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## PLAN Jeffco Monthly November 2024

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Tue, Nov 26, 2024 at 1:51 PM



*Mule deer at Centennial Cone*

### The PLAN Jeffco Monthly November 2024

*This edition of the PLAN Jeffco Monthly marks one year that we've been in publication. We give thanks to our readers for being so patient with us as we forge into our new world. Happy Thanksgiving to all!*

*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 501(c)(3) non-profit citizen organization, based in Jefferson County, Colorado. More than 50 years ago, PLAN Jeffco was established for this purpose: from Article 1 of our Bylaws, "The purpose of PLAN Jeffco is to advocate for and take actions to conserve and preserve open space lands in Jefferson County."

Since that time PLAN Jeffco has advocated for conservation of open spaces.

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-

## What's New in the Blogosphere?

### **Conservation Easements Preserve Open Lands, Protect Wildlife**

<https://planjeffco.org/conservation-easements-preserve-open-lands-protect-wildlife/>

Nearly 58,000 acres have been purchased by Jeffco Open Space, lands that have become Open Space Parks and that have been incorporated into local city and park & recreation district trails and playgrounds. But purchasing lands is not the only way to preserve open space. Conservation easements, *voluntary, legal agreements that permanently limit uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values*, are instruments that have protected and preserved some 2.7 million acres in Colorado alone, a number that represents over 6% of private lands in the State. [Read the full story here.](#)

### **Remembering the Founders – Carol Karlin**

<https://planjeffco.org/remembering-the-founders-carol-karlin/>

Without the vision and genius of Carol Karlin, the Jefferson County Open Space system might never have become reality. Thanks to Karlin's idea of scooping up cheap acreage for posterity, the Front Range enjoys a generous portfolio of trails and parks owned and maintained in perpetuity by the residents of and visitors to Jefferson County who pay a half-cent sales tax. This explains why there is a charming outdoor seating nook framed in pinon and boulders in a distant corner of Elk Meadow Park in Evergreen. Established sometime around 2008, the site is marked with the sign that says, "Carol Karlin Overlook." [Read more here.](#)

### **Historical versus Contemporary Wildfires**

<https://planjeffco.org/historical-versus-contemporary-wildfires/>

There appear to be two prevalent schools of thought regarding the severity of historical wildfire. One school, which draws from the General Land Office surveys, is of the opinion that high-intensity, tree-killing wildfires have always been and still are part of our western ecosystem, thereby negating the benefits of forest tree-thinning. However, recent studies are showing that these high-intensity wildfires that devastate the ecosystem, sterilizing the soil and preventing the ability of the forest to regrow, are something that has come of age since the 20<sup>th</sup> century. [Curious to learn more?](#)

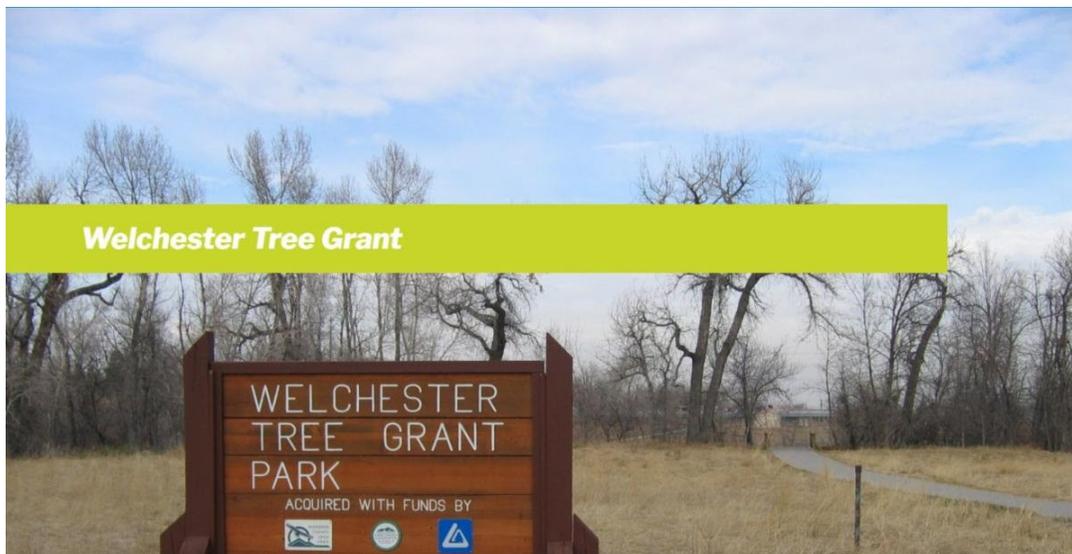
**Video of the month:** Jeffco Open Space Ranger Mary Ann Bonnell speaks to Bike Jeffco about the nighttime closure of Lookout Mountain Road and some of the rescue training that the JCOS Rangers go through, to ensure that visitors to the Jeffco Open Space Parks have a safe experience. [\(video\)](#)

