



PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



Photo courtesy of CarbonFibrePhoto

The PLAN Jeffco Monthly March 2024

March can be the snowiest month of the year in the Colorado High Country...stay warm, stay safe!

PLAN Jeffco is a non-profit citizen organization, based in Jefferson County Colorado. For more than 50 years, PLAN Jeffco has advocated for conservation of open space.

PLAN Jeffco authored the "[Open Space Resolution](#)" ballot initiative in 1972 that provided a one-half percent sales tax in Jefferson County to establish the award-winning Jefferson County Open Space program.

<https://planjeffco.org>

What's New in the Blogosphere?

Ann Bonnell Lived a Life of Service

Ann Bonnell's death on December 26th, 2023, at the age of 85, left a gaping hole in the heart of the Jefferson County birding community and in the hearts of her fellow PLAN Jeffco Board members:

<https://planjeffco.org/ann-bonnell-lived-a-life-of-service/>

Pioneer PLAN Jeffco Board Member John Litz

John Litz's death on Dec. 29 at 87 marked the end of an epic career in the service of PLAN Jeffco and the cause of preserving natural lands in general:

<https://planjeffco.org/pioneer-plan-jeffco-board-member-john-litz/>

ENOR Turns 50!

EAGLE'S NEST OWL'S ROOST (ENOR) Environmental Discovery Camp of Colorado State University Extension in Jefferson County celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2024: <https://planjeffco.org/enor-turns-50/>

2024 Conservation Awards Ceremony Pays Tribute to John Litz

Once a year, Jefferson County Open Space honors those who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and exemplary effort as volunteers on behalf of Open Space Parks, as well as the causes on behalf of land preservation and involvement. The highlight this year was a video tribute to volunteer role model John Litz, longtime board member of PLAN Jeffco, who died Dec. 29, 2023 at age 87.

<https://planjeffco.org/2024-conservation-awards-ceremony-pays-tribute-to-john-litz/>

Video of the Month: Clear Creek Canyon Park - Huntsman Segment - Construction Update 2.1.2024

Work is underway on the Huntsman Segment of Clear Creek Canyon Park - Tunnel 1 to Huntsman's Gulch. Get the latest updates on the construction and trail building for this exciting project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45pIjaFXtCQ>

Thank you for staying with us as we navigate the massive changes to PLAN Jeffco following the loss of our long-time Board members Ann Bonnell and John Litz.

These changes were inevitable but nonetheless unexpected. PLAN Jeffco has openings on the Board. We would love to hear from you, we would like to hear your thoughts, we would like you to consider a Board position.

If you're interested in exploring this possibility, drop us an email at ContactUs@PLANJeffco.org

Did you forget to renew your membership? Click on the button below and get caught up!

Join or Renew My Membership



Aspen Park at Evening, photo courtesy of CarbonFibrePhoto 2012

Other New Stuff on the Website

We ask for your patience as we work through a long-needed review and rework of our website...thank you!

Stay up-to-date with what's happening at the PJ Board meetings

PLAN Jeffco February Board Meeting Minutes 2/15/2024 – FINAL

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-2-15-2024/>

PLAN Jeffco January Board Meeting Minutes 1/18/2024 – FINAL

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-1-18-2024/>

What's been happening at the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) meetings...

Regular Open Space Advisory Committee meetings are generally held on the first Thursday of every other month, starting at 6:00 PM.

<https://www.jeffco.us/1581/Advisory-Committee>

FEBRUARY 1, 2024: Field Trip: 2/01/2024, 4PM, Hall Property.

In-office Meeting, Executive Session: RE: City of Lakewood, 11050 West 20th Avenue Land Conservation Partnership Program JCOS23-09; RE: Apex Park – Hall JCOS 23-11.

Action Item: Apex Park – Hall JCOS 23-11 Resolution #24-02, presentation by Joy Lucisano. The 58.28 acre Hall Property is located north of & contiguous to Apex OS Park, adjacent to the southwest corner of Windy Saddle OS Park, and adjacent to School of

Mines (SoM) property. A trail connector from Apex to Windy Saddle will have to cross SoM property. Negotiations for location & price of trail easement across SoM property will be negotiated at some later time. Purchase price of \$795,000 unanimously approved.

