



# PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

APRIL 2017

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## Elk Meadow Dog Off-Leash Park becomes off-limits

**“The only way to get the land back is to shut it down.” Tom Hoby, Open Space Director Feb. 21 to Jefferson County Commissioners**

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## Contamination and erosion force officials to close park for restoration and find new location

**By Vicky Gits**

Due to a combination of damaging environmental impacts, Jeffco Open Space closed the 107-acre Elk Meadow dog park in Evergreen's Elk Meadow Open Space for restoration on April 4. The scenic, off-leash park was attracting 4,000 human visitors a week.

The impacts include stream contamination, embankment damage, excessive dog waste, vegetation loss, erosion and illegal parking,

The issue has generated widespread television and newspaper coverage, as well as social media comment on the Jeffco's Open Space web page and much concern by the dog park users.

After a couple of community meetings in January and February, “Friends of Evergreen Dog Park” emerged to protest the dog park closure and argue for maintaining it. The group authored a management program that included

## *Elk Meadow Dog Off-Leash Dog Park, Continued*

membership, classes, enforcement and penalties for rules violations. But it was apparently too late for corrective efforts. “The land has suffered from overuse near the point of no return,” says a March 2 press release by Jeffco Open Space.

Before the shutdown was announced, officials briefly reached a compromise with the FEDP to fence off eight acres at the east end of the park on a temporary basis until a replacement location in Evergreen could be found. But the agreement died after Open Space withdrew its offer.

### **Volunteer cleanup day**

Evidence of the questionable condition of the dog park emerged last year on Public Lands Day, Sept. 24, 2016, when volunteers and staff picked up 424 pounds of dog waste and disposed of it, according to a Jeffco fact sheet. Three weeks later volunteers collected 50 more pounds.

While Evergreen Lake is downstream of the dog park, it has not been contaminated, according to the Evergreen Metro District. But neighbors of the dog park claimed in a public meeting that their wells were polluted with E. coli bacteria, according to a report in the Canyon Courier.

Open Space documented the pollution in a report spanning the June-July-August 2016 timeframe, showing the E. coli levels in Bergen Creek were 20 times higher than allowed in a permitted discharge to a waterway. The report shows E. coli levels at zero MPM in the stream before entering the park, increase to 2419.6 in the summer months, and decline to 101.2 as of Oct. 18 within the park. (Note: The Colorado regulations for surface water are 106 per 100 mL for contact water (swimming or wading) and 205 for potential contact water. The e coli analysis is not precise so the term MPM refers to “most probable number.”)

Beyond the bacteria and dog waste, photos provided by Open Space show the vegetation has been scraped off in large swaths along the upper trail through the ponderosa forest, see the accompanying article.

The dog park is on Stagecoach Boulevard, above Upper Bear Creek Road on the south, about one mile west of Evergreen Parkway at the upper entrance to Elk Meadow Park. It consists of a fenced area near Bergen Creek on the west side and a crusher fines loop trail on the upper east side, and loop

### **Dog Park Timeline**

1980s – Open Space designates area as a dog training location.

2001 – Evergreen resident Judi Quackenboss leads effort to enclose 1-acre Bark Park in memory of her son John, with private funds.

2005 – Open Space expanded the fenced area to 5 acres.

2008 – Parking lot and trails constructed.

2011-2012 - Park gets \$110,000 worth of improvements, including 4,500-foot-long, accessible unfenced loop trail open to dogs and owners. Dogs allowed to be off-leash under voice control and within line of sight.

2016 -September 24 – Public Lands Day. Volunteers collect 424 pounds of dog waste at park.

2016-October 15 - Volunteers conduct a repeat of the September Public Lands Day, collect an additional 50 pounds of dog waste.

2017

January 5 – Press Release. Open Space seeks public input to address challenges at Elk Meadow Park Dog Off-leash Area.

January 19 – Jeffco Open Space holds first community meeting in Evergreen to discuss problems and potential solutions.

February 9 – Second community meeting. Officials reveal dog park likely to be fully closed for restoration.

Continued

## *Elk Meadow Dog Off-Leash Dog Park, Continued*

### **Restoration estimate about \$400,000**

As reported in the Canyon Courier, Tom Hoby, executive director of Jefferson County Open Space, told County Commissioners at a staff meeting Feb. 21, the department needs about \$400,000 to restore it to an acceptable state.

