



# PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

MAY 2015

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## SAVE THE DATE...

Monday evening, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Mark your calendars because it's that time again,  
time for**

**PLAN Jeffco's Annual Dinner with the  
Commissioners: celebrating 42 years  
of Jeffco Open Space.**

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This year PLAN Jeffco is honoring land trusts.

**The Honorees are:**

***Clear Creek Land Conservancy***

***Colorado Open Lands***

***Mountain Area Land Trust***

**The dinner will be at:**

**The Vista at Applewood Golf Course**

**14001 W 32nd Avenue, Golden**

**5:30 p. m. - cocktail social hour**

**Registration opens July 18 at [planjeffco.org](http://planjeffco.org)**

**The cost is \$45 per person**

## TRAILS TALK

Open Space held their Second Trails Talk program at the Mountaineering Center April 29. Trails Talks are planned for the spring and fall of each year to make the public aware of the trails activities and to obtain feedback from the public. About 40 public and 15 staff were present.

Tom Hoby, Open Space Director, announced that JCOS has started using the Twitter blog #jeffcotrails as a means of communicating trail conditions. The Twitter blog allows trail users to report their observations of trail conditions on the web where others can access them. Significant closures will still be posted on the Open Space Website, but the Twitter blog will allow for instantaneous communication.

Open Space with funding from the Jeffco Outdoors Foundation is preparing a series of eight regional trail maps that will include all trails, recreational facilities, parking areas, and much additional information within each region. The goal is to have all eight maps available by the fall Trails Talk program. The printing cost of the maps will be supported by advertising and donations; they will be available at no cost to the public.

Hoby also mentioned that JCOS' first priority was taking care of what we already have and increasing volunteer stewardship of the trails. The Friends of Apex put in about 600 hours last year in repairing flood damage to Apex trails and have committed this year to continuing the work, especially in some areas on the Pick and Sledge trail that are subject to erosion.

The above items are implementations of goals presented in the 2014 Master Plan. The 2011 Citizen Survey indicated the desire to have equal weighted priorities for preservation and recreation.

Dave Davenport, Outdoor Recreation Coordinator, discussed the development of difficulty ratings for each of the trails. The trails will have an over-all rating and each trail intersection will indicate the rating for the next section of trail. The ratings are:

Least Difficult

More Difficult

Most Difficult

Typically the Least Difficult trails will have average grades of less than 3% and elevation gains minus losses of 100 feet. The More Difficult trails will have grades of less than 10% and elevation gains minus losses of less than 1000 feet. The Most Difficult trails will have grades greater than 10% and elevations gains minus losses greater than 1000 feet. These trail ratings will help bikers and equestrians, especially, gauge the difficulty of a trail before starting off and possibly finding themselves in trouble mid-trail.

At present Jeffco has 87 miles of Least Difficult, 115 miles of More Difficult, and 27 miles of Most Difficult. As new signs are placed on the trails they will indicate the difficulty: a green circle for Least Difficult, a blue square for More Difficult, and a black diamond for Most Difficult.

Kim Frederick, Trails Services Superintendent, discussed the Annual Trails Assessment made at the beginning of each year. The assessment then is used to set the maintenance priorities for the year. Since Jeffco has three types of trail surfaces the assessment basis varies for each type: Natural Surface, Crusher Fines Surface, and Concrete Surface.

Trails in good condition and expected to remain in good condition are scheduled only for routine maintenance. Trails in fair condition probably will require some corrective action to stabilize the trail condition in order to deter further degradation. Trails in priority condition need

## TRAILS TALK, *continued*

major attention because of impacts to the natural resource and the recreational experience. It may be necessary to close these trails until stabilization work has been completed. This year 85% of the trail mileage was in good condition, 13% was in fair condition, and only 2% was in priority condition requiring prompt attention.

Volunteer assistance is appreciated for all levels of maintenance. To volunteer, go to <http://jeffco.us/open-space/volunteer/>, or call Jana Johns, Volunteer Services Administrator, at 303-271-5922."

Mary Ann Bonnell, Visitor Services Superintendent, discussed the changes in Designated Use Trails that will be effective May 15, 2015. These changes are an outcome of feedback from the 2014 Trails Talk attendees. Open Space had 33 trails with designated uses with the goal of improving visitor safety and their experience. The designated uses were: Hiker Only, Bike Only, Alternate Day Use, Multiple Use, Hiker/Horse, No Dogs/Horses/Bikes, and Directional Use. When staff began their evaluation, the objective was to:

- Improve Visitor Safety;
- Enhance the Visitor Experience;
- Reduce Confusion.

