



# PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



## The PLAN Jeffco Monthly July 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?

### The Invasives – Poison Hemlock & Cow Parsley

Poison Hemlock v. Cow Parsley — can you tell the difference? Here's an article written for Foothills Living Magazine; we've been given permission to post as a public service.

<https://planjeffco.org/the-invasives-poison-hemlock-cow-parsley/>

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](mailto:ContactUs@PLANJeffco.org)

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

**Join or Renew My Membership**



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## **Other New Stuff on the Website**

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

PLAN Jeffco June Board Meeting Minutes 7/20/2023 – DRAFT

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-upcoming-agenda-2024-07-20/>

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

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

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

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

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

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – June 2024

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

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – May 2024

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/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 July 11, 2024, 6PM. 700 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 100, Golden**  
**[Agenda PDF](#). [Video link](#).**

**Action Item:** 2025 Jeffco Open Space Budget Recommendation, Resolution #24-14, Nikki Holmlund. Lengthy discussion. Motion to approve, seconded, unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Plains Metropolitan District - Deer Creek Golf Course Land Conservation Partnership Program JCOS24-07, Resolution #24-11, Hillary Merritt. Requested 25% contribution, normal for this type of program. Currently an unused golf course, hope to repurpose it into a nature preserve. Motion to approve, seconded, unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Van Bibber Greenway –Mooney Agreement JCOS24-11, Resolution #24-12, Hillary Merritt. An easement to access the Mooney property, Mooney family to install and maintain an entry gate, perimeter fence and needed improvements within the easement area. Motion to approve, seconded, unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Crown Hill Park – SCI Colorado Funeral Services, LLC Easement JCOS23-01, Resolution #24-13, Hillary Merritt. Easement for installation and maintenance of a water pipeline from the pump station near Crown Hill Reservoir to the Olinger Crown Hill Cemetery. Motion to approve, seconded, unanimously approved.

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

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## Open Space Activities

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### 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKLzpa0H-_E)

**2024 National Trails Day.** National Trails Day, June 1st, Mount Falcon Park, 75+ volunteers worked on the Meadow View Trail to make a portion of it accessible to some visitors with disabilities. The volunteers used 185 tons of road base for the trail, removed 24 bags of noxious weeds, and planted 20+ native shrubs and forbs.

**Evergreen Rodeo Parade.** Six Volunteer Park Hosts and JCOS staffers took part in the Evergreen Rodeo parade in mid-June.

**Summer Social at Hiwan.** The JCOS Heritage Stewardship Team managed and hosted the Denver Art Museum's All Docent Summer Social at Hiwan Heritage Park & Museum. Joining with the Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society, the Heritage Stewardship Team staffed an outdoor station showcasing special relevant artifacts, answering guests' questions, and recruiting potential volunteers. These two

organizations jointly operate Hiwan, working enthusiastically to preserve the heritage of the Jeffco Open Space Parks.

**Low Flam Garden Jam.** CSU Extension is hosting a Living Wildfire Ready low-flammability garden at the Lookout Mountain Preserve. Monday, August 5, 5-7PM, Lookout Mountain Nature Center, 910 Colorow Road, Golden. No reservations required.

**Pine Valley Ranch Park - Beahr Observatory.** JCOS is hosting monthly evening open houses at the Beahr Observatory. New this year is the telescope operator volunteer program. [Reservations required.](#)

### **Jeffco Open Space Construction Updates**

**Mount Galbraith Parking Management.** The JCOS Park Services team installed 40 "no parking" delineators along Golden Gate Canyon Road to discourage roadside parking congestion near the trailhead. Long term plans for trailhead parking improvement are still in the planning stage.

**Elk Meadow Park CBS News.** Alan Gionet from CBS News met with Jefferson County Open Space to discuss the [upcoming work at Elk Meadow Park.](#)

**Windy Saddle Mount Zion Trail.** Construction work on this steep and highly eroded section has turned the trail into one that is eminently walkable by installing 350 slabs of Cottonwood limestone. Re-vegetation and weed management will be ongoing along the trail corridor.

**Alderfer/Three Sisters Trail Improvements.** There will be ongoing trail cleanup and maintenance at this park, following the recently completed forest management work. Please check Alerts & Closures before heading to Alderfer/Three Sisters to ensure your preferred trail will be accessible.

**Hildebrand & South Valley Haying Operations.** JCOS has retained the contractor used last year to cut and bale hay in these parks. Cutting back the early season grasses helps reduce fire risk and allows the native warm-season grasses to flourish with less competition. JCOS will also be applying targeted weed treatments to the non-native species. Haying equipment will be staged near the Hildebrand barn. Operations will be weather-dependent.