He defended the idea of shutting down the park entirely and said none of the suggested solutions on the table so far was adequate. “None of those ideas address the immediate problem that the park is overused and has been for a long time.”

“This isn't an educational issue; this isn't a policing issue. The only way to get the land back is to shut it down,” Hoby reportedly told the commissioners.

### **Three community meetings**

In December 2016, Open Space announced it would hold three public meetings to discuss the problem. Two meetings, the first on Jan 19 and the second on Feb 9, attracted large turnouts of 187 and 154 people, respectively, according to the Canyon Courier. A meeting March 2 attracted 127.

During the second meeting observers concluded that Open Space really wanted to close both sides of the park for restoration.

But in a press release on March 15, Jeffco Open Space softened the apparent decision to shut down the park and officially said it would leave open an 8-acre area until a new site could be found. Two weeks later, JCOS rescinded that decision.

The 8 acres comprise the site of the Waggin' Trail loop trail which leads from the trailhead on Stagecoach Boulevard to a scenic ridge with ponderosa and rock outcroppings. The trail was built as part of a \$110,000 makeover in 2011 and 2012.

JCOS also promised to close the parking lot on the south side of Stagecoach Boulevard and work with transportation and engineering to make the highway a tow-away zone, as opposed to a no-parking zone, which it currently is. Visitors who venture on the closed areas as of April 4 will be assessed a \$100 fine for the first offense. (March 15 release).

Continued

March 2 – Press Release/Jeffco Open Space. Open Space announces park will be partially closed beginning April 4 for major restoration except for an existing fenced area, under strict conditions. Search for new location to be conducted. A local nonprofit, Friends of Evergreen Dog Park, is being formed to help manage the open portion of the dog park and encourage compliance.

March 2 – Third community meeting.

March 15 – Press Release/Jeffco Open Space. Open Space announces a new location for the interim fenced-off, off-leash dog-park area, which will be 8 acres on the northeast side on somewhat level ground. (Waggin' Trail loop). The other 99 acres, including an existing fenced area near Bergen Creek will be closed.. Friends of Evergreen Dog Park, a recently formed nonprofit, will educate visitors and assist with maintenance, allowing eight acres to be open under strict conditions while the search for a new park area continues. Dog area to require 4,459 linear feet of fence. 3,296 feet will be installed on the highway

March 24 – Press Release/Jeffco Open Space. Open Space reverses position from March 15, announcing the entire dog park will close April 4, citing “multiple safety and environmental challenges that need to be addressed immediately.” The plan to keep open eight acres was abandoned because “it would help address some concerns, but not address all of them. In addition, this scenario was not embraced by many DOLA stakeholders.” The site is not believed to be sustainable for use as a dog park and the land needs comprehensive restoration.

Continued

## *Elk Meadow Dog Off-Leach Dog Park, Continued*

For more information and to view materials presented at previous meetings, visit

[jeffco.us/open-space/meetings-agendas/projects-proposals](http://jeffco.us/open-space/meetings-agendas/projects-proposals).

Friends of Evergreen Dog Park on Facebook and website  
FriendsofEvergreenDogPark.org

### **Other Dog Parks in Jeffco include**

Beaver Ranch Bark Park, Conifer  
Centennial Park, Englewood  
Chatfield State Park, Littleton  
Forsberg Dog Park, Lakewood  
Homer's Run Dog Park, Golden  
Fruitdale Park, Wheat Ridge  
Tony Grampsas Dog Park, Golden  
West Arvada Dog Park, Arvada  
Westminster Hills Dog Park, Westminster  
Wynetka Ponds Park, Littleton  
Ulysses Park, Golden

Officials named the following issues:  
Widespread loss of native vegetation  
Soil erosion  
Degradation of the stream channel  
Poor water quality  
Lack of visitor compliance

March 24 – Letter from Friends of Evergreen Dog Park to Matt Robbins, Community Connections Team Manager and Jeffco County Commissioners. The letter accuses JCOS of holding meetings to discuss solutions, despite knowing that it was closing the park no matter what the community proposed.

March 31, The Denver Post published a guest editorial by the president of the Friends of Evergreen Dog Park, See excerpts below:

“During the second meeting, Jefferson County announced its intent to close the entire park, and it became clear the county had no interest in considering reasonable, affordable solutions, to addressing concerns. The community rallied and organized a protest to be held at the third meeting. Friends of Evergreen Dog Park was formed and we developed a plan to establish a license/membership-based park that would be managed under our nonprofit organization”

“We have tried very hard to convey to Jefferson County that the solution is quite simple. Either we, responsible dog owners, manage the park and enforce its rules, or they can. Jefferson County is choosing neither of these options. It is clear now that Jeffco's true intent from the beginning has been to close the entire park for good — which is completely unnecessary and unacceptable.”

