



# PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



*Clear Creek in Winter sepiatone, photo courtesy of CarbonFibrePhoto*

## The PLAN Jeffco Monthly January 2025

*It's a New Year. As we send you our best wishes, remember that the coming months will become what you make of them.*

*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-winning Jefferson County Open Space program.

<https://planjeffco.org/>

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## What's New in the Blogosphere?

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## Upcoming Events

<https://planjeffco.org/plan-jeffco-board-meeting-agenda-january-16-2025-2/>

Stay in touch, find out what's happening in the next six months...

## Take Notice – Winter is Here!

<https://planjeffco.org/winter-is-here-shaun-howard/>

Our parks are “primitive” parks. Don't expect the trails to be groomed for you. Make sure you have micro-spikes with you, just in case you need them. Be prepared for any type of weather, especially as you gain in elevation.

## Trails Through Time – A Geologist's Guide to JeffCo Open Space Parks

<https://planjeffco.org/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.

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**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**



## Cathedral Spires



CarbonFibrePhoto 2022

*The first recorded climber in Cathedral Spires was all the way back in 1924. The main 1,200-foot approach at Cathedral Pinnacle has enticed climbers ever since. Cathedral Spires Park is home to nesting Peregrine Falcons and is closed to the public seasonally to allow the falcons to fledge. Trails leading to climb sites and hiking trails are mostly steep but offer beautiful views. There is something for everyone in the Cathedral Spires — cragging, multipitch, slabs, cracks, faces, chimney's and off-widths. If you like traditional climbing, then you will enjoy climbing here. There are too many 4-star routes to list, but Center Route (9+) and Wunsch's Dihedral (11) are two of the best crack climbs in the state. The approach for all the climbs is a bit grueling, but well worth it. Photo courtesy of CarbonFibrePhoto.*

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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 January Board Meeting Minutes 1/16/2025 – DRAFT

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-1-16-2025-draft/>

PLAN Jeffco November Board Meeting Minutes 11/21/2024 – FINAL

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-11-21-2024-final/>

PLAN Jeffco October Board Meeting Minutes 10/17/2024 – FINAL

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-10-17-2024-final/>

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

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – December 2024

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

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-2024/>

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## 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, January 9, 2025.** In-person at Jeffco Open Space Office, 700 Jefferson County Pkwy #100, Golden 80401

### **Open Space Resolution #25-01, Windy Saddle Park- City of Golden Bonvue Drive Agreement JGOS24-02**

RE: Windy Saddle Park- City of Golden Bonvue Drive Agreement JGOS24-02

WHEREAS, Jeffco Open Space (JCOS) staff presented Open Space Proposal Number JCOS24-02 (Proposal) to the Advisory Committee at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 9, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee reviewed the Proposal at this meeting and made certain findings, including the following:

- A) The Proposal is within the purpose and intent of the Board of County Commissioners' Open Space Enabling Resolution dated September 26, 1972 and amended September 29, 1980;
- B) The Proposal falls within the criteria, purpose and intent set forth in the current Jeffco Open Space Conservation Greenprint;
- C) Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) acquired Windy Saddle Park with Open Space funds. The City of Golden (Golden) is proposing to relocate an existing water line from Bonvue Drive to connect to a preexisting easement line

across Windy Saddle Park;

D) The Utility Easements from Jefferson County to Golden include a Permanent Utility Easement (PE) of 0.09 acres, and a Temporary Construction Easement (TCE) of 0.10 acres;

E) The cost for the PE is \$4,780 (\$1.22 per square foot) and the cost of the TCE is \$2,629 (\$0.0t per square foot), and the processing fee is \$3,000, for a total cost of \$10,409;

F) The major terms for the Proposal have been negotiated; and

WHEREAS, at least six Advisory Committee members present viewed the Property by field trip, video or other electronic or visual media.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Advisory Committee recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve these Access Easements, subject to the following terms:

1. JCOS will grant Golden two easements for a total cost of \$10,409.
- 2- Other terms and conditions shall be included as deemed necessary by the Open Space Division and the County Attorney's Office.

The Resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of the attending members of the Jefferson County Open Space Advisory Committee of the County of Jefferson, State of Colorado.

**DATED:** January 9,2025

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>

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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

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

### Jeffco Open Space Construction Updates

#### **Elk Meadow Stagecoach Trailhead Updates**

Following a short hiatus over the Holidays, the contractor is back at work on the Stagecoach Trailhead. The concrete stacking blocks that stabilize the earth retaining walls on the east side are finished. Drainage elements like boulder check dams and detention ponds are nearly finished. Still to be done: boulder retaining walls and grading for the parking lot/restroom plaza area. Still planning to reopen during the summer of 2025.

#### **Meyer Ranch Culvert Replacement Finished**

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Meyer Ranch OS Park reopened, following the successful completion of the culvert replacement project.

#### **New Interpretive Panels at Mount Falcon Park**

Mount Falcon Park received an information upgrade this year thanks to the efforts of the Heritage Stewardship Team. The past has a prominent place at this park and now visitors can learn more about 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.

At one time, PLAN Jeffco had an interpretive panel at the Carol Karlin Overlook,

Founders Trail, Elk Meadow Open Space Park. It was removed by JCOS without any notification or reason, which, at that time, aligned with their philosophy of no signs inside the parks. Since we learned about the sign's removal, PLAN Jeffco has been working with JCOS to replace the sign, or at least create a new interpretive sign. Perhaps the new signs inside Mount Falcon park are a signal that JCOS is willing to support PLAN Jeffco's important contribution to Jeffco Open Space? For more information on this history:

<https://planjeffco.org/founders-sign-removed-from-open-space-park/>

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

## Jeffco Open Space Science & Social Updates

### Clear Creek Canyon Bighorn Sheep Survey

December 10: JCOS the Natural Resources Wildlife Team helped Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) biologists with their twice a year bighorn sheep survey. This is a coordinated effort where, for the last 10 years, multiple teams of observers look for bighorn sheep on an assigned route in the survey area, all on the same day. This year the team spotted fourteen sheep on the northwest side of Tunnel 3. They counted eight ewes (females) and six rams (males), but unfortunately, did not see any lambs. The Georgetown herd, which the Clear Creek sheep are a part of, has been hit especially hard by pneumonia and other respiratory illnesses the last couple years, and lambs have been so sick they do not survive the summer. Pneumonia in bighorn sheep is transmitted by domestic sheep or other livestock. Adult bighorn can survive infection and appear healthy but can carry the bacteria for years and pass it to their lambs, resulting in poor lamb survival for years. There is currently no effective vaccine or treatment for pneumonia in bighorn sheep. The team will continue to help CPW with their bighorn surveys in 2025 and beyond to keep an eye on the Georgetown herd population, and the sub-population in Clear Creek Canyon and Centennial Cone Parks.

### Coal Creek Study Area Camera Trap Pilot Study

JCOS' Natural Resources Team installed two Adapted-Hunt Drift Fence Technique arrays in this study area to determine if this technique can detect resident species, and how it compares with live-trapping methods. This AHDriFT method combines digital camera traps and drift fences to funnel animals so they can be photographed, enabling JCOS to get a handle on populations and densities. Since deployment in September of last year, one amphibian, two reptiles, seven mammals, and three bird species have been detected. This project will continue throughout the 2025 field season.

### Native Plant Materials Program

JCOS' Plant Ecology Team has been working on optimizing native plant uses since the inception of the Native Plant Materials Program in 2017. In this time they've focused on collecting native plant seeds on JCOS properties, growing and planting stock from seed, hosting large volunteer seed collections, and collaborating with partner organizations to share, produce, and use native plants on JCOS properties. This year the team has learned to utilize techniques to test seed viability in-house. Now, seed can be tested prior to collection for labor intensive collection species or rare species, saving much time and cost.