Outcomes were: 1) Centennial Cone - restrict horseback riding to weekdays and the non-biker weekend days to reduce the conflict with bikers traveling at faster speeds; 2) Deer Creek - horses will be allowed on the previously hiker-only trails; 3) Lair o' the Bear - remove the bikes/horses signage between the entry road and the restroom and also allow horses and dogs on the Creekside Loop; 4) Mount Falcon - allow horses on the Turkey Trot Trail and designate Parmalee and Tower Trails as multiple use; 5) South Valley - allow horses on the Swallow Trail.

Amy Ito, Planning and Stewardship Manager, discussed the new trails process, The 2014

Master Plan goal was a minimum of 25 miles of new trail by 2019. The implementation goals for new trails are to address the demand, enhance the experience, and focus on trails closer to homes. At present there are 25 miles of trail in the planning process; these are being studied for practicality, potential routing, and impact on the natural resource. There are 2 miles in detailed design. There are 17 miles presently under construction.

One question after the program was the potential for trails on Mt. Glennon, near the town of Morrison. Director Hoby said that Mt. Glennon was under natural resource study this year prior to potential route evaluations, but that a trail along the hogback from Alameda to Morrison probably would be completed first.

The evening ended with most of the audience discussing specifics with staff at the various stations set up to support the subject matter of the program.



## OSAC NOTES

February 5, 2015 - Study Session

Scott Grossman brought the committee up to date on the Peak to Plains Trail.

Construction is split into four segments - two in Clear Creek County and two in Jefferson County. The first segment in Clear Creek County is close to completion and tends to follow an old railroad bench. The second segment in Clear Creek County is the most expensive as it requires taking the trail to the north side of the Creek, then comes back over the Creek and under Highway 6. The first segment in Jeffco is along the South side of the creek and will have stairways down to creek level. The second segment in Jeffco takes the trail across from the Mayhem Trailhead. There will be three bridges in the Jeffco segments. They are designed to look like old-time railroad bridges and will have platforms at mid creek on both sides to allow viewing of the water.

Regular Session

The Ken Caryl Metropolitan District requested that the deed to the Community Center Property be transferred to the District. The Committee approved reducing the lease term to one year with annual renewals.

The committee approved a Lakewood request for subordination of the reverter on a portion of William Hayden Park on Green Mountain to allow moving of some water lines.

The Committee approved a license for pedestrian access from the Three-Dinos property adjacent to the Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center, across Open Space property, to allow access to Lakewood's dirt bike track.

In his Director's report, Tom Hoby said that a second Trails Talk was scheduled for April 29 at the Mountaineering Center. Tom also mentioned that Stanton Labreche was retiring

May 15 after 40 years of service to Open Space. With Stanton's retirement there has been an opportunity to modify the Organization Chart. Business Services will be managed by Hugh Wilson, Planning and Stewardship will be managed by Amy Ito, and Visitor and Education Services will be managed by Don Klima. The major change is that Don Klima will be responsible for the Park and Trail Services.

The March OSAC meeting was cancelled.

April 2, 2015 - Study Session

The Study Session was a preview of what was presented at the April 29th Trails Talk, see the Trails Talk report in this newsletter.

Kyle Henley was introduced as the new OSAC member. See information about Kyle in this newsletter.

Regular Session

Wayne Forman did not reapply for appointment to OSAC this year. The first item then was to recognize and thank Wayne Forman for his 21 years of service on OSAC.

Joy Lucisano made the quarterly real estate report. Significant items: new lease terms have been submitted to Evergreen P&R for the Alderfer House and barn for their consideration; negotiations on the Indigena property north of Ralston Creek are proceeding.

Nancy York reported on the South Jeffco Conservation Network. The Network is being modeled on the Chatfield Basin Network. The area to be covered essentially is south of Highway 285, north of the Pike National Forest, and west of the South Platte River. The goals

Continued on page 10



## *THE BIRDS OF CHATFIELD*

Hiking, biking and horse-back riding are not the only things that you can do in the open spaces of Jefferson County. Ann Bonnell, long-time PLAN Jeffco Board Member and volunteer naturalist (and inveterate birder) for Roxborough State Park, South Platte Park, Denver Botanic Gardens and the Audubon Society of Greater

Denver, recently sent these photos from some of her Tuesday Birder excursions at Chatfield State Park, which she guides.