“With continued volunteer stewardship of this park that focuses on proper licensing, public education, innovative management tools and a zero-tolerance policy regarding waste, this beautiful space can continue to be enjoyed by everyone for years to come — and we stand ready to implement this vision immediately.”

Editor’s comment:

The above are portions of a 625-word editorial that only has four words “erosion of the land” that relate to the major problem at the park. That is the need for restoration due to the previous excessive use, etc. (See the photographs in the accompanying article.) A second point is that this park belongs to all the residents of Jefferson County and it would not be proper to allow exclusive use.

John Litz



## *Jefferson County a good location for 'OLOGY' Continued*

Although there have not been indications of early Paleo-Indian habitation in Jefferson County, there have been elsewhere in Colorado. The time periods used by the archaeologists are:

Pre-clovis - earlier than 14,000 years Before Present time

Clovis - 14,000 to 11,700 BP

Folsom - 13,300 to 10,700 BP

Plano - 12,800 to 7,700 BP

Early Archaic - 7,500 to 5,000 BP

Middle Archaic - 5,000 to 3,000 BP

Late Archaic - 3,000 to 1,850 BP

Early Ceramic - 1,850 to 850 BP

Middle Ceramic - 850 to 460 BP

Protohistoric - 460 to 140 BP

The earliest inhabitants were hunter-gathers. A habitation area for them would need to have a close-by water source, edible vegetation, wildlife, and generally some shelter. With the creeks crossing it, the Hogback Valley offered these resources. There are four sandstone formations in the valley that were tipped up when the present Rocky Mountains formed. These are the Fountain Formation - about 300 million years ago (mya), the Lyons Formation - about 250 mya, the Morrison Formation - about 150 mya, and the Dakota - about 130 mya. These sandstone formations are readily eroded and therefore formed caves and overhangs to provide shelter.

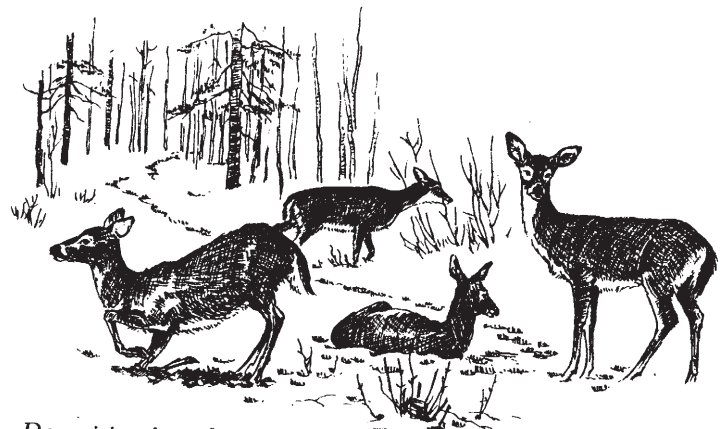
Although most of the locations studied are under a rock cover, there is considerable evidence of open sites at both the Magic Mountain and the Ken Caryl locations. A number of models have been proposed as to the movement of the inhabitants of the Hogback valley residents. The models include communications/influence from the Nebraska plains, North Park, and South Park. There was influence from the pueblo's in New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah. There also is evidence to communication with the northern Great basin in Utah and Idaho. When one considers that for most of these periods, all travel was on foot, these early residents had to be hardy.

The Hogback valley provided a good source for raw materials to make flaked stone tools. Materials used include: jasper cobbles, quartzite, chert, chalcedony, agate, and siliceous limestone. Quarries have been identified in Roxborough, Ken-Caryl, Green Mountain, and Rooney Gulch. Additional quarries have been located in Arapahoe, Douglas, and Elbert Counties.

Raw materials for ground stone and grinding tools were sandstone, conglomerate, and quartzite from the Lyons and Dakota ridges. About one-third of the tools studied were made with granite, gneiss, schist, quartz, and rhyolite which are found in many Front Range locations.

