



PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



Winter Wonderland on Lookout Mountain, photo courtesy of MAPoollet

The PLAN Jeffco Monthly December 2024

May your days be filled with peace, hope, and joy this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year. May your every wish come true; may your days be merry and bright and your evenings be cozy with contentment.

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?

Trails Through Time – A Geologist's Guide to Jefferson County Open Space Parks

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/trails-through-time-a-geologists-guide-to-jefferson-county-open-space-parks//>

Jefferson County straddles one of the most conspicuous and important geographic and geologic boundaries in western North America, the eastern flank of the Rocky Mountains. What is the reason for the remarkably straight and abrupt eastern flank of the Colorado Front Range? The brief answer is that it marks the edge of a block of ancient metamorphic and igneous rocks that has been uplifted relative to younger flat-laying sedimentary rocks that underlie the plains to the east. Jefferson County Open Space Parks, as well as other nearby parks and National Forest lands, offer marvelous opportunities to explore the geologic story behind this singular landscape.

Conservation Easements Preserve Open Lands, Protect Wildlife

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

In 1971, Carol Karlin conceived of the idea of buying large swaths of scenic mountain property to protect it from development and build trails for public recreation. Shortly thereafter, PLAN Jeffco was formed, and months later, the Jeffco Open Space program was voted into reality. Since that time, 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.

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



Alderfer/Three Sisters

Right in the heart of Evergreen, Alderfer/Three Sisters boasts the most trails per acre of any foothill park, with over 15 miles available to the public. Featuring lovely meadows and ponderosa pine forests, Alderfer/Three Sisters Park derives its name from the rock outcrops known as “The Three Sisters” and “The Brother,” seen along Sister’s Trail. Find scenic views along Scenic View Trail and views of the continental divide on Summit Trail. Visitors should check in with Jefferson County Open Space and obey all posted signs about closures.

Other New Stuff on the Website

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

PLAN Jeffco December Board Meeting Minutes – NO BOARD MEETING

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 – November 2024
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-november-2024/>

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/>

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, December 5, 2024. Field Trip (no additional information available)

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 closed for hunting 12/1-1/31.
2. CLOSED: Deer Creek Canyon Park, Rattlesnake Gulch, & Black Bear Trails closed until further notice following the Quarry Fire.
3. CLOSED: Portions of Elk Meadow Park, including Stagecoach Trailhead, are closed through spring of 2025.
4. REMINDER: Some JCOS Parks have designated-use trails or alternating use days

Real Estate Acquisition Report from Karey Baker, Deputy Director JCOS

Kittredge Park Deed to Evergreen Park & Recreation District JCOSD24-13

Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) acquired Kittredge Park in 1986 and since then has leased it to Evergreen Park & Recreation District (EPRD). For decades, park visitors have recreated down to and within Bear Creek on the south side of the park. JCOS recently settled a legal dispute regarding access to portions of the land located south of the park and completed a land exchange to clearly delineate boundaries between park property lying north of Bear Creek and private property lying south of Bear Creek.

Rather than amending the lease agreement to include these newly acquired portions of the park, and exclude the conveyed portions, the parties have agreed to terminate the lease agreement and JCOS will deed the entire 1.581-acre Kittredge Park to EPRD, enabling the expansion of the park's trail system, and providing increased access to Bear Creek. The Jeffco Open Space Reverter will be placed on the Property to ensure it is used exclusively for park and open space purposes.

Plains Metropolitan District – Deer Creek Golf Course Land Conservation Partnership Program JCOS24-07

The Plains Metropolitan District (District) purchased 63.92 acres of the 137-acre former Deer Creek Golf Course. The property sits at the bottom of the Dakota Hogback, and parallels C-470, and the C-470 trail is adjacent to the western boundary of the property. It includes one small building which is plumbed for two separate restrooms, and the acquisition will provide an opportunity for future open space uses including 1.5 miles of paths through rolling hills with wetlands, mature trees, and native grasses. The District reached an agreement with the seller to purchase the property for \$850,000, a price supported by an appraisal, and requested a 25% or \$212,500 contribution from the Jeffco Open Space Land Conservation Partnership Program. The Jeffco Open Space Reverter was placed on the property to ensure it is used exclusively for park and open space purposes.

