



PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Party for Parks	1
Anniversary Bash	5
Winter Survival	7
OSAC Notes	8
Rocky Flats	10

“PARTY FOR PARKS”:

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF PROTECTED PLACES TO PLAY

PLAN Jeffco is very involved with planning for the celebration of three anniversaries, Denver Mountain Parks 100th, Jefferson County Open Space’s 40th, and

Great Outdoors Colorado’s 20th.

The April 5 “Party for Parks,” to be held at the Red Rocks Visitor Center from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., will kick off a year of events in parks throughout Jefferson County. Tickets to the April 5 “Party” will be available through the “Jeffco Outdoors.org” web site after February 15th. The “Party” will feature video, fun, food, and drinks plus lively auctions to raise funds for the Jeffco Outdoors Foundation, Inc. Jeffco Outdoors is the new name for the Jeffco Open Space Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit. The proceeds from the “Party” will be used to fund programs that connect youth and families with the outdoors.

The Foundation’s association with the Jefferson County Open Space Program will

not change but will add programs that will help connect Metro-area youth with the outdoors. The Foundation presently funds expenses for Jefferson County students to visit the Lookout Mountain and Majestic View Nature Centers, the Hiwan Homestead Museum, Dinosaur Ridge, and other parks in Jefferson County.

As Jeffco Outdoors, the Foundation will work with the County Health Department, LiveWell Colorado, and other agencies to obtain funding and develop programs that promote healthy lifestyles and opportunities for physical activity in the outdoors.

Additional information can be found on the Jeffco Outdoors web site.

ANNIVERSARY BASH BEST EVER, TAKE OVER 240 UNION FOR THE NIGHT!

It's a rare occasion when so many supporters of Jefferson County Open Space come together in friendship and celebration, but that's what happened at PLAN Jeffco's 40th Anniversary Dinner & Fund-raiser. That Sunday evening, December the 2nd, saw this gathering at the 240 Union Restaurant in Lakewood. Aptly named, that night the restaurant played host to some 220 people, all of whom had come to celebrate 40 years of open space preservation in Jefferson County, and to hear the keynote speaker, Ed Bangs, talk about his 22 years of experiences as the Northern Rockies Wolf Reintroduction coordinator.

At the door, ready to greet revelers as they signed in and collected their name badges, were PLAN Jeffco long-timers and Board Members Bette & David Seeland, Ann Bonnell, and John Litz. Just around the corner, Don Moore was sharing space with "Save the Mesas" at the information and membership sign-up table.

Past and current members of the Open Space Advisory Committee were present to help celebrate the occasion, as were many members of the



JeffCo Open Space Staff. Greg Stevenson, past Chair of OSAC, and under whose guidance the acreage of Open Space grew to over 50,000 acres. Greg (seen here on the right, with Richard Zallen) has been a significant contributor to PLAN Jeffco's efforts, and we were pleased that he was present to celebrate this, our significant anniversary.

It's been said that a picture is worth a thousand words, so in the interest of space and time, we're going to let these pictures tell their own story. Our apologies to Clement Clarke Moore...



**'Twas the afternoon of the gala,
When all through the house,
The techies were scurrying,
As fast as a mouse.**

[CEAVCO technicians worked all afternoon to make 240 Union ready for the evening event.]

ANNIVERSARY BASH *Continued*



**The tables were set,
Each napkin and chair,
Were placed just so,
For the evening affair.**

[The 240 Union staff set up the entire restaurant for the event, complete with Christmas-themed decorations.]



**The guests were arriving,
With expectations high,
All set to help celebrate,
And raise a glass high.**

[Bette Seeland and Ken Foelske register Pat Keller at the door, with John Litz looking on.]



**In the Silent Auction Room
People browsed the sculptures and
paintings,
While the little pink bicycle went to the
top of the ratings.**

[The Silent Auction room was set up for easy browsing of all the artwork and fun stuff.]



**People from County,
Winners of races,
gathered together to
celebrate Open Spaces.**

[[Ralph Schell (former Director of Open Space and current County Administrator), Casey Tighe (recently elected to the Board of County Commissioners) and wife Laura, and Tom Hoby (current Director of Parks & Open Space) gather for a photo in 240 Union's famous Wine Room.]

