



PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



The PLAN Jeffco Monthly, October 2023

What's New in the Blogosphere?

How did Crown Hill Open Space Park come to be what it is today? It all started with a young man named Henry Lee, who came to Golden from Iowa...

<https://planjeffco.org/crown-hill-open-space-park-a-brief-history/>

It's back - the Open Space Foundation is back, following a hiatus of several years. Their vision: the outdoors, for everyone, forever.

<https://planjeffco.org/the-open-space-foundation-is-back/>

Is it time to update your PLAN Jeffco membership?

[Renew My Membership](#)

Our Conservation Partners

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

<https://www.birdconservancy.org>

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

Barr Lake Public Bird Banding Visits. August 25th - October 22nd, Tuesdays-Fridays 7:30-8:30AM, Saturdays & Sundays 8-9AM, 9-10AM and 10-11AM

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

Colorado Open Lands

<https://coloradoopenlands.org/>

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

McDermard Ranch permanently protected (Oct 2nd, 2023). Colorado Open Land, Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy, and the Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Fund have come together to preserve and protect a 572-acre ranch in the Ohio Creek Valley.

In 2018, the McDermard Ranch landowner purchased an adjacent 422 acres with the intent of removing a planned subdivision from the land and protecting the land forever. The McDermard Ranch is habitat for big game (elk, mule deer, moose, bear and mountain lions) and several Colorado Species of Special Concern (Gunnison sage grouse, bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, sandhill crane, and the northern leopard frog). It's mostly irrigated meadows and a mile plus of Ohio Creek frontage. Currently the land is used for hay and grazing, and is a valuable addition to the network of conserved and public lands within the scenic Ohio Creek Valley.

Mountain Area Land Trust

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

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

Floyd Hill Meadow Open House Saturday 10/14/2023, was well attended; it marked the beginning of the MALT fund-raiser for the eventual conservation easement, which they hope will be in place by 2025.

<https://savetheland.org/floyd-hill-meadow/>

Keep It Colorado

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

Keep It Colorado Receives \$1 Million From Great Outdoors Colorado. 9/22/23, GOCO's Board approved the second installment of a three-year, \$3M investment in conservation initiatives supported by Keep It Colorado. KIC plans to use the investment to advance on-the-ground projects to protect lands through conservation efforts, demonstrate the economic return on investment of conservation, and grow land trusts' capacity to engage more people in conservation while reflecting the multifaceted interests of Colorado's diverse communities.

CONSERVING COLORADO: A 10-year Roadmap for the Future of Private Land Conservation (downloadable):

https://www.keepitco.org/s/ConservingColorado_Online_April-1-2023.pdf

Douglas Land Conservancy

<https://douglaslandconservancy.org/>

GUIDED HIKE: Creepy Crawlies Around the (Castle) Rock, 10/22/23, 10AM – 3PM.

AUTHOR SPEAKS: Tuesday, October 24, 6-8pm @Parker Library. Author Mary Taylor Young will discuss her newest book, "Bluebird Seasons; Witnessing Climate Change in My Piece of the Wild"

GEOLOGY PRESO: Thursday, October 26, 6-8pm @Lone Tree Library.

Geologist Rik Williams will again present, "Douglas County: Buttes, Mesas, Ridges Everywhere. Volcanoes, floods, earthquakes and more. An introduction to Douglas County Earth History"

Stewards of Golden Open Space

<https://douglaslandconservancy.org>

No recent news available...

SOLVE (Save Open Lands, Vistas, & the Environment)

<http://www.solveccc.org>

Continue meetings with Kay Axtell (SOLVE) to mentor SOLVE and Clear Creek County Open Space.

SOLVE is taking a firm stand against the use of OHV (off-highway vehicles) in any of the CCC Open Space parks, based on perspectives and lessons learned from surrounding counties.

SOLVE is joining with MALT to fund-raise for a conservation easement on the Floyd Hill Meadow, the 18.5 acre property that was recently donated to CCCOS by Albert Frei.

PLAN Jeffco engaged with SOLVE and others to save the Floyd Hill Meadow from commercial development back in the early 2000s. Sometimes it takes a while to get things done.

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

<https://www.PLANJeffco.org>

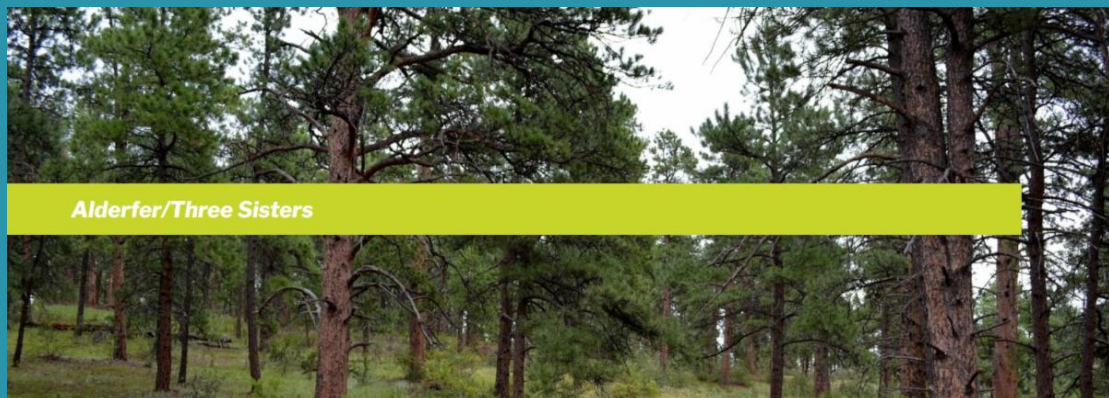
[Colorado Open Space Alliance \(COSA\)](#)

