



PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



The PLAN Jeffco Monthly June 2024

Happy Summer Solstice! The longest day of the year – for those of us in the Northern Hemisphere – has made it possible to start your morning hikes between 4:30 and 5 am. Jeffco Open Space Parks are open one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset, so use those hours to enjoy the park experience.

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?

Me, My Dog & the Great Outdoors

Sharing the outdoors with your dog—it’s one of the most enjoyable things a dog-lover can do. When you’re in the Jeffco Open Space parks, there are rules, and it’s important to know and follow them. <https://planjeffco.org/me-my-dog-the-great-outdoors/>

SLASH is Back 2024 Schedule

Now’s the time to get rid of all that slash, all those branches that you’ve collected overwinter, as you’ve mitigated your property. Get the full schedule at <https://planjeffco.org/slash-is-back-2024-schedule/>

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](#)



Other New Stuff on the Website

We ask for your patience as we work through a long-needed review and rework of our website...and it's taking longer that we'd hoped!

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

PLAN Jeffco June Board Meeting Minutes 6/20/2023 – DRAFT

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-6-20-2024-draft/>

PLAN Jeffco May Board Meeting Minutes 5/16/2023 – FINAL

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-5-16-2024-final/>

PLAN Jeffco April Board Meeting Minutes 4/18/2023 – FINAL

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-4-18-2024/>

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

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – May 2024

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

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – April 2024

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

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – March 2024

<https://planjeffco.org/plan-jeffco-monthly-mar-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 either 4:30 or 6:00 PM.

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

May 6, 2024, OSAC in the field – location not posted, no agenda, no information shared.

Open Space Activities

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](#)

Leave No Trace: Plan Ahead and Prepare <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKLzpa0H-E>

Kittredge Park Land Exchange: completed. Kittredge Park, acquired by JCOS in 1986, was leased to the Evergreen Park & Rec District (EPRD), to be managed as a place of outdoor enjoyment for community members and visitors. Kittredge Park is bounded on the south side by Bear Creek. Over the years, the Bear Creek channel has shifted, requiring the need to adjust the south park boundary. JCOS has been able to settle with two property owners on the other side of Bear Creek. This land exchange has resulted in sustained public access to Bear Creek, and has clearly defined the public and private lands around the creek. The public areas will be defined by fencing, and EPRD will enhance a loop trail leading from the park down to Bear Creek's north shoreline.

National Trails Day, June 1. On that day, 76 volunteers came out to Mt. Falcon Park for National Trails Day to work on the Meadow View Trail. It now has a usable section that can accommodate visitors with disabilities. Volunteers were able to move 185 tons of road base, remove 24 bags of noxious weeds, and plant over 20 native shrubs and plants. The Natural Resources and Trails Teams successfully and safely lead volunteers in this exceptional effort.

JCOS Heritage Stewardship Team & Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society Field Trip. These two groups had a joint field trip to the Molly Brown House Museum, where the museum Director showed how they aim to increase accessibility for those with disabilities. The groups studied the permanent and temporary exhibits, the collection storage areas, their artifact inventory, and how they care for their collections. All teams benefited from the new connections in the cultural heritage field, with ideas for tour interpretation, innovative programming, creative exhibits and improved collection care, especially at the Hiwan Museum.

Archaeology in the Parks: On May 9 and 10, the JCOS Archaeologist assisted Metcalf Archaeological Consultants and the Golden History Museum with the "Digging the Past" activity station at Golden Discovery Days. Over 1,300 folks attended, and students got to

excavate historic artifacts from buckets of dirt left by people from the “past” and infer what their findings could tell them.

First Adventure Club at Clear Creek Canyon Park: This year, six Human Services caseworkers, one Jeffco Public School chaperone, and four JCOS team members hiked 3 miles from the Gateway Trailhead to view wildlife in the canyon. Seen on the hike was one rattlesnake, a golden eagle, and some bighorn sheep.

Railroad Camp Ruins: the JCOS Archaeologist supported the Boulder OSMP archaeologist with the analysis of a Railroad Camp occupied from 1902 to 1904. The area was used for recreational camping for numerous years after the railroad was constructed. Several rock wall alignments were found with little to no artifacts. By conducting research testing, perhaps more can be revealed about the lives of the railroad workers and campers that traversed the area 120 years ago.

