



PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



RECOGNIZING THE FOUNDERS WHO LAID THE CORNERSTONES
ON WHICH THE JEFFERSON COUNTY OPEN SPACE LEGACY WAS BUILT.

CAROL KARLIN
MIKE MOORE
JIM ERDMAN
GORDON GARRETT
KAREN GLICKMAN
MARIANNE KNOTT
KAY LEDYARD
BEV LIPMAN
JOHN LITZ
MARILYN MUELLER
BETTE SEELAND
LEE TODD
MARCIA WALSH
FRAN YEHLE
MARGOT ZALLEN

LINDA BELL
ANNE BOWEN
BRAD BREHMER
SANDY BRYANT
JEANETTE BUCKLEY
ALAN CARLSON
JUDY CARSTENS
GARY CUMMINS
DIANE EBERTOWSKI
NANCY EDELSTEIN
MARDI ERDMAN
MARLENE FISH
SHARON GARRETT
DICK GUADAGNO
ARLYS LAFEHR

ESTELLA LEOPOLD
MAC MEREWETHER
ANNE NESHOFER
SUE ORGAN
LINDA REED
JACK REED
MARY SCHLER
RACHEL SCOFIELD
JAN SCHOEBERLEIN
PEGGY SPECKMAN
JOANN THOMPSON
NANCY URQUHART
PAULINE UTTER
VADA WARD
DOROTHY WESTERN

*A proud Bette Seeland posing next to the Founders Plaque, Elk Meadow, Carol Karlin Overlook.
Photo courtesy of daughter Lisa Decker.*

Once again, we've lost a Founder. Bette Seeland was part of Jeffco Open Space before it was even an entity. She was a PLAN Jeffco founder, and a Board Member since its inception. We will miss her tremendously.

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, 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.

JOIN US AT
<https://planjeffco.org/>

What's New in the Blogosphere?

PLAN Jeffco Loses Co-Founder Bette Seeland

<https://planjeffco.org/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.

Open Space agrees to forgo trail improvement near Rocky Flats in deal with Westminster

<https://planjeffco.org/open-space-agrees-to-forgo-trail-improvement-near-rocky-flats-in-deal-with-westminster/>

Jeffco Open Space Advisory Board unanimously approved an agreement resolving a contract dispute between Open Space and the City of Westminster over completing a 0.4-mile-long trail connection between the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge and Westminster Hills Open Space. The advisory board endorsed the deal in an 8-0 vote in a regular meeting on March 6.

Jeffco Open Space Conservation Awards 2025

<https://planjeffco.org/jeffco-open-space-conservation-awards-2025/>

Volunteers are the heartbeat of the Jefferson County Open Space system. In 2024, 6,038 individuals logged 57,000 working hours. They completed 549 projects, preserved 291 acres and created 17 miles of new trails.

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...

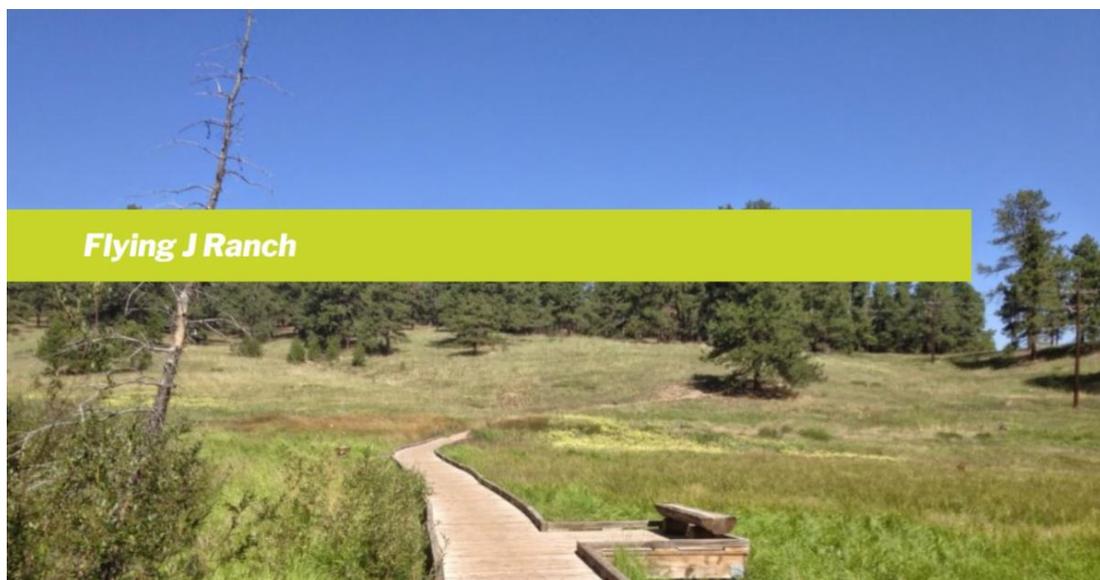
Thank you for staying with us as we navigate the massive changes to PLAN Jeffco following the loss of our long-time Board members Ann Bonnell, John Litz, and now Bette Seeland.

