



PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



The PLAN Jeffco Monthly August 2024

It's the height of the summer season, so make sure you have water and sunscreen with you when you visit the parks – and be prepared for thundershowers in the afternoon. 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?

Miles and Miles of Trails <https://planjeffco.org/miles-and-miles-of-trails/>

PLAN Jeffco Monthly July 2024 <https://planjeffco.org/plan-jeffco-monthly-july-2024/>

The Invasives – Poison Hemlock & Cow Parsley <https://planjeffco.org/the-invasives-poison-hemlock-cow-parsley/>

Leave No Trace: Travel on Durable Surfaces [\(video\)](#)

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

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

PLAN Jeffco August Board Meeting Minutes 8/15/2024 – DRAFT
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-8-15-2024-draft/>

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

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – July 2024
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-july-2024/>

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – June 2024
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-june-2024/>

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – May 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: <https://www.jeffco.us/1581/Advisory-Committee>

Thursday, September 5, 2024. 6PM. Ponderosa Room, Jeffco Open Space, 700 Jefferson County Pkwy, Golden.

Thursday, November 7, 2024. 6PM. Ponderosa Room, Jeffco Open Space, 700 Jefferson County Pkwy, Golden.

Find all available past meeting documents & videos at <https://www.jeffco.us/4528/Past-Meeting-Videos-and-Documents>

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](#)

Quarry Fire at Deer Creek Canyon Park. On Tuesday, July 30 around 10 p.m., a fire started in Deer Creek Canyon Park, next to Deer Creek Canyon Road south of the old quarry. By Wednesday morning, South Valley Park and Hildebrand Ranch Park were also closed for active fire operations in what became the Quarry Fire. Reynolds Park was closed on Thursday, August 1 because portions of the park were located in the pre-evacuation zone. The Jeffco Open Space Wildland Fire Team (OSWFT) was activated immediately and was a vital part of the operations throughout the week. JCOS activated the volunteer Fire Awareness Team (FAT) to help staff closures and provide visitor safety and resource protection stewardship education contacts. As of this writing, all parks except for Deer Creek have been reopened.

Colorado Day Volunteer Event. Colorado became the 38th State of the Union on August 1st, 1876 – hence the nickname, the Centennial State. On August 3rd of this year, JCOS mounted a volunteer and team effort for trail maintenance on North Table Mountain Park, Rimrock Trail.

Mountain Bike Courtesy Efforts. JCOS Visitor Services Park Permit team, Rangers and high school coaches have implemented a trail and safety orientation for student athletes for the 2024 season. The purpose of the program is to instill in these young riders the concept of safety and courtesy towards all park visitors. Those who have completed the orientation can be identified by a light blue, credit-card-sized card attached to their bikes.

Data Blitz. July 27th was the day that 39 volunteers (including yours truly), stationed at 13 different park entry locations, counted numbers and types of visitors to better understand park visitation and recreation choices.

Heritage Stewardship Team Field Trip. The JCOS Heritage Stewardship team joined with Denver Mountain Parks and Boulder's Open Space & Mountain Parks staff to visit the recently closed Echo Lake Lodge & Summit Lake Park. JCOS will be partnering with DMP and City of Fort Collins at this year's COSA conference for a panel session discussing Integrated Resource Management: Balancing the Protection of Heritage and Natural Resources.

ENOR summer camp is a wrap. The 2024 ENOR summer camp was a success. Four weeks of camp, 236 campers on week-long adventures, exploring and learning about local open space and state parks.

Fire Ecology and Landscaping. Join the community class on August 20 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. to learn about fire ecology and landscaping to safeguard against wildfires. Our experts will discuss the vital role of native plants and ecosystem management in fire prevention. Discover practical techniques to design and maintain fire-resistant landscapes around your home. Arm yourself with knowledge to protect your property and contribute to the resilience of our community. [Enroll in this FREE class](#) held at the Jeffco CSU Extension office and become a steward of fire-safe living.

