



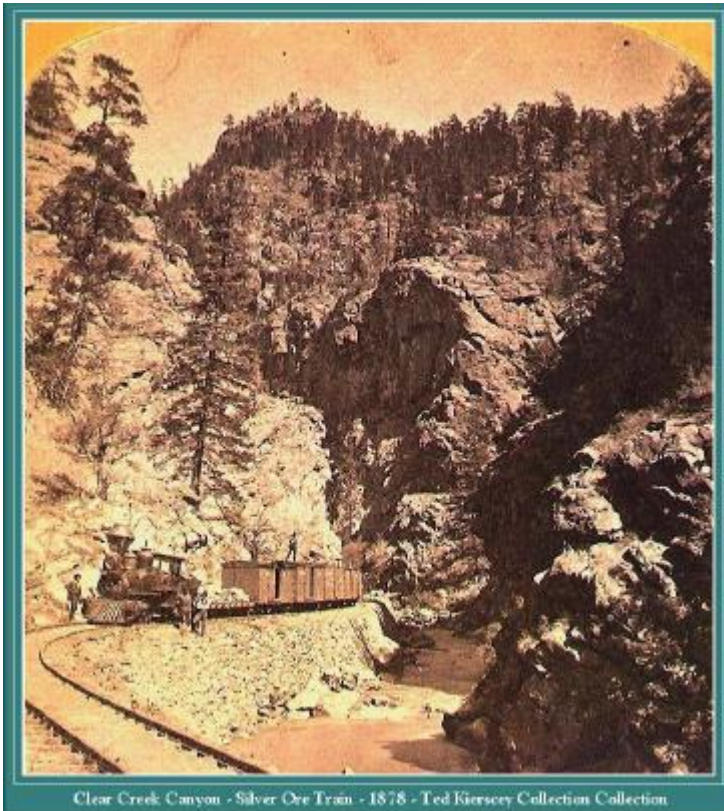
# PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

MARCH 2019

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# Significant upgrade to canyon gateway to begin in April



Clear Creek Canyon - Silver Ore Train - 1878 - Ted Kiersey Collection Collection

\$15 million project at the mouth of Clear Creek west of Golden includes major bridge and trail improvements along river banks

## *Significant upgrade to canyon gateway to begin in April*

### **Timeline: Studies about Clear Creek Canyon**

The studies below were identified in two comprehensive works: **Clear Creek Canyon: Plan for the Future**, a 1994 study commissioned by the Clear Creek Land Conservancy and Bear Creek Development by Design Workshop Inc., and **Mouth of Clear Creek Canyon Master Plan**, 2017, by Jeffco Open Space)

1972: **The Mountain Land Use Puzzle**. By the Jefferson County League of Women Voters, a landmark report calling for restrained development and land-use standards.

1980: **Mount Vernon Land Use Plan** calls for preservation of existing open space, including open space in the upper and middle benches of Clear Creek Canyon.

1988: A plan by **Shapins and Moss**, commissioned by city of Golden, suggests linkages between the city and Chimney Gulch Trail which, as of 2018, is connected to the river trail system.

1989: **Preserve and Protect Clear Creek Canyon**, by The North Clear Creek Association/Central City/Black Hawk community group, in response to a state proposal to dam and flood Clear Creek Canyon and abandon parts of U.S. 6.

1989: **Metro Mountain Recreation and Open Space Project Initial Report**. A study commissioned by the Governor, Denver mayor and Jeffco commissioners.

1989 and beyond: **Golden Downtown Renewal Plan** and **Vision Plan** refer to the importance of Clear Creek and making improvements to the river corridor an important goal.

1992: **Clear Creek Canyon: Plan for the Future** by PLAN Jeffco, calls acquisition of the canyon a number one priority and asks Jeffco Open Space to preserve 10,900 acres of the canyon and protect it essentially from rim to rim.

1992: **Trails 2000 Action Plan**, Jefferson County Open Space. Proposes 13.5 miles of new trails along Clear Creek, mostly downstream from Golden. Other plans referred to the canyon's scenic and recreational resources: **Central Mountains Community Plan** (1994) and **North Mountains Community Plan** (1992).

By Vicky Gits

Jefferson County Open Space is spearheading a monumental trail project that promises to transform both sides of the river west of Golden, from Hwy 93 and Hwy 6/58 to the first tunnel on U.S. 6, where Clear Creek starts to carve a rugged path through the foothills.

The first 1.25-mile section is to get underway in April 2019. The second 0.5-mile stage is to start in September 2019.

Known as the Mouth of the Canyon, the project is part of the ongoing effort to create a trail that runs the 10 miles along Clear Creek in Jefferson County.

About 120 people showed up at the Golden Community Center for a January 30th open house and meeting about the plan. More chairs had to be deployed as the crowd piled in the doors to hear the details and examine maps of the proposed layout.

It was then revealed that after decades of study, Open Space is set to break ground in April 2019 on a \$15 million project that will improve the trailhead, build 1.75 miles of concrete trail, add restrooms and expand the parking lots at the mouth of Clear Creek Canyon west of Golden.

It will benefit Jefferson County by enabling “people of all ages and abilities to safely enjoy and appreciate the splendor of Clear Creek and the Canyon in an environmentally friendly way,” said Tom Hoby, executive director of Jefferson County Open Space.

### **Hard part is done**

Projects Team Supervisor Scot Grossman said the “hardest part already is done,” referring to the effort of various citizens groups to preserve the land under public ownership.

He promised “to work with the land and make it look like (the trail) has always been there.”