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



Enjoy rolling landscapes with lodgepole pine, ponderosas, and Douglas fir in this park with fantastic hiking and biking trails. During the summer, take the opportunity to picnic in rustic timber shelters. In the winter, these trails are fantastic for snowshoeing.

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 3/20/2025 – DRAFT

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-3-20-25-draft/>

PLAN Jeffco February Board Meeting Minutes 2/22/2025 – FINAL

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-2-22-25-final/>

PLAN Jeffco January Board Meeting Minutes 1/16/2025 – FINAL

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

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

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/>

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – December 2024

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-december-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, March 6 @ 6PM, in-person at Jeffco Open Space Office, 700 Jefferson County Pkwy #100, Golden 80401

City of Arvada Long Lake Regional Park – Telecommunications IGA JCOS25-01, Resolution #25-02

In 1998, JCOS helped Arvada acquire their Long Lake Regional Park, using Open Space funds. The property was deeded to Arvada with an Open Space reverter. In 2003, Arvada entered into a 20-year lease agreement with a telecommunications company. Wireless communications equipment was allowed in the park. An agreement was reached between Open Space and Arvada which required the telecommunications company to construct a shade structure in the park, plus \$45,000 for construction of a trail through the park. Arvada receives \$2,000/yr from the telecommunication company; these funds are dedicated to park & open space purposes.

JCOS25-01, Resolution #25-02 was approved, seconded, adopted unanimously.

Van Bibber Park – Canal Agreements JCOS24-20, Resolution #25-03

This resolution concerns the two-mile stretch of new trail that stretches from the Fairmont Trail connection on the west to Van Bibber Open Space Park on the east. There are multiple crossings along the trail, each of which will require discussions and

agreements: From west to east – Fairmont Trail, Easley Crossing, Armored Channel Crossing, the Church Ditch crossing, an as-yet unnamed crossing, the Farmers Highline Canal crossing, the McIntyre Street underpass, the Croke Canal crossing, and the Indiana Street crossing.

JCOS asked for OSAC permission to take each of these crossing projects to their respective communities for design discussion and agreements. There will be costs associated with each crossing. The McIntyre underpass crossing is already finished. JCOS24-20, Resolution #25-03 was approved, seconded, adopted unanimously.

City of Westminster Woman Creek Reservoir Authority JCOS25-03, Resolution #25-04

See blog article "Open Space agrees to forgo trail improvement near Rocky Flats in deal with Westminster"

<https://planjeffco.org/open-space-agrees-to-forgo-trail-improvement-near-rocky-flats-in-deal-with-westminster/>

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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. CLOSED: Seasonal Wildlife Closures at multiple parks Feb 1-July 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 summer of 2025.
4. REMINDER: Some JCOS Parks have designated-use trails or alternating use days

Jeffco Open Space Construction Updates

North Table Park Golden Cliffs Stair Improvements

A small group of the JCOS Trails Team worked on repairs at North Table Mountain's Golden Cliffs Trail. A rock staircase that was severely undercut required attention. Staff added two additional steps and a landing area below the original staircase to prevent further erosion and improve the trail's sustainability

Beaver Ranch Park 2025 Forest Health Management Project

JCOS will treat approximately 86 acres of mixed conifer forests at Beaver Ranch Park in the summer of 2025. The goals of this project include reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, promoting forest health, and protecting valuable water resources. The Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program, the Department of Natural Resources Executive Director's Office, and Denver Water are partial funders of this project.