MARCH 7, 2024: Information Item: Van Bibber Greenway, connecting west end of VB Park to Fairmont Trail, discussion about side-by-side trails and road/creek crossings. Equestrian community very pleased with this development.

Action Item: Wheatridge Reverter Exchange. Town Center Park (east of Wadsworth, north of W 38th Ave), 0.7 acres purchased in 1982 for \$160K, use as a community park never full realized. Release the OS reverter on that parcel and place it on 1.62 acres adjacent to Stevens Elementary School, 38th & Upham St. JCOS to add an executory interest in the parcel, Wheatridge to refund \$140K to JCOS if property not used for park & open space purposes.

Missed a PLAN Jeffco Monthly newsletter? Find them here...

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – February 2024

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-february-2024/>

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – January 2024

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-january-2024/>



Camping in Genesee Park, off the old Victory Highway (Hwy 40), 1910-1920, photo courtesy of Denver Public Library, Western History Collection.

Our Conservation Partners

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

<https://cpw.state.co.us>

<https://www.facebook.com/CoParksWildlife>

News & Media <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/NewsMedia.aspx>

CPW Podcasts <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/CPW-Podcast.aspx>

eNews & Social Media <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/socialmedia.aspx>

News Releases <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/NewsReleases.aspx>

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

<https://www.birdconservancy.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/birdconservancy>

Summer Bird Camps Registration Open! [Click here for more information.](#)

Sign up for news releases at <https://www.birdconservancy.org/news-and-events/press-releases/>

Travel Opportunities at <https://www.birdconservancy.org/get-involved/take-a-birding-tour/>

Activity Calendar at <https://www.birdconservancy.org/events/>

Bird Conservancy Blog at <https://www.birdconservancy.org/news-and-events/>

Colorado Open Lands

<https://coloradoopenlands.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoOpenLands>

Permanently Protected – prime sandhill crane habitat, March 4, 2024

Colorado Open Lands is excited to announce that we have protected nearly 1,500 acres in Costilla County in partnership with local landowners. The ranch consists of irrigated meadows and grazing land, and the water rights - critically important in this area - were protected along with the land. The ranch is known habitat for elk, mule deer, pronghorn, black bear, and mountain lion, as well as endangered and threatened species including southwestern willow flycatcher and burrowing owl. Huge numbers of sandhill cranes gather on the ranch each year as well.

Permanently Protected – TLC Ranch, March 4, 2024

TLC Ranch is 1,236.5 acres and is located in the upper part of the Ohio Creek Valley of Gunnison County, approximately 13 miles northwest of the City of Gunnison. The ranch is managed for hay production and livestock grazing. It's comprised of sloping hillsides and terraces covered with sagebrush, montane forest, native mountain grass and forb vegetation, and irrigated meadows. Habitat is provided for bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, Gunnison sage-grouse (federally listed as Threatened), and northern leopard frog (all Colorado Species of Concern). The property is within the northernmost reach of Gunnison sage-grouse habitat in the Ohio Creek Valley.

More Conservation Updates located at <https://coloradoopenlands.org/latest-news/>

Mountain Area Land Trust

<https://savetheland.org/news/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MountainAreaLandTrustCO>

A Night of Magic in the Meadow, Tickets now on sale

<https://savetheland.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/ANightInTheMeadow2024/tabid/1407377/Default.aspx>

Saturday, June 22, 2024 from 5 - 9 p.m, this special event is held under MALT's signature white tent at a new beautiful outdoor location in Conifer, overlooking Meyer Ranch Open Space (9444 Eagle Cliff Rd, Conifer).

Read about more News and Success Stories at <https://savetheland.org/news/>

Sign up for MALT's newsletter at <https://savetheland.org/category/newsletter/>

Keep It Colorado

<https://www.keepitco.org/>

KIC is a statewide coalition of conservation organizations. They advocate for sound public policy; provide connection and collaboration opportunities for conservation partners; offer a forum to address emerging conservation issues and opportunities;

pursue sustainable funding and programmatic tools and solutions; and work to advance a culture of conservation in Colorado.

