



PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



*Billy Drew Bridge over Clear Creek, Golden, Colorado
Photo courtesy of Richard Luckin*

The PLAN Jeffco Monthly March 2025

Welcome to Rocky Mountain springtime! One day it's 65 degrees and sunny, the next it's 30 and snowing. During these transition seasons it's critical to dress in layers, especially if you plan to visit our Open Space Parks.

Jeffco Open Space Parks are open one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset, so use these hours to enjoy the park experience.

PLAN Jeffco, a dedicated non-profit organization, has been at the forefront of conserving Jefferson County's open spaces for over five decades.

Our foundational purpose from our bylaws remains clear - to advocate for and take actions to conserve and preserve open space lands in Jefferson County.

The "Open Space Resolution" we fought for and championed in 1972 has not only preserved our natural landscapes but has also enhanced recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

We remain committed to these efforts and encourage community engagement to ensure the health and beauty of our local ecosystems.

What's New in the Blogosphere?

Upcoming Events

<https://planjeffco.org/plan-jeffco-board-meeting-schedule/>

If you are planning to attend an Open Space Advisory Committee meeting, be sure to confirm the date...

If you would like to join a PLAN Jeffco Board meeting, be sure to use ContactUs@PLANJeffco.org a day or two ahead of time to get location information.

SLASH 2025

The 2025 SLASH season is upon us. From May 16th to October 26th, four SLASH collection sites will be open for business...

<https://planjeffco.org/slash-2025/>

Miles and Miles of Trails

Have you ever wondered how many miles of trails are included in our Jeffco Open Space parks? Can you guess how many acres have been preserved? or how much land is under direct management by JCOS? Here's the place to find out...

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

Dear Miss Mountain Manners

An advice column on multi-use trail etiquette.

<https://planjeffco.org/dear-miss-mountain-manners-an-advice-column-on-multi-use-trail-etiquette/>

Miss Manners – Winter Contemplation

In memory of our beloved Board member Bette Seeland, we're republishing a few of the articles in which she was a major contributor...this is one of them.

<https://planjeffco.org/miss-manners-winter-contemplation-2022/>

PLAN Jeffco Loses Co-Founder Bette Seeland

Bette Seeland, one of three co-founders of PLAN Jeffco in 1971, along with John Litz and Margot Zallen, passed away March 2, after a long illness. Seeland's tenure as the Secretary of PLAN Jeffco started at its founding and lasted until 2024, for 52 years.

<https://planjeffco.org/plan-jeffco-loses-co-founder-bette-seeland/>

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, John Litz, and now Bette Seeland.

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

Want to JOIN US or renew your membership? Click on the button below and get caught up!

Join or Renew My Membership



Lair o' the Bear Park is a favorite of Open Space visitors and families due to its abundance of picnic tables and its proximity to Bear Creek for fishing. For a challenging experience, enjoy a 12.6-mile round-trip journey on the Bear Creek Trail as it passes through three adjoining Denver Mountain Parks to the west.

Other New Stuff on the Website

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

PLAN Jeffco March Board Meeting Minutes 4/17/2025 – DRAFT
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-4-17-2025-draft/>

PLAN Jeffco March Board Meeting Minutes 3/20/2025 – FINAL
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-3-20-2025-final/>

PLAN Jeffco February Board Meeting Minutes 2/22/2025 – FINAL
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-2-22-25-final/>

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

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – March 2025

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-march-2025/>

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – February 2025

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-february-2025/>

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – January 2025

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-january-2025/>

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, April 3rd @ 2:30 PM, in-person at Jeffco Open Space Office, 700 Jefferson County Pkwy #100, Golden 80401

Rocky Mountain Greenway Indiana Street Bridge Ownership, JCOS25-05, Resolution #25-05

JCOS took ownership of the bridge and the abutments crossing Indiana Street; the bridge connects Westminster Hills Open Space on the east side of Indiana to the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge on the west side. JCOS25-05, Resolution #25-05 was approved, seconded, adopted unanimously.

Wednesday, April 16th @ 5 PM, in-person at Jeffco Open Space Office, 700 Jefferson County Pkwy #100, Golden 80401

Conservation Greenprint update presented by Rachel Brenna, Kristina Duff.

Together Jeffco update presented by Planning & Zoning staff.