Jeffco Open Space Construction Updates

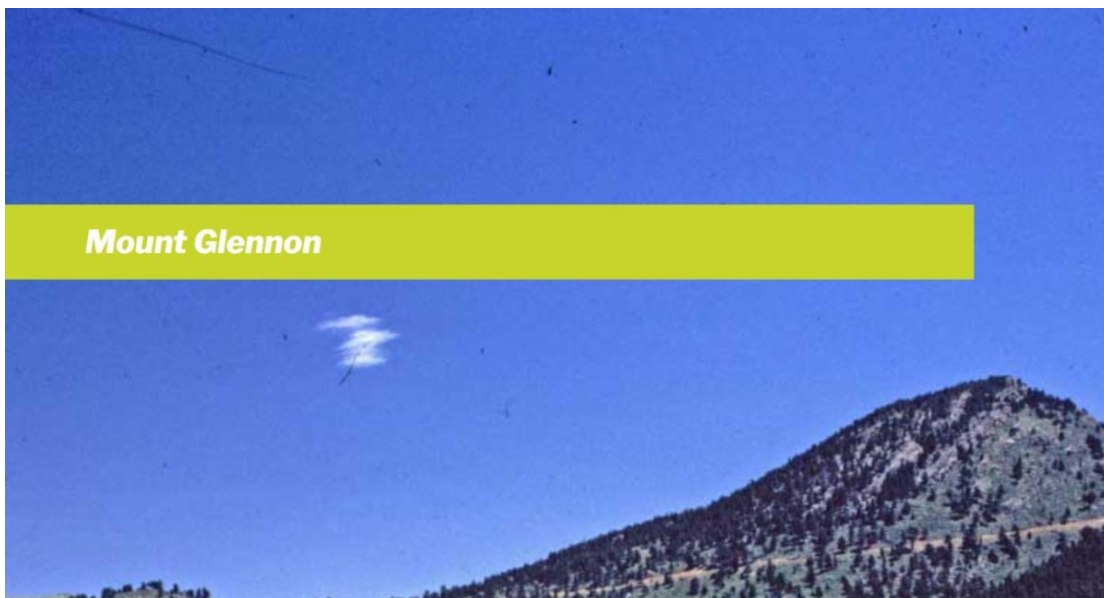
Windy Saddle Park, Mount Zion Trail. Construction of the Mount Zion Trail is complete. This steep and previously highly eroded trail is secured by 350 slabs of Cottonwood limestone. There will be continued revegetation & weed management throughout the season, but the trail is now open for use.

Alderfer/Three Sisters Park trail improvements. Forest management work has been completed; now the trails are being restored to their original condition by the JCOS Trails Team. Full access to Alderfer/Three Sisters should be happen soon.

Clear Creek Trail construction milestone. The Clear Creek Trail, formerly known as the Peaks to Plains Trail, has three new bridges, which were installed about a mile west of Tunnel 1. These bridges were installed during the day, necessitating only short traffic holds on Highway 6, unlike other bridges, which necessitated a full closure of the highway. The new bridges have the same bowstring truss designation as the existing bridges, with “out lookers” in the middle of the spans, and all are vehicular rated.

Pine Valley Ranch, Narrow Gauge Climbing Crag. Work is progressing on the Narrow Gauge Slabs. Thirty-three steps have been built into the largest rock staircase, a few more need to be installed. Additionally, a large rock retaining wall on the easternmost end of the route will be built. Weather permitting, this project should be completed by the end of August.

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.



County News & Happenings

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

Jeffco Fairgrounds – CSU Extension <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>

TOGETHER JEFFCO

<https://togetherjeffco.com/>

Together Jeffco is a two-year process which combines efforts to update the Comprehensive Plan (CP), Transportation and Mobility Plan (TMP), Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Evacuation Annex (CEMP EA), and development regulations to create a Unified Land Use Code (ULUC).

Here's what has happened or is happening now:

Another meeting was held with our Stakeholders to present draft goals for the Comprehensive Plan (CP) and Transportation & Mobility Plan (TMP), revised land use maps for the CP, draft strategies for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and a draft Evacuation Annex (EA).

Additional staff review of goals, policies, graphics and callouts for the Comprehensive Plan are underway.

Over 400 transportation projects have been identified for prioritization. Additional goal[s] and policies are being developed for the TMP.

The draft CWPP is currently undergoing review by the CWPP-EA Advisory Committee.

The EA has been reviewed by key stakeholders and staff and will be released for broad public review at the same time as the draft CWPP.

Next in the process:

In early September look for the draft CWPP and EA to be sent out for comments during a 14-day public notification period. Any comments to those documents will be gathered and incorporated as applicable. Finalization of the EA and signatures on the CWPP signifying adoption are anticipated in early October. There are no public hearings associated with the adoption of those plans.

