



PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

JUNE 2018

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JEFFCO CONSERVATION SUMMIT SERIES

CELEBRATING VISIONARY WOMEN



SATURDAY, JUNE 30 8:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.
BOETTCHER MANSION
900 COLOROW ROAD, GOLDEN

Join PLAN Jeffco and Jefferson County Open Space for authentic dialog about gear disparity, self-perception, and inequity in the outdoors. Featuring local professionals.

Jennifer Barbour, Executive Director of Team Evergreen Cycling

Niki Koubourlis, Entrepreneur and founder of Bold Betties

Alexia O'Connor, Health Coach & Postural Therapist, Sales Lead for Title Nine

Lise Aangeenbrug, Executive Director of the Outdoor Foundation

Details on the next page

JEFFCO CONSERVATION SUMMIT SERIES

CELEBRATING

VISIONARY WOMEN

Nearly Almost Final Program

- 0830 – 0900: Free: Continental breakfast, time to mingle and network
- 0900 – 0915: Lise Aangeenbrug, Welcome and introduction to the day/theme
- 0915 – 0945: Niki Koubourlis, Bold Betties – “Creating an Adventure Platform for Women?”
- 0945 – 1015: Alexia O'Conner, Title Nine – “Making Great Gear for Women?”
- 1015 – 1030: Break, networking
- 1030 - 1100: Jennifer Barbour, Team Evergreen – “Strides to a More Inclusive Outdoors?”
- 1100 - 1145: Panel/Open Discussion: opportunity for participants to share their personal stories and strategies for overcoming adversity and fueling a better future
- 1145 – 1200: Final remarks/end of summit, provide participants with summary of how they can get involved locally
- 1200 – 1245: Free: Box Lunch – In Lookout Mountain Nature Center (if you have requested a special lunch please see one of our volunteers)
- 1300 – 1330 Complimentary Yoga Class provided by NamasteWorks

Register on Eventbrite at:

<https://tinyurl.com/y6vfm2xn>

The Effect of Growth on Open Space

In 1972, PLAN Jeffco campaigned on the premise that as the local population grew in the coming years, the amount of open (undeveloped) land would decrease rapidly.

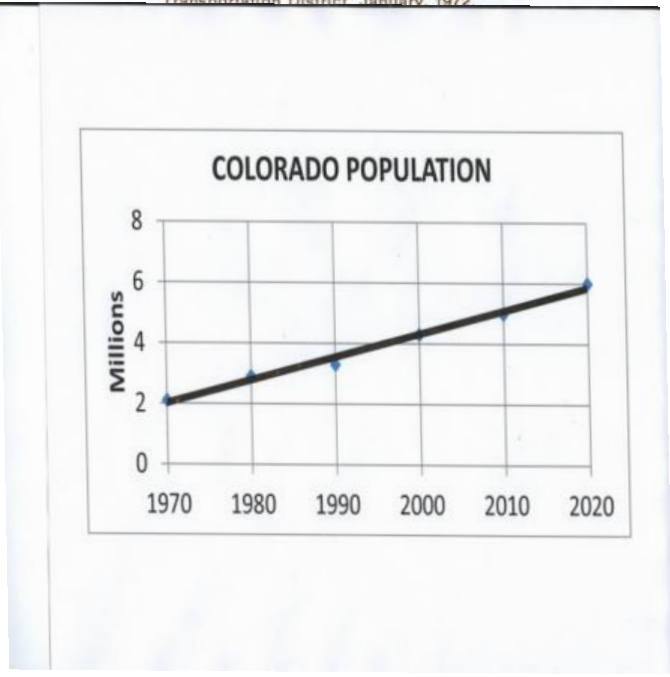
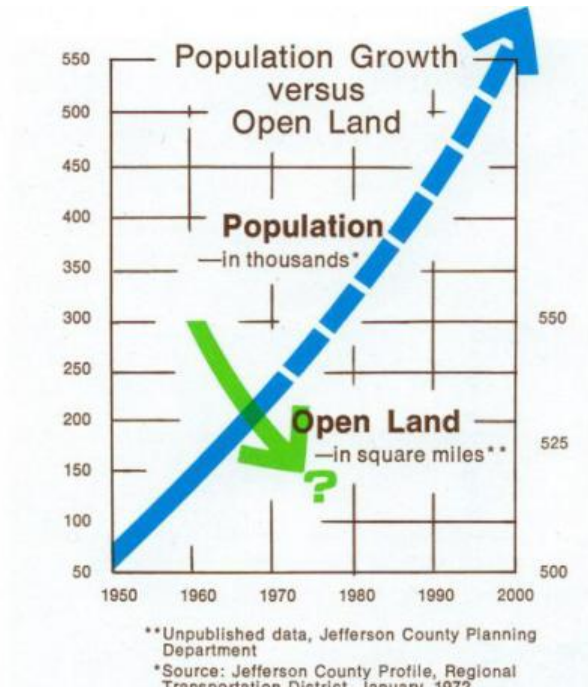
On the right is the chart that we used in our campaign brochure. The values for the population axis on the left for the county were provided by RTD.