Edgewater Pride Parade: On June 1, JCOS rocked the Edgewater Pride Parade with some help from JCPH, Facilities, and friends who are in the LGBTQ Affinity Group! Everyone danced their way down the streets of Edgewater to the tunes of The Village People and Queen on a JCOS float bursting with PRIDE!

Adaptive Mountain Bike Rides at Elk Meadow: On May 18, JCOS, along with Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, The Lockwood Foundation, and the National Sports Center for the Disabled, facilitated adaptive mountain bike rides for 15 riders with disabilities at Elk Meadow Park. Riders were able to choose from a wide variety of adaptive bikes, which they then took on rides on the completed usable trail.

Jeffco Open Space Construction Updates

Elk Meadow Park: Lewis Ridge Trailhead. The Park Construction Team has installed a new park trailhead sign and a brand-new kiosk by the bathrooms. Road & Bridge also continues to make improvements to the parking lot, increasing capacity and improving drainage. Final improvements to the surfacing will take place in 2025. Starting July 8, portions of Elk Meadow Park, including the Stagecoach Trailhead, will be closed for forest health management through the spring of 2025. Affected trails include Meadow View, Sleepy S, Elk Ridge, Elk Summit, Ever So Green, and Bergen Peak Trails.

Pine Valley Ranch Park: Narrow Gauge Slabs - The contractor, Boulder Climbing Community Trails Team (BCC), completed the Narrow Gauge Slabs climbing project on June 8th. The JCOS Trails Team and hardy Volunteers are still working, quarrying and splitting rocks to use in retaining walls and rock steps.

Welchester Grant Tree Park. 37 fourth-grade students, their teachers and parent assistants participated in the annual Welchester Elementary School Stewardship Day. Each student removed an area of invasive species, planted a native plant, mulched, and watered it. The students also went on a scavenger hunt regarding ecosystems accompanied by JCOS' Nature Center educators.

Parking Lot Repairs: Park Services, Trails, and Park Construction Teams have been collaborating on parking lot repairs before the rush of summer. Repairs happened at Lair o' the Bear, Elk Meadow Stagecoach trailhead, Alderfer/Three Sisters west trailhead, and Meyer Ranch.

Fire Preparedness Training: Open Space Wildland Fire Team (OSWFT) was one of several agencies assisting Eagle Valley Wildland on a prescribed burn in the town of Eagle, CO for three days in April that burned over 100 acres. Additionally, OSWFT members attended a multi-agency wildfire training at Genesee Mountain Park. Hosted by Foothills Fire, there were 13 agencies in attendance and over 80 firefighters. The training focused on important skills like structure triage, pump/water operations, digging/creating fire breaks, air operations, and fire lookout.



Lair o' the Bear

County News & Happenings

Jeffco Open Space Calendar <https://www.jeffco.us/calendar.aspx?CID=26#next>

CANCELLED – Observatory Open House , June 29, 1-4PM at Pine Valley Ranch Park

Evening Range Talk with S'mores: Bear Essentials – Wednesday, July 24th, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Lair O'the Bear Park.
[Registration required.](#)

Jeffco Open Space Plans & Projects <https://www.jeffco.us/1585/Plans-Projects>

Jeffco Fairgrounds – CSU Extension <https://www.jeffco.us/calendar.aspx?CID=27>

ENOR drop-off and pick-up, daily, 7:30 AM and 5 PM at Barn 1

Westernaires warm-up and cool-down, 7AM – 5PM at Silver Spur Arena

Please check the JCOS Master Calendar for more 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>

Our Conservation Partners

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

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

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

Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX) app adds new wildfire alert feature for outdoor recreationists <https://trails.colorado.gov>

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>

Jefferson Conservation District

<https://www.jeffersoncd.com/news-events>

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

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

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies had their fund-raiser **Block Party** at Odell Brewing in Fort Collins on Thursday, June 13th.