ANNIVERSARY BASH *Continued*



**Back in the Auction Room,
Bidders were going berserk,
Raising the dollars we'll need
To carry on this year's work.**

[Some of the offerings in the Silent Auction room elicited vigorous bidding.]



**One PJ Board member
Gave in to a rumbling tummy,
And confirmed the obvious,
That the hors d'oeuvres were yummy!**

[Michelle Poolet, PJ Board member, takes a break and samples the excellent food and wine – at 240 Union, we expected no less!]



**Diners who wanted to sit together
And get a good view of the action,
Reserved the whole table for themselves,
And increased their level of satisfaction.**

[Families and interest groups were able to reserve entire tables for the event, thus ensuring good seating and a good view of the evening speakers.]



**Vera Smith, auctioneer extraordinaire,
Warned diners that they soon might lose
The chance to get their heart's desire
If they were to snooze.**

[The Silent Auction closed after dinner; Vera had to remind everyone to get their final bid in, or lose out on that precious what-not.]

ANNIVERSARY BASH *Continued*

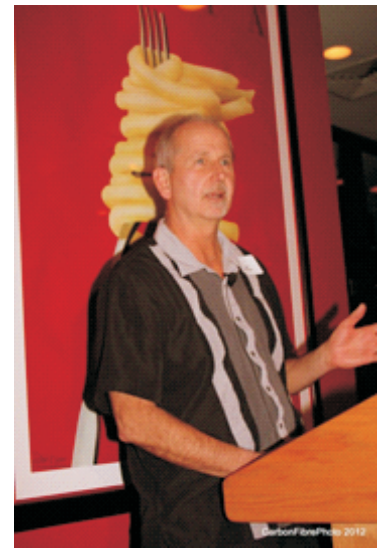


**Margot Zallen, chief PJ'er
Told the history of our team,
Then followed it with a promise
For the next 40 years, the Dream.**

[Read a transcription of Margot's speech at www.planjeffco.org]

**Ed Bangs, ex-wolf-man-in-chief,
Talked about the work that he had
done,
Bringing the critters back into the
States,
Back to the home from which they'd
come.**

[Ed Bangs was, for 22 years, the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Grey Wolf Recovery Coordinator for the northwestern US. He was involved with the recovery and management of wolves in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming beginning in 1988. He led the interagency program to plan, conduct public outreach, and reintroduce wolves to Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho in the mid-1990s. Read more about Ed in the High Country News article at <http://www.hcn.org/articles/rocky-mountain-wolf-recovery-leader-is-not-your-average-bureaucrat>]



**Afterward, Ed talked to the folks,
Being the kind of guy he is,
Entertaining with tales of the field,
And the memories that were his.**

[Ed talks with Bruce Rosenlund about aspects of his work.]



**And so we say as we raise a glass
To wish you all that is right,
Thank you so much for your support,
And to all a very good-night!**



Open Space Budget for 2013

Sales tax revenue for 2013 is projected at 4% more than the actual revenue in 2011. The operating budget remains the same as 2012, plus small increases in cost allocations for County provided services. The budgeting for acquisitions was reduced by \$1,000,000 and transferred to development to be used as matching funds for the GOCO Clear Creek grant. The acquisition budget also is reduced by \$1,000,000 in 2014 and 2015, in order to have the match for the GOCO grant. Development budgets, other than the Clear Creek trail, were reduced to \$340,000 in 2013, \$240,000 in 2014, and \$200,000 in 2015. Obviously if the sales tax revenue increases by more than the anticipated annual 2%, more will be available for either acquisitions or development. The acquisitions budget for each of these three years is \$2.2 million.

Note that the only major development planned in 2013 relates to the Clear Creek Trail. Some 2012 projects will be completed in 2013 using funds budgeted in 2012. These include natural surface trail from Reynolds Park to the Colorado Trail; a restroom at the Elk Meadow Dog Off-Leash Park; trailhead, parking lot, and restroom at the Quaker Street entry to South Table Mountain; complete improvements at Crown Hill; trailhead, parking lot, and restroom at Apex; restrooms at Matthews Winters, Mt Falcon west, and Windy Saddle; and water well at the White Ranch campground.