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](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



*Welchester Tree Grant Park Welchester Tree Grant Park, the smallest park in the Jeffco Open Space system, is home to a historic grove of trees dating to 1878. The area is also home to many species of plants and wildlife, a peaceful stream and an idyllic 0.4-mile trail. The Park sits on 18 acres of land which is full of trees, wildflowers, streams, waterfalls and beautiful nature scenery as well as a variety of animals including deer, rabbits, snakes, foxes and coyotes. The highlight of the grounds is a large bridge in the middle of the park high above Lakewood Gulch where you can view the new waterfall feature completed in 2007. There is a .2 mile trail that goes directly through the park, but there are also other loops within the park which offer about 1/2 mile each of trails through the woods, and along Lakewood Gulch. There are several smaller foot paths that roam through the park and if you are up for being a little adventurous, you can follow the foot paths throughout all 18 acres of land.*

## Other New Stuff on the Website

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

PLAN Jeffco November Board Meeting Minutes 11/21/2024 – DRAFT  
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-11-21-2024-draft/>

PLAN Jeffco October Board Meeting Minutes 10/17/2024 – FINAL  
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-10-17-2024-final/>

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

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

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

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

## What's been happening at the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) meetings...

*Regular Open Space Advisory Committee in-office meetings are generally held on the first Thursday of every other month, starting at 6:00 PM. <https://www.jeffco.us/1581/Advisory-Committee>*

*Alternate month meetings are in the field. We have been assured that these in-the-field meetings are open to the public; the times and locations should be published on the County calendar.*

**Thursday, November 7, 2024.** In-person at Jeffco Open Space Office, [700 Jefferson County Pkwy #100, Golden 80401](#)

- Information Item: Colorado School of Mines Capstone Project, Lake Control Gate Retrofit, Pine Valley Open Space Park, Pine Lake
- Election of Officers for 2025, Recognition of Service for Kathleen Staks & Mandy Jeffcoat
- 2025 Trails Partnership Program Funding, Resolution #24-19
- Meadowbrook Park Playground Transfer & Lease Termination, JCOS 24-17, Resolution #24-20
- Foothills Park & Recreation District, Bergen Land LLC Disposition JCOS 22-08, Resolution #24-21
- Stafford Hogback Turnbuckle Trailhead JCOS 24-10, Resolution #24-22
- Dutch Creek Trail Good Parcel JCOS 24-19, Resolution # 24-23
- Executive Session called @ 8:30PM, Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail – Woman Creek Authority Property
  - o 1. Purchase, acquisition, lease transfer or sale of real, personal or other property interest under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(a); and
  - o 2. Advice to negotiators under C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e)

Check the calendar for upcoming agendas <https://www.jeffco.us/Calendar.aspx?EID=12380>

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

1. NOTICE: Centennial Cone Park to close for hunting 12/1-1/31.
2. CLOSED: Meyer Ranch Park will be closed for culvert replacement beginning October 28
3. CLOSED: Deer Creek Canyon Park, Rattlesnake Gulch, & Black Bear Trails closed until further notice following the Quarry Fire.
4. CLOSED: Portions of Elk Meadow Park, including Stagecoach Trailhead, are closed through spring of 2025.
5. REMINDER: Some JCOS Parks have designated-use trails or alternating use days