Little did we know at the time that we needed to consider Open Space visitors coming from the entire Metropolitan area.

The lower chart is the actual State population; the numbers for 2020 are estimated.

The 1972 graph indicated 250% growth in 30 years, 1970 to 2000. But it took an additional 18 years to grow the population by 250%, from 1970 to 2018.

This enormous growth is presenting many challenges and opportunities for the Jefferson County Open Space program. The following pages detail these challenges and opportunities





CONSERVATION GREENPRINT

CHALLENGES

The following factors cause concentrated visitation that impact our public lands, natural resources, and outdoor experiences.

GROWTH, OUTDOOR CULTURE, INCREASED VISITATION

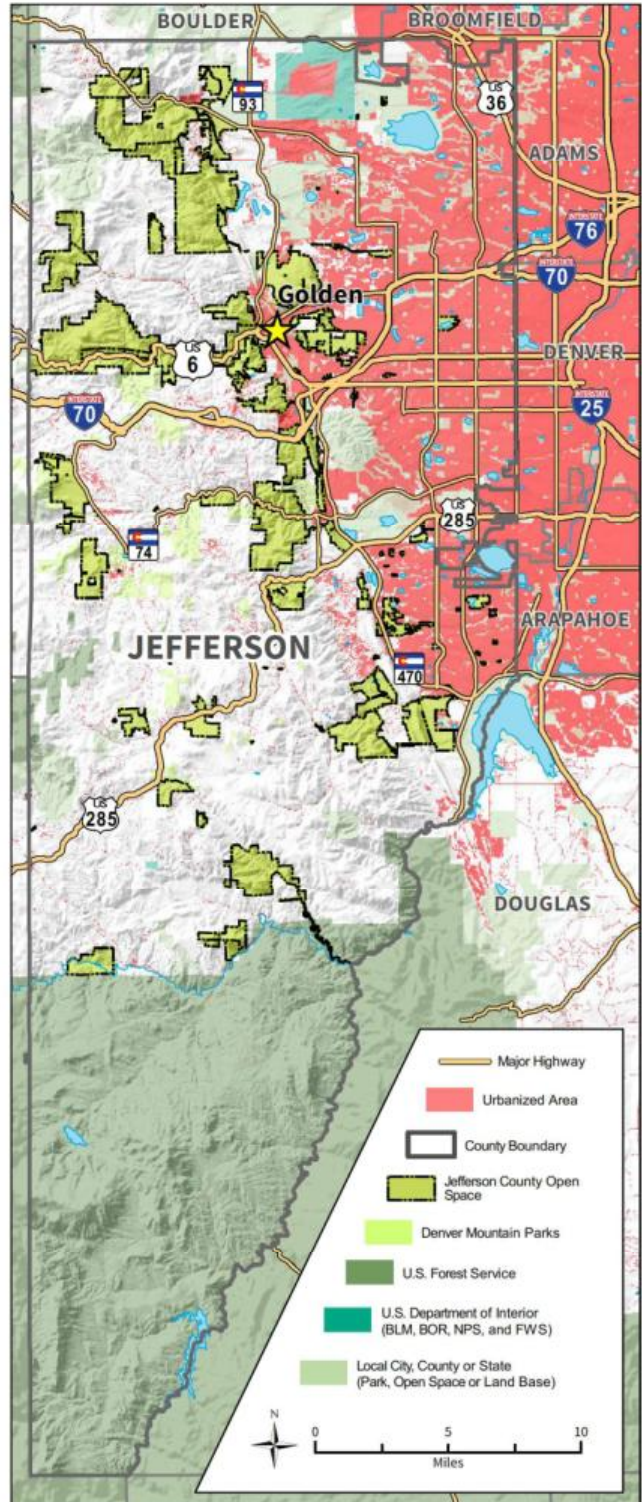
The Denver Metro Area population is growing at a rate of 2% per year. Many residents are outdoor enthusiasts, and Jeffco Open Space park visitation has steadily increased to an estimated 6.9 million visitors a year.