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

This is mud season, so 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](#)

CLOSED: Seasonal Wildlife Closures at multiple parks Feb 1-July 31.

CLOSED: Deer Creek Canyon Park, Rattlesnake Gulch, & Black Bear Trails closed until further notice following the Quarry Fire.

CLOSED: Portions of Elk Meadow Park, including Stagecoach Trailhead, are closed through summer of 2025.

REMINDER: Some JCOS Parks have designated-use trails or alternating use days

Jeffco Open Space Construction Updates

TRAVEL ALERT: Clear Creek Open Space Park

US 6 through Clear Creek Canyon will be closed between the CO-119 and the CO-58/CO-93 intersections the week of April 20 for work on the Huntsman Gulch segment of the Peaks to Plains Trail. The highway will close at 9 p.m. on Sunday, April 20, and remain closed until 7 p.m. Saturday, April 26. Drivers should use I-70 and US 6 between I-70 and CO 119 to detour around this work. This work is weather dependent and if it's canceled, it will be rescheduled for the following week.

Deer Creek Open Space Park

On May 1, JCOS will officially announce the partial reopening of Deer Creek Canyon Park, scheduled for May 15. This marks the first phase of reopening following the park's closure due to the Quarry Fire on July 31, 2024. The announcement will include updated visitor information, new trail guidelines, and details on ongoing recovery efforts within the affected areas. The park is scheduled to fully reopen on August 1, once the final phase of hazard mitigation and trail rehab is completed in the burn scar area. A new STAY ON TRAIL policy will take effect when the park reopens, accompanied by educational materials on forest health management and post-fire recovery efforts.

The vital aerial seeding operation, which has aided the post-fire recovery, was made possible by \$353,600 in funding from the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Grant. This reseeding plays a crucial role in stabilizing the landscape and promoting natural regrowth, which in turn helps to conserve the Chatfield Reservoir. Taking advantage of favorable weather, H2 Enterprises deployed a specialized helicopter to distribute 10,466 pounds of native seed and 60,000 pounds of straw mulch over the most erosion-prone areas of the burn scar. The seed mix includes native grass and wildflower species selected to stabilize the soil and speed up recovery. Some of the seed was sourced from JCOS parks, meaning it's already highly adapted to the region. The final application of pelletized hydromulch was applied in Mid-April, further stabilizing the landscape and promoting regrowth.

Local nursery growing 2,000 trees to plant in Quarry Fire burn scar:

<https://kdvr.com/news/local/local-nursery-growing-2000-trees-to-plant-in-quarry-fire-burn-scar/>

Thousands of pounds of wildflower seeds air-dropped over Quarry Fire burn scar :

<https://kdvr.com/news/local/thousands-of-pounds-of-wildflower-seeds-air-dropped-over-quarry-fire-burn-scar/>

Matthews/Winters Open Space Park

The rock wall at Matthew/Winters Park was recently rebuilt after the existing structure began to deteriorate. The old wall was fully dismantled and replaced by dedicated trail volunteers. The stone for the project was sourced from the old quarry on the Dakota Ridge hogback, the same location as the original rock.

Also at Matthews/Winters Park, where the Red Rocks Trail crosses a small stream (about 200 feet north of the shared park boundary with Red Rocks Park), two corrugated-metal culverts that crossed under the trails had become exposed and rusted out. This past winter the JCOS Trails Team replaced the culverts with rock-armored stream crossings. The design addressed tread elevation issues and provided both stone steps and a rock ramp to accommodate hikers and bikers on the steep section adjacent to the creek.

Mitigation Work in the Headlines

Advocates are raising the alarm about the dangers of fighting wildfires by thinning out forests. But officials say science is on their side. Steve Murdock, who's been leading the mitigation work on Jeffco Open Space, said, "There are numerous studies that exist that demonstrate both the effect and lack of effectiveness of these forest thinning projects on altering fire behavior. But as land managers, we have to go with the consensus of the scientific community. We can't sit around and wait for the perfect solution that everyone agrees on. That's never going to happen...Our bar is, what is the consensus of the scientific community, not what's the unanimous opinion," he added. "Because that just doesn't exist." Read the article:

<https://coloradosun.com/2025/03/16/colorado-forest-thinning-wildfire-debate/>

Mount Morrison Improvements

Jeffco Open Space is lending a hand to Denver Mountain Parks. One of the Denver area's most popular and challenging trails is getting some love from Jefferson County Open Space. Mt. Morrison's South Ridge Trail, a victim of popularity and steep grades prime for erosion, is undergoing a years-long series of changes. Read the article: <https://coloradocommunitymedia.com/2025/04/02/county-slowly-improving-popular-mt-morrison-trail/>

Jeffco Open Space Health & Safety Updates

SLASH 2025 Update

The much-anticipated SLASH Season is just around the corner! With the calendar now released and warmer weather on the horizon, it's the perfect time to start clearing your property and preparing for drop-offs. Fees are based on six cubic yards (162 cubic feet) of material per load, at a rate of \$24 per load (credit cards only). For accepted vs. nonaccepted material and all other information please check at <https://www.jeffco.us/2493/Slash-Collection>

Centennial Cone Ranger Response

On Saturday, 3/22, during a Bike Only day, one of the mountain bike patrol rangers, who was educating a group of hikers regarding the restrictions on Bike Only days, encountered a person having a mental health crisis. This ranger was trained on Crisis Intervention. He recognized the situation and acted. The stressed individual retreated down a steep gully, and the Ranger used his training to guide the other hikers to safety. Additional rangers arrived on patrol bikes to assist and ensure privacy for the stressed individual. Deputies conducted a mental health assessment at the trailhead.

Gearing Up for Wildfire Season

In mid-March the Jeffco Open Space Wildland Fire Team (OSWFT), with support from Foothills Fire Department, successfully completed the federally required RT-130 Annual Refresher Course. The four-hour training, attended by all 33 OSWFT members and park rangers, covered key topics such as the Seasonal Wildfire Outlook, fire safety protocols, case studies, emergency shelter deployment, and response strategies for North Table Mountain Park. Participants also familiarized themselves with Jeffco Brush 50, a key firefighting apparatus. These training efforts ensure that OSWFT remains highly prepared for wildfire response, continuing their commitment to protecting Jefferson County's open spaces.

During the first week of April, OSWFT completed its annual pack test. All 33 OSWFT members successfully met the standard, completing a three-mile walk with a 45-pound pack in under 45 minutes. Additionally, seven OSWFT members attended a truck workshop hosted by Foothills Fire. They went over Foothills Fire, Genesee Fire, and the OSWFT Type 6 brush trucks.

Introducing the Blue Envelope Program to Jefferson County

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office is excited to be a part of the Blue Envelope Program, which promotes safe and effective interactions between first responders and individuals with conditions or disabilities that may impact communication. This initiative helps deputies and first responders quickly recognize when they are interacting with someone who might need extra time, patience, or special accommodation. By providing an easy-to-spot symbol, the Blue Envelope fosters trust and ensures that every interaction is handled with greater awareness and sensitivity. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office is offering the Blue Envelope items and materials at all three precincts. Find out more about this program at <https://www.jeffco.us/4877/Blue-Envelope-Program>

Jeffco Open Space Science & Social Updates

Conservation Greenprint Update

JCOS Conservation Greenprint 2026-2030 open houses and complimentary online surveys have been completed for the initial public feedback effort. A summary is available on the Plans & Projects webpage, <https://www.jeffco.us/1585/Plans-Projects>

Hiwan Museum and Heritage Open Space Park: Celebrating Women's History

Mary Josepha Williams Douglas, born in Virginia in 1860. She and her mother, Mary Neosho Williams, moved to Denver in 1887, where Josepha defied the gender norms of her era and pursued a medical career. She attended the Gross Medical College, graduating in 1889. In 1891, she co-founded the Marquette-Williams Sanitarium in Denver with Dr. Madeleine Marquette, focusing on tuberculosis treatment and establishing one of the earliest nurse training schools in the West. In 1893, she purchased property in Evergreen, Colorado and developed Camp Neosho, a summer home named after her mother, which now operates as the Hiwan Museum and Heritage Park.

Doctor Josepha married Episcopal Canon Charles Winfred Douglas in 1896. They had a son, Frederic (Eric) in 1897. The family had a deep interest in world cultures. Josepha invested in Indigenous art, with a particular focus in art from the American Southwest. This passion for Indigenous art was passed on to Eric, who became the first curator of Native Arts at the Denver Art Museum. Eric dedicated his career to challenging stereotypes and promoting Indigenous art as fine art, opposing its previous categorization in natural history museums as "primitive arts."