The bond payments will remain at \$13 million through 2019, in 2020 about \$6 million more becomes available. JCOS has a goal is to find \$5 million in grants to supplement the budget during the next three years.

Line items in the budget include:

Bond Service	\$12.94 million
Operations	\$10.52 million
Acquisitions	\$2.2 million
Leases	\$0.06 million
Grants	\$1.22 million
Development	\$1.74 million
(Clear Creek	\$1.4 million)
(Misc	\$0.34 million)
Total	\$28.88 million

OSAC Notes . . . OSAC Notes

October Study Session: A tour of the recently completed trails on the Elk Meadow Dog Off- Leash Area. Brian Conty showed OSAC members how the trails had aligned so that they did not approach the neighboring properties, avoiding the need for expensive fencing. Where there were significant elevation drops in the trails, to avoid high erosion areas, staff had installed stairs and hand rails. The Area includes a crusher fines trail meeting ADA guidelines, allowing visitors in wheel chairs to enjoy the area. The other trails are natural surface and provide entry to two fenced areas for first-time dogs as well as traversing a few miles total. The best part for dog owners was that the improvements were completed one year ahead of schedule.

Regular Session: A grant from the remaining Conservation Trust Funds (CTF) Allocation was approved for the Conifer Area Council to pay for a Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Funding from the remaining CTF allocation also was approved to develop standards and guidelines for signs along the Clear Creek Regional Trail through Clear Creek County, Jeffco, Golden, Wheat Ridge, Arvada, Westminster, and Adams Countyies. Three trail easements were approved along the Welch Ditch from where it leaves South Table Mountain Park to where it meets Denver West Circle. This trail segment will allow for a trail head with parking in the Denver West Office Park.

An Executive Session was held to discuss a property, Gilpin Ranch LLC, adjacent to the North side of the Booth Ranch property, which was acquired late in 2011. After the executive session a resolution containing a maximum price was approved to go forth on considering the property.

Director Hoby reported to OSAC that Wheat Ridge had chosen not to acquire and develop the Martenson school site and was returning the \$256,000 that was granted in early 2012.

November Study Session: A review and update of the Conservation Café hosted by JCOS and the Open Space Foundation was presented by Nancy York. The principal outcomes: more coordination with other entities in the

Metro area and preparing trail maps that ignore jurisdictional boundaries. Amy Ito and Tom Hoby presented the staff goals and priorities for 2013.

Regular Session: Scot Grossman discussed staff working to attain national agency accreditation from the National Recreation and Park Association's Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). Receiving accreditation requires demonstrating that the agency complies with about 130 of the 144 standards and approval from a visiting review team. Golden Parks & Recreation Departments the only Metro agency that has achieved accreditation.

A lease for 3.35 acres from the City of Golden at the Apex Trailhead was approved. The additional area will allow installing a restroom, improved parking, and re-alignment of the trail.

December Regular Session was devoted to presentations by local Park & Recreation entities and non-profits for Open Space and CTF grants for 2013. In addition there was a short Executive Session to discuss a potential donation adjacent to North Table Mountain Park and some access and utility easements.

January Study Session: The Study session was a review of the grants to cities, districts, and non-profits. The Guidelines for cities are a 75% match with up to an additional 25% for extenuating conditions. For districts the match is 65% with up to an additional 15% for extenuating conditions. For non-profits the match is as little as 25%. Staff had gone through all of the requests and had suggested grant amounts for each. Three of the grants were increased to above the staff recommendations.

The Regular session started with public comment from a Wheat Ridge resident wondering what was going on at Crown Hill and why did she and her friends not know about the proposed changes At the moment all that has happened is the repair and

*OSAC Notes**Continued*

re-routing of some of the concrete trails. The re-routing is to make more environmentally sensitive trails. Work on the restroom, play area, shelter, and exercise equipment has not started yet. Amy Ito provided her with contact info and took her email to get her information directly. This situation is typical when folks do not take advantage of the information supplied by Open Space, including the public hearings, postings in the park, and an open house for input on proposed changes – so stay apprised of the activities and changes in and around your favorite Open Space parks.