## Jeffco Open Space Construction Updates

**Elk Meadow Elk Ridge Trail.** The JCOS Trails Team began constructing a much-needed re-route of this trail. The old Elk Ridge route was a steep half mile of trail nearly straight down the slope, resulting in unsustainable levels of erosion and a hazardous visitor experience. The newly designed route meanders along the northern contours of the slope for a mile, leisurely taking visitors through what are now much healthier stands of mixed conifer and ponderosa pine forest. Since breaking ground on September 30, a half mile of the old trail has been restored and 1,969 feet of new tread has been cut.

**Safety First.** JCOS hosted a great Snow Removal Prep and Training day in mid-October for their various park maintenance teams. Around 100 participants joined in the open house, in-person trainings, and hands-on instruction for important safety operations related to the winter months. Topics included snow blower operation and maintenance, vehicle recovery techniques, tire chain installation, and much more.

**Trailhead Updates at Elk Meadow.** The Stagecoach Trailhead construction at Elk Meadow Park continues. Western States Reclamation and their subcontractors will be making improvements, expanding the parking lot, updating amenities like the new centrally located restrooms, enhancing the road crossing, and restoring low-use and closed areas of the park. A new trail experience on the south side of Stagecoach Boulevard to Jenkins Peak will be part of the enhanced Stagecoach Trailhead. During this time the southern Lewis Ridge Trailhead will provide access to the park. The Stagecoach Trailhead should reopen during the summer of 2025.

## Jeffco Open Space Science & Social Events

**Centennial Cone Park Hunting Closure Begins December 1<sup>st</sup>.** Due to this late-season hunting, the park will be closed to all other users through the end of January. The Mayhem Gulch parking lot along US Hwy 6 will remain open. Most of the park will reopen to multi-use recreation on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Hunting is permitted for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) licensed hunters:

- **DE038L2R (Deer: either sex)**
- **DF038L2R (Deer: antlerless, doe)**
- **EF038L2R (Elk: antlerless, cow)**

Permit applicants must have a valid late-season license for antlerless elk, female, or either-sex deer from Colorado Parks & Wildlife for the Jefferson County portion of Game Management Unit 38. Successful applicants can view an online Jeffco Open Space hunting orientation presentation which must be done prior to

gaining access to Centennial Cone Park. The purpose of allowing hunting is to control elk and deer populations that are not being held in check by natural predators. Permitted hunter lottery winners are expected to follow all Jeffco Open Space [Regulations](#). [More information about hunting at Centennial Cone Park](#)

**Seed-sational Fall.** The JCOS Natural Resources Team & JCOS Volunteers have been hard at work planting native species. Seeds for these shrubs, grasses & forbs were hand-collected from JCOS properties and propagated over the summer. To date, more than 4,000 plants are heading for new lives at Van Bibber, Elk Meadow & Meyer Ranch Parks. Two of the wildflower species associated with wetlands that have been planted are the Nuttall's sunflower (*Helianthus nuttallii*) and the largeleaf avens (*Geum macrophyllum*), both of which are wetland species. The goal of these plantings is to improve nectar resources for pollinators.

**Hiwan Halloween.** On a hauntingly perfect Saturday, October 26, families gathered for Hiwan Halloween at Hiwan Heritage Park and Museum. Organized by the JCOS Heritage Education Specialist, the event brought together 229 eager souls, young and old, for a night of thrills and chills. Professional storytellers wove tales that sent shivers down the spines of listeners. Little ghouls and goblins paraded in their costumes, adding to the excitement. Games, crafts, prizes, and a bounty of candy awaited attendees. With each spooky moment and shared delight, Hiwan Halloween was a lovely night for the Jeffco community, with many partners and JCOS staff coming together to make the event a spooky success.