News & Press Releases at <https://www.keepitco.org/whats-new>

Event Highlights at <https://www.keepitco.org/out-and-about-event-highlights>

Land Trust Events at <https://www.keepitco.org/land-trust-events>

Coalition & Industry Events at <https://www.keepitco.org/coalition-industry-events>

The Source Newsletter at <https://www.keepitco.org/the-source-newsletter>

Douglas Land Conservancy

<https://douglaslandconservancy.org/>

Douglas County Geology: Join DLC and local geologist Rik Williams to learn about geology in Douglas County! DLC volunteer and retired geologist Rik Williams will lead you through the story of how the incredible beauty of Douglas County and Colorado's Front Range came to be. This presentation is appropriate for all ages. [Registration Required.](#)

Where: Castle Pines Library

When: March 25, 6-7:30pm

Guided Hikes & Educational Events at <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/guided-hikes-educational-events/>

Decode DC Outdoors at <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/decode-dc-outdoors/>

News at <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/news/>

City of Golden <https://goldentoday.com/>

3/04/2024: The Lookout Mtn. Road closure was approved by Jefferson County Commissioners.

Council meetings are always available to watch live or recorded on the City's [Meetings and Agendas page.](#)

Stewards of Golden Open Space

<https://stewardsofgolden.org/>

Accomplishments: <https://stewardsofgolden.org/accomplishments>

SOLVE(Save Open Lands, Vistas and the Environment), PLAN Jeffco's sister organization in Clear Creek County <http://www.solveccc.org>

Save the Date: Fall Foliage Relay Race, 1st Friday of September '24.

Follow the postings from other conservation groups, listed at the bottom of each of our web pages

<https://www.PLANJeffco.org>

[Colorado Open Space Alliance \(COSA\)](#)

[Colorado Native Plant Society](#)

[Douglas Land Conservancy](#)

[Bird Conservancy of the Rockies](#)

[Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust](#)



WATCH THIS SPACE...Local Goings-on

Hogback mine expansion in North Golden gets State approval

Jefferson County is now accepting public comment on a plan to rezone 77.97 acres on the hogback north of Golden to expand the existing clay mine. Submit comments to Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Case Manager, Matthew Karney at mkarney.co.jefferson.co.us

Case Number 23-137296-RZ

Street Address 21506 W 56th Avenue

To learn more about this project, go to <https://www.jeffco.us/786/Planning-Zoning> then click Active Case Search > Planning & Zoning Search > Advanced. Scroll down, enter case number 23 137296 RZ". Case is in First Referral, application date was 2023-12-11.

A group called Protect the Hogback opposes this mine expansion,

<https://www.protectthehogback.com/>

Frei-Walstrum gravel quarry expansion, Clear Creek County

Quarry expansion is in progress. Frei family purchased the Floyd Hill Meadow (39.71893342699002, -105.40651944877656) and deeded it to MALT. MALT has started a fund-raising campaign for the costs of a conservation easement; Colorado Open Lands will hold the CE.

Bear Creek Reservoir Expansion Proposal

<https://www.lakewood.org/Government/Departments/Community-Resources/Projects/Bear-Creek-Reservoir-expansion-proposal>

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Colorado Water Conservation Board are conducting a feasibility study about making changes to increase water storage and reservoir size at Bear Creek Reservoir in Bear Creek Lake Park. For more information, visit <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/bearcreeklake>

The state expects the Army Corps to finish the key studies, remove some of the less promising alternatives, and go back to the public for meetings talking about a new project scope sometime this year: <https://coloradosun.com/2024/01/25/bear-creek-lake-expansion-neighborhood-fight-lakewood/>

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Gross Reservoir Updates <https://www.denverwater.org/grossreservoir>

3/17/2024: Gross Dam Road Closure: staff reported Gross Dam Road impassable due to a rock blocking the road in both directions near the Fisherman's Parking Lot.