OUTSTANDING PARKS, FREE ACCESS

We offer exceptional public parks, facilities, trails and information that are all available without entry fees.

PROXIMITY AND CONVENIENT ACCESS

We offer nearby mountain experiences to 560,000 Jeffco residents and three million people in the Denver Metro Area. Jeffco Open Space manages about 45,000 acres that are close to urban areas. Just 109,000 of the 2.7 million acres of Front Range National Forests are located in Jeffco at its far southern tip.



Open Space Challenges

Over the past 45 years the Jefferson County Open Space program has developed into an award-winning program that is being used at a level that those of us who worked on the 1972 campaign never realized could occur. For example, in 1972, the mountain bike had not yet been developed.

The page to the left has been prepared by Jeffco Open Space to illustrate some of the challenges. The map shows the proximity of the Open Space parks to the urbanized Denver area. Obviously, the Jeffco parks are the closest opportunity for most of the 3.5 million Metro residents to have a foothills experience.

Given today's fast-paced lifestyle, people are finding that they have less and less time to

recreate, which rules out lengthy travel to hiking areas like Rocky Mountain National Park or destination sites like the Maroon Bells. This time constraint makes Jeffco Open Space Parks even more attractive, by comparison.

Not only is the population increasing at a steady 2% per year rate, but much of the growth is persons looking for a more active lifestyle. In recent years, bicycling has become a massively popular form of exercise and entertainment, and it's not relegated to paved roadways and sidewalks. Mountain biking, rock climbing and trail running have joined hiking and equestrian riding as very popular activities in the Open Space parks. The result is that visitation to the parks is increasing faster than the population growth.

Are you a lover of open space?

Are you interested in being an advocate for open space?

PLAN Jeffco is looking for a few advocates to join our Board of Directors.

We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at
St. Anthony Hospital in the early evening
- except for December

Interested? Email John Litz at jkclitz@comcast.net
and we will send a application/questionnaire to you.

OPPORTUNITIES

To address our challenges, Jeffco Open Space is committed to these five key initiatives aligned with our mission—Preserve open space and parklands, Protect park and natural resources, and Provide healthy, nature-based experiences.

PRESERVE	
1 Acquire additional open space and parklands	
<p>STRATEGIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on lands that enhance conservation, trail opportunities, and close access to the outdoors for all, including underserved areas • Elevate partnerships with local governments and nonprofit organizations • Secure additional grants and gifts 	<p>DESIRED RESULTS</p> <p>Increased access to quality outdoor experiences, dispersed visitation, and reduced resource impacts.</p>
PROTECT	
2 Enhance stewardship of existing Jeffco Open Space lands and assets	
<p>STRATEGIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement tools to reduce visitor impacts • Study and align funding and resources • Develop and implement Asset Management Program • Maximize stewardship volunteerism and partnerships 	<p>DESIRED RESULTS</p> <p>Healthy landscapes and sustainable assets.</p>
PROVIDE	
3 Increase trail development, connectivity, and designated-use	
<p>STRATEGIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement Jeffco Trails Plan • Improve connectivity through collaboration • Increase designated-use trail opportunities 	<p>DESIRED RESULTS</p> <p>Safer, more enjoyable trails.</p>
4 Expand visitor management practices	
<p>STRATEGIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance public access with protection of resources • Increase regional collaboration and use of best practices • Develop and activate Visitor Management Plan • Use funding for services that provide broad community benefit and access 	<p>DESIRED RESULTS</p> <p>Safer, more enjoyable park experiences, and minimized impacts to resources.</p>
5 Emphasize visitor stewardship education	
<p>STRATEGIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train and empower everyone at Jeffco Open Space to be an educator • Shift focus and resources to education in our parks and the community • Leverage multi-media, networks and partnerships 	<p>DESIRED RESULTS</p> <p>Visitors become stewards.</p>

