



PLAN JEFFCO UPDATE

MARCH 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Stewardship Acad	1
Conservation Awa	3
Peak to Plains	4
Acquisitions	5
Lubahn Trail	6
Hall of Fame	8
OSAC Notes	9

PLAN Jeffco Presents: Stewardship of Open Lands

Learn how open space conservation started in Jefferson County, why such lands are important, and increase your understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of open lands.

JOIN US at the second annual PLAN Jeffco Stewardship Academy, a one-day seminar open to the public, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Saturday, April 29, 2023, at the

**American Mountaineering Center
710 10th Street, Golden**

The \$17 fee, includes lunch and a one-year digital membership with PLAN Jeffco -- limited scholarships available.

Stewardship Academy Continued

Do you want to learn more about public lands and how to preserve them for future generations?

JOIN US at the second annual PLAN Jeffco Stewardship Academy, a one-day seminar open to the public, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Saturday, April 29, 2023, at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden. Lunch included.

The Academy offers presentations by local experts in conservation, biodiversity, land management and stewardship, and how to advocate for open space lands. Engage with PLAN Jeffco Board members, Jeffco Open Space staff, Jeffco Commissioner Lesley Dahlkemper, Colorado State Senator Lisa Cutter, and Carmela Montenegro of “Not Mad Just Misunderstood”, learn from their experiences, and enjoy meeting others who share your love of the land.

Topics include the history of Jeffco Open Space, physical and biological components of ecosystems, impacts of human population, visitor experience and trail courtesy, strategies for encouraging inclusivity, land conservation and grassroots advocacy.

There will be an optional Stewardship Day on Sunday, April 30th, at one of the Jeffco Open Space parks.

In 1972, PLAN Jeffco launched the citizen's initiative which created the Jeffco Open Space program, protecting from development 60,000 acres comprising 27 parks.

Enroll at <https://tinyurl.com/ypv67yh9>

Saturday, April 29, 2023
9 AM to 4 PM

American Mountaineering Center
710 19th St., Golden CO

\$17 fee, includes a one-year digital membership with PLAN Jeffco -- limited scholarships available.

For more information contact: ContactUs@PLANjeffco.org or see the website, <https://www.PLANJeffco.org>

2023 Conservation Awards

Feb. 15, 2023 Lakewood Cultural Center

Text by Jefferson County Open Space
Communications

Steven Beck, Front Desk Information Specialist
at Boettcher Mansion

Aspen Award

Recognizes outstanding service by a volunteer in
their first three years

He has also become the resident handyman. He
regularly comes in on his days off to show off the
mansion to friends and family.

Dr. Dan Baird Park Patroller Team Lead

Rocky Mountain Juniper Award

For outstanding service with a stewardship
project or educational initiative.

Baird helps select new volunteers as well as
mentors them in the field. He usually is found at
the busiest parks at the busiest times, His
communication style turns visitors into stewards.

**The Community Farm and Volunteer Burro
Patrol Team Douglas Fir Award**

For outstanding partner in conservation.
Members work together with burros and goats to
improve habitats, trails, and visitor experiences.
It is changing the lives of young people as well as
the animals.



Colin Heffern and Quinn Brett Blue Spruce Award

For the organization that creates ways to connect
people to healthy nature-based experiences.

These consultants identify places for volunteers
to create opportunities for equitable use,
resulting in engaging over 100 volunteers on
four usability trail projects, which created
16,000 feet of usable trail. This award is
dedicated to Heffern, who passed away suddenly
in January 2023.

League of Women Voters of Jefferson County, 1972 Open Space Ballot Initiative Gambel Oak Award

Presented to pioneers in preserving open space
and park lands in Jefferson County.

The League initiated a landmark study that led
to the formation of JCOS and inspired the
founding of PLAN Jeffco. The League and
PLAN Jeffco are the reasons there was a
proposal on the 1972 ballot to create a half-cent
sales tax to fund an open space program.

Robert Taylor, Cliff-Nesting Raptor Monitor **The John Litz Award**

For significant and longtime volunteer
contribution to JCOS and conservation in Jeffco

Taylor has monitored the same owl territory at
Matthews/Winters Park for more than 20 years.
He freely shares his knowledge with new owl
monitors and has been helpful in overhauling the
nesting raptor database.