**International Archaeology Day.** The JCOS Heritage Stewardship Team braved the weather for another successful International Archaeology Day (IAD) that took place at Red Rocks Amphitheatre on Saturday, October 19. Despite the chilly day, the event welcomed a thousand attendees. IAD showcased nearly 50 exhibitors, several guest speakers, activities such as atlatl throwing and rock climbing, as well as off-site tours. The JCOS booth welcomed 174 visitors, educating attendees about our cultural resources, including archaeological artifacts found on our lands, talking about heritage buildings in our parks, and the rich history of Jefferson County.

**A Puurfectly Good Day at Mount Glennon.** Early in the week of November 13, a Park Ranger, who was on a patrol near the Mount Glennon house, happened upon a resident mountain lion. Keep your head on a swivel out there, folks, and follow safety procedures if you encounter one of our native fur-critters.

**Be Kind to Your Neiiigh-bors.** Bicyclists who roll around Denver might not be used to riding up to a horse, but it can be a common sight in Jeffco Open Space. Equestrians have the right-of-way on Colorado's multi-use trails, but last month, a tense interaction along Cherry Creek Trail in Parker highlights some confusion about how to approach and yield to equestrians. [Read the full Denver 7 segment](#) on horse-bike interactions and proper trail courtesy horse-bike interactions and proper trail courtesy.

**All-Team Meeting Recap.** In late October the Trails a JCOS all-team meeting w held at the Jeffco Fairgrounds. Matt Peterson, Program Manager for the National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD), gave an overview of NSCD's history and program. The JCOS Parks & Conservation Teams were able to participate in adaptive biking and climbing activities to get a feel for being differently-abled. [Take a look](#) at all the 2024 Accomplishments, New Staff, and Anniversaries boards that were created for the meeting.

**Beaver Ranch Open House.** JCOS hosted an open house at Beaver Ranch Park on October 23 at the Main Lodge for residents to stop by and learn about updates on the Park Improvements Project. Conceptual project design boards

were set-up around the room on easels for attendees to view, while numerous partners and stakeholders walked around to address questions or concerns.

**Mount Tom Findings – Goshawk!** The JCOS Natural Resources Wildlife Team has begun the on-the-ground process of understanding wildlife of the newly acquired Mount Tom parcel. One of the first things the team does is place motion-triggered wildlife cameras in different habitat types to investigate which large mammals are present and how their use of the property changes from season to season. The Team recently went out to make sure the cameras were operational and were taking pictures as expected, before the snow begins to fly and limits access. While flipping through photos, they learned of an exciting resident - an American Goshawk! Formerly known as the Northern Goshawk, the American Goshawk was split from their European cousins just this year. American Goshawks are identified as a species needing conservation attention in the State Wildlife Action Plan and are extremely sensitive around their nest sites.

**Barbed Wire Warriors.** In late September, JCOS volunteers had a successful day at Mount Falcon, removing barbed wire on the west side. They unexpectedly discovered a section of fencing that had become engulfed in a tree and found fencing that had been hidden under years of pine needles. In total, approximately 7,500 feet of this unanticipated, barbed wire was removed. During efforts the previous week, they coiled and removed 8,300 feet of wire, bringing the volunteers' total collected amount to ~15,800 feet of barbed wire.

**Newest Jeffco Landmark, the Welch Ditch.** Earlier this year, the JCOS Heritage Stewardship Team nominated the Welch Ditch for Jeffco Landmark designation. On October 16, it was officially made a local landmark at the Jefferson County Historical Commission's Annual Hall of Fame Awards dinner. This year's publication of [Historically Jeffco](#) was unveiled and includes an article about The History of the Welch Ditch, which will be available [here](#) soon. You can also learn about the history of the Welch Ditch in Jefferson County Historical Commission's [video](#) or [register to take a Guided Tour](#).

**Eat, Drink, and Be Married.** Boettcher Mansion hosted their Autumn Wedding Show on Saturday, October 19 for couples and vendors alike. The three-hour open house saw over 130 guests and 20 vendors from all different categories. While the weather was chilly, the Mansion was cozy and overflowing with love as talks about highly anticipated celebrations filled the space. We might be a little biased, but Boettcher Mansion is truly the perfect setting for a lifetime of memories.