Similar in concept to its sister project about 9 miles to the west, this section will include two new bridges, trail upgrades, parking lots, restrooms and river access points. The area currently is accessible to hikers on a dirt and gravel trail along the river to the first tunnel.

## Significant upgrade to canyon gateway

Continued

### Timeline: Studies about Clear Creek Canyon

1993: **The Nature Conservancy**, Natural Heritage Inventory of Jefferson County, identifies three areas in the canyon of high priority.

1994: **Clear Creek Canyon: Plan for the Future**, commissioned by Clear Creek Land Conservancy and Bear Creek Development. Among other things, advocates for single-entity, public ownership of the creek and gorge walls, Centennial Cone, Indian Gulch and Mount Zion. Raised idea of converting U.S. 6 into a slow-speed park road, development of trail and signage systems to manage visitors, and building a major east-west trail and a handicap-accessible trail along Clear Creek from Golden to Tunnel 1.

2005: **Clear Creek Canyon Trail Feasibility Report** (JCOS). Floats the idea of 10-foot-wide, multi-user, concrete trails and parking lots through the entire Jefferson County segment of Clear Creek Canyon Park to the Clear Creek County border. Four miles of such a concrete trail (\$25 million) were completed in 2017, extending from the west, Tunnel 5/Hwy 119, to Mayhem Gulch and the Big Easy trailheads on the east. It also envisioned the Peaks to Plains trail circling around the oxbow at Tunnel One and crossing the river twice on the way to Golden.

2007: **Clear Creek Canyon Schematic Design**: Trail layout and grading for the Peaks to Plains Trail from the mouth area at the existing Grant Terry Bridge to the existing trail at the oxbow or curve around Tunnel One.

2017: **Mouth of Clear Creek Canyon Master Plan** (JCOS). Describes a gateway to the canyon park, a major trailhead at Hwy 6/58 and Hwy 93, recreational facilities, parking lots and restrooms. (p.20)

#### Current Plans

For more updates, video, project maps, fact sheet and Peaks to Plains Trail map, see

<https://jeffco.us/3792>

#### Link to the Mouth of the Canyon Master Plan:

<https://www.jeffco.us/DocumentCenter/View/10590/Mouth-of-Clear-Creek-Canyon-Master-Plan?bidId>

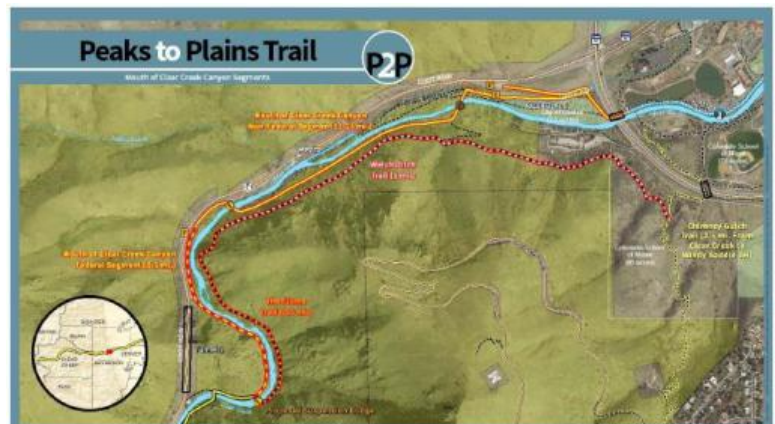
#### Link to the Mouth of the Canyon Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1qF2poNG8Y>

Muller Engineering, the contractor responsible for the first and second phases of the Peaks to Plains Trail in Jefferson County, also will build the new segment.

The main feature is a 10-foot-wide, 1.75-mile-long concrete trail from the oxbow around Tunnel One along the river to the existing concrete trail below the Highway 6 overpass in Golden.

The trail segment starts on the north side of the river west of the tunnel entrance and crosses the river on a bridge to be built east of the tunnel entrance. It continues along the south side of the river to the existing Grant Terry Bridge. It crosses the Grant Terry Bridge to the Grant Terry Trail.



The Mouth of the Canyon is the second segment of the regional Peaks to Plains Trail. Eventually it will link to the 3-mile segment farther to the west, which was completed in September 2017 at a cost of \$25 million. This western segment can be accessed from the Mayhem Gulch and Big Easy parking lots.

The Peaks to Plains Trail is a regional, 65-mile, partially finished route from Loveland Pass/Eisenhower Tunnel to the South Platte River. In Golden the P2P Trail connects to an existing trail that leads 15 miles to the junction with the Greenway trail on the South Platte River. It was conceived as a way to complete an extended route by filling in the gaps between existing trails under various jurisdictions.

#### Canyon entrance makeover

The ambitious riverside undertaking aims to rehabilitate and upgrade an area that has been partially developed over the years and is prominently located at the entrance to the mountains.

*Significant upgrade to canyon gateway*

*Continued*

It is the culmination of a planning process that began in 2005 with the Clear Creek Canyon Trail Feasibility Report, focusing on a 10-foot-wide, concrete, all-purpose trail. Prior to 2005, several other studies recognized the extremely rugged beauty of Clear Creek Canyon and recommended taking steps to preserve it. (See list of studies.)

The latest project is expected to cost about \$15 million including \$2 million from Great Outdoors Colorado. It is largely paid for by the residents of Jefferson County through the PLAN Jeffco initiative that resulted in a half-cent open space sales tax, which was established by citizen vote in 1972.

“This is a good time to make the expenditure to keep the momentum of the trail going and because we received grant funding to help build this section,” Hoby said.