Crown Hill Park – SCI Colorado Easement JCOS23-01

Jefferson County granted an Easement to SCI Colorado Funeral Services, LLC (SCI) for the installation and maintenance of an irrigation pipeline from the pump station near Crown Hill Park Reservoir to the Olinger Crown Hill Cemetery. SCI needs to install 1,400 feet of 16-inch diameter HDPE DR11 pipe that connects a new pump facility on the east side of Crown Hill Park Reservoir to a new irrigation system in the adjacent cemetery. SCI has evaluated alignments designed to remain within its existing road, however the most feasible route is a straight line located just south of the road that connects the pump facility to the Tower of Memories Mausoleum on the cemetery property. This alignment requires Jeffco Open Space (JCOS) to grant a new easement over approximately 0.867 acres for the installation and maintenance of the pipe. In consideration for the easement, JCOS will receive a water tap near the eastern edge of Crown Hill Park for irrigation and emergency response. Construction of the pipeline will begin in fall 2024 and there will be temporary trail closures during construction and reclamation. Spoils from trenching will be removed and taken off site for disposal, and any disturbance to vegetation will be restored by SCI under JCOS supervision.

Van Bibber Greenway – Mooney Agreement JCOS24-11

Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) granted an access easement over an existing driveway that provides access to property located at 5706 McIntyre Street, Golden owned by Brannon and Michael Mooney and in exchange, the Mooneys granted an access easement to JCOS over the same driveway that provides access from McIntyre Street to JCOS property located south of the Mooney property. JCOS acquired the open space south of the Mooney property from Public Service Company of Colorado in 2009, and the acquisition was subject to a private driveway “as presently constructed,” extending easterly from McIntyre Street. In 2017, Jefferson County Transportation and Engineering (T&E) widened McIntyre Street and acquired a portion of the Mooneys’ property for Right of Way. T&E also entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mooneys for a new driveway access point because the road expansion project required a realignment of the driveway. This easement formalizes access for the realigned driveway.

Elk Meadow Park Bergen Peak – Tibaldo Partnership JCOS23-12

Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) is partnering with the City and County of Denver (Denver) to acquire approximately 167 acres located on State Highway 103 in Evergreen for \$3,000,000. The Property connects over 4,000 acres of contiguous public land between JCOS’s Elk Meadow Park, Denver Mountain Park’s (DMP) Bergen Peak and Mount Pence properties, the Bergen Peak State Wildlife Area, and the Arapaho National Forest. The proposed acquisition is the first collaboration between JCOS and Denver where the entities will co-own the property as tenants in common. An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the parties will include a cost-sharing plan for demolition and cleanup of structures on the Property, estimated at approximately \$1 million, and future development and management. The Property will provide opportunities for trail connections from Elk Meadow Park, through DMP property and into the Arapaho National Forest to the west. The existing two-track roads could be used for trails/public access within the Property. The purchase agreement with the landowner includes a requirement that the rock outcropping located on the peak of the Property be identified on a wooden sign as Pietro Point after the family’s patriarch.

JCOS and Denver will each contribute \$1,500,000 toward the \$3,000,000 purchase price and co-own the property, with each party owning an undivided 50% interest. Future development and management of the property will be

addressed in a separate IGA. In a Tenants in Common Agreement, which will be recorded in the Jefferson County Records, JCOS and Denver have also agreed to grant each other a Right of First Offer before ever conveying the Property, and to permanently restrict the Property to be used as a public park and open space area with the intent to protect and manage the Property's scenic viewshed, wildlife habitat, recreational uses, and water and forest resources. The parties have agreed that the Tenants in Common Agreement will be enforced in accordance with both Denver and Jefferson County governing law.

Jeffco Open Space Construction Updates

Alderfer/Three Sisters Wilmot Trail

The Wilmot Trail extends from the Wilmot Elementary School into the east side of Alderfer/Three Sisters park. That portion of the trail which runs alongside the Buffalo Park Road has been upgraded into a fully developed trail with the help of 160 tons of road base, applied by the JCOS Trails Team. This created safer access to the park.

Beaver Ranch Park Improvements

The designs and planned improvements are available on the [new project website](#).

Elk Meadow Stagecoach Trailhead Updates

Trailhead construction at the park continues. Western States Reclamation and their subcontractors will be expanding the parking lot, updating the new centrally located restrooms, enhancing the road crossing, and restoring low-use and closed areas of the park. The Stagecoach Trailhead should reopen during the summer of 2025. During this time the southern Lewis Ridge Trailhead will provide access to the park.

Elk Meadow Park in the News

Alan Gionet from CBS News interviewed JCOS Natural Resources Supervisor, Steve Murdock, about the work at Elk Meadow Park: "We equate the forest management work to an open-heart surgery," Murdock said. "We know it's essential; you need to replace that heart, but it's going to be messy at first. There's going to be bruising and scarring. But over time, it's going to heal." [Read and watch the news article here](#).