Volunteer opportunities are available on the
website: <https://www.jeffco.us/1567/Volunteer>

Videos of the event be found at
<https://www.jeffco.us/3961/Conservation->

Open Space Snags \$20 million for Missing Link of Peaks to Plains Trail

Total build is estimated to cost \$103 million for 5 miles.

The Denver Regional Council of Governments awarded Jeffco Open Space a \$20 million Transportation Improvement Program regional grant over four years to help complete the final 5-mile segment of the Peaks to Plains Trail in the Clear Creek Canyon.

The Central Segment is expected to cost \$103 million including the \$20 million from DRCOG. It includes construction of 10 bridges over Clear Creek, according to the grant application filed in October 2022.

The project owes its existence partially to PLAN Jeffco's efforts to preserve the land in the '80s and '90s.

The rest of the money is expected to come mainly from the Jeffco Open Space Fund, with other possible grants from the GOCO Centennial Program, CDOT and RTD.

The regional grant money is to be provided over four years, 2024 through 2027.

The upper and lower segments of the trail have already been completed: The 4-mile-long Big Easy (2017) at Mayhem Gulch and the 1.75-mile Gateway Segment (2021) at Highway 6. The segments cost \$25 million and \$15 million, respectively. The Big Easy includes a \$2 million GOCO grant.

Both the upper and lower parcels are unique for their sheer walls, imposing views and 10-foot-wide concrete trails for both pedestrians and bicyclists.

The Central Segment is the roughest and will require 10 bridges costing between \$424,000 and \$784,000 each. The budget includes a \$28 million line item for a

viaduct. Two trailheads are planned with room for 25 cars each at the west portals of Tunnel 2 and Tunnel 3.

Historic railroad walls will be preserved in the oxbows around Tunnels 2 and 3, as will the culvert headwalls.

The Central Segment in Jefferson County is part of a regional path, known as the Peaks to Plains Trail, that goes from I-70 in Clear Creek County through Golden, Wheat Ridge, Arvada, Denver, and Adams County for 65 miles, of which 58.5 have been built.

Besides the economic and tourism benefits, the creation of safe parking areas is expected to reduce the number of bicycle, pedestrian and auto accidents on Highway 6 in the narrow canyon, which has no room for a bicycle path.

The Jeffco Board of County Commissioners in August 2022 voted in favor of pursuing the Transportation Improvement Program funds, as well as a local match of about 70 percent or \$80 million.

The grant application shows construction beginning in fiscal year 2026, or as soon as October 2025.



Open Space Acquisitions in 2022

2022 was a great year for the addition of open space to the County and city systems. Major activities were completing the trades on: 1) South Table Mountain with the DOE that will allow developing a public transit trailhead at the entrance to NREL;

2) Martin Marietta Materials adjacent to Apex Park.; and 3) major additions to the Douglas Mountain -Mt Tom area that will provide good access.

Project	Acres
Randall Park Expansion with Wheat Ridge	0.16
Niver Canal with Westminster	0.87
Soda Lakes with Lakewood	33.98
Bear Creek Greenbelt - Kipling with Lakewood	2.87
Bear Creek Greenbelt - Wadsworth	2.41
South Table Mountain DOE exchange Parcel	157.95
South Table Mountain DOE exchange Parcel	22.38
South Table Mountain DOE exchange Parcel	34.59
South Table Mountain DOE exchange, trail easement	9.6
Douglas Mountain - Mt Tom Parcel A Conservation Easement	400
Douglas Mountain - Mt Tom Parcel B Fee purchase	435
Mt Glennon - Soda Lakes Road	4.7
Matthews Winters Park - Martin Marietta Materials - Bachman Farm	5.69
Matthews Winters Park - Martin Marietta Materials - Alpine Slide	15.39
Matthews Winters Park - Martin Marietta Materials - trail corridor	0.8
Total	700.96

Tattered Trail Gets New Life in Golden

West side of South Table Mountain reached by improved Lubahn Trail

By Vicky Gits

A neglected, privately built historic trail on the steep west side of South Table Mountain has been restored to its former glory thanks to a joint effort of Jefferson County Open Space and the City of Golden.