Like the first project, the Mouth of the Canyon caters to a variety of visitor interests, such as bike riding, hiking, rock climbing, picnicking, fishing, wading and sightseeing within close range of the scenic river.

**DETAILS**

**Peaks to Plains Trail Extension - 1.75 miles**

A hard surface, multi-use trail connecting the city

of Golden's Clear Creek Trail from the US Hwy 6 overpass in Golden to Tunnel One around the oxbow or curve at the tunnel. (1.75 miles.) Construction begins April 2019 and ends the fall 2020.

Some funding is in place for another 3-mile segment heading west to Huntsman Gulch. When finished, there will be about 5.75 miles and two tunnels left (Two and Three) to get to the Big Easy Trailhead and parking area. (Source: Jeffco Open Space)

Clear Creek County has completed one mile of trail from the county line around Tunnel Five and has about 2.5 miles to connect to the existing trail at the bottom of Floyd Hill on I-70. This includes the oxbow at Tunnel Six. Tunnel Four was abandoned when the highway was realigned at the junction of Hwys 119 and 6. The design is ready to go and construction can begin when Clear Creek County gets funding.

**Parking lots and restrooms**

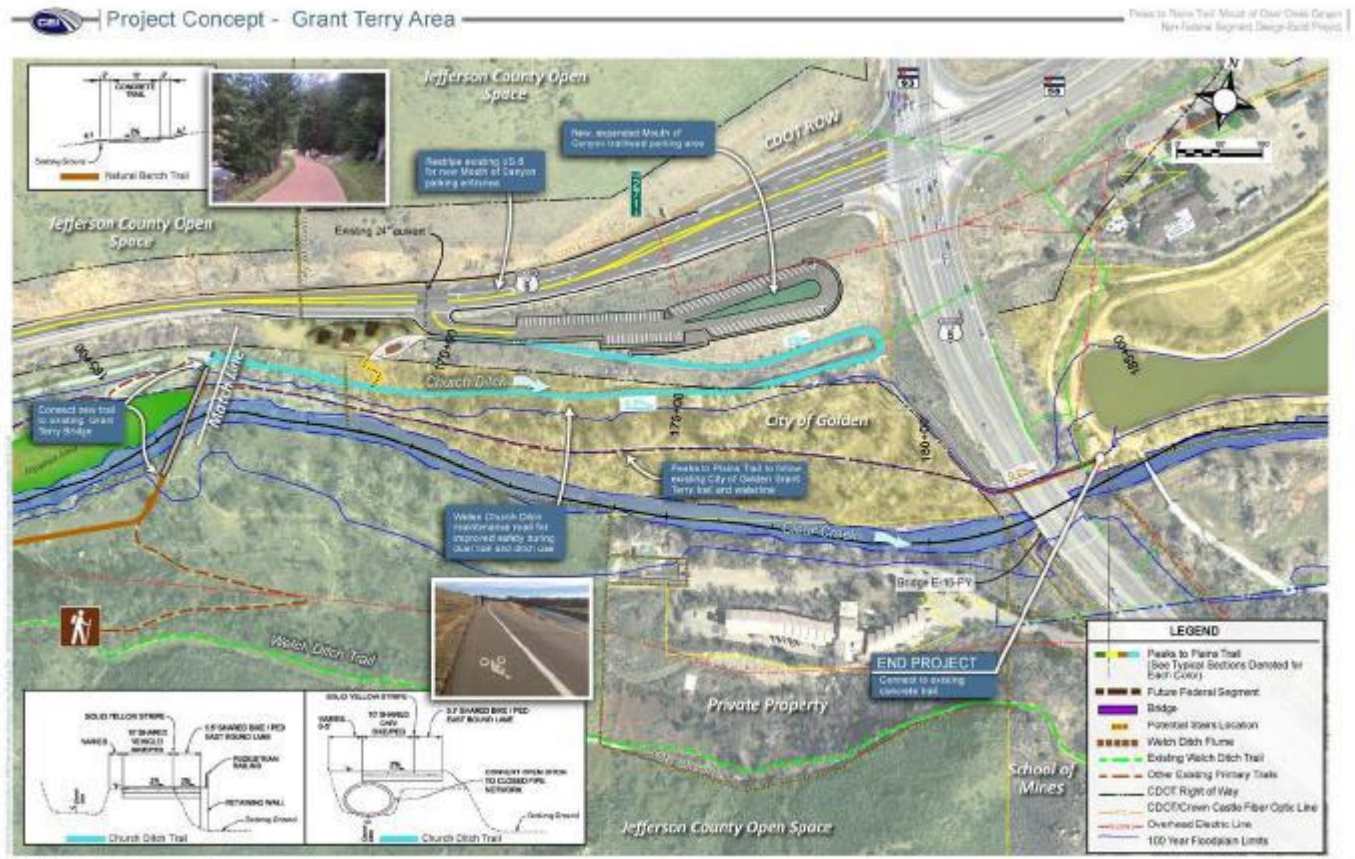
Facilities will include a new flush restroom, a new vault restroom and space for about 170 cars in the two lots. The lots will be gated and closed automatically according to normal park hours: Expanded Mouth of Clear Creek Canyon

<b>Peaks to Plains Trail Mileage by Jurisdiction</b>	
Clear Creek County:	35.5
Jefferson County	13.5
City of Golden	2.3
City of Wheat Ridge	6.2 miles
City of Arvada	0.4
City and County of Denver	0.3
Adams County	6.8