Open Space Opportunities

Jefferson County Open Space operations are guided by a three-part mission statement:

- Preserve open space and parklands
- Protect park and natural resources
- Provide healthy, nature-based experiences

Open Space needs to continue the acquisition of property suitable for use as open space. The last payment on the \$100 million in bonds issued in 1999 will be made in 2019. This will free as much as \$8 million per year for acquisitions and development.

Recent acquisitions made by Open Space have been undergoing studies of the natural resources of each property. These studies are serving as the basis for the Regional Management Plans and the individual Park Master Plans. These are discussed later in this newsletter.

With the Plans in place, Open Space will be able to develop the parks for public use. However, as more of the parks are developed, care has to be taken that the development does not significantly impact the resources. In addition it will be necessary to educate the visitors to be stewards of the land.

Open Space parks need to be carefully managed in order to **preserve** the environment for the enjoyment of all who visit, and for the health of the flora and fauna that lives in these parks. Who doesn't love a stroll in the parks, the fresh scent of pine and spruce, while watching the critters and birds going about their everyday tasks?

Open Space parks need to be **protected** from over-use and deterioration of the land and trails. In the last year, people – both front rangers and out-of-staters, visited the parks 6.9 million times...that's an average of 246,428 visits per park for the year, or 675 visits per day per park. That's a lot of feet trampling and general disruption, which lessens the experience of nature for everyone.

Open Space seeks to **provide** excellent nature-based experiences for everyone who visits the parks, every time, while increasing the number of trails and connectors and minimizing the negative impact on the land and its residents. Every visit to an Open Space park is an opportunity for each visitor to take another step toward becoming a steward of the land, for, in becoming stewards of the land, we come that closer to protecting the parks.



Park Planning - The Strategic Plan

In Jefferson County the planning for parks begins with the Master Plan that is updated every five years. The plan outlines the goals for the next five years and the strategies that will be used to achieve those goals.

The first comprehensive master plan was completed in 1988 by an outside consultant. The plan included a large amount of data on the county demographics, detailed many properties suitable for acquisition, and outlined many trail corridors. However, PLAN Jeffco and many others were dismayed at the recommendations of the plan. The Draft Plan recommended that the top priority for acquisitions were:

- a. Lands located in areas with current or projected high population growth, and
- b. Available in large parcels where the size of the parcel enhances the essential values or resources of the site.

The plan then went on to recommend lands that had potential to be used for passive or natural development purposes; lands suitable for trail-type recreation and park linking; and lands that would preserve the unique natural characteristics of the county.

The plan then estimated that the open space needed by 2010 would be an additional 3,838 acres, bringing the total available up to 17,900 acres. The plan proposed the budget for acquisitions be allocated as follows:

Mountain Open Space	14%
Conservation Easements	27%
Plains Open Space	56%
Mountain Trails	1%
Plains Trails	2%

A survey conducted later in 1988 indicated that the public disagreed with these recommendations. The following results were determined from a Reader

Survey in the Open Space Newsletter (Summer, 1988).

Type of Open Space land preferred?

- 429 - mountain areas
- 76 - scenic backdrops
- 66 - active recreational areas
- 44 - plains
- 62 - other preferences

Is it important to have public access to Open Space?

- 752 - Yes
- 194 - No

Future concentration for Open Space?