2023 Annual Report is available at <https://www.birdconservancy.org/resource-center/reports/2023annualreport/>

2023 Financial Statement is available at <https://www.birdconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Bird-Conservancy-of-the-Rockies-2023-Financial-Statements.pdf>

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

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/>

Denver Audubon

<https://denveraudubon.org>

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

What We're About at <https://denveraudubon.org/about-us/>

Denver Audubon Blog at <https://denveraudubon.org/blog/>

Colorado Open Lands

<https://coloradoopenlands.org/>

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

Westcliffe's Bluff Park: Bluff Park is located at the end of Main Street, downtown Westcliffe. Originally slated to be developed into a hotel or strip mall, the 10.2 acre park, which is a community picnicking and gathering place that overlooks the Sangre de Cristo mountains, has been permanently protected as public open space.

James and Lindsey Paine Ranch: This 857 acre ranch in Conejos County, northwest of Antonito, is owned by a young conservation-minded couple who inherited acreage from family, then acquired additional contiguous acreage. They will farm and graze cattle on this conservation easement, which also protects the water rights from the threat of export to far-off municipalities, while providing habitat for elk, deer, pronghorn, and multiple federally threatened and endangered avian and amphibian species.

Newsletters and Publications <https://coloradoopenlands.org/publications/>

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

Mountain Area Land Trust

<https://savetheland.org/news/> <https://www.facebook.com/MountainAreaLandTrustCO>

Spring 2024 Newsletter <https://savetheland.org/spring-2024-newsletter/>

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

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.

Action Alert: SB24-126, a bill to enhance the Conservation Easement Tax Credit Program – introduced,

passed, signed into law on May 20th. This new law strengthens and creates greater sustainability for private land conservation. Among other things, the new law adds another \$5 million to the state's tax credit coffers – creating even more incentives for Coloradans who choose to protect land in perpetuity. [Read the fact sheet here.](#)

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>

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Douglas Land Conservancy

<https://douglaslandconservancy.org/>

16th Annual JA Ranch Sunset BBQ, Saturday, August 24th, 4PM to whenever, Larkspur, CO.
Tickets go on sale at 8AM MDT on Friday, July 12th.

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://www.cityofgolden.gov>

Clear Creek Flag Status at Red: Red flag status, Clear Creek is closed for swimming and tubing. Only experienced kayakers and other vessels should be on the creek. Users should wear protective gear and be able to rescue themselves in the water. High caution should be used in the water.

Vegetation Management. The city has begun conducting vegetation management along West Fork Kinney Run from 24th upstream to Fossil Trace Golf Club. This effort, involving the Drainage Maintenance Division, Forestry Division, and Fire Department, aims to maintain channel capacity and remove potential wildfire fuel. An all-terrain excavator will be used for this work. Its design allows operation in steep terrains with minimal disruption.

Peaks-to-Plains Trail (P2P) downtown Golden alternatives <https://www.guidinggolden.com/p2p-downtown-golden>

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/>

Mary Ann Bonnell, Natural Resources Director for Jeffco, conducted an evening wildlife walk through Kinney Run on June 26th.

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

Front Range Trails Conservancy

<https://frtrails.org/>

A nonprofit that protects and advances public lands along Colorado's Front Range by effecting equitable, effective, and lasting change through trail and advocacy projects.

Trail building & maintenance schedule: <https://frtrails.org/projects>

SOLVE (Save Open Lands, Vistas and the Environment)

PLAN Jeffco's sister organization in Clear Creek County

<http://www.solveccc.org>

SOLVE member meeting third Tuesday of every month, 6:30 pm, United Center, Idaho Springs CO

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](#)

WANT TO SUPPORT OUR WORK?

Join or Renew Your Membership



WATCH THIS SPACE...Local Goings-on

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/>

Gross Reservoir Updates

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

Gross Dam Road is open for public use: Gross Dam Road is a private road that the public is allowed to use when it can be done safely and without impacting operations. Should the road need to be closed in the future, there will be an email, a post on Nextdoor, and an update on the [project MyMap](#).

Recreation Updates for 2024 Season: On-water recreation is open. The free boating shuttle runs Fri. – Mon., 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Note: Gross Dam Rd is closed from the T-intersection at Gross HQ to Flagstaff Rd. Fisherman's parking lot is also closed. These areas are expected to reopen by June 15. [View the Recreation website](#) for most up-to-date information.

Workers begin raising the dam at Gross Reservoir . [Take an animated tour of the unique construction process.](#)

Stay up to date at <https://www.denverwater.org/grossreservoir/news>

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/>

Status: still in 3rd Referral, no expiration date indicated.

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

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>

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 US

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