Significant upgrade to canyon gateway

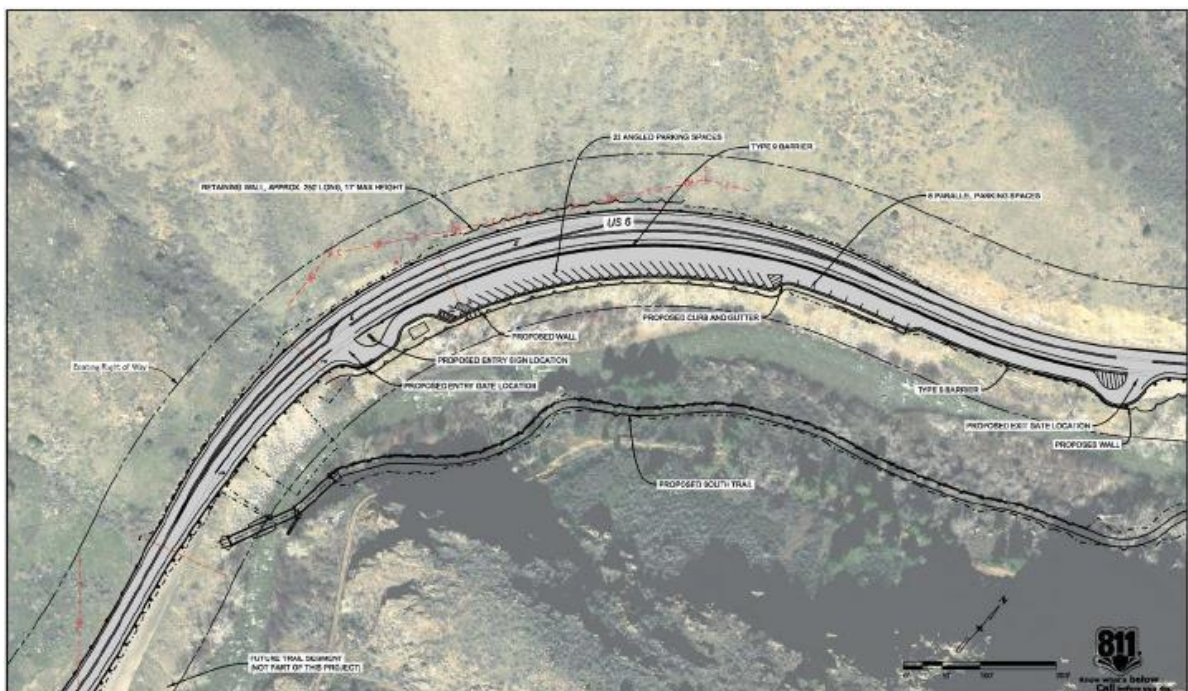
Continued



Updated: December 3, 2018

Figure 6

Tunnel One parking lot: 40 diagonal spaces and a vault restroom.



*Significant upgrade to canyon gateway*

*Continued*

**Historic wooden Welch Ditch flume repairs - 0.5 miles**

Open Space will repair 0.5 mile of the historic Welch Ditch wooden flume, a relic of one hundred years ago when farmers diverted water from Clear Creek to water their orchards and fields to the south. The flume restoration will be part of a hiker-only trail from Chimney Gulch to Tunnel One. Visitors will be allowed to walk on the wooden part which is now closed.

**Pedestrian Bridge at Tunnel One Parking Lot**

Trail on north side of river at Tunnel One parking lot will cross to south side of river over a new pedestrian bridge and continue east.

**Engineering Team**

Concrete Express Inc.  
Muller Engineering Co.  
Stream Design  
Yeh and Associates  
ERO Resources  
CIG

**Projects Team Supervisor**

Scot Grossman

**Main Funding Partners - \$15 million**

(Not including Huntsman Gulch extension)  
Jeffco sales tax - one-half percent, about \$12 million

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), \$2 million  
Federal Highway Administration/CDOT  
Transportation Alternatives Program grant, \$850,650

**Local entities: \$500,000**

Apex Park and Recreation District  
City of Arvada  
City of Golden  
City of Lakewood  
City of Wheat Ridge  
Jeffco Outdoors Foundation  
Prospect Recreation and Park District  
Team Evergreen Bicycle Club

**Extension to Huntsman Gulch (west of Tunnel One)**

Jeffco received an \$8.5 million grant from the Denver Regional Council of Governments to build three miles of trail up river from the entrance to Tunnel One. A proposed suspension bridge over Clear Creek at the oxbow of Tunnel One is to connect to the south side of the river and the Welch Ditch Trail. Construction timeline to be determined.

**Mouth of the Canyon - South Side - April 2019 - 1.25 miles**

Construction of a 10-foot-wide concrete trail (in yellow) will begin April 2019 at the parking lot at Tunnel One, where a bridge will cross the river to the main trail to be built on the south side going east to the existing Grant Terry Bridge.