Archaeologists have found 34 habitation sites in the valley and 99 limited activity sites within the 3,500 acres surveyed. The site densities per 100 acres surveyed are 0.98 habitation and 2.8 limited activity. These densities are much higher than most areas studied east of the Continental Divide.

The above information is excerpted from **The Hogback Valley and Its Relation to Denver Area Prehistory**, by Lawrence E. Moore and Richard Busch, published in *Southwestern Lore* (the Official Publication of the Colorado Archaeological Society), Volume 69, Number 3, Fall 2003.



*Deer rising from bedding area*

# *If You Build It, Too Many Will Come*

By John Litz

Siting and designing a dog park can be a difficult proposition depending on the type of topography that is available. In Jeffco there are three types of locations being used.

The simplest, is a fenced, level, irrigated bluegrass field. The City of Wheat Ridge has such a dog park at 47<sup>th</sup> and Miller. The field looks as if it was originally designed for non-competitive softball or hardball as the entry is in the corner of a dirt quarter circle, as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1

The balance of the rectangular field is grassed and in mid-March of this year 80 to 90 percent of the grassed area has survived the winter in well worn, but reasonable shape, as shown in Figures 2 and 3.



Figure 2



The Arvada West Dog Park on West 64<sup>th</sup> Ave below the Blunn Reservoir is sited on a mostly sloping field with native upland prairie grasses. The park is divided into two large areas and a smaller area. This allows for closing one area for maintenance and the possibility of restoration. The park does not have designated trails, but the dog walkers tend to use the outer circumference with an occasional mid crossing. The soil in the park is typical Rocky Flats low grade gravel ranging from silt to large pebbles. This makes the walking areas quick draining and because of the pebbles the areas do not have worn trails. In mid-March most of the grass areas appeared in fair shape considering the dry winter. Certainly the grass was worn down adjacent to the walking areas, but since these walking areas were yards wide wear-pressure on the grass was small, as shown in Figures 4, 5, and 6.



Figure 4

Continued

## *If You Build It, Too Many Will Come* Continued



Figure 5



Figure 6

The entry gate greets one with an effective warning sign of a \$999 fine for not picking up after your dog, as illustrated in Figure 7. No poop (dog waste?) was evident at either Wheat Ridge or Arvada.



Figure 7

The third type of dog park is the steeply pitched, pine forest at Elk Meadow Open Space Park. This 100+ acre park was beautiful parkland when it first opened; it features a small stream dissecting it. The entry is 80 feet below the highest point in the park with the topography dropping 270 feet to the bottom of the park. The trails in the park were built to normal hiking standards. One loop was covered with crusher fines to make it handicapped accessible and the other trails were just natural surface with a couple sets of stairs.

The area around the crusher fines loop is what was going to be fenced for temporary, continued use of the park. However, this area also has been subjected to significant degradation. The crusher fines trails have deteriorated and widened. The trails initially were 4-foot wide which allows for two people to walk side by side. However, the author had observed trios of dog exercisers strolling side by side and not paying attention to either the trail or their dogs. Figure 8 shows the downhill widening of the crusher fines trail and Figure 9 shows the loss of the uphill edge. These point out that any future park in a similar location needs to have the trails built up with sideboards of some type, probably rock walls, to keep the trail defined.



Figure 8

Continued



# *If You Build It, Too Many Will Come* Continued



Figure 9

The heavy dog traffic and persons not staying on the trail have greatly impacted the vegetation. At the park opening, much of the topography looked like Figure 10, but now the land looks like Figure 11.



Figure 10



Figure 11

The natural surface trails have suffered from similar degradation. Figures 12 and 13 show the trail widening to the point where one cannot define the original location of the trail.



Figure 12



Figure 13

Wear adjacent to the creek is significant, as shown by Figure 14. Continued



# If You Build It, Too Many Will Come *Continued*

An unexpected seepage flowing down a trail has led to significant widening, as seen in Figures 15 and 16.



Figure 15



Figure 16

All over the park, social trails have trampled and destroyed the limited vegetation that initially was present. Figure 17 shows the widest social trail found thus far; it avoided a lengthy hairpin turn in the constructed trail to drop about 20 feet in elevation.



Figure 17

Figure 18 shows a deeply eroded social trail from the constructed trail down to the creek.



Figure 18

To say the least, the Dog Off-Leash Area at Elk Meadow Park has been a learning experience for Jeffco Open Space.