[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 Planning & Zoning Case Number: 22-128087CMT

Case Manager: Nick Nelson, 303-271-8727, nnelson@jeffco.us

<https://jeffco.us/planning-and-zoning/active-cases>

Frei-Walstrum gravel quarry expansion, Clear Creek County

Quarry expansion is in progress.

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>

Two-year study, on-going.

Gross Reservoir Updates

<https://www.denverwater.org/grossreservoir>

Recreation Activity Impact:

- Batch plant assembly and testing is ongoing.
- Osprey Point boat launch and South Boulder Creek Inlet Trailhead.
- South Shore and Windy Point picnic and fishing areas.
- Areas open during the construction project:
- North Shore Picnic Area, boat ramp and parking lot at the intersection of Gross Dam and Flagstaff roads.
- South Boulder Creek Outlet Trail below the dam. (Intermittent closures are possible during days with road restrictions on Gross Dam Road near the dam.)
- Winiger Ridge Campground. (The campground is typically open mid-May through October. Some temporary closures are expected starting in 2025.)
- Forsythe Canyon Trailhead hiking. (Some temporary closures are expected starting in 2025.)

Current Work Activities:

- Onsite crusher and batch plant testing began in September 2023.
- Crusher plant operation is underway.
- Batch plant assembly and testing is ongoing.
- A temporary batch plant is located at the base of the dam and produces concrete for dam foundation preparation.
- Quarry development continues, which will create rocks and sand for concrete production.
- Construction site development is ongoing.
- Drilling and blasting activities support site development, dam foundation preparation and quarry excavation.
- Dam foundation preparation is creating a stable base for the expanded dam. This is separate from the main dam structure.
- Dam face preparation is using ultra high-pressure water to remove the top layer of the dam face.
- Nighttime hauling continues between where Gross Dam Road crosses South Boulder Creek and the T-intersection by Gross Reservoir Headquarters. From 6 p.m. to 5 a.m., Monday through Saturday, flaggers will direct traffic through the area.
- Roadway improvements on Gross Dam Road began in March 2023.

Completed Work:

Intersection improvements at Highway 72 and Gross Dam Road began in February 2023. The new intersection alignment was opened on June 26.

[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/>

Location: west of the intersection of Shadow Mountain Drive and Sunlight Lane.

Case Number: 23-102980RZ Pre-App Meeting Date: Apr 29, 2022

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

Status: Currently in 1st Referral process. Applicants received comments from County in June, have 180 days to respond.

Conifer Town Hall Meeting video ~ 37 min, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9O7QVzVstC8>

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 News & Events

<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 Event Calendar

JCOS Newsletters

Jeffco Open Space Master Calendar

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

Observatory Night

October 20, 2023, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM @ Pine Valley Ranch Park

JCOS Nature Journal Club: Autumn Journaling

October 21, 2023, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM @ Lookout Mountain Preserve and Nature Center

Hiwan Halloween

October 27, 2023, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Free, all ages!

Drop in for some family fun at Hiwan. Join us for a costume parade, crafts, games, light refreshments, and museum tours. Parade at 5:30

Jeffco Fairgrounds

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

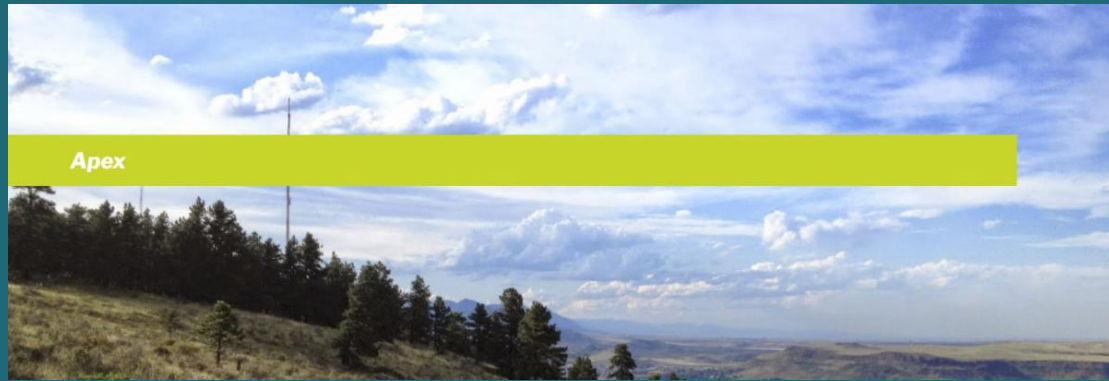
Please check the Fairgrounds website calendar for detailed event information.

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.

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