# Significant upgrade to canyon gateway

Continued



Figure 5

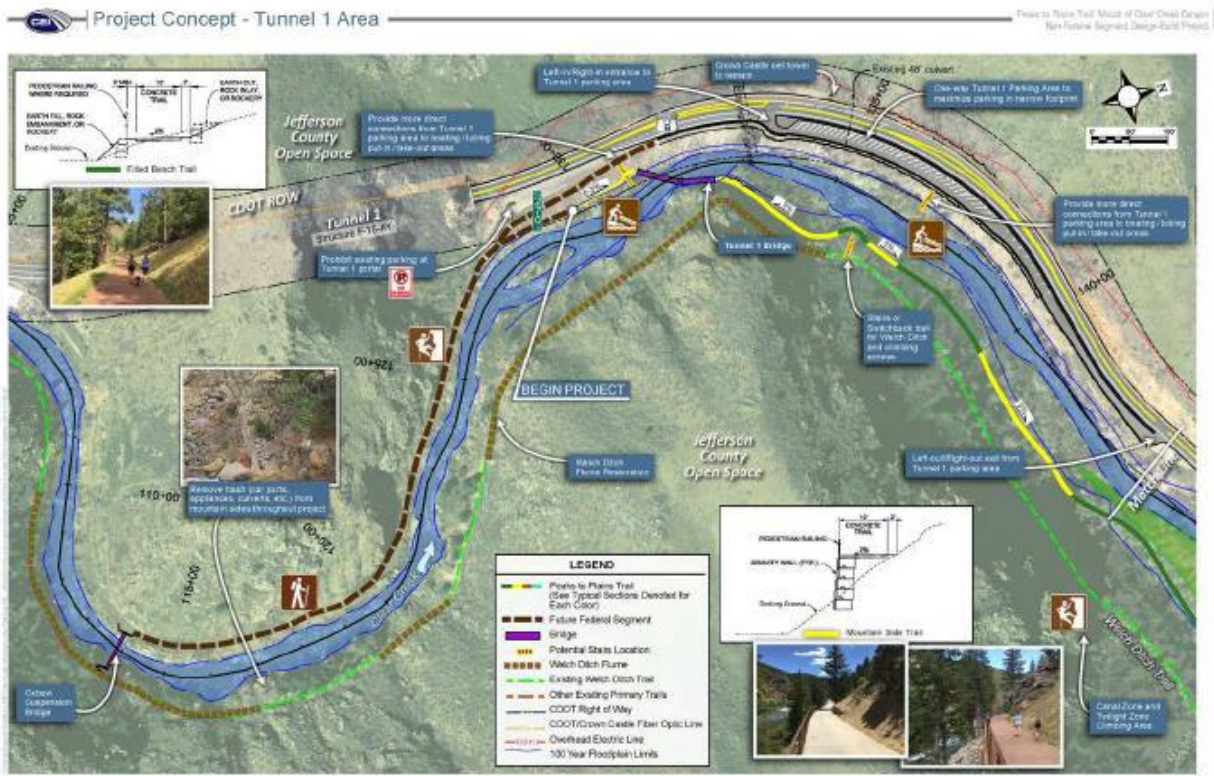


Figure 4

*Significant upgrade to canyon gateway*

*Continued*



View from Grant Terry Bridge over Clear Creek looking southwest. A new trail will be built on the far end of the bridge and go west along river to Tunnel One. A nearby trail connects hikers to the Welch Ditch Trail just beyond the bridge on the south side. The Welch Ditch bench can be seen above the bridge.



The unpaved dirt and gravel trail from Hwy 6 overpass goes west along the river on the Grant Terry trail to the Grant Terry Bridge.



## *Bradley Envisions Installing Solar on South Table*

by: Vicky Gits

A local real estate investor with pioneer ties to South Table Mountain is planning to build a solar-power array on 10 acres of the property he owns on the northwest corner of the mesa, as long as he can get legal access to it.

Jeff Bradley, president of Bear Creek Development Corp. of Morrison, says he wants to generate enough power to offset the utility costs of most of his buildings, and that Xcel Energy gave him a permit to tie into the power grid from the mesa land.

Jefferson County Open Space, which owns much of the land on the mesa, agrees that Bradley owns the piece in question but says he does not have legal access. Records show that open space last studied the access issue in June 2012.

The matter recently was addressed in executive session in a regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee. The County's position still is that Bradley does not have legal access to the property. The disagreement probably will wind up in court.

The prospect of developing the top of the mesa last created a furor in 1998, when Bradley's father, Leo, attempted to make a deal with Nike Inc. to build a corporate headquarters for 5,000 there. Public opposition eventually torpedoed the idea.

Open Space previously tried both buying and leasing the land from Bradley but were never able to reach a deal.

Since submitting the application for a solar facility Nov. 18, Bradley has applied for permits to build a couple of fences and has driven a few stakes into the ground to mark his property.

The Bradley or Bear Creek property consists of three parcels totaling 390 acres that Bradley inherited it from his mother, Patricia Quaintance Bradley, the daughter of Arthur Quaintance, born 1884.

Before 1920, Charlie Quaintance, Arthur's brother, acquired the land on the mesa. In 1920, Arthur obtained the right of way to build a road from Camp George West, 15,000 S. Golden Road (Colorado Correctional Center), to the top of the Castle Rock, according to Bradley family history. Jeff Bradley said the family used the route before and after 1920.

Bradley also provided a copy of the 1920 deed saying landowners Charles Schuck and John R. Browne, gave A.D. Quaintance the 50-foot-wide right of way for a road from the bottom of the mesa to the Castle Rock, where a dance hall had been built.

Existence of this easement is the bone of contention today. In 2012 Bear Creek asked for an administrative review. Zoning officials concluded the development company did not have access rights, according to the public record.

Bradley seems to be forging ahead anyway. He said he was thinking about hiring a Colorado company to build the solar array. He has applied for two related permits, one a 1,930-foot wire mesh fence that goes along the south property line, west from the solar site to about 16th Street in Golden. The other is for a 2,800-foot chain-link fence, bordering the solar site.

The real estate attorney for Open Space maintains the access is invalid because an easement has to be given for the benefit of the current owner at the time the access was granted. At the time the easement was granted, someone other than Bradley family owned the parcel.

PLAN Jeffco will continue to closely monitor this situation, and will periodically report on latest developments. Support PLAN Jeffco by becoming a member.