The grants to cities, districts, and non-profits were approved as discussed during the study session. They include outdoor expansion of the Majestic View Nature Center, improvements to Walker-Branch Park (shared by Lakewood and Edgewater), development of a park at 44th and Kendall, a splash pad at Ken-Caryl Ranch, 8 pickleball courts at 82nd and Simms, updating playgrounds for Foothills, two tennis courts for Maplegrove Park, improvements to Wulf Park (adjacent to Evergreen High), and additional stabilization of the dinosaur tracks.

Approval was given to acquiring about 7,000 feet of the Welch Ditch from the head gate West of Tunnel 1 to where it goes under 6th Avenue. This includes

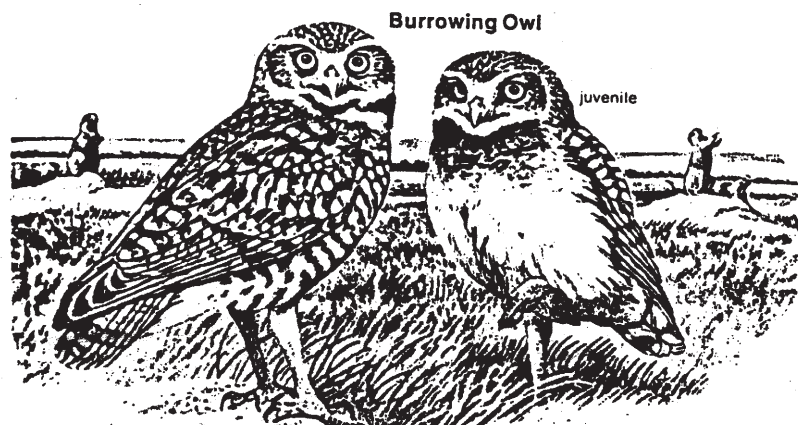
portions that are earthen ditch, concrete ditch, and wooden flume. This will be a no cost acquisition.

Approval of a license from CDOT to build the beginning of the trail from Matthews-Winters to the I-70 exit (an existing trail continues under I-70 to the upper parking lot) and across County 93 up to the Hogback mostly along the present unimproved trail. Again there is no cost to the license. It covers about 350 feet of trail easement.

Tom Hoby mentioned that the first offer to Gilpin Ranch LLC had been turned down. Note that the go-forth resolution for this property passed by one vote and had a maximum amount to be offered. For the moment, Open Space will just be patient.

JCOS has decided to delay a year for their National Recreation and Park Association certification application. The required visits, etc. would conflict with the gala and other activities. JCOS goal is to meet all 144 criteria that are in the certification requirements.

Approved the annual requirement for posting the OSAC meeting notices – notifications are posted outside Meeting Room 1 at the Taj, in the JCOS entry at the Open Space building, and on the web at www.jeffco.us/openspace.



1,200 ACRES ON AND NEAR ROCKY FLATS CONSERVED AND FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT RULES ON REFUGE LAND TRANSFER TO HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

The Board of PLAN Jeffco has opposed the proposed W 470 - Jefferson Parkway/Tollway primarily because of the potential for releasing plutonium contaminated soils, increased traffic on Hwy 93, increasing development in sensitive scenic areas and because traffic studies have continually shown that the Parkway would not alleviate traffic problems east of the proposed road nor would a toll road be financially viable in the long term. PLAN Jeffco has worked for years to support the preservation of the natural areas on Rocky Flats – Section 16 and the mountain backdrop and foreground are part of an ecosystem and wildlife migration route. As the years have passed, inadequate potential use of the toll way has continued to be the case as more of the land in the Northwest quadrant was preserved as open space and much of the potential commercially-industrially zoned lands are being developed for housing.

A beltway around Denver was drawn on maps in Washington, D.C. during the Eisenhower Presidency - the start of the Interstate Highway system. In most cases beltways do make sense, but when geography interferes they may not be practical. Cities adjacent to mountain ranges, lakes or oceans have developed close to those features leaving little or no room for the space required by a freeway. PLAN Jeffco participated in the Denver Regional Council of Government, (DRCOG) studies relating to Governor Lamm's putting a "silver stake" through building C-470 to interstate standards. The funds saved were used to improve Santa Fe Drive from I-25 to C-470.