Doctor Josepha's legacy as a pioneering physician and philanthropist lives on through the Hiwan Museum, inspiring visitors with her determination and dedication to cultural appreciation. Celebrate Women's History by taking a free tour of the Hiwan Museum to learn more, and to admire the collection of Indigenous art.

Be on the Lookout for the Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has begun to survey suitable Front Range habitat for plains sharp-tailed grouse (PSTGR) and has asked JCOS for help. PSTGR is identified on the state endangered species list; and the last reliable information on the species inhabiting this region predates the 1980s.

In February, folks from the JCOS Natural Resources Team attended a meeting hosted by CPW for local public land managers about identifying PSTGR, their habitat and behaviors which separate them from another species found locally, the dusky grouse. White Ranch Park is home to what is likely the dusky grouse. PSTGR prefer more open, grassland-like habitats with a shrub component, while dusky grouse are more often found in our forested parks. Further, PSTGR is a lekking species, while dusky grouse is not. A lek is a specific area used annually where males of a species gather communally to compete for female mates through courtship displays.

If you are in the parks and see a grouse that resembles a PSTGR, contact CPW at 303-291-7227. The JCOS Natural Resource team would also love to know; contact them at <https://www.jeffco.us/3620/Human-Wildlife-Interactions>, and would greatly appreciate a photo, if you can get one.

Jeffco Fairgrounds, Adaptive Bike Test Track

The JCOS Trails Team and Fairgrounds staff are working with the National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD) to build a beginner test track for mobility devices at the Fairgrounds. The trail will allow riders with disabilities to pick out a bike and become comfortable with it before heading out to a park. In their long-range plans, NSCD also hopes to build an intermediate test trail and a pump track.

Lookout Mountain Nature Center & Preserve, Hillcrest Fifth Graders Explore Ecosystems

In April, fifth graders from Hillcrest Elementary (Adams County) visited the Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Preserve for the Ecosystem Investigator (ESI) program. Under sunny skies and 50-degree temps, students explored the core theme: "Everything is connected in the ecosystem".

Guided by JCOS Volunteers and Rangers, students rotated through four Forest Loop stations:

Sun Station: Traced the sun's energy through the food chain—complete with fun hats

Producer Station: Designed herbivore-friendly restaurant menus

Consumer Station: Studied skulls to learn about animal diets

Decomposer Station: Flipped rocks to find insects that recycle forest waste

Aligned with Jeffco curriculum standards, the ESI program reinforces classroom learning while promoting stewardship and Leave No Trace principles. JCOS hosts about 25 school field trips at the preserve each year and plans to grow the program.

Buchanan Park, GOCO Grant Awarded to Evergreen Park and Recreation District (EPRD) for park Improvements

EPRD was recently awarded a \$650,000 GOCO grant, which will go towards improving amenities that make Buchanan Park more accessible to visitors with disabilities. This project will also assist JCOS in providing improved connectivity to the Usable Trails at Elk Meadow Park as well. EPRD plans to build a shed with electricity and water, which will house up to two JCOS adaptive bikes, making it easier to facilitate rides from this location. These upgrades will be completed by 2025-26. The project has earned extensive community support, including fundraising and donations from residents and organizations.

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



Lookout Mountain Nature Center staff and volunteer naturalists inspire kids and adults to connect with the natural world. Interactive exhibits take visitors on a tour of the flora and fauna of the foothills' ecosystem. Kids enjoy a hands-on playroom and observation room.

The Nature Center offers free naturalist-led programs in every season for individuals, families, and schools and groups. Visitors can also enjoy a walk through the nature preserve while visiting.

Across from the entrance to the Nature Center, the Beaver Brook Trail provides hiker-only connections to Windy Saddle Park and Denver Mountain Parks' Genesee Park.

Across the Nature Center's parking lot, visitors can stroll through the formal gardens of the Boettcher Mansion and even take a guided tour of the elegant interior of this historic building.

Jeffco Open Space Educators offer programs throughout the year covering the county's wildlife, plants, history and more.