The Tuesday Birders are a group of dedicated bird watchers who visit a different area of the Front Range at least once a month.



Common Mergansers in flight over Chatfield Reservoir, photo by Jim Esten, April 7, 2015



Tree Swallows at Chatfield State Park, photo by Jim Esten, April 7, 2015.

*THE BIRDS OF CHATFIELD, continued*



Meadowlark at Chatfield State Park, photo by Jim Esten, April 7, 2015.



## *THE BIRDS OF CHATFIELD, continued*

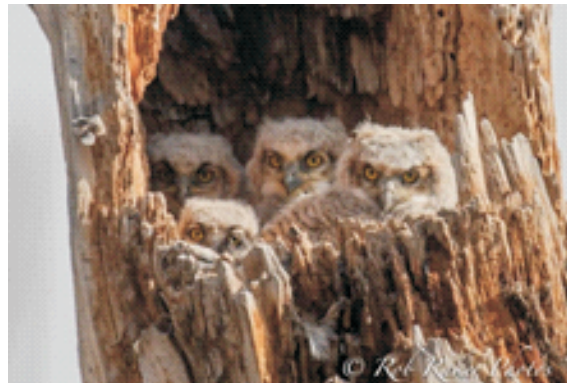


Red-shafted Flickers (male at top, female below) sighted at Chatfield State Park, photo by Jim Esten, April 7, 2015.

*THE BIRDS OF CHATFIELD, continued*



Killdeer (nesting pair?) sighted at Chatfield State Park, photo by Jim Esten, April 7, 2015.



Great-horned owllets in the nest, sighted at Chatfield State Park, photos by Rob Raker, April 7, 2015.





Great Blue Herons engaged in nest-building at Belmar Park, Englewood; photo by Jim Esten, April 2, 2015.

## *OSAC NOTES, continued*

include preservation, management, and trails. The area has many stakeholders, high biodiversity, and trail opportunities. The Network will look at joint efforts with additional areas to the north near Conifer and to the south along the South Platte.

Officers for OSAC were elected. Janet Shangraw will be replacing Wayne Foreman as Chair. Bob West, John Litz, and Ken Morfit remain as Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Secretary Pro-tem respectively.

The May 7, 2015 meeting was cancelled.

Kyle Henley was appointed to the Open Space Advisory Committee in late March and attended his first meeting April 2nd. Kyle was raised in Southern California and became an outdoors enthusiast at a young age. He worked for the California Department of Parks and Recreation for five years before heading to Colorado for his college education. Kyle earned a degree from the University of Northern Colorado in Journalism and Mass Communications. After graduation, he spent more than a decade as a newspaper journalist, including seven years as the statehouse reporter for the Colorado Springs Gazette. Kyle moved into public relations and marketing in 2006, with experience in the advertising agency world and corporate America. Today, he is Assistant Vice President for Strategic Communications at Colorado State University, responsible for all PR and community relations, the university's Denver engagement strategy and executive communication for the CSU System.

## *OSAC's Newest Member -- Kyle Henley*



Kyle is married to Jessica Henley and has two daughters -- Sydney 11, and Darcie, 7. While living in Denver, he found himself actively using Jefferson County Open Space. In 2004, Kyle and family decided to move closer to these recreation resources and moved to the lower slopes of North Table Mountain. Kyle is an avid cyclist as well as enjoying backpacking, hiking, and skiing. Kyle served on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Mountain Bike Association (COMBA) for one year and participated in the Open Spaces Trails Use Forum. Kyle also is a Board Member of the Mile High Youth Corps.

Kyle feels that his strengths are being able to bridge between opposing points of view and as such will make him a good OSAC member. Although enjoying the recreation aspects of Open Space, Kyle highly values preservation of the park's natural resources. Kyle's favorite park is White Ranch.

## 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:**

**\$35 per year**

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### 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](mailto:jklitz@comcast.net)

Thanks







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Jefferson County Citizens for  
Planned Growth with Open Space

PLAN JEFFCO NEWSLETTER