Park, the opening of North Table Mountain Park, the 2010 Youth Work Program, events at Lookout Mountain Nature Center and the Hiwan Homestead Museum, Open Space will be receiving \$92,100 in fire mitigation grants from the Colorado State Forest Service for work on White Ranch, Elk Meadow, and Ransom Edwards/Coal Creek Canyon Parks. Open Space also will be co-hosting the 2010 Colorado Open Space Alliance conference with Adams County and Westminster September 13 to 15.

Colleen Gadd presented information on the "Bike Right" and "Share the Trail Programs" being conducted this summer.

The Committee had no objections to having the West Metro Fire Protection District include 11 Open Space properties and one County-owned property in their fire protection district. This places West Metro in charge of any fires that would occur on the properties. There would be no cost to Open Space for the inclusion into the District. Since Jeffco will not pay property tax to the District, Open Space does reimburse fire districts for the costs of fighting fires on Open Space property.

OSAC Officers for 2010 were elected: Chairman, Wayne Forman; Co-Vice Chairs, Ken Morfit and Jan Wilkins; Secretary, John Litz; and Secretary Pro-Tem, Kevin Burke.

Approved the budget as presented in the Study Session.

Director Hoby said that the Board of County Commissioners had directed the landowner of the Highlands at Table Mountain to work with Open Space to explore opportunities for access to his 64-acre property Northeast of North Table Mountain. Potential access would be along the Van Bibber Trail corridor acquired from Public Service Company.



One-seed juniper

OSAC Notes: Continued

August 5, 2010 - Study Session - cancelled
Regular Meeting -

A number of residents who live close to Alderfer/Three Sisters Park were present to object to the installation of a three-wire fence along the East side of the Evergreen Mountain portion of the park. An August 17 meeting is scheduled with the neighbors to see whether installation of boundary markers every 300 feet or so would be adequate.

Approved acquisition of 3.76 acres in the 1500 block of South DeFrame Way between Alameda Parkway and Beech Park. Lakewood will provide a 25% match for the cost.

Approved an easement for the City of Golden to build a berm along 680 feet of Highway 93, South of the North Table Mountain Park West parking lot to serve as a sound barrier. The berm will be about 15 feet high and will allow Golden to conform to their 55 decibel standard for ground level outdoor use.

Approved the conditional disposal of a 2.7-acre portion of the Van Bibber Trail Corridor between Easley Road and the South Boulder Diversion Canal to allow access to the Highlands at Table Mountain development. The access would be on the North side of the 150-foot corridor with the power line separating the access road from the trail. This proposal was a follow-up to the County Commissioner's request noted in the July minutes. If this is the approved access to the Highlands, the developer also will contribute \$90,000 to the Van Bibber Trail construction costs.

Discussed having an OSAC retreat in November to consider acquisition objectives plus other items.

Discussed potential topics for future study sessions - suggestions included: review of city acquisition priorities, field trip to new trails in Apex Park, review of the mountain backdrop/foreground acquisition candidates, and information from other open space programs.

Director Hoby said that Apex Park and Recreation District and the City of Arvada have new plans for the Christ Community Church property adjacent to Pioneer Park (82nd and Simms Street) that presently is leased to Apex with the church building sub-leased to Christ Community Church.



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 303.237.9493 for membership information.

Our membership rate is:

\$25 per year

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to PLAN Jeffco and send to:

PLAN Jeffco
11010 W 29th Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80215

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

jklitz@comcast.net

Thanks



“The only noise came from the slight rumble of 300 bison being gently encouraged from behind by trucks. They slowly neared the escape chute that would lead them out onto the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. Somehow, we all knew that we were about to witness something very powerful.

Several times the bison neared the gate, only to stop and turn in the other direction. If just one animal would venture forth, the rest would follow. Finally, the first bison darted through the gate. A cheer came up from the crowd as the bison ran toward the horizon. Once the cheering died down, a grand silence came back to the prairie. This silence was filled with nature’s musical insect sounds and a peaceful, calm swishing of the tall grasses waving in the wind.”



From the Nature Conservancy

Note: The Tallgrass Prairie Preserve is in Oklahoma.



PLAN Jeffco
11010 W 29th Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80215

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Email: jklitz@comcast.net
Check our website
www.saveopenspace.org

Jefferson County Citizens for
Planned Growth with Open Space

PLAN JEFFCO NEWSLETTER