The relatively short, hiker-only, Lubahn Trail on city property rewards the climber with spectacular views of the city and foothills after a modest uphill trek of about three-quarters of a mile and gain of 410 feet.

A native rock staircase with about 75 steps gives access to the top of South Table Mountain, Castle Rock, and the rest of the Open Space trail system on top of the mesa. The trail begins where vegetation disappears and is framed by the massive cliffs of the Castle Rock formation.



Would-be hikers should be aware the trail starts at the intersection of Belvedere Drive and 18th Street on the edge of a residential neighborhood where parking is strictly controlled.

There are only about five public parking spaces at the trailhead and four at the adjacent Olivine trailhead at Belvedere Drive and 19th Street. Elsewhere parking is limited to residents only from 9 am to 9 p.m. (Olivine is open to bicycles.) There are no restroom facilities. The trailhead is well identified with a new kiosk, bike rack, trash can and fencing.



The trail has numerous switchbacks making it accessible to the average fit visitor, but beginners might find the exposure somewhat intimidating. At the top one can return by the less challenging Olivine Trail with several lazy serpentine switchbacks.



Lubahn Trail Continued

The trail is named after Jack D. Lubahn, a School of Mines professor, who built it as a labor of love between 1967 and 1974, when he was in his 50s. Lubahn died in 1981 at 63.

Over the years the popular trail was maintained by neighbors, volunteers, and the city. But by 2020 it was suffering from erosion and shortcutting. Retaining walls were beginning to collapse and disappear.

Concern was growing about the access to the summit which required scrambling over a dangerous rocky area. This rugged approach is one of the most precipitous in the county, but with steps is easy to manage.

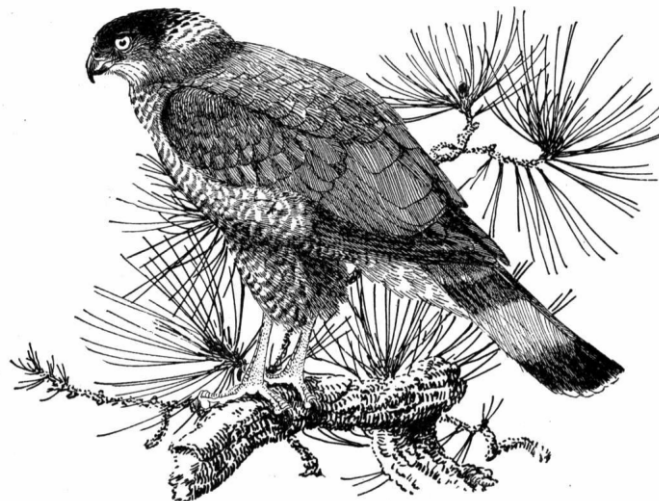
Using Jeffco Trail Partnership funds in 2022, Jeffco Open Space contracted with Singletrack Trails Inc. of Grand Junction to rehabilitate the trailhead and path. Jeffco's share was \$44,000.

Construction was completed June 1, 2022. Repairs included 27 drains, 4 rock walls and 21 rock staircases. Workers reinforced the edges and compacted the beds of two trail sections.



While the rehab work is comprehensive, the footprint of the old trail is mostly intact, prompting the question, "What was the professor thinking when he decided to build straight up the mountainside with no shade in sight?"

The Lubahn is a fitting tribute to another era when an enthusiast could get away with crafting his own creation on public property unrestrained for six years. With the recent updates the 'mini incline' should be good forever and the professor should be pleased.



PLAN Jeffco treasurer John Litz named to the Jefferson County Hall of Fame 2022

“Few people have benefited Jefferson County and the surrounding area more than John Litz.”

--Jefferson County Historical Commission, *Historically Jeffco* magazine 2022

By Vicky Gits
PLAN Jeffco board

In recognition of the multitude of responsibilities John Litz has generously assumed on behalf of the community over many years, the Jefferson County Historical Commission has named John Litz to the Jefferson County Hall of Fame 2022.

Litz was nominated by JCHC member and historian John Steinle for his contributions in the areas of preservation, volunteerism, and public service.