- 723 - all areas
- 151 - mountains
- 50 - plains/outlying areas
- 35 - plains/urban areas

Should Jeffco Open Space provide basic development on its parks, such as parking lots, restrooms, trails, picnic areas, shelters, primitive campgrounds?

- 396 - Yes
- 132 - No

Should Open Space fund the development of major recreational facilities, such as ballfields, tennis courts, swimming pools, etc?

- 82 - Yes
- 440 - No

Park Planning - continued

Should Jeffco Open Space acquire and develop a trails network throughout Jefferson County for pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians?

433 - Yes
88 - No

Is it important to be able to walk or ride bicycles to Open Space Parks?

307 - Yes
217 - No

The survey results agreed with the positions that PLAN Jeffco presented to the voters in 1972, that the focus should be on the backdrop and foothills. In March of 1989, PLAN Jeffco conducted a workshop on “Using the Master Plan, A Workshop on Acquisition of Open Space.” PLAN Jeffco, with the help of a realtor who specialized in mountain properties, developed a financial model that considered acquisitions in four areas:

- Mountain backdrop and scenic corridors
- Trails - mountains and plains
- Recreational lands - plains
- Natural areas

The model showed potential, assuming a low rate of inflation, for the acquisition of up to 47,000 acres in the mountains and plains and 113 miles of trail corridors by 2010. This was far more than the 3,800 acres mentioned in the Master Plan.

Open Space and the Advisory Committee responded positively to the PLAN Jeffco workshop and the Advisory Committee held their own workshop. The result was that the acquisition process changed from only considering properties that were submitted, to an aggressive program of seeking properties in the North and Central Mountain Backdrops, North Table Mountain, Clear Creek, and Bear Creek. This aggressive program has continued since 1990

and realistic acquisition goals have been included in all subsequent Master Plans, although inflation and recession have inhibited the potential acquisition levels cited in the 1989 model.

The Planning Process now includes four steps before development of a park:

- Step 1 is the 5-Year Master Plan that sets the goals;
- Step 2 is the Region Management Plan that looks at management needs for a particular area;
- Step 3 is the Park Master Plan focusing on the details of the development;
- Step 4 is the Capital Development Plan detailing the individual development projects.