On your laptop go to

[http://www.planjeffco.org/join-or-give\\_membership.html](http://www.planjeffco.org/join-or-give_membership.html).

On your mobile, go to <http://planjeffco.org/help/>

## *TRAILS TALK, February 27*

by John Litz

The Trails Talk was well attended with more than 100 visitors plus about 20 staff. It was the best turnout I have seen at a Trails Talk meeting. The Trails Talks are a forum to bring together the various user groups, to discuss common issues. The visitors were fairly divided between bikers, equestrians, and hikers of all ages.

Tom Hoby, Director, opened the talk with comments that all visitors to Open Space Parks had common duties relative to stewardship. This will allow all visitors to enjoy the trails if every visitor is polite and considerate.

Mary Ann Bonnell, Visitor Services Manager, spoke to the Open Space policy of eliminating speed limits on the trails, because the rangers had difficulty making an incident into a court case. Now, riders going too fast will be charged with “riding in a hazardous manner”. She discussed the difficulty in approaching and passing equestrians. The best practice is to stop and announce yourself at least 30 feet from the horse, communicate with the rider and pass slowly. Open Space is trying to get more bikers to use bells. When a pedestrian hears a bell, even though they might have the right-of-way, the courteous thing is to step aside and allow the biker to pass.

Martin Barwick, Ranger Lead, discussed muddy trail management. This spring four parks will be subject to full closure when the conditions are appropriate. These include Apex, Deer Creek, Meyer Ranch and Hildebrand Ranch. Some parks will have limited closures, including Matthews-Winters, Mount Falcon, Reynolds Ranch, White Ranch, and others. Open Space is providing text alerts when parks/trails are closed and when they reopen. Park alerts and closures are posted on the JCOS website at <https://www.jeffco.us/1531/Alerts-Closures>.

Josh Garcia, Trails Program Coordinator, discussed the new trails proposal process started last year. Open Space received 66 proposals for 159 miles of trail. These were evaluated and 5 were approved for implementation, 35 are receiving further study, and 26 were declined. Trails implemented include the one-way for bikers-only on Longhorn at White Ranch, and the rerouting of the Bonanza Trail at Apex Park.

Hillary King, Grant Program Coordinator, discussed the visitor management grant from GOCO that is funding cooperation between Jeffco Open Space, Boulder Mountain Parks and Open Space, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The goal is to develop a consistent set of regulations and signage that can be common to all three entities. Determining effective signage is a major objective.

Scott Grossman, Projects Team Supervisor, discussed the development of the Peaks to Plains Trail and the canyon mouth portion of the trail starting this spring. Features on the South side of Clear Creek will be started in April; the North side construction will be coming later this year. A major portion of the buildout will be parking along Highway 6. At the entrance to the canyon a 140-vehicle lot will be constructed that will have flush restrooms. (See more details in a separate article.)

Mike Foster, Stewardship Manager, discussed the pilot study on mountain bike-only trails. The section of Longhorn Trail at White Ranch, and the down and back loop on the Hogback South of Alameda are the two study trails. Cameras are set up on both trails to monitor the users. To date two mountain lions have been photographed going up the Longhorn Trail and one coming down. The consensus for additional “biker use only” trails is that they can only be added with new park construction. Changing the use of a trail makes it difficult for visitors to change their habits.

## *Dinosaur Ridge (Matthews-Winters Park) Land Exchange Goes Forward*

Commissioners approve deal to build new visitor center in exchange for giving up existing center on nearby land slated to become office park.

By Vicky Gits

On Feb. 5 the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a land exchange that paves the way for a new dinosaur visitor center to be built on Alameda Parkway at Rooney Road and provides \$750,000 over time to pay for it.

Under the plan, Jeffco Open Space trades the existing visitor center building and land (1.38 acres) that it owns on the north side of Alameda for 3.13 acres that a developer owns on the south side.

The new land offers more space for visitor center parking and is closer to the Dakota Ridge/Dinosaur Ridge archeological site. It preserves the dinosaur visitor center close to the hogback, while allowing a business park to be built across the road and away from it rather than around it.

The developer, Stream Realty Acquisition LLC, is planning an office park for 1,500 on the 40 acres surrounding the existing visitor center, despite the protests of a citizens group called Save Dinosaur Ridge.

The office park property was privately owned until 2006 when the Rooney family sold it to Three Dinos LLC.

In 2017 Jeffco commissioners rejected a zoning request that would have allowed car dealerships on the site. In August, the developer told a community meeting that possible tenants might be breweries, sports manufacturing offices and aerospace companies.

On Jan. 3, the Open Space Advisory Committee unanimously approved the land exchange at their regular meeting. Board member Jacy Rock was absent and did not vote. Chris O'Keefe recused himself. Voting in favor were Bob West, John Litz, Mike Dungan, Rebecca Watson, Felicity Hannay, Kathleen Staks, Jeremy Hakes and Janet Shangraw.

JCOS listed the benefits as follows:

### **Benefits to Open Space:**

The 3.13 acre property is valued at \$618,375.

The Friends of Dinosaur Ridge can continue to operate the existing visitor center until the new one is open.

The developer pays for a 4,000-foot, concrete trail worth about \$300,000 connecting Alameda to the Green Mountain Trailhead.

Open Space gets \$72,000 for extension of utility lines and \$32,000 to pay for a Dinosaur Master Plan.

The developer provides \$750,000 for a master plan and construction of the new visitor center. (Funds will be paid out on a pro-rata basis as building permits are issued for each Stream building).