### 2025 ENOR Summer Camp Registration is Now Open

<https://jeffco.extension.colostate.edu/programs/enor-environmental-discovery-camp/>

### Usable Trail Committee Visits Highline Canal

JCOS attended the quarterly gathering of regional partners committed to creating usable trails for visitors experiencing a disability. The purpose of this month's field trip was to see, ride, and understand all the different mobility devices and adaptations available. JCOS brought one of the Nuke recumbent bicycles while others brought various models and attachments. The exercise gave teams a better understanding of how to use the devices along with each of their specific characteristics that can affect not only the visitor experience but the trail design and development process.

### Conifer Christmas Parade Story Time

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024: LaFawnda the fawn and the rest of the JCOS Parade Crew donned Santa hats and brought their holiday cheer to the annual Conifer Christmas

Parade. This year's theme was "A Season of Stories" to celebrate the opening of the new Conifer library. The weather was gorgeous, and many residents showed up to join the fun.

### **Fun Events Coming To You Soon**

Drill Into Ice Fishing, 1/25 & 1/26, Pine Valley Ranch Park

Conservation Awards, 1/30, Lakewood Cultural Center

February 2, 11:30 a.m.–1:45 p.m. Winter Jr Rangers, Lookout Mountain Nature Center

February 5, 8:00–9:00 a.m. Wednesday Forum - JCOS Resident Survey, Ponderosa Room

February 8, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Volunteer Recruitment Fair, JCOS Headquarters

February 12, 6:30–8:00 p.m. My Spooky Valentine, Boettcher Mansion

February 15, 10:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. Ice Fishing Jr Rangers, Pine Valley Ranch Park

February 22, 1:00–4:00 p.m. Nature Journal Club - Sketching Conifers, Lookout Mountain Nature Center

February 27, 4:30–7:00 p.m. Trails Volunteer Recruitment Open House, The Arbor House - 14600 W 32nd Ave

For additional information on social gatherings go to the [Open Space Event Calendar](#)



*The natural trail system offers visitors a backcountry experience with multiple use trails designed to segregate trail use as much as possible. This land is home to elk, mountain lion deer, and other wild animal species. The entire park is designated as a Natural Area, and will be managed for the elk to continue to use as a winter range and spring calving area. As of this writing, the entire park is closed for late-season hunting, December 1st to January 31st. The Elk Range Trail and the interior of the Park will be closed during elk calving season, typically from February 1st through mid-June. In addition, this is an alternating-use park on weekends. Hike and horseback are allowed on odd-numbered weekend days, bikes are allowed only on weekend even-numbered days. Visitors should check in with Jefferson County Open Space and obey all posted signs about closures. Photo courtesy of PLANJeffco photo library.*

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## **County News & Happenings**

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**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](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>

## **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."*

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/>

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## **Our Conservation Partners**

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### **Colorado Parks and Wildlife**

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

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>

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>

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

### **Colorado Open Lands**

<https://coloradoopenlands.org/>

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

#### **Operational Merger with Colorado Headwaters Land Trust**

Colorado Open Lands (COL) and Colorado Headwaters Land Trust have merged operations, effective at midnight on December 31, 2024. The two nonprofit organizations share a goal – to permanently protect Colorado’s land and water.

Stewart McNab, president of the Colorado Headwaters Land Trust Board of Directors, said, “After almost 30 years in which CHLT has conserved over 10,000 acres, our mission to conserve and steward open lands and their natural character has become more critical than ever before. The development pressure in Grand County is at an all-time high, particularly on ranch and agricultural land which is a fundamental part of our heritage. By merging with Colorado Open Lands from our position of strength we can best meet the challenges facing Grand County and the headwaters of the Colorado River.” This merger was supported by a variety of public and private sources, including the Walton Family Foundation and Great Outdoors Colorado.

#### **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.

Newsletters and Publications <https://coloradoopenlands.org/publications/>  
More Conservation Updates <https://coloradoopenlands.org/latest-news/>

**Mountain Area Land Trust**  
<https://savetheland.org/news/>  
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**

January 14, 2025: DLC accepted a conservation easement on property in southern Douglas County. The landowner approached DLC because of the desire to preserve the open space and protect it from development. The transaction is significant because the property has numerous conservation values including agricultural, scenic views, wildlife habitat and is a buffer to potential high-density development. It is also significant because DLC used its Conservation Opportunity Fund to help cover the high cost of the transaction. Keep It Colorado, through funding by Great Outdoors Colorado, also provided a grant to help cover those expenses.