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

What's Available for Review:

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) – FINAL <https://togetherjeffco.com/cwpp>
Evacuation Annex (EA) - FINAL <https://togetherjeffco.com/cepp>
Transportation and Mobility Plan DRAFT: Projects, Priorities & Strategies
<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/>

Nature Streaming <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/>

The NoCo Places 2024 Annual Report is available for download at
<https://www.nocoplaces.com/materials-2/>

AROUND THE STATE

Xcel Vegetation Management – Xcel Energy contract crews will be performing important vegetation management work in the eastern region of Golden during April to maintain safe and reliable service within your community and to reduce wildfire risk. The approximate work area will be around the 6th Avenue and I-70 interchange, in the East and West Pleasant View neighborhoods as well as Golden Heights Park. Crews will be clearing brush, trimming trees and removing hazard trees around power lines. Please be considerate and mindful of their efforts as they work to keep everything running smoothly: drive cautiously near work zones; follow posted signs for everyone's safety; give crews space to do their job safely and efficiently.

6% of Colorado land is supposed to be protected by conservation easements. But who enforces them? – Colorado has spent millions to preserve legacy landscapes with conservation easements, but violations that are unenforced by the state are encroaching on the lands these easements were meant to protect. [Read more here from The Colorado Sun.](#)

Road construction project to impact Castlewood Canyon State Park – FRANKTOWN, Colo. — Colorado Parks and Wildlife will begin a road construction project at Castlewood Canyon State Park affecting the east side of the park. Starting April 7 through May 7, the road work will be done on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to not impact weekend visitation. For more information contact Kara Van Hoose, Northeast Region Public Information Officer, 303-829-7143 or kara.vanhoose@state.co.us.

Plan is moving ahead for Fishers Canyon in Colorado Springs – A plan for a new outdoor destination in Colorado Springs appears to be moving ahead while nearby residents continue to plead for more time to address concerns. The Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) Working Committee recently heard another presentation regarding the plan for Fishers Canyon Open Space. It was the second such presentation for the 100-page document more than a year in the making, detailing

recreation development and management of the 343 acres on the city's southwest side. [Read more in The Denver Gazette.](#)

Plan is shaping for Lost Canyon between Colorado Springs and Denver – Lost Canyon Ranch is the largest open space ever acquired by the town of Castle Rock — 681 acres on the southeast edge of town bordering a similar, rocky mosaic, Castlewood Canyon State Park. Privately held for generations, Lost Canyon Ranch entered the public trust last year through a \$15 million deal brokered by The Conservation Fund, with significant contributions from Great Outdoors Colorado and Douglas County's open space fund. Now the owning town of Castle Rock has unveiled concepts for future recreation and preservation. [Read about it in The Denver Gazette.](#)

Tiny zebra mussels forced Colorado to completely drain a lake – Colorado Parks and Wildlife continues to closely monitor Highline Lake, northwest of Grand Junction, for the invasive species. [Read about it in The Colorado Sun.](#)

Tips and tricks for deterring woodpeckers from pecking at your home – While fun for bird watchers, woodpeckers can quickly become a nuisance when their beak's target is the side of your home. They drill into house siding for various reasons, including feeding, mating and nesting. It's important to note that woodpeckers are protected by the North American Migratory Bird Act. As an essential part of our ecosystem, the birds should never be hurt or killed to rid them of your property. For tips on how to deter them from using your house as a sounding board, [go here.](#)

Pet owners warned about fatal virus that's killing Colorado's raccoons – Colorado Parks and Wildlife has issued a warning related to a virus that's been popping up among the state's raccoons, with that virus resulting in a highly contagious and fatal disease that can be passed to dogs. [Read the full story here.](#)

Governor Polis' renewable energy push – Sam Brasch of the CPR Climate Team reported on Governor Polis' last-minute legislative push to shift Colorado to 100 percent clean energy by 2040. That's a decade sooner than currently required under state law, but the Polis administration is now rushing to codify one of his biggest campaign promises into statute. [Read the full report here.](#)

What Trump's "emergency" logging declaration could mean for Colorado's U.S. Forest land – Environmental groups are sounding the alarm after the U.S. Department of Agriculture declared more than 100 million acres of national forest land "an emergency situation" that can only be helped with chain saws, wood chippers and the bigger, more destructive tools of industrial logging. ... The memo [USDA Secretary] Rollins sent ... follows an executive order President Donald Trump made in March directing federal agencies to explore ways to ramp up timber production, expedite delivery and "decrease timber supply uncertainty" across 280 million acres of national forests and other public lands by bypassing the Endangered Species Act and other environmental regulations. [Follow the full story here.](#)