One-seed juniper

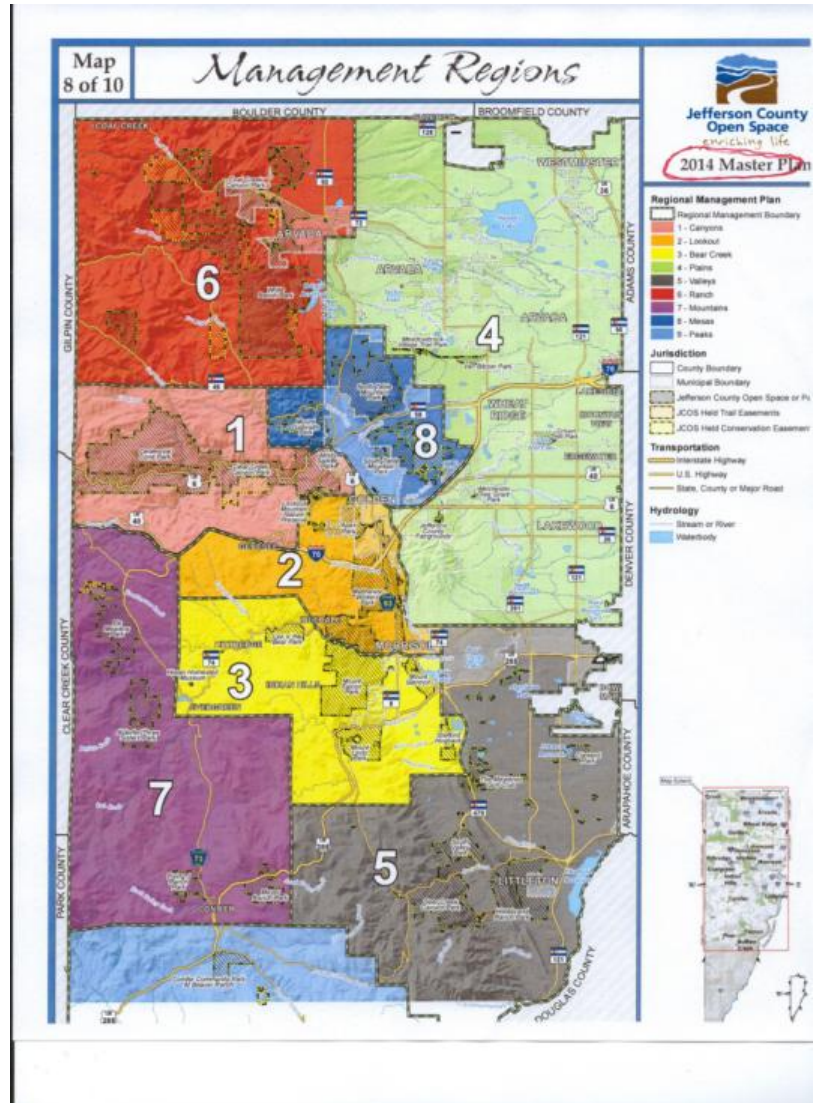
Regional Management Plans

The 28 unincorporated parks in Jeffco Open Space are organized into nine Management Regions, shown on the map to the right, each with its own management plan. The intent of the regional management plans is to establish and utilize a goal-oriented framework for managing the unique natural resources found on our lands while providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and upholding the Jeffco Open Space mission. This includes, but is not limited to, the management of regional trails, Jeffco Open Space lands, public land agency partnerships, and effective review of potential properties for acquisition. An important aspect of these regions is maintaining and improving lines of communication with stakeholders and the public.

A component of the Management Plans is the Management Unit Classification. Jeffco Open Space has adopted classifications for Sensitive Areas, Natural Areas, Parkland Recreation Areas and Special Protection Areas.

For each of the nine Open Space Regional Management Plans, a Regional Park Supervisor oversees activities and is the point person for the public and staff. This supervisor has multiple responsibilities relating both to the operational section of Jeffco Open Space that they oversee (such as Trails, Planning, Rangers, Hiwan, etc.) and to the activities of their assigned region.

The Mesas Region Management Plan was updated in 2017 and the Ranch Region Plan is in the process of being



updated. The other regions will be updated later in 2018 and in 2019.

The draft of the Ranch Region Management Plan was presented to the public May 22 at the 3-Creeks K-8 school. The final draft will be presented to the Advisory Committee July 12 and should be ready for public distribution at the end of July.

A data-driven conservation planning process is used in the updating.