Meyer Ranch Culvert Replacement Progress Report

The crews who have been working on the culvert replacement encountered some weather delays, but progress on the construction has continued, with opening of Meyer Ranch and its sledding hill scheduled to be open by mid-to-end of December. Please check the JCOS website for more information. <https://www.jeffco.us/814/Open-Space>

Mount Falcon New Interpretive Panels

The JCOS Heritage Resources Historian has identified historic photos of the various buildings at Mount Falcon – the Eagle Eye Shelter (a summer cabin for the family of German immigrant Francis Kirchhof), John Brisben Walker's mansion ruins, and his Envisioned Summer White House. These photos have been rendered into interpretive panels, which have been installed in the park by the Park Services Team.

Standley Lake Library Trailhead, Arvada

This trailhead, which was partially funded by a 2021 Trails Partnership Program grant from JCOS, was officially opened on November 15th. This trailhead provides improved access to the Rocky Mountain Greenway, Standley Lake, and the surrounding network of trails. [Click here for more information](#).



Ten minutes from downtown Golden, Apex Park is a popular and easily accessible foothills park. Follow the stream through the park along Apex Trail, and enjoy a hot summer day in the west end's dense forest and shady trails. The trail is demanding and steep, but you'll be rewarded with amazing views of downtown Denver and Golden. The park has family friendly and more technical, steep trails are enjoyed by mountain bikers. Bikers should check the Jefferson County website and posted signs for rules regarding use and days of single-direction riding. Visitors should check in with Jefferson County Open Space and obey all posted signs about closures.

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:

Jefferson County Planning & Zoning is proposing a Regulation Amendment process pertaining to the Zoning Resolution. This regulation update includes minor changes to Section 2 - General Provisions and Regulations regarding Survey Requirements for Building Permits, Section 19 - Accessory Uses regarding Accessory Dwelling Unit language, Section 20 - Nonconforming Buildings, Structures, and Uses, and a change to the Definition of "Family".

1st Referral Red-marked drafts can be found in both Word and Adobe PDF formats on the Regulation Revision website <https://www.jeffco.us/2613/Regulation-Updates> and in the case folder (24-132396 AM)

https://jeffcogov.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/AmandaDocLib_Public/EsYHlnR08rxPqjyMUC3Gy8gBO0C-zfxB3gM4qDJGzNllaQ?e=jPvIEy

"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."

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

Latest Common Messaging <https://www.nocoplaces.com/nature-streaming/>

COTREX App Recommended by Public Land Managers

<https://www.nocoplaces.com/cotrex-app/>

Winter Recreation Safety Tips <https://www.nocoplaces.com/the-challenge/winter-recreation-safety/>

The Value of Public Land <https://www.nocoplaces.com/the-value-of-public-lands/>

How to Know Before You Go <http://www.nocoplaces.com/know-before-you-go/>

Our Conservation Partners

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

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

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

Camping reservations can be made year-round, up to six months before your arrival date; make your reservations now.

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>

11/20/24, Public Budget Hearing for JCD <https://www.jeffersoncd.com/news-events/2lpqhx08bscl38925rmup2pqrns8a>

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/>

Salazar Ranches Conejos

The ranches consist of 698 acres in Conejos County east of Antonito. Current uses include center-pivot irrigated crop fields, with all fields currently in organic alfalfa production which is rotated out every 7-10 years. Peas, oats, sorghum, and seed potatoes are also planted. The conservation easement includes surface water rights from one ditch system and four groundwater wells. The ranches provide winter range habitat for elk and pronghorn, and overall habitat for mule deer and sandhill crane. Pronghorn, which bed down in the South Piñon Hills, are often observed grazing on the property. The property has beautiful views of the southern Sangre de Cristo mountains to the east, open expanses in northern New Mexico to the south, and the Los Mogotes area to the west. Numerous conservation easements are within the vicinity of the property, adding to the benefits for wildlife.

Michigan Creek Fishing Preserve

The Michigan Creek Fishing Preserve is a 120-acre property in Park County, seven miles south of the town of Jefferson along Michigan Creek near its confluence with Tarryall Creek. The property is located off CR 77 and features a scenic meadow, meandering creek, and jugged rock outcroppings. About 0.3 mile of Michigan Creek flows through the property, making it an excellent fishing location. It is adjacent to Pike National Forest to the north and BLM land to the south, creating an ideal wildlife corridor. This property was donated to Western River Conservancy (WRC), a river ecosystems nonprofit, which partnered with COL to protect this parcel. WRC will now donate the land to Colorado Parks & Wildlife which will make the property a future State Wildlife Area, adding to the public benefit for all. Project partners include Western Rivers Conservancy, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, the Park County Land and Water Trust Fund.