In mid-October, the draft CP and TMP will be presented at public outreach meetings. Please note that this is a slight delay from our previous emails. The last Questionnaire will also be sent out at that time as the meetings and drafts will be posted on the website for comments. After comments are reviewed and incorporated as applicable, the Planning Commission will hold a hearing to review the plans. We are anticipating this to occur in early December.

In regard to the regulation revisions, also known as the Unified Land Use Code (ULUC), the County has selected the law firm of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP to continue with the regulation revisions.

Our Conservation Partners

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

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

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

Thinking about doing some **big game hunting** this fall? [Get your licenses now](#). Hunting in our Jeffco Open Space parks is strictly limited and requires both a CPW hunting license and permit to hunt in a Jeffco Open Space Park. Permits are available only from CPW.

Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX) app adds new wildfire alert feature for outdoor recreationists

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>

Trail Feathers Bird Outing, Riverside Park, Scottsbluff NE, August 10 @ 8:00 am - 10:00 am MDT. Registration required, A Night for the Birds: Friday, Oct. 18, 6-9PM at Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO 80205. The annual celebration of all things birding! [Get your tickets today!](#)

Fall Birding Festival at Barr Lake State Park, 9/14

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/>

13th Annual HOOTenanny Owl and Music Festival, September 28th. [Tickets on sale now.](#)

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>

National Wildlife Day Webinar, Wednesday, 9/24. [Registration required.](#)

Conserved Property Visit & Hike, Fairplay, Friday, 9/27. [Additional details, registration required.](#)

Conservation Exploration – A family-friendly open house, Wheat Ridge, Saturday, 10/09. [For more information go here.](#)

2024 Conserved Colorado Guide, 2024 summer guide that directs readers to local products and services from, and recreation opportunities on, conserved land across the state.

[Download here.](#)

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>

June 6th, MALT announced that 151 acres called “Rocky Top” in southern Jeffco has been placed under conservation easement. This brings the total amount of land under conservation easement to 1100 acres along Pleasant Park Road, Ridge Road and Kuester Road in Conifer/Littleton. [Read more here.](#)

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 has received over \$1.5 million to advance conservation efforts. These funds will be

used to help members with transaction, planning, capacity and community engagement support under two programs: the Transaction Cost Assistance Program and Organizational Advancement. On June 21, GOCO voted to approve an investment of \$1.45 million; Ducks Unlimited-Colorado contributed \$75,000. [Read more about these exciting investments.](#)

Rally 2024: The National Land Conservation Conference Friday 9/27 & Saturday 9/28.
[Read more here.](#)

Annual Policy Summit, October 2. [Read more 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/>

2024 Hops Hike: August 30, 5-7 pm. Join DLC, 105 West Brewing Co, and one of our fabulous landowners to harvest wild hops! We'll walk around the property picking ripe hops, then 105 will take our bounty and create a special DLC brew that will be on tap at the pub for everyone to enjoy. This is a summer favorite, and we'll be going out in the evening this year to allow as many interested folks as possible to attend! [Registration required.](#)

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>

Events calendar: all events are posted on the [Golden Events Calendar](#).

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

Stewards of Golden Open Space

<https://stewardsofgolden.org/>

Map of the Golden Open Space Parks – [click here](#).

[Biological Survey of Golden Open Space Survey, Colorado Natural Heritage Program \(pdf\)](#)

[Common Native Plants of the Greater Golden Area \(pdf\)](#)

[Golden Rocks: The Geology and Mining History of Golden, Colorado \(pdf\)](#)

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 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 meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM in-person, United

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](#)



Mount Lindo

WATCH THIS SPACE...Local Goings-on

Denver Water is in the process of transferring 45 miles of the 71-mile-long High Line Canal to Arapahoe County. The canal winds through 11 jurisdictions, from Waterton Canyon in Douglas County to northeast Aurora. The High Line Canal Conservancy, formed in 2014 to protect the canal, will hold the conservation easement for the 45 miles given to Arapahoe

County, ensuring that the canal will be maintained as an open space park and trail, and will never be developed. https://denvergazette.com/outtherecolorado/aurora/denver-water-high-line-canal-arapahoe-county-conservation-easement/article_e7418bbe-2f3a-11ef-8424-c3a7173bac88.html

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>

Blast notices are being sent out the mornings of schedule blast activities. For addition information go to <https://www.denverwater.org/grossreservoir>
Gross Dam Road is open for public use, [read more here](#).

Stay up to date: <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: Hearings Scheduled. PC hearing date 9/11/24. BCC hearing date 10/01/24.

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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