Our Conservation Partners

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

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

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>

Camping reservations can be made year-round, up to six months before your arrival date; make your reservations now. <https://cpw.state.co.us/camping>

Big Game License Applications opened March 1st, <https://cpw.state.co.us/hunting>

Jefferson Conservation District

<https://www.jeffersoncd.com/news-events>

Centaur Ranch Project, Evergreen. 150 acres, ongoing, expected completion March 2025.

Miramonte Phase 3 Project, Coal Creek. 60 acres, ongoing, expected completion June 2025.

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

<https://www.birdconservancy.org>

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/resources/stories/>

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/>

700,000 acres of land, 3238 miles of waterways, 715 projects in 50 counties

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

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

Rosalie, Bailey

This 72-acre property near Bailey is adjacent to another ranch, the Woodward family's home ranch, that was previously protected with a COL conservation easement. The Woodwards raise beef on their lands; they purchased this additional property in 2022 to expand their pasture and have additional space for future generations of family who wish to continue their ranching legacy. Development pressure around Bailey is high, and this easement will help ensure a future for local agriculture, as well as for the herds of elk which are known to roam the property. The Park County Land and Water Trust Fund was a project partner.

18th Annual Phantom Ranch Ball, a make-believe gala, a make-believe ball. For the past 18 years, April 1st has marked a time to come together to celebrate the incredible work we're all doing to protect and conserve the beautiful lands of Summit County and Colorado as a whole. You choose the time for your own celebration, but please toast the land by sending a donation! [Click here to attend the event.](https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E6243&id=81) <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E6243&id=81>

Mountain Area Land Trust

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

26,733 acres of land in 6 counties

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

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

Mark your calendars, MALT's legendary Magic in the Meadow will be held

Saturday, June 21st, beneath their signature white tent overlooking Meyer Ranch Open Space Park. For details go to <https://e.givesmart.com/events/GRT/>

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/out-and-about-event-highlights>

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/>

Annual Photo Contest at <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/annual-photo-contest/>

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

UNDER A WILD SKY, DLC's inaugural fundraiser will take place on Saturday, September 20th, from 3-7PM at the Duncan Ranch, Sedalia, CO. Tickets will be available soon at <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/events/under-a-wild-sky/>

City of Golden Parks & Trails

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 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM in-person, United Center, Idaho Springs.

SOLVE is monitoring multiple potential acquisitions being negotiated by Clear Creek Open Space. Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT) is working closely with CCCOS on

these projects.

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



Visitors to Matthews/Winters Park will find a starting point for reaching the City of Denver's Red Rocks Park by trail.

Across County Road 93, the Hogback offers a different recreation experience, with a steep climb up to the hulking ridge between plains and foothills. Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center is a neighboring attraction, providing interpretation for the dinosaur tracks imprinted on the eastern face of the Hogback.

Located on the hogback above C-470 and the site of the old Bandimere Speedway, the original Dakota Ridge Trail from I-70 to the Alameda Cut led to multiple undesignated trails. The trail extension adds miles of "Most Difficult"-rated trail to Matthews/Winters Park and connects the trail back to Red Rocks Park Amphitheater Entrance 2 on the west side of Mathews/Winters park.

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. 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. There has been no known recent movement on this project.

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

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

On Thursday, April 3, a federal district judge issued a remedy order on the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project ordering construction to stop, among other remedies. Denver Water is gravely concerned about this ruling and its ramifications for the future of metro Denver and its water supply.

Despite the ruling that Denver Water's permit for the Gross Reservoir expansion violates 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/>

...Denver Water, Kiewit Barnard and project support staff have said that they are committed to follow any court orders. They will provide updates as soon as they have them on the [Gross Reservoir Expansion construction web page](#).

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>

Is there a project in your neighborhood that you'd like more information on? Here's a link to Jeffco Planning and Zoning, where the new interactive map showing ongoing applications and active 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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Like [THREADS](#)? They're fun!

Reach for the sky, join us on [BLUESKY](#)!

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