Total value = \$1.8 million

### **Benefits to the Developer:**

Stream Acquisitions gets the 1.38-acre visitor property valued at \$478,000 and a new access easement of about 0.3 acres worth \$21,300.

# Dinosaur Ridge (Matthews-Winters Park) Land Exchange Goes Forward Continued

**Advisory Committee Findings:**

The cost to acquire the 40-acre Stream property would likely be more than \$20 million.

Stream was unwilling to sell and Open Space only buys land from willing sellers.

The land to be acquired is more desirable because it has documented scenic and paleontological resources.

The west side of Rooney Gulch is a higher priority for preservation than the east side.



Green striped area north of Alameda Pkwy is the present visitor center.  
 Orange striped area south of Alameda Pkwy is the exchanged area.  
 Large brown striped area north of Alameda Pkwy is Stream Realty's holdings.  
 Orange stripe with black dashes is the trail to the Green Mountain Trailhead

## OSAC NOTES - OSAC NOTES - OSAC NOTES

By John Litz

**SEPTEMBER 2018** - The meeting was cancelled.

**OCTOBER 4, 2018** The study session was a field trip to Dinosaur Ridge for an update on the site planning process, discuss site preservation efforts and challenges, and visitor management. Drainage problems at the track site and on the road are major problems.

### **Regular Meeting**

Guthrie Alexander discussed the Water Resources Management Plan that updated the 1996 inventory. Sixty-one percent of Open Space water rights are direct stream flow, and 36% are groundwater wells. The recommendations were to continue to use the water rights, especially for Crown Hill, Welchester, and Hildebrand. Inactive wells should be capped and wells that have no potential use should be capped and abandoned.

Mary Ann Bonnell presented a resolution to change Park Regulations concerning E-bikes and Fire Restrictions. Open Space will permit Class 1 E-bikes on all trails and Class 2 E-bikes on paved trails. Class 1 bikes are low powered and require pedal assist at all times.

When the Sheriff's Office issues Stage 2 fire restrictions, Open Space has to cover all grills and empty all fire pits. Then, when the fire restrictions are lifted, Open Space has to go back out to the parks and uncover the grills. This is a significant task that consumes already-stretched Open Space ranger and volunteer resources. From now on, Open Space will stay at Stage 2 and remove all grills and fire pits. Fires will be limited to gas grills or camp stoves in designated areas and also restricts the areas where smoking can occur.

Tom Hoby reported that the Commissioners had concurred on eliminating alternate OSAC members and reappointed Bob West and Felicity Hannay. Jeremy Hakes was appointed as a regular member.

Matt Robbins reported that the resident survey was in progress.

An Executive Session was held to review the status of current acquisition projects.

**NOVEMBER 2, 2018** - This meeting was dedicated to hearing presentations from the cities, districts, and non-profits for grants in 2019. The requests were as follows:  
 Apex P&R: \$75,000 to installation of a playground adjacent to the Secrest Rec. Center.  
 Edgewater: \$887,000 to Assist in purchasing an inholding in Walker-Branch Park.  
 Evergreen P&R: \$100,000 to assist in acquisition of a property adjacent to Buchanan Park.  
 Ken Caryl Ranch: \$33,000 for a shade structure.  
 Mountain View: \$84,500 to upgrade the town playground.  
 Beaver Ranch: \$18,000 to replace windows in the Tipi Lodge.  
 Conifer: \$19,000 for a planning grant for renovation of the Midway House at Meyer Ranch.  
 Dinosaur Ridge: \$17,000 for a site plan.  
 Normandy Estates: \$13,000 for playground equipment.

**DECEMBER 6, 2018 The Study session** began with a presentation on the Resident Survey followed by a presentation by some Mines students on stream restoration designs to improve habitat along the North Fork of the South Platte River in Pine Valley Ranch Park.

**Regular Meeting** Resolutions were passed recognizing the service on OSAC of Ken Morfit and Tom Gibson. A resolution was passed to release the reverter on a portion of the Sabell property east of Ward Road along Van Bibber Creek to allow use as a roadway. A resolution was passed to allow the Daniels Sanitation District to move sewer lines in Sunset Park.

Tom Hoby announced that the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) had approved \$9,750,000 funding for the Peaks to Plains Trail west of Tunnel 1. He also announced that the purchase of the Lippincott property was finalized in November and that the Great Outdoors Board had awarded \$1,000,000 to assist in the purchase. The new West Access Trailhead at Van Bibber Park is now open. The BCC approved deeding Clement Park to Foothills P&R.

An Executive Session was held to discuss the Local Grants and the Matthews/Winters (Dinosaur Ridge Land Exchange.)

*OSAC NOTES - OSAC NOTES**Continued*

**JANUARY 3, 2019 Study Session** reviewed the goals and projects for 2019. Beginning construction of the Peaks to Plains Trail at the mouth of Clear Creek Canyon is one major goal for the year. Another is rebuilding of the Windy Saddle Trailhead.

**Regular Session**

Because of the commitment to Lakewood for the Taylor property purchase, the funds available for grants this year were very limited. Staff and the Committee determined that the Edgewater request to assist in the purchase of the inholding in Walker-Branch Park (\$200,000 in 2019) was the most important followed by the Evergreen property (~\$100,000) adjacent to Buchanan Park if terms could be reached. The consensus was that the need was greatest for new educational/interpretive signs (\$16,000) for Dinosaur Ridge being developed with the site plans in progress. Lastly a planning grant for how to convert the Meyer Ranch House into a Welcome/Information Center for Conifer was confirmed.