Arkansas River Community Preserve

Colorado Open Lands is pleased to continue the partnership with Central Colorado Conservancy on this important public access project. This latest phase adds 74 acres to bring the total protected area to 345 acres, encompassing nearly all of the private lands in this stretch of the canyon, along nearly three miles of the Arkansas River. In spring of 2025 the preserve is expected to be opened to the public, providing access to gold-medal trout fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing. The preserve is visible to drivers on US HWY 24, the Top of the Rockies Scenic Byway. In this phase, Central Colorado Conservancy purchased two additional private parcels on and near the river, connecting the previous phases and putting a total of 20 previously subdivided parcels back together. The property is valuable to wildlife, with habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, beaver, ospreys, golden eagles, and numerous other species. The preserve connects the river to lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and San Isabel National Forest, creating a large contiguous protected area.

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

05 Dec Fall 2024 Newsletter <https://savetheland.org/fall-2024-newsletter/>

20 Dec Mountain Area Land Trust Announces Protection of Floyd Hill Meadow

MALT has been working to secure the property's protection since Albert Frei & Sons gifted the land to the organization in June 2023. Following the acquisition, more than one hundred generous donors contributed to MALT's capital campaign raising funds to place a voluntary Conservation Easement on the property. The protection of Floyd Hill Meadow will have a long-lasting impact for local wildlife, neighbors, recreational enthusiasts, and travelers along the I-70 corridor.

<https://savetheland.org/mountain-area-land-trust-announces-protection-of-floyd-hill-meadow/>

26 Dec Mountain Area Land Trust Announces Protection of 44 acres in Conifer
(MALT) announced a voluntary Conservation Easement on a 44-acre property in the Richmond Hill area of Conifer, perpetually preserving, protecting and conserving a unique natural area.

<https://savetheland.org/mountain-area-land-trust-announces-protection-of-44-acres-in-conifer/>

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.

Amplifying Conservation: The Time Is Now

Hear about the return on investment of conservation [in this 2 1/2-minute video.](#)

Conserving Colorado Roadmap

Our statewide plan sets goals to double down on conservation. [Download Roadmap |](#)

Keep It Colorado: Creating a Colorado Where People, Lands, Waters and Wildlife Thrive. [Watch this 8-minute video](#) to learn about Keep It Colorado's work.

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>

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 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



Beaver Ranch Open Space Park is a joint endeavor with the Beaver Ranch Community, Inc. With a trailhead on South Foxton Road in Conifer, Beaver Ranch Park has become a destination for year-round activities, including a disk golf course, a zip line, and space for hosting events. The Beaver Ranch Community has responsibility for overseeing the buildings, events and concessionaires, Jeffco Open Space manages natural resources, trails and park regulation enforcement.

WATCH THIS SPACE...Local Goings-on

Bear Creek Reservoir Expansion Proposal

Also known as the Bear Creek Reservoir Expansion project, this project was initiated by the Water Supply Act of 1958 and the Energy and Water Appropriations Act of 1998. This study looked at various scenarios to forecast possible gaps between supply and demand by the year 2050 by increasing the reservoir size and storage capacity of Bear Creek Reservoir. The South Platte Basin is projected to have an annual supply and demand gap that ranges from about 509,000 acre-feet per year up to 835,000 acre-feet per year. The study itself was begun in 2015 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with the first public presentation in October 2021, and an April 2022 update. The expected conclusion of this feasibility study should be sometime in 2024.

For more information, visit <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/bearcreeklake>
<https://coloradosun.com/2024/01/25/bear-creek-lake-expansion-neighborhood-fight-lakewood/>

Gross Reservoir Updates <https://www.denverwater.org/grossreservoir>

Despite the ruling that Denver Water's permit for the Gross Reservoir expansion violating federal laws, and an order to determine alternatives to flooding wetlands and forest:

<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. Denver Water and its contractor, Kiewit Barnard, wrapped up roller-compacted concrete (RCC) placements Nov. 18. During the 2024 season, they placed 269 vertical feet of concrete to raise the dam – keeping them on schedule to finish RCC placements in 2025. Denver Water, Kiewit Barnard and project support staff will continue working through the winter; crews and deliveries will continue heading to site during both day and night shifts. They plan to restart RCC placements in spring 2025, once temperatures are consistently above freezing. Learn more about the RCC process at www.denverwater.org/RCC.

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>

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.

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

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