One of the largest parks in the Jeffco Open Space system, White Ranch Park has 20 miles of multi-use trails over both gentle and rugged terrain. Natural-surface trails crisscross the property with the exception of two Sensitive Areas, including Ralston Buttes, which can be accessed only by permit. White Ranch Park is one of two Jeffco Open Space parks that allows for permitted camping. Sawmill and Sourdough Springs Campgrounds offer semi-primitive, tent-only, walk-in camping in designated sites which are available by permit.

## County News & Happenings

**Jeffco Open Space Calendar** <https://www.jeffco.us/Calendar.aspx?EID=12380>

**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://www.nocoplaces.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:**

The FINAL Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and the Evacuation Annex (EA) Drafts are available for public review

[Community Wildfire Protection Plan \(CWPP\) PDF](#)

[Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan's Evacuation Annex \(EA\) PDF](#)

### **NOCO PLACES**

<https://togetherjeffco.com/>

*"Nine county, state, and federal public land agencies from north-central Colorado are actively collaborating to address the challenges the mountains and foothills in this region are facing from high visitation and a growing population. We are committed to sustainable solutions, equitable actions, and beneficial land management practices for the long-term conservation of Colorado's public lands and the quality of the visitor experience."*

#### **NoCo Vision Aims to Address Overcrowding in Front Range Public Spaces**

NoCo Places recently released their Conservation and Recreation Vision, which articulates a shared, cross-jurisdictional approach for protecting and conserving natural and cultural resources in the Northern Colorado Front Range while providing equitable access and a quality recreation experience for current and future generations.

[View the CBS Newscast](#) for more information.

A Regional Vision and Shared Philosophy <https://www.nocoplaces.com/conservation-and-recreation-vision/>

## Our Conservation Partners

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife**

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

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

**LAMAR, Colo.** At its Nov. 14-15, 2024, meeting, the Parks and Wildlife Commission heard proposed changes to regulations as follows. All final regulations approved at the Nov. 14-15, 2024 meeting will go into effect on January 1, 2025 unless otherwise noted. [A complete agenda](#) along with all materials for this meeting are available [on CPW's website](#) for public review.

**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/CPW-podcast>

eNews & Social Media <https://cpw.state.co.us/enews-and-social-media>

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>

The Primary Source Fall/Winter 2024 has landed! Get your copy at <https://www.birdconservancy.org/primary-source/>

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/>

Publications <https://www.birdconservancy.org/resource-center/publications/>

### **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>

**686,921 acres of land, 3238 miles of waterways, 715 projects in 50 counties**

#### **Conserved: Manzanares Creek Ranch**

<https://coloradoopenlands.org/permanently-protected-manzanares-creek-ranch/>

#### **Conserved: Greenleaf Ranch**

<https://coloradoopenlands.org/permanently-protected-greenleaf-ranch/>

#### **Conserved: San Luis Valley Ranch**

<https://coloradoopenlands.org/permanently-protected-ranchland-in-the-san-luis-valley/>

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

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

### **Mountain Area Land Trust**

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

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

**26,733 acres of land in 6 counties**

#### **Created: High Alpine Native Plant Demo Garden**

<https://savetheland.org/volunteers-create-new-high-alpine-native-plant-demonstration-garden-for-community/>

## Conserved: Rocky Top in Southern Jeffco

<https://savetheland.org/151-acres-conserved-in-southern-jefferson-county/>

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

Sign up for MALT's newsletter at <https://savetheland.org/category/newsletter/>

## Keep It Colorado

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

**Our mission is to unite, elevate and empower Colorado's conservation community to protect the lands and waters that define our state.**

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>

## Douglas Land Conservancy

<https://douglaslandconservancy.org/>

**27,400 acres of land in Douglas, Jefferson & Elbert Counties**

Guided Hikes & Educational Events at <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/guided-hikes-educational-events/>

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

Decode DC Outdoors at <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/decode-dc-outdoors/>

News at <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/news/>

## City of Golden

<https://goldentoday.com/>

<https://www.cityofgolden.gov>

**19 parks, 42 miles of paved trails**

**Events calendar:** daily, weekly and monthly events are posted on the [Golden Events Calendar](#).

**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/>

**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>

Project 1093: Saturday Nov 30, 2024, Maintenance on Turkey Trot trail, Mount Falcon

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM in-person, United Center, Idaho Springs.