A short Executive Session was held to discuss the terms for the Mathews/Winters - Stream Realty exchange adjacent to Dinosaur Ridge. After the Executive Session the exchange was approved in open session. (See article on the exchange.)

A short Executive Session then was held to review a proposal for a property adjacent to the Coal Creek Canyon Study Area and land owned by the Woman Creek Reservoir Authority East of Rocky Flats.

Tom Hoby reported that the Commissioners had set term limits for most of the boards that did not have limits. Beginning with the 2018 appointments, members will be limited to three 3-year terms beginning in 2018.

**FEBRUARY 7, 2019 - Study Session:** Andy Scanlan discussed major changes in the Open Space Planning processes. The old system of plans included revising the Master Plan every 5 years, updating the 8 regional plans every 5 years, and updating the 28 park plans every 5 years. This meant updating 7 plans each year. This takes a lot of time away from the other activities. The experience was that the public meetings on regional plans primarily generated questions from the public about specific parks and were poorly attended.

Changes to the Park plan revision schedule – only update as needed, when there are major changes or additions. There is a new County-wide trails plan being developed in coordination with the cities and districts, one part of which includes 10-minute routes to parks in the urban areas.

Action plans - outline of projects to be addressed annually, to form the basis of annual capital needs.

There was a discussion of the Local Park and Recreation Grant Program and Grant Eligibility. A major point was the impact of including acquisitions in the grant program. The consensus was to not include acquisitions and to not have acquisitions affect eligibility for future grants.

**Regular Session;**

The first item was on removing a reverter. In 2000 the Hayes Property including Leyden Lake at 82<sup>nd</sup> and Quaker was acquired. The property actually included to the center line of Quaker Street. In addition, it was necessary to run new utilities through the property for new subdivisions North of 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave. The Resolution was for Arvada to reimburse Open Space for subordinating the reverter for the utilities and remove the reverter from the Quaker Street portion. Passed.

Woman Creek Reservoir Authority Acquisition. This property is about 370 acres on the East side of Indiana North of 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Open Space needs 4 acres for the rocky Mountain Greenway Trail and Westminster already is leasing it as part of Westminster Hills Open Space. Price is \$4,700 per acre with Westminster to pay one-half. Passed.

A motion was passed to remove acquisitions from the local grant process and to not preclude districts where large acquisitions had required their not participating in grants for “X” subsequent years, from participating in regular grants. New guidelines for grants will be discussed at a summer OSAC meeting.

A short Executive Session started with a demonstration of an interactive map that will allow staff and OSAC to view properties with characteristics suitable for acquisition consideration. The second part was a discussion relative to the zoning application for a solar installation on South Table Mountain. (See article in this newsletter.)

*OSAC NOTES - OSAC NOTES**Continued***MARCH 7, 2019 - Regular Meeting**

Gina Barton and Steve Snyder discussed the need for the reverter and that most issues relating to the reverter were for utility easements through Open Space purchased lands.

A resolution was passed recognizing the service of Rebecca Watson. She is moving to Cody Wyoming.

Norris Design was retained by Open Space to develop a "Brand" for the Open Space and recreational facilities in the Rooney Valley. Michael Saucedo made a terrific presentation. The idea was to develop a brand for the Rooney Valley areas - Matthews-Winters, Dinosaur Ridge, Hayden Green Mountain, Thunder Valley, Bandimere, and Red Rocks. Each area provides the ability to explore tracks, to leave the city, to be outside, to view wonders, to be at elevation, and to catch a breath of fresh air. The visitor can experience a sense of adventure, participate in a natural playground, engage in a range of opportunities, and add new horizons, all in one place.

A brand name is: shorter, inspires action, carves its own place, does not always feel natural. Three top choices were: Lostland, Westtracks, and Dakota Tracks. Westtracks is what has been chosen - "A Jeffco Recreation Area."

The next step is to create a style guide, a master design for signs, and guidelines for other material.

Tom Hoby repeated the presentation he had made on Saturday and Tuesday. Relative to the Heritage Square land trade. 151 attendees were at the two meetings. All of Golden City Council, the Mayor, and many staff attended one the meetings. The questions and comments at the meetings focused on: historic preservation, protecting wildlife, reclamation (Steve

has the reclamation wording from the Lafarge trade at his fingertips), time of the mining operations, dust and light pollution, traffic, and the view shed.

There was a short Executive Session relating to the Heritage Square land trade.

Tom Hoby reported that there have been requests to live-stream OSAC meetings. Reorganizing the Ponderosa Room for this would be expensive. Of all other Open Space programs in the Front Range, only Boulder City and County live-stream. Consensus was to leave it as it is with the recording available the next day.

OSAC will have a new member as of Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup>. She is Kelly Wasserbach. Kelly works for Boulder County Open Space and lives in Arvada.

Mike Foster reported that the Asset Management software will be installed in April, with a test in mid-April, and probably going live in June. The Trails Stewardship Task Force is now recruiting and has \$20,000 from social services to help in having kids on the TANF and Foster Kids Participate in the program.

Andy Scanlon reported that two new planners were on board and introduced Christina and Elizabeth.

Gina Barton reported that the 2018 sales tax revenue totaled \$47.5 million, up 4.7% from 2017.

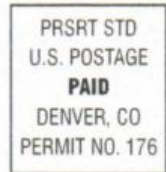
Matt Robbins said that there about 150 at the volunteer recruiting meeting this week and about 100 had signed up.

Mary Ann Bonnell reported that the trails closure web page was the most visited. Because of the amount of snow, for the first time it will be necessary to close Hildebrand Ranch Park. She also participated in an E-bike webinar with 300 others.



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