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## **County News & Happenings**

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

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

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

## Our Conservation Partners

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### Colorado Parks and Wildlife

<https://cpw.state.co.us>      <https://www.facebook.com/CoParksWildlife>

Colorado Parks and Wildlife seeks public feedback on the draft Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan through 8/06/24. <https://engagecpw.org/statewide-comprehensive-outdoor-recreation-plan>

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>

- Geneva Glen 3 project, corner of Meadow Drive & Pine Lane, North Turkey Creek, CO.
- Blue Creek 2 project, corner of Bell Ranch Road & Blue Creek Road, Evergreen Meadows, CO.
- Arnett Ranch Road project, corner of Arnett Ranch Road & Pleasant Park Road, Pleasant Park Corridor, CO
- Kings Valley project, Kings Valley, CO, off Highway 285

### 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, <https://bit.ly/BCRne24>  
For more information contact [delanie.bruce@birdconservancy.org](mailto:delanie.bruce@birdconservancy.org) or 308-633-1013

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>

**Community Conservation Hike**, Kenosha Pass, hwy 285, August 2, 2024, [registration required.](#)

**Riparian Reconnect Field Work at Crooked Creek, Pike-Isabel National Forest.** COL has been working with EcoMetrics, the Park County Land & Water Trust Fund, the National Fish &

Wildlife Foundation, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board to rebuild an abandoned beaver dam, in order to re-saturate the surrounding wetlands. Riverscape restoration techniques aim to enhance riparian and wetland areas, to the benefit of the finned, furred and feathered inhabitants.

**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>

**Floyd Hill Meadow Open Space clean up.** Monday, 8/14, 8:30 AM - noon. MALT wants to make the area friendly and safe for wildlife and neighbors, is seeking help with removal of barbed wire fencing, trash pick-up, pulling weeds, moving debris to an onsite dump truck. Sign up by contacting [malt@savetheland.org](mailto:malt@savetheland.org) or (303) 679-0950.

**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.](#)

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 - 8PM, Larkspur, CO.  
[Limited tickets still available.](#)

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>

**Buffalo Bill Days:** July 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Peaks-to-Plains Trail downtown Golden alternatives,** public open house #2, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7PM, Council Chamber, City Hall, 911 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Golden <https://www.guidinggolden.com/p2p-downtown-golden>

**SLASH Collection and distribution options** <https://www.cityofgolden.net/city-services/yard-waste-collection/>

**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>

## Front Range Trails Conservancy

<https://frtrails.org/>

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>

Save the Date: Fall Foliage Relay Race, 1<sup>st</sup> 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](#)

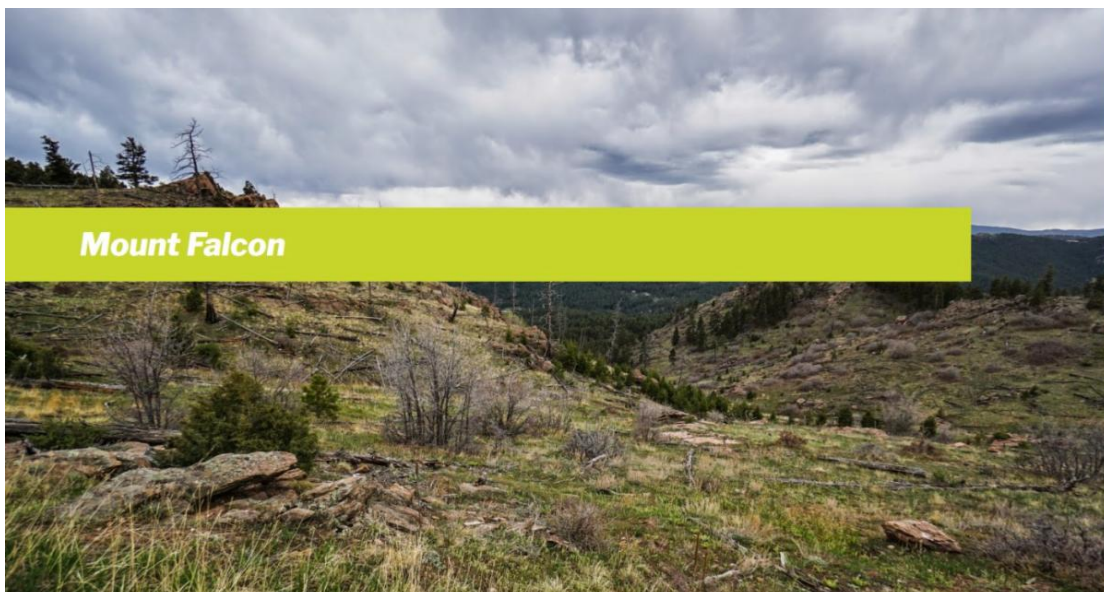
[Bird Conservancy of the Rockies](#)

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

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## WANT TO SUPPORT OUR WORK?

[Join or Renew Your Membership](#)



# WATCH THIS SPACE...Local Goings-on

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## **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. The Fisherman's Parking Lot is open. Should there be required closures in the future, they will be posted on the [project MyMap](#).

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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>

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**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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