[Read here for more information on this project](#)

Nightly Closure of Lookout Mountain Road

Following years of planning and multiple, often intense public and community

meetings, the 4.1-mile stretch of Lookout Mountain Road from Golden up to just above Buffalo Bill's Grave is closed to vehicle traffic every night. Foot and bicycle traffic will still be able to access this section of Lookout Mountain Road during the nighttime closures. Winter closure hours are 7PM to 5AM. Standard closure hours begin on the second Sunday in March and run through October 30th, one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

Pine Valley Open Space Park

Pine Lake is closed to all ice recreation activities for the season.

Jeffco Open Space Science & Social Updates

Trail Stewardship Team is Hiring

Do you know of any teens looking for a fantastic summer job? The Trail Stewardship Team (TST) is a fun program that employs youth for trail maintenance and natural resource restoration projects at Jeffco Open Space Parks. Join the TST this summer from June 17 to July 31. Enjoy beautiful, scenic views while learning and making new friends in this unique opportunity! [Click here for more information and application details.](#)

Trekking the Forest with Natural Resources

How much walking does it take to mark trees for removal in a mountain pine beetle project area, such as the one at Elk Meadow Park. One Natural Resources specialist trekked nearly 3 miles to cover just 15 acres. To put that into perspective, marking a 200-acre project would require almost 40 miles of walking! This highlights the careful planning and consideration that goes into every tree marked for removal.

Conservation Greenprint Open Houses

As part of the development of the Conservation Greenprint, 2026-2030, the JCOS Planning Team completed a series of five open houses requesting feedback from the community on the draft goals that will help shape the JCOS priorities for the next five years. 122 participants, including individual residents and representatives from 33 partner and stakeholder groups, attended the events in Conifer, Evergreen, Golden, Littleton, and Arvada. Additionally, a public survey asking for the same feedback was live through March 28 and received 116 responses.

The Open Houses and survey are the latest phase of public engagement, following the Resident Survey and targeted Focus Groups in late 2024, to ensure that JCOS understands and integrates the perspectives of the community with the JCOS mission. There will be additional opportunities for community engagement as the development of the Conservation Greenprint, 2026-2030 continues.

Raptor Program at Parmalee Elementary

Ranger Sabrina, Ranger Billy, and their Jr. Ranger helpers hosted a Raptor Program at Parmalee Elementary on March 14. The Raptor Education Foundation brought four raptors to help the students learn how to be good stewards of our land and to teach them the importance of protecting wildlife. The program was attended by 125 kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students.

2025 Colorado Building Code Classes

The annual Colorado Chapter Educational Institute was held in Loveland this year; JCOS Park Construction Team members were able to attend. This workshop provided an invaluable opportunity to stay current with the latest updates to the International Building Code and emerging industry advancements.

Attendees gained critical insights into code revisions, industry trends, and regulatory updates, ensuring they remained well-prepared to meet evolving industry standards. The workshop covered a diverse range of topics, including soil expansion, ADA EV parking requirements, disaster recovery, and municipality compliance.

Beyond the classroom, participants benefited from networking with industry professionals, vendors, and inspectors, exploring new products and technologies, and earning educational credits for certifications and licenses.

DEI: Women's History Month: Mary Josepha Williams Douglas & Hiwan Museum

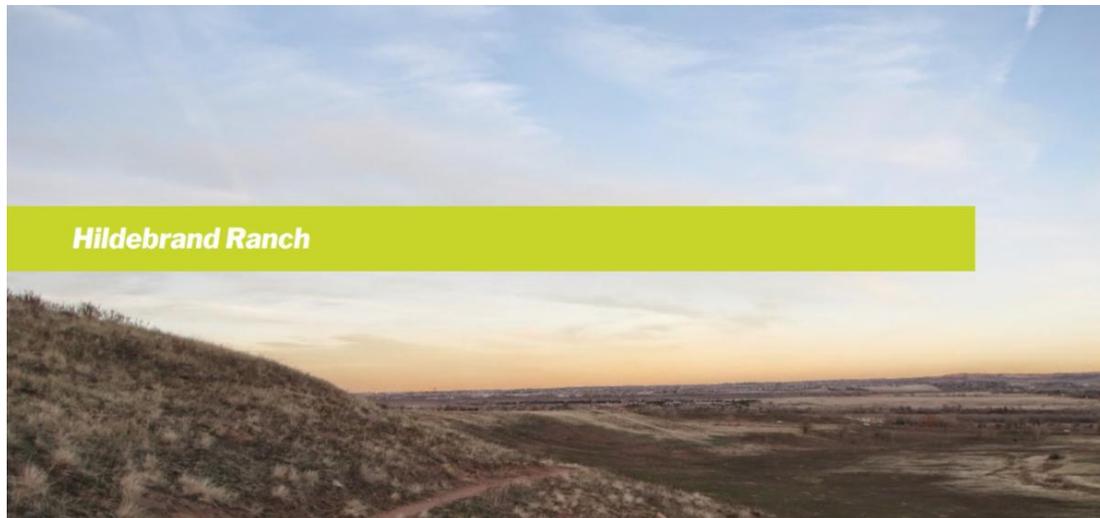
Mary Josepha Williams Douglas, known as Josepha, was born in Virginia in 1860. Defying the era's gender norms, Josepha headed west and pursued a medical career,