- Step 1: Gather data
- Step 2: Evaluate data and develop park vision

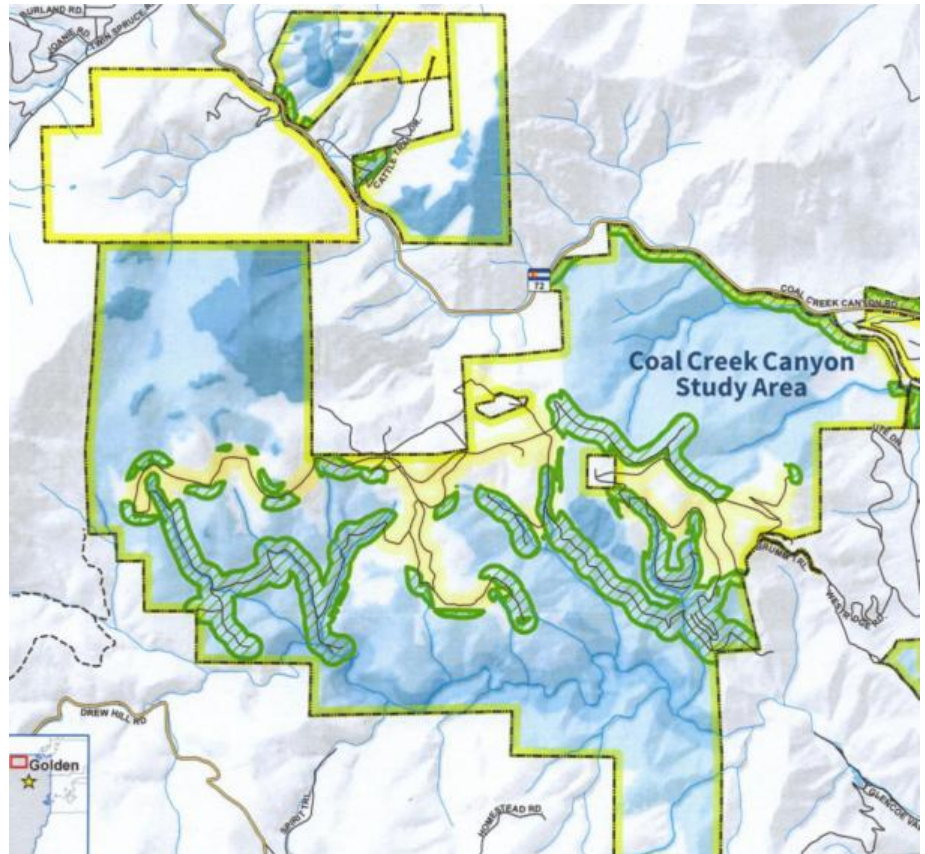
Ranch Region Management Plan

- Step 3: Develop goals, objectives, and implementation strategies
 Step 4: Monitor and actively manage the parks

An example of the data-driven process is to develop heat maps. After data were collected on Resource Elements of Concern (RECs), nature-based activity features, and other resource values (visual, cultural), a heat map analysis was completed. This analysis identified 1) zones with intensive provide values (for nature-based activity and constructed features), 2) zones with intensive protect RECs values, and 3) zones where these values intersect and overlap (nexus zones). It is in these nexus zones where human impacts must carefully be balanced against resource values to ensure an equitable and sustainable condition for the landscape.

Methodology

Based on a review of current literature and available data, JCOS developed a geospatial model to visualize a domain of human impacts against a domain of RECs. Nature-based activity and constructed features, coded in yellow, were buffered 300 feet from center lines (in the cases of roads and trails), 180 feet from points, and 300 feet from polygon edges (in the cases of parking lots). This was determined to be a conservative estimation of the human “area of influence” in



natural environments (Taylor and Knight, 2003). The more intensive the yellow color the more human influence. RECs, coded in blue, were buffered 100 feet from the edge of their extents, except in the cases of active raptor nests and occurrences of other priority wildlife species which were buffered according to current recommendations from regulating agencies (Klute, 2008). The more intense the blue color the more need for protection.

The heat map exercise revealed significant areas of both intensive nature-based activity and resource value areas. Areas such as the Ralston Creek, Ralston Buttes and the hogback are an example of intensive resource values, while the West Trailhead at White Ranch is an area of intensive infrastructure. The heat map above shows a composite of those different values for the Coal Creek Canyon Study Area plus the areas where these values overlap, coded in green. These nexus zones highlight areas where additional management objectives and implementation strategies may be needed.

THE PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY OF KEN-CARYL RANCH - Continued

In assembling the March issue of the PLAN Jeffco Update, I inadvertently did not include the final part of this article.

John Litz

by Jack C. Warner

This report is focused on the archaeological work done on Ken-Caryl Ranch land. It should be noted that important archaeological sites have been excavated and recorded along the entire Dakota Hogback, from the area near Golden in the north (the Magic Mountain site in particular) to Roxborough State Park in Douglas County to the south. In addition, just south of Chatfield State Park is the Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve that has yielded human activity in the range of 10,000-16,000 years ago, and the butchered bones of many now extinct mammals including Columbian Mammoth, camel, sloth, and ancient bison.