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 Parks & Trails

[https://www.cityofgolden.gov/community/parks\\_trails/index.php](https://www.cityofgolden.gov/community/parks_trails/index.php)  
19 parks, 42 miles of paved trails

## 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 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](#)

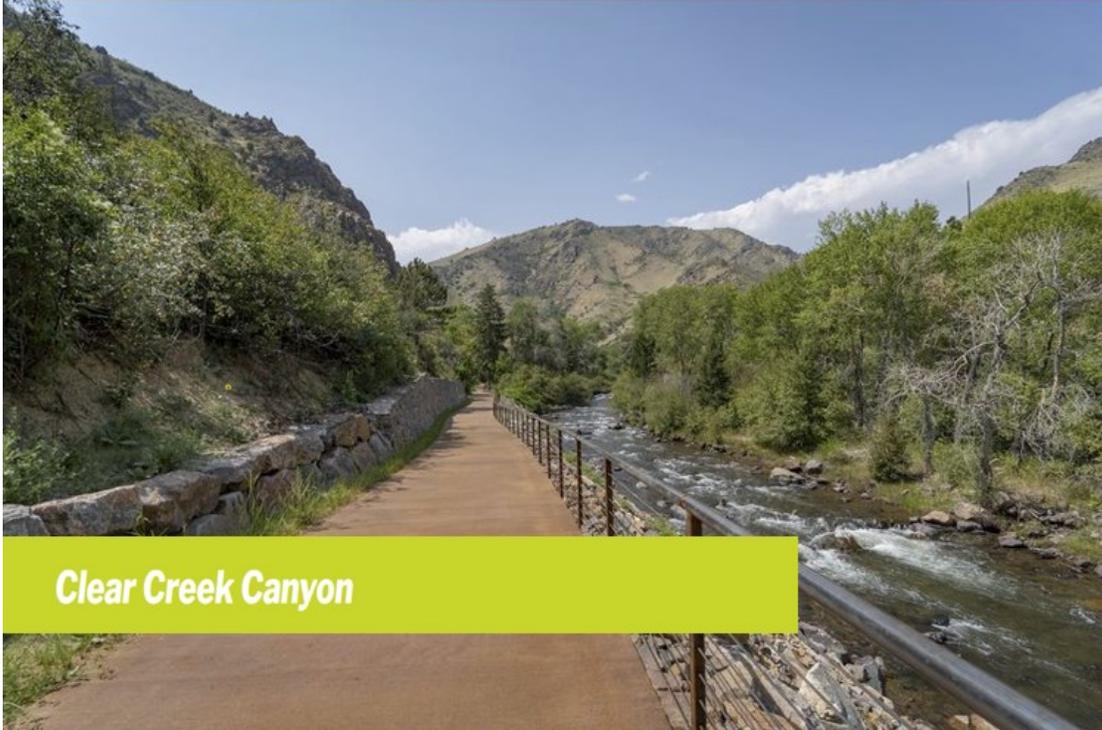
[Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust](#)

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**WANT TO SUPPORT OUR WORK?**

[Join or Renew Your Membership](#)

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Clear Creek Canyon features a scenic, steep-walled canyon and fast-flowing creek. The beautiful canyon and proximity to Golden make this Canyon a hotspot for local climbers, hikers, bikers, anglers and gold prospectors. Appropriate licenses and adherence to Open Space Regulations are required. The 13.75 mile long Clear Creek Canyon Park is part of the 65-miles Peaks to Plains Trail, which, when completed, will reach from the South Platte Trail in Denver to the headwaters of Clear Creek at Loveland Pass, connecting four counties and seven cities, with a total elevation gain of more than 1 miles. The park is home to nesting Golden Eagles and some areas are closed to climbing seasonally to allow the eagles to fledge so be sure to check all posted signs about closures. Photo courtesy of PLANJeffco photo library.

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## WATCH THIS SPACE...Local Goings-on

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### 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 was to 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](http://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>

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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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