When W-470 was proposed with a small tax on each property each year, PLAN Jeffco attended many meetings, but did not participate in the election that defeated the proposal. As studies were conducted in the late 1990's and 2000's PLAN Jeffco was not surprised that estimated traffic counts continued to not justify such a route. This did not stop proponents of the Parkway as some wanted it to reduce the traffic on Wadsworth (the traffic studies showed the reduction would be minimal) and others wanted it to support commercial development along the route (only area left

on the Parkway route is along Highway 72 between Indiana and Highway 93 and much of that has been rezoned residential.)

During the legislative process for designation of the former Rocky Flats nuclear facility to become a National Wildlife Refuge, the Parkway Authority lobbied to have a portion of the Rocky Flats site disposed of for transportation purposes so, it could construct a toll way. The bill authorizing transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service for refuge purposes included permission for the sale of a 300-foot strip on the West side of Indiana Street for right-of-way.

Both Boulder County and Boulder City Governments for a long time had been opponents of the Parkway, because of the potential for additional development along Highway 93. They have made three expensive acquisitions along Highway 93 North of Highway 72. Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) has had an agreement with Lafarge to not exercise their mining lease on most of the state owned Section 16, just North of the Northeast corner of Highways 72 and 93. Section 16 and portions of the lands on the West side of Rocky Flats are home to relic Front Range Tall Grass Prairie. Less was spent on the Rocky Flats remediation than was appropriated, and some of these, Natural Resources Damages funds, were made available for land and mineral right acquisitions in the area.

After considerable negotiation, a complex agreement was reached and Boulder City and County dropped its opposition to the Parkway. The financial contributions were to be:

Parkway Authority:	\$2.8 Million, the appraised value of the right-of-way,
Natural Resources Damages funds	\$3.3 million
JCOS	\$5 million,
Boulder City	\$2 million

ROCKY FLATS

Continued

Boulder County	\$2 million
Jefferson County	\$ 0.1 million (CTF)
Other sources	\$ 0.3 million

In exchange:

- The Parkway Authority would get the right-of-way,
- The State Land Board would be paid \$9.4 million for Section 16 surface and mineral rights
- Lafarge would be paid \$3.3 million to terminate their extraction leases on Sections 4 and 16.
- \$2.8 million would go to the to McKays for the mineral rights on Section 9 that would be transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service
- The Rocky Flats Refuge would obtain Section 16 surface and mineral rights.
- The Refuge would gain the mineral rights to 1200 acres, which would allow including these acres within the Refuge.

This agreement left PLAN Jeffco's Board with a dilemma. Conservation of Section 16 and the other land adjacent to the refuge had been high on our conservation list for many years and this agreement might be the last chance to achieve their preservation. But the price was removing another hurdle for the Parkway. The Board chose not to take a formal position, however, we did actively participate in the NEPA process and seriously questioned the lack of analyses in the Environmental Assessment and absence of an Environmental Impact Statement. Some of the

information included in the final decision documents and relied on by the plaintiffs in their legal challenges was included because of PLAN Jeffco's efforts.

The original agreement was for the property transfers to close in the summer of 2012. The Town of Superior, City of Golden, and two environmental organizations brought suit taking the position that the Fish and Wildlife Service's environmental review was not adequate and ignored the potential plutonium contamination, impact on wildlife, and the impacts of the traffic. The closing dates for the property transfers were moved, to by December 31, 2012.

The Federal District court ruled against Golden, Superior and the environmental plaintiffs on December 21, 2012. On December 24th the all the plaintiffs, except Golden, petitioned the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals for an injunction preventing the land transfers and appealed the District Court decision. The injunction was granted on December 26th. However, on December 28th the Appellate Court set the injunction aside. The closings, listed above, took place on December 31st. The Town of Superior and the two environmental organizations' appeal briefs are due on February 19, 2013.

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

jkclitz@comcast.net

Thanks

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

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:

\$35 per year

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to PLAN Jeffco and
send to:

PLAN Jeffco
11010 W 29th Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80215



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