moving to Denver by 1887 with her mother, Mary Neosho Williams. Josepha enrolled in 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.

Josepha married Episcopal Canon, Charles Winfred Douglas, in 1896, and 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 Month this March by taking a free tour of the Hiwan Museum to learn more!

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



Diverse terrain and stunning views are the main features of Hildebrand Ranch Park. Since 2018, the difficult, shared-use Black Bear Trail connects Hildebrand Ranch's 7+ miles of trails to Deer Creek Canyon Park, which has incredible opportunities for hiking and biking on additional trails.

The Black Bear Trail involves a thousand feet of elevation gain from Hildebrand to Deer Creek Parks and is closed seasonally for nesting golden eagles.

Due to a devastating wildfire in Deer Creek Park in 2024, that park and the Black Bear Trail will most likely be closed throughout 2025.

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)

What's Available for Review:

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) – FINAL <https://togetherjeffco.com/cwpp>

Evacuation Annex (EA) - FINAL <https://togetherjeffco.com/cemp>

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

Arapahoe County Bijou Basin Open Space – County officials are seeking input from the public on the 3,000-acre Bijou Basin on how this park should be used. Based on public input, the area may include a trailhead with parking, a picnic area, restroom, and a multi-use trail system. The final master plan will be presented at the Arapahoe County Fair, then adopted by Open Space and Trails Advisory Board and the Board of County Commissioners later in the summer. [Read more here.](#)

The Golden Open Space Master Plan is Under Development

from Golden Today, 3/20/25

The consultants who are working on the Open Space Master Plan gave a status report during the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting at City Hall.

The position of Parks Director has been vacant since June of 2024. Some members of the Parks Board have been concerned about this planning process, in that the work has been done with little Board input. A memo written by one of the board members expressed concern that the consultants were too geared to active use plans (parks) and not to conservation plans (open space). (Note: to learn more about Golden's Open Space, see the Stewards of Golden Open Space website.)

Staff described planned changes to the Lions Park Playground. The current equipment is considered to be nearing the end of its usable life, so they will be replacing it. They plan public engagement opportunities at the park on May 10th & 13th and July 7th & 11th.

Elk migration eased by South Park conservation effort: Eagle Rock Ranch provides winter forage, facilitates elk migration

Scott Weiser scott.weiser@gazette.com Mar 4, 2025

[Read the full story here.](#)

From the peaks of the Lost Creek Wilderness, more than 2,000 elk migrate annually down to South Park near the towns of Fairplay and Jefferson for the winter -- something that has been happening for the last 16,000 years or so. One of those primary migration routes passes through Dave Gottenborg's 4,000-acre Eagle Rock Ranch.

Gottenborg recently signed a five-year agreement with the Property and Environment Research Center (PERC), which is based in Bozeman, Montana, to facilitate elk migration and to provide them with rotating winter forage on half his property.

The 150-year-old cattle ranch, established in 1868, traditionally ran about 250 cow-calf pairs year-round. Gottenborg has been reducing his cattle herd for the last 10 years or so to about a third that size and he no longer winters livestock on the ranch.

The core of the agreement is that Gottenborg will allow elk to easily and safely migrate through half of the property come winter. Gottenborg will switch halves each year, while growing forage for his cattle for summer grazing on the other half.

The agreement gives Gottenborg somewhat less than he might make running cattle on the whole property, paid for by PERC. This, said Gottenborg, is good for the ranch and good for the elk.

CPW announces opening dates for boating, SUP, and kayaks at 6 state parks

[Get the full information here.](#)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) Northeast Region has announced opening dates for boating, paddleboarding, and kayaking at six state parks.

Before heading out onto the water, boaters must register their vessel, purchase an aquatic nuisance species (ANS) stamp, complete an ANS inspection, and stock their boat with Coast Guard-approved life jackets for all passengers. ANS inspections can be done any day of the week at state parks or at CPW administrative offices during weekdays.