The award coincides with the 50th anniversary of the approval of the ballot initiative creating the Jefferson County Open Space park system. For the last 50 years, John has been a workhorse on behalf of the outdoors and a living history record of the open space saga.

John was an original member of the group that started PLAN Jeffco to create an entity to acquire and maintain open lands for the benefit of the general public. The work of PLAN Jeffco in those days produced the structure that constitutes today's county Open Space division.

Litz co-authored the ballot resolution that provided key funding in the form of a half-cent sales tax. He was also part of the advocacy campaign that succeeded in winning overwhelming support of voters.

In the '90s he envisioned raising the money to enhance the park system's potential real estate portfolio. He helped organize a successful campaign to persuade voters in 1998 to fund a \$160-million bond issue.

Among his other contributions, John has served on the Open Space Advisory Commission for 30 years. He is the secretary/treasurer of the Jeffco Open Space Foundation and a member of the Applewood Community Foundation.

He supported offering free student field trips paid for by the Jeffco Open Space Foundation to Hiwan Heritage Museum and the Lookout Nature Center. He has been a member of Kiwanis for 54 years.

John was born in Zambia, Africa, where his father found work at a copper mine during the depression. John is a metallurgical engineer, holds 16 patents and authored many articles on metallurgy and engineering.

Why did he join PLAN Jeffco back in pre-1972? “My wife was a League (of Women Voters) member and PLAN Jeffco needed some male members. Then one of the original PLAN Jeffco members who was the treasurer died unexpectedly. So I became treasurer and helped with the fund-raising.” He has been a board member of PLAN Jeffco since its inception. Growing up in a remote part of Africa, John developed an appreciation for the beauty of untouched landscapes. Venturing out to collect firewood, he realized, “If we had continued north we would reach the Mediterranean without crossing a paved road. Now that is open space.”

He attributes his dedication to community service to being brought up to participate in things, rather than being a “spectator.” John is known for being the first to volunteer for even the most tedious and burdensome tasks and always delivering above and beyond.

OSAC NOTES OSAC NOTES OSAC NOTES OSAC NOTES

November 3, 2022 - No Study Session

Regular Meeting

Restroom Door Lock

Each year Open Space provides a problem to some Colorado School of Mines Seniors for a Capstone project. Projects in the past have ranged from drainage problems at Pine Valley to designing a portable bridge to use if there is a wash out of a bridge, such as occurred in 2013. This year's problem was to develop an automatic locking system on the restrooms at off-grid parks. The students designed and fabricated a door lock prototype that can be programmed to lock and unlock the restroom doors at designated times of the day. The lock is powered by a 9-volt battery and fits inside the existing door frame.

South Jeffco Proposed(?) Library Site

The Trustees of the Jefferson County Public Library have been looking for a site for an additional library in the southern part of the

County. Although there are several available buildings and vacant sites, the Trustees felt that none of them would serve as the site for a good library. They approached Open Space about using a part of the sledding hill at Kipling and Ken Caryl. They designed a library site in the lower right corner of the park that would provide parking and restrooms for the park. The site would occupy 5-6 acres of the 29.6-acre park. Public hearings were held earlier in the year, and it was presented to OSAC as an information item. Since this was a proposal for disposal of Open Space land, OSAC would have to support the transfer to the library with 8 positive votes from the 10 OSAC members. Although the library would have little impact on sledding use, there was considerable concern from the public about losing some of the open space values for users and wildlife. OSAC met in Executive Session to discuss the proposal and the consensus was that it would not be supported by the required super majority so, no vote was taken in a public session.



OSAC NOTES OSAC NOTES Continued'

Trails Partnership

OSAC approved the following projects for funding with the Trails Partnership allocation.

Entity	Project	Funding
Wheat Ridge	Tabor Lake Trail	\$410,000
Evergreen P & R	Evergreen Lake North Trail	\$450,000
Clear Creek County Open Space	Trailhead improvements	\$275,000
Jeffco Transportation	Ped. Crossing at 58 th Ave and Crestone	\$ 25,000
Jeffco Transportation	Ped. Crossing at Dakota Ridge and County Roadn93	\$ 28,100

Evergreen did not get their match for the Evergreen Lake Trail so an additional \$500,000 was approved by OSAC later.