As a result, the Fisherman's Parking Lot was closed, and Gross Dam Road was closed between the T-intersection at Gross Reservoir Headquarters and Flagstaff

Road. ...there is no estimated schedule for reopening.
Recreation Activity Impact: <https://www.denverwater.org/recreation/gross-resevoir>
Project Information & Impact: <https://www.denverwater.org/grossreservoir>

Shadow Mountain (formerly Full Send) Bike Ranch Updates

<https://shadowmountainbikepark.com/>

Conceptual site plan located at
<https://shadowmountainbikepark.com/news/conceptual-site-plans-for-shadow-mountain-bike-park/>

News at <https://shadowmountainbikepark.com/news/>

Planning & Zoning Record Details

Address: Shadow Mountain Bike Park

Type: Rezoning - Commercial - Planned Development

Case Number: 23-102980RZ

Application Date: 2023-02-13

Permit Number: 23 102980 000 00 RZ

Status: 1st Referral Response

Expiry Date:

Case Manager: Dylan Monke - 303-271-8718 - dmonke@co.jefferson.co.us

Description: Special Use Application for Development of a day-use lift-served bike park as a Class III Commercial Recreation Facility. Acreage: 483.04 Acres

Here's a link to Jeffco Planning and Zoning, where the new interactive map showing ongoing applications and permits is located (scroll down to the bottom of the page): <https://www.jeffco.us/786/Planning-Zoning>

WANT TO SUPPORT OUR WORK?

[Join or Renew Your Membership](#)



County News & Happenings

Jeffco Open Space <https://www.jeffco.us/1523/News-Events>

Know before you go! Check these sites for additional information on Park and Trail closures, openings, and other operations that may impact your Jeffco Open Space Park experience...

[JCOS Alerts & Closures](#)

[JCOS News Releases](#)

[JCOS Newsletters](#)

Jeffco Open Space News & Events

<https://www.jeffco.us/1523/News-Events>

TST Now Hiring: Hiring for the Trails Stewardship Team is open. Join us this summer from June 18 to August 1 and make \$15/hour! Enjoy beautiful scenic views amongst new friends in this unique opportunity. Apply at <https://www.jeffco.us/3327/Trail-Stewardship-Team>

Lookout Mountain Road Proposed Nighttime Vehicle Access Management:

Lookout Mountain Road, between the Chimney Gulch Trail pullout and Lookout Mountain Park, travels through Jeffco Open Space and Denver Mountain Parklands. Both agencies post park hours as closed from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise. <https://www.jeffco.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2167>

Mountain Area Slash Site Community Updates: During the last community meeting on November 1, 2023, at West Jefferson Middle School, Jefferson County Parks and Conservation discussed plans to establish a slash (woody debris) drop site adjacent to and in conjunction with Inter-Canyon Fire Protection District Station #3 on Settlers Drive. <https://www.jeffco.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2138>

Jeffco Open Space Seasonal Wildlife Closures to Begin February 1: Each year Jeffco Open Space uses seasonal wildlife closures at the parks to protect species at sensitive times in their life cycles. This year's seasonal wildlife closures affect numerous Jeffco Open Space parks and trails. Protect the wildlife... <https://www.jeffco.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2011>

Jeffco Open Space Plans & Projects

<https://www.jeffco.us/1585/Plans-Projects>

Jeffco Open Space Master Calendar

<https://www.jeffco.us/calendar.aspx?CID=26>

Jeffco Fairgrounds

<https://www.jeffco.us/calendar.aspx?CID=27>

Jefferson County – Sustainability Commission

<https://www.jeffco.us/3406/Sustainability-Commission>

Jefferson County – COVID-19 Updates

<https://www.jeffco.us/3999/Coronavirus-Disease-2019-COVID-19>

Support conservation in Jeffco, donate here so we can keep doing what we do!

JOIN or RENEW

*Know someone who might be interested in this newsletter?
Subscribe, like, share - forward this to them, and thank you!*



About PLAN Jeffco

In 1972, PLAN Jeffco launched the citizen's initiative which created the Jeffco Open Space Program, protecting more than 70,000 acres comprising 27 parks and more than 270 miles of trails.

Follow us on [FACEBOOK](#)

PLAN Jeffco | 24395 Cody Park Road, Golden, CO 80401 +1 303.526.1839

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