



PLAN Jeffco Academy

Session Outline Spring 2023

Program Goals

The PLAN Jeffco Stewardship Academy exists to:

- Promote PLAN Jeffco among county and metro-area residents
- Promote active stewardship of open space parks and other natural areas
- Broaden participants' perspective, appreciation, and stewardship awareness of open lands
- Encourage dialog and mutual understanding among community members and stewardship professionals
- Elicit new ideas for land stewardship from the community
- Provide participants with tools to act as advocates for land stewardship within their communities
- Create a sense of camaraderie and empowerment among participants

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this academy, participants should be able to:

- State the significance of PLAN Jeffco in the origination and development of the Jefferson County Open Space Park System
- Describe the history of Jeffco Open Space and its role as an example for other open space programs
- Understand the past, present, and future challenges of land stewardship and the role of the community in ensuring healthy lands for all
- Describe the ecological significance of open lands, threats to ecosystems, especially along the Front Range, and possible responses to those threats
- Demonstrate mindfulness of and consideration for the needs and concerns of different visitor groups
- Explain how individual actions impact the land, other visitors, and maintenance needs and costs
- List actions they can take to ensure open lands remain sustainable, safe, and available to all visitors and
- List actions they can take to ensure open lands provide sustainable and safe habitat for native flora and fauna

Academy Agenda

Session 1 Stewardship in Jefferson County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Acknowledgement of Indigenous people’s relationship to the land• Brief history of Indigenous stewardship of Jefferson County lands• The story of PLAN Jeffco and the beginning of the Open Space Park system• Jefferson County Open Space, today and in the future
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Session 2 Jefferson County – Let’s Get Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of Jeffco ecoregions and their characteristics• Ecosystem physical components and their inter-relationships• Direct and indirect impacts on physical ecosystems – climate change, pollution, human constructs
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Session 3 Maintaining Healthy Biodiversity and Ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ecosystem biological components and their inter-relationships• Direct and indirect impacts on aquatic ecosystems, and consequences• Direct and indirect impacts on terrestrial ecosystems, and consequences• How can we help mitigate such impacts?
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Session 4 Taking Care of Our Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land preservation and conservation methods• Being a responsible steward• Volunteer opportunities at JCOS and beyond• Conservation in action: Citizen Science in Jeffco
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Lunch Break – lunch
included

Session 5 The Visitor Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The parks, a multi-use system• People and their impact on parks and other open lands• Trail safety, courtesy, and communication• Discussion of trails courtesy study
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Session 6 Inclusivity in Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the barriers to more diverse populations enjoying open space?• What makes people feel unwelcome?• Actions we can take
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Session 7 Advocating for Your Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talking with the county commissioners, OSAC, and other county employees to advocate for your point of view• How to get people to listen, be interested, be motivated to do what you want
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SUNDAY

Service Project in an Open Space Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions & instructions• What are the benefits of Open Space?• Work as a team to steward a park in our county
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