1. To begin with, the surface vegetation in a forested area is very fragile, unless it is in a rainy environment, like the Pacific Northwest, for example.
2. Trees and large shrubs reduce sight lines so that the dog tender loses sight of the dog and therefore may not see where the dog may poop.
3. To make matters worse, too much traveling off trail to pick up poop disturbs the ground vegetation and can start social trails.

It may be that a fenced portion of a moderately dry mountain meadow is the only environment that circumvents the majority of the problems observed at the Dog Off-Leash Area.



# OSAC Notes - OSAC Notes

## January 12, Study Session

Local Park and Recreation & Nonprofit Grants were reviewed. See Regular Meeting notes for details.

Don Klima, Manager of Administration & Real Estate, and Tom Hoby, Director, reviewed the Parks Cost Recovery & Fee Assessment study, performed during 2016 with Green Play LLC as consultant.

"Any way you look at it, cost recovery represents a park, recreation, or conservation agency's decision to generate revenues by charging fees for some, or all, of its programs and services in order to offset the expenses of providing those programs or services. Cost recovery does not imply that the target is total cost recovery; an agency establishes the target according to a variety of considerations, from 0% to more than 100% of direct costs."

<http://greenplayllc.com/dev/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Cost-Recovery-Article-Dropinski.pdf>

Using a pyramid model, ranging from overall community benefit to a highly individualized benefit, fees for each level can be equitably established.

The study began with a series of workshops involving staff and community. The workshops resulted in the establishment of five tiers of services, each of which encompasses two or more categories of service. The pyramid model below illustrates what was developed.



The table below lists the types of open space activities that were assigned to each individual tier. Each box lists the current cost recovery (CR) for the tier and the target (hoped-for) cost recovery for that tier.

Tier 5	
Event Service Providers Concessions & Vending	Merchandise for Sale
Current Tier CR 135% Target Tier CR 150% min to market	
Tier 4	
Equipment Rentals Permit/Activity Services	Long-term Leases Rentals
Current Tier CR 15% Target Tier CR 80% min to market	
Tier 3	
Natural & Cultural Education All Workshops/Clinics/Demos Licensed Camps/After School Work Study/Interns/Community Service	Inclusion Services Non-licensed Camps/After School Volunteer Program
Current Tier CR 35% Target Tier CR 40% (50% by 2020)	
Tier 2	
School Calendar-based Programs Staffed Opportunities	Special Events
Current Tier CR 0% Target Tier CR 25% min to market	
Tier 1	
Unstaffed Opportunities Stewardship Education	
Current Tier CR 2% Target Tier CR 0-5%	

## Regular Meeting

Joy Lucisano, Real Estate Program Manager, presented the quarterly Real Estate update. The closed acquisitions for 2016 were:

- Indigenia + Laramie Ridge, Coal Creek area
- Kolin + Lamb, Douglas Mtn area
- Sedita + Consolidated Mutual + Canal Co for access to South Table
- Applewood Golf Course
- Lockheed-Martin, trail widening easement at Hildebrand Ranch

As of January 1, there were 18 active acquisition projects totaling 8300 acres. The projects range from Coal Creek in the north to near the South Platte. There are 14 inactive projects totaling 2600 acres. The primary reason for inactive projects is

## *OSAC Notes - OSAC Notes Continued*

unwilling sellers. Open Space has a long history of patient negotiations. The Real Estate team is working on 46 other projects ranging from land trades with CDOT to encumbrances in trail corridors.

The 2017 Local Park and Recreation and Nonprofit Grant Awards were approved. These are funded from the Jefferson County Conservation Trust Fund (Colorado Lottery Proceeds.)

- Arvada - irrigation system at Stenger Soccer Complex (\$200,000 awarded, \$320,000 requested)
- Coal Creek Canyon P&R - turf baseball field (\$50,000 awarded, \$50,000 requested)
- Beaver Ranch - priorities from Master Plan (\$30,000 awarded, \$35,068 requested)
- Denver Urban Gardens - garden at one school (\$6,000 awarded, \$50,000 requested)
- Evergreen Audubon Nature Center - exhibits (\$6,000 awarded, \$6,045 requested)
- West Denver Trout Unlimited - repairs to Clear Creek habitat (\$8,000 awarded, \$24,000 requested)

The 2017 Local Park and Recreation Grants Funded with Jefferson County Open Space Sales Tax Funds:

- Columbine Knolls - new pool building (\$300,000 awarded, \$301,280 requested)
- Evergreen P&R - Marshdale Field improvements (\$50,000 awarded, \$99,000 requested)
- Ken-Caryl Ranch Metro Dist - Splash Pad Enhancements (\$15,000 awarded, \$15,750 requested)
- Wheat Ridge - Prospect Park Renovation (\$300,000 awarded, \$400,000 requested)
- Morrison - Trail to Mt Falcon (\$15,000 awarded, \$27,760 requested)

### **February 2 - Study Session**

Parks Cost Recovery & Fee Assessment - update: See the January study session.