January 5, 2023

Study Session

Reviewed the County policies for handling comments, etc. at meetings. Provided input to a draft Open Space policy.

Regular Meeting

NoCo Places

Open Space has been working with NoCO PLACES 2050, which includes five counties (including Jefferson), the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, Rocky Mountain National Park and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Steve Coffin, the coordinator, discussed working on new, collaborative approaches to manage the increased demand for outdoor recreation and visitation in central Colorado's mountains.

Coal Creek Study Area

Planner Kristina Duff presented initial planning for the area, which has been split into two planning areas: Blue Mountain Park/Preserve for the foothills and mountain area; and North Prairie Preserve for the plains area. Detailed planning will continue for the next few years and then development will occur. Naming them preserves indicates that development will have minimum impact.

Jeffco Fairgrounds

The Westernaires were conveyed 5.4 acres of the Fairgrounds and have been using 7.8 acres of County property and 12.9 acres acquired with Open Space Funds. In the spring of 2019, there was significant manure in the runoff from these parcels. The runoff was out of compliance with storm water regulations, so the County built two detention basins to minimize the problem. Since the County was the owner, the County was liable for any violations of the storm water regulations. To avoid any future liability, the County deeded 20.7 acres to the Westernaires with restrictions on any potential sale of the property so that the County will recover its investment.



OSAC NOTES OSAC NOTES Continued

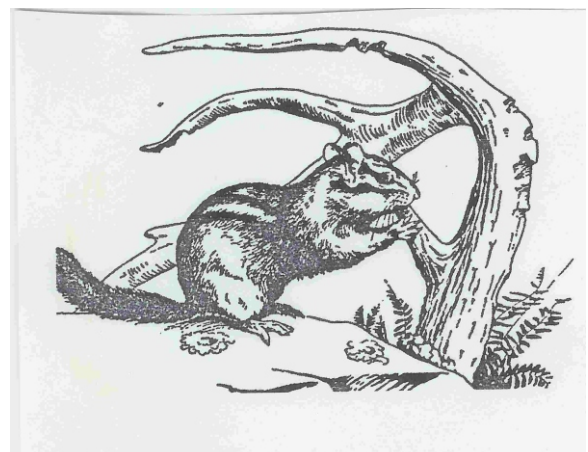
March 2, 2023
No Study Session

Regular meeting

Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting Decorum Standards and Procedures were adopted.

Front Range Trail Diagram

JCOS has been studying potential trail routes for the Front Range Trail, that section which extends from the Boulder County line south to Golden. The trail already exists in Golden and along C-470, all the way to the southern end of the County. Rachel Brenna and Amara Meier presented the northern portion of the trail route that has been selected. The adjacent column shows the trail. It starts at Highway 128 where there is a trailhead in the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Preserve. It extends south using the trail through the preserve that is scheduled for construction in 2023. A short corridor goes through the Candelas subdivision to Highway 72. The trail then follows the east side of Highway 93. The crossings of the Union Pacific tracks and the landfill entrance will require careful design. The trail will continue south to 82nd Avenue. There are two potential spots for crossing 82nd Avenue, so Arvada probably will make the selection. The trail then will cross over onto Arvada utilities property until it meets the Ralston Creek trail. The trail will go southeast on the Ralston Creek Trail and then south to the Arvada Long Lake Park. Existing trails through Long Lake connect to the trail along the Diversion Canal exiting through Tony Grampsas Memorial Sports Complex and then to the 44th Avenue Trail into Golden.





PLAN Jeffco
11010 W 29th Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80215

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DENVER, CO
PERMIT NO. 176

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

Jefferson County Citizens for
Planned Growth with Open Space

PLAN JEFFCO NEWSLETTER

Join PLAN Jeffco

We have three levels of membership;

Regular \$35 per year, hard copy of the
newsletter and supports our activities

Friend \$10 receive hard copy of the
newsletter

Digital \$0 we inform you when the
newsletter has been posted on the web site

Join at planjeffco.org
or by mail at

PLAN Jeffco
11010 W 29th Ave
Lakewood, CO 80215