## **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](#)

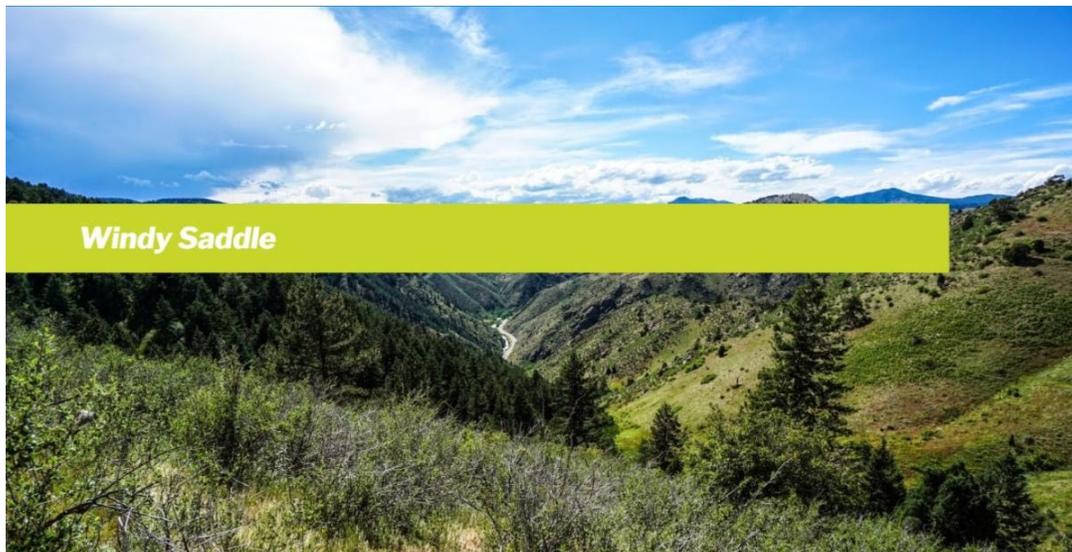
[Douglas Land Conservancy](#)

[Bird Conservancy of the Rockies](#)

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

## **WANT TO SUPPORT OUR WORK?**

### **Join or Renew Your Membership**



*Paragliders and hang gliders take flight from 7,059-foot Mount Zion, mountain bikers churn along Chimney Gulch Trail, and hikers have Beaver Brook Trail to explore. The trail system connects to Lookout Mountain Nature Center, which has its own trails in a preserve. Cyclists dissect the park on their climb up Lookout Mountain Road, a 4.3-mile ride of passage with a 1,200-foot elevation gain. The park lives up to its name, with strong drafts blowing down from the Continental Divide. The wind conditions are renowned among hang gliders and paragliders. These high-risk activities require fulfilling requirements from the United States Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association and completing a waiver.*

## **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 Arapaho 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](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>

Judge rules Denver Water's permit for Gross Reservoir expansion violates federal laws, orders alternative to flooding wetlands and forest, by [Ishan Thakore](#) · Oct. 18, 2024, 4:31 pm <https://www.cpr.org/2024/10/18/judge-rules-denver-waters-permit-gross-reservoir-expansion-violates-federal-laws/>

Blast notices are still being sent out the mornings of scheduled 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 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:** Hearing Process. Final Planning Commission hearing held on 9/24, Special Use request #23-102980RZ was denied.

Conceptual site plan: <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

<https://citizenportal.jeffco.us/citizenportal/app/landing>

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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### **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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PLAN Jeffco | 24395 Cody Park Road | Golden, CO 80401 US

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