Opening dates:

Barr Lake: April 1

Boyd Lake: March 10

Chatfield: TBA pending ice conditions

Cherry Creek: March 10

Eleven Mile and Spinney: TBA pending ice conditions, but not before April 15

Jackson Lake: Opened March 1

North Sterling: March 15

St. Vrain: Opened March 1

Rules related to what types of water vessels can be utilized may vary by destination and can fluctuate throughout the season, making it crucial to check for the most up-to-date information on a park's official website prior to visiting.

CPW encourages boaters to take one of its boating safety courses. CPW also warned boaters that they should be aware of potential exposed tree stumps in areas around Chatfield Reservoir due to recent tree operations.

A Warning: woman stranded for 30 hours in desert after e-bike stops working on remote trail

By Spencer McKee Mar 15, 2025 Updated 8 hrs ago

[Read the full story here.](#)

The Friends of Big Bend Ranch State Park, Texas, want to remind e-bikers of an overlooked risk of riding in remote areas. According to the group, a female biker faced major complications after her e-bike battery died in a remote area. This resulted in the woman being stranded in the desert for 30 hours, pushing her bike 20 miles before she ended up being located and rescued deep in the park.

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/>

Arroyos del Sol, Greeley

This nearly 1,000-acre property in the Town of Greeley has now been forever protected for public open space and recreation. An intensive public engagement period is shaping future uses, which include multi-use trails with scenic bluffs and prairies, central gathering spaces for picnics, habitat for 91 identified wildlife species and one rare plant, and accessible paths and interpretive signage to make this community asset more inclusive. Project partners include Great Outdoors Colorado, Trust for Public Land, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Ducks Unlimited, which collaborated to acquire the land for the Town.

Rito Seco Park, Rito Seco Park, San Luis Valley

Opportunities to acquire land for public access are extremely rare in the San Luis Valley. COL collaborated with a private landowner to conserve 398 acres adjacent to Rito Seco Park. Now conserved, the landowner has sold the land to Costilla County to expand the park. Trail expansion and public access planning for this parcel will begin later in 2025.

The Rito Seco (meaning "dry creek") twists its way through the property for 0.75 miles before emptying onto the valley floor and flowing through the Town of San Luis. The parcel is surrounded on three sides by the Sangre de Cristo Greenbelt. The mosaic of vegetation types on the property provides winter range habitat for mule deer and elk, as well as summer habitat for bear and for Canada lynx. The stream corridor provides plenty of aquatic and riparian habitat as evidenced by the multiple active beaver ponds.

Texas Creek Ranch, Wet Mountain Valley, Westcliffe

Texas Creek Ranch includes two miles of Texas Creek and associated senior water rights among rolling grasslands, riparian wetlands, and aspen groves. A small herd of elk camps out on the property all winter. The ranch is currently leased by a neighbor's family-run cattle operation. In 2012, 600 acres of this property were protected by San Isabel Land Protect Trust (SILPT), and this easement adds the remaining 394 acres, marking the protection of the entirety of the ranch.

This property is contiguous with three other COL-held conservation easements which also originated with SILPT. One of SILPT's key initiatives, the Wet Mountain Valley Ranchland Preservation Program, was started in the early 2000s with a goal of protecting as much of the valley floor as possible, ensuring the future of the viewshed to the Sangre de Cristos beyond.

With the completion of this project, the program's accomplishments now encompass nearly 10,000 contiguous protected acres!

Occidental Farm, Weld County

This 593-acre property is situated between Fort Collins and the Pawnee National Grasslands and operates as a dryland wheat farm. The farm is an important piece of the scenic viewshed from local county roads, given the relatively flat topography of the area. The farm serves as habitat for fox, coyote, and various waterfowl and birds of prey, and is an especially important migration corridor for pronghorn which roam the Pawnee National Grasslands. Conservation of this farm helps solidify the farming legacy of Weld County, known as Colorado's bread basket.

Stromberger Farm, Windsor, Weld County

This property is a third-generation farm located on the edge of Windsor in Weld County. The family purchased the 152-acre farm in 1943 and have since grown a variety of crops, including sugar beets, beans, corn, alfalfa, and even hops. With prime soils and a variety of senior water rights, the farm has always been highly productive. Part of that water rights portfolio includes Windsor Reservoir water