



PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



Photo courtesy of Larry Caine, 2007

The PLAN Jeffco Monthly December 2023

*May your days be filled with peace,
hope, and joy this Holiday Season
Warmest thoughts for a safe &
healthy 2024*

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.

For more information on PLAN Jeffco go to our website

<https://planjeffco.org>

What's New in the Blogosphere?

Founders Sign Removed from Open Space Park

Early this year Jefferson County Open Space quietly removed without replacing an interpretive sign that had stood for about 20 years as a tribute to the visionaries whose genius and hard work launched PLAN Jeffco and created the Open Space Park system...

<https://planjeffco.org/founders-sign-removed-from-open-space-park/>

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

If you're a fan of the Clear Creek Canyon Open Space Park, then you'll be awed by the beauty of the segment between Tunnel 1 & Huntsman Gulch...

<https://youtu.be/uekCsycO2A>

December, the end of the year, the month of our Winter Solstice. As we rest in quiet and contemplative moments, give some thought to giving back. 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!

Renew My Membership

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!

PLAN Jeffco Board Meeting Minutes - November'23

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

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-11-16-2023/>



Photo courtesy of Christopher Smith, circa 2020

Our Conservation Partners

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

<https://www.birdconservancy.org>

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

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

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

Colorado Open Lands

<https://coloradoopenlands.org/>

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

South Platte Mitigation Bank now complete

by Leslie Volkar | Nov 16, 2023

Colorado Open Lands is pleased to announce we've just completed our fifth mitigation bank conservation easement project! This property in Morgan County consists of 197 acres owned by the State Land Board, which owns and manages land to earn money for Colorado public schools. The property contains the confluence of the Milliron Draw and the South Platte River, and includes over half a mile of the latter. Habitat is provided for bald eagles, turkeys, white-tailed deer, and migrating waterfowl. In protecting the land and creating the mitigation bank, restoration and enhancement work will begin to reconnect former wetland areas that have been impacted by sediment deposits from past floods. Invasive species will be removed, and native vegetation will be planted. This will improve the floodplain and ecological function of the wetlands and provide improved habitat. The State Land Board was a project partner.

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

Get the Colorado Open Lands Fall 2023 Newsletter at <https://coloradoopenlands.org/publications/>

Mountain Area Land Trust

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

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

Wonderhaven in Boulder Permanently Protected

Posted on December 14, 2023

Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT) is pleased to announce the closing of a voluntary Conservation

Easement on a unique property in a densely populated community within the Rural North Boulder neighborhood in the City of Boulder.

The owners, Tim and Kerry Francis, founded Wonderhaven in 2014[,] establishing a half-acre garden on their 5-acre parcel. Over the last 9 years, they have grown the garden into a center of social connection for the community. The property is known by many locals as Dharma's Garden. Dharma was the name given to a baby deer born on the land in 2011, to the wonderment of the kindergarten students next door and is a constant reminder of the beauty of the meadow grasses around the garden.

During the growing season, Tim and Kerry run an onsite market, host school field trips, volunteer opportunities and hands-on educational workshops that highlight the property's natural resources. Wonderhaven's scenic wildland meadow is further characterized by Wonderland Creek, which bisects the entire property, providing crucial riparian habitat.

"Wonderhaven is truly a special place, as it is located in the heart of a highly developed area. Large swaths of land like this are rare within Boulder's city limits. MALT is honored to work with Tim and Kerry...their stewardship of this beautiful community garden, education center and haven for wildlife, as a lasting legacy for future generations, is a testament to their strong commitment for land and water conservation," says MALT Executive Director Lynn Caligiuri.

Land Conservation Success Near Staunton State Park

Posted on November 30, 2023

Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT) is pleased to announce a new private voluntary Conservation Easement adjacent to the southern boundary of Staunton State Park.

This beautiful property has views of "Lion's Head," the highest peak at the park and a popular hiking destination. Elk Creek runs through the property year-round, offering significant wildlife habitat, water access and outstanding biodiversity.

This unique natural area includes wildlife habitat for elk, mule deer, moose, the southern red-backed vole, pygmy shrew, snowshoe hare, white-tailed jackrabbit, Abert's squirrel and lynx, among many others. Ponderosa pines are plentiful on the upper part of the land, with firs, spruces and unusual rock formations along the creek.

The owner, Carol Phelps, and her late husband Bob have owned the 12-acre property for more than three decades and treasure the natural beauty of the area.

Carol shares, "I have such a special property, and it is in a vulnerable place. I really wanted to have all the animals, the plants, the fishes and all the other living things, and all the spirits that went before, to know that this land is preserved and protected forever. My late husband Bob would have wished for this with all his heart."

"MALT is honored to work with Carol to honor the legacy of her husband Bob, and their passion for conserving the beautiful property that they have been stewarding for over a generation," says MALT Executive Director Lynn Caligiuri.

Keep It Colorado

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

Press Releases & Announcements

[KEEP IT COLORADO Awards \\$260,000 for Voluntary Conservation Projects](#)

[Ducks Unlimited Advances Wetlands Conservation via KIC'S Grant Program](#)

[Eight in 10 Coloradans Would Vote to Protect More Land, Water and Wildlife Habitat](#)

Douglas Land Conservancy

<https://douglaslandconservancy.org/>

Public properties: <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/public-properties/>

Upcoming events: <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/events/>

DLC photo contest 2023: <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/natural-note-card-contest/>

DLC gallery: <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/gallery/>

**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>

Construction is underway. Blast notifications are being issued, usually early in the morning of the day during which afternoon blasting will take place.

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/>

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 II 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 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 Newsletters](#)

Jeffco Open Space Master Calendar

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

[JCOS Nature Journal Club: Winter Nature Journaling](#)

January 20, 2024, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM @ Lookout Mountain Preserve and Nature Center

[More Details](#)

[Drill Into Ice Fishing](#)

January 27, 2024, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM @ Pine Valley Ranch Park

[More Details](#)

[Drill Into Ice Fishing](#)

January 28, 2024, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM @ Pine Valley Ranch

[More Details](#)

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>



Clear Creek Canyon

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](#)

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[Unsubscribe mpoolet@gmail.com](mailto:mpoolet@gmail.com)

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