Scott Grossman, Special Projects Coordinator, reviewed the status of the Peaks to Plains Trail. The phase presently under construction will add about 3/4 of a mile and a second trail head to the project. At the area referred to as the "Big Easy", Highway 6 is being moved to allow for a large parking lot. There will be a bridge across the creek and the area will be landscaped for recreation.

At the mouth of Clear Creek Canyon, the plan is to add about 55 parking spaces along Highway 6, a trail head with restrooms and a picnic area, and trails on both sides of the creek. The north side trail will connect with the present Clear Creek Trail from Golden and go west past Tunnel 1. The south side trail will start at the Chimney Gulch Trail and follow the Welch Ditch using both the ditch bank and the flume to west of Tunnel 1. The wooden portion of the flume will require major reconstruction to make it safe for unsupervised use. The goals are to do the design work in 2017, to stabilize and construct in 2018, and to open in 2019. Potentially, there are additional plans to access Mt. Galbraith Park across Highway 6, and a hiker-only bridge across the creek west of Tunnel 1.

### **Regular Session**

Three of the contractors for the completed portion of the Peaks to Plans Trail have received awards from their appropriate associations. The awards were for architectural design, land stewardship, and environmental excellence.

Christine Hartman, Natural Resources Specialist, gave a presentation of the "Raptor Monitoring Program." Open space has been monitoring raptors for over 20 years. Last year, 35 volunteers contributed more than 800 hours to the monitoring program. Eighty-nine nesting sites for golden eagles, red-tail hawks, great-horned owls, and peregrine and prairie falcons are being monitored. In 2016, 23 of the nests

## *OSAC Notes - OSAC Notes Continued*

were active, and 18 persons were ticketed in Clear Creek Canyon for violating areas closed during nesting season.

Drew Rayburn was introduced as the new Supervisor of the Natural Resources Team.

Final terms for three Meyer Ranch properties were approved. These terms included buyout of the conservation easement on the 10.6 acres that include the house, 42 acres north and adjacent to the house easement, and 1.5 acres for a trail corridor from the house to Aspen Park.

Edgewater is planning to use a portion of their owned area of Walker Branch Park for a municipal building. The exchange of the Open Space reverter on this area of the County to a portion of Citizens Park was approved.

### **March 2 meeting was cancelled**

### **April 5 - Study Session**

The study session began with a field trip to view a potential acquisition from the Frank Martin Trust. The property is along Golden Gate Canyon Road at the top of Guy Gulch. The property is about 362 acres and lies between the Open Space-owned Termentozi property and the Ralston Creek State Wildlife Area. The property has very high master plan values and would allow access from Open Space properties to the south to Open Space properties north of Ralston Creek and Golden Gate Canyon State Park. The property does have a house built in 1988 that needs significant exterior maintenance and probably would be scraped.

The balance of the study session was determining the items that the OSAC members would like to review with the County Commissioners when OSAC meets with the Commissioners on June 8.

### **Regular Meeting**

Approval was given to Wheat Ridge to subordinate a

portion of the reverter on the site of the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center to allow Verizon Wireless to place screened antennae on the building roof.

Approval was given to Lakewood to subordinate a portion of the reverter on Washington Heights Park to allow Public Service Company to bury some electrical power lines that would improve power reliability to the area.

Joy Lucisano, Real Estate Program Manager, reviewed Foothills Park and Recreation request for Open Space to deed Clement Park and the Bergen Ditch water rights to Johnson Reservoir to the Foothills Rec District. Staff are reviewing the status of Open Space involvement with the park and will bring a resolution for the deed transfer at a future meeting.

Final terms to acquire the Frank Martin Trust property, see study session, were approved. The price is \$1,575,000 for the 362 acres or \$4,350 per acre.