Summarizing the archaeological findings from the extensive prehistoric sites excavated in the Ken-Caryl Ranch area, it appears that ancient Coloradans wanted to live in this area for at least the last 8,000 years. Why? Our best archaeological analysis suggests:

- Reliable water was available here;
- Wildlife that could be hunted or fished for good food lived near;
- Wild plants that yielded seasonal berry and nut harvests were close;
- Plants that were a source of fiber for cordage and sewing hides grew nearby;
- Good tool stone sources were close;
- Wood for fuel and cooking was close;
- Sources of clay used in making pottery were close;
- The rock formations provided better protection from cold in the winter;
- Climate studies have shown that the hogback valley had a milder climate than the surrounding areas.

Much has changed in human culture over the past 8,000 years, but one thing has remained the same. People have found it pleasant to live in the Ken-Caryl Ranch area and in Jefferson County, Colorado.

An interesting note: The Denver Museum of Nature and Science will be conducting a volunteer-aided dig again this summer at the Magic Mountain site just north of the Apex Open Space trailhead.

OSAC Notes, OSAC Notes, OSAC Notes

April 5, OSAC Study Session - There was no regular session

This study session and others to follow will be dealing with items that were discussed at the OSAC February 1 retreat.

- 1: Consensus that the “Core Values” for Open Space should be:
 - Stewardship
 - Balance
 - Collaboration
 - Innovation

These will be focused on in the next Master Plan.

2. Changes to the OSAC Administrative Policies will be in resolution form at the May OSAC meeting. Major changes include:
 - OSAC members will not be compensated, were receiving \$15 per meeting or field trip.
 - Alternates will be phased out as their terms end - back to the resolution's 10 members.
 - The Board of County Commissioners may limit OSAC members to three consecutive terms. The Board may approve exceptions for unique qualifications.
3. The individual OSAC Guiding Principles have been shortened in length and reorganized to follow the “Preserve,” “Protect,” and “Provide” outline. They now will fit on one page. Will be approved at the next OSAC meeting.
4. OSAC will be having two subcommittees:
 - 2018 Resident Survey - review questions.
 - 2019 Master Plan - will review staff generated text, etc.

Probably only two OSAC members will serve on each committee to avoid Open Meetings conflicts. Not a problem if others want to serve. It just has to be posted.

May 3 - Study Session

The study session was preceded with an executive session field trip to view a property on the Boulder County line. The study session reviewed what OSAC was going to present to the County Commissioners when we have our meeting on June 13. Most items will be those discussed during the April study session.

Regular Session;

Approved changing the Administrative Policies to eliminate compensation for OSAC members to attend meetings.

Approved changing the Administrative Policies to eliminate the Alternate OSAC member positions.

Approved sending a letter to the Commissioners that the present OSAC members will not object if the Commissioners wish to install term limits.

The meeting times for OSAC were changed to have the Study Session at 4:30 for 45 minutes. Dinner at 5:15 for 45 minutes. Regular meeting at 6:00.

At the September 7, 2017, Advisory Committee meeting Open Space staff presented a Resolution to purchase approximately 14.147 acres under the power line across South Table Mountain from the Public Service Company (PSCo) for a purchase price of \$172,752. A later staff counter proposal was discussed with PSCo and they agreed to a purchase price of \$86,376, which is a cost savings of 50% over the original purchase price.

Volunteer Contributions: The Volunteer Services Team published their annual report on the volunteer contributions. We want to thank the more than 3,000 volunteers for their service last year. 44 volunteers showed up to a snowy Crown Hill Park in celebration of Earth Day weekend. This hearty bunch was able to move 75 tons of crusher fines as well as closing over 600 ft. of social (undesignated) trails.

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

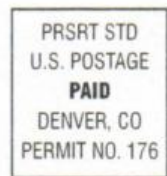
Thanks





PLAN Jeffco
11010 W 29th Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80215

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Email: planjeffco@planjeffco.org
Check our website
www.planjeffco.org

Jefferson County Citizens for
Planned Growth with Open Space

PLAN JEFFCO NEWSLETTER



Art in Open Air for Jeffco Open Spaces

Painting in the parks September 10
through September 15 - Gallery open at
the Golden Community Center
September 11 to 14 afternoons and
September 15 and 16 after 10:00 a.m.