Tom Hoby, in the Directors Report, relayed:

- Acquisition of the 108 acres north of Floyd Hill was completed March 17.
- Moving Highway 6 along the Peak to Plains Trail in Clear Creek to allow for a parking lot on the south side of the highway has begun.
- Renovations to the Lookout Mountain Nature Center building have begun and staff are enthused with the changes.
- The Park Rangers have begun offering self-defense programs at the County libraries and to Girl Scouts. The programs have been received enthusiastically and are in response to comments to the last citizen survey about some not feeling safe on the trails.
- Andy Scanlan was introduced as the new Planning and Projects Director. Andy is a former business analyst with JCOS and Colorado State Parks.

## *Recent Open Space Acquisitions*

In 1998 the Jefferson County voters approved issuing \$160,000,000 in bonds to accelerate the acquisition of land to add to the Open Space Program. The issue passed with 74% of the voters supporting the bonds. The funds from the bonds allowed increasing the number of open space acres in the County to over 50,000. The last of the bond funds were used in 2011. Since then the amount of funds available for acquisitions has been limited by the necessity of paying about \$12,000,000 each year to service the bond issues. Fortunately the County's economy has improved in each of the subsequent years. This improvement in revenue during these five years has allowed the program to spend \$25,294,000 for new acquisitions. This has increased the Open Space acreage by about 3,925 acres, or 8%.

The acquisitions include:

- The southwest corner of Highway 72 and 93, 6 acres, in front of the Denver Water Property; to preserve the foreground of the mountain backdrop.
- More than 1,300 acres of the Booth Ranch on the backdrop between Ralston and Coal Creeks; will allow for development of another White Ranch-type park. The balance of the acreage had been paid for with bond funds.
- Blue Mountain, 640 acres; will allow connections between the Booth Ranch and Golden Gate State Park.
- A 187 acre addition to the west side of White Ranch.
- About 1,260 acres of Douglas Mountain northwest of the Guy Gulch - Robinson Hill Road.
- Acquisitions in the plains include 4 acres with Lakewood - Beech Park, 3 small acquisitions along the Welch Ditch (allows for access from South Table Mountain into Denver West), and

acceptance of a 29-acre donation on North Table Mountain from the Access Fund.

- Applewood Golf Course. Open Space contributed \$1,100,000 to the Prospect Park District for part of the \$13,500,000 cost of this 146 acre parcel.
- The Clear Creek Conservancy donated a 2.3-acre parcel across Colorow Road from the Lookout Mountain Nature Center.
- A joint acquisition with Clear Creek County for 110 acres on the north side of Floyd Hill that allows access to 7,000 acres of Clear Creek and Jefferson County open space properties along Clear Creek.
- A 157-acre addition to Hildebrand Ranch Park in the south mountain backdrop.
- The acquisition of 88 acres on the north side of Highway 285 across from Meyer Ranch Park, part of which will allow trail connections into Aspen Park.



# 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**

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](mailto:jklitz@comcast.net)

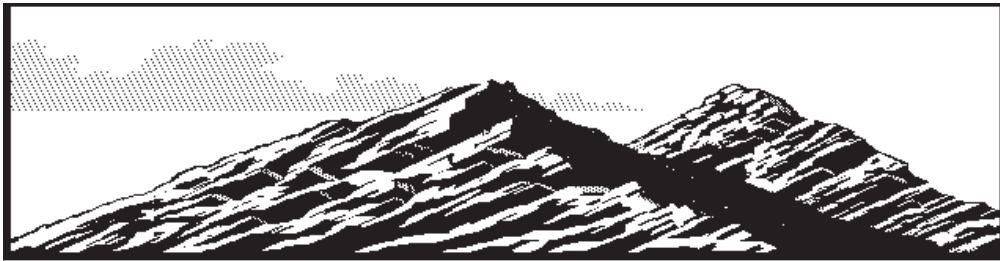
Thanks



# SAVE THE DATE

**August 29, 2017**

PLAN Jeffco is planning a barbecue/picnic at the Lookout Mountain Nature Center in the late afternoon/early evening. Details will be in the next newsletter, if not before.



PLAN Jeffco  
11010 W 29th Avenue  
Lakewood, CO 80215

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Email: [planjeffco@planjeffco.org](mailto:planjeffco@planjeffco.org)  
Check our website  
[www.planjeffco.org](http://www.planjeffco.org)

Jefferson County Citizens for  
Planned Growth with Open Space

PLAN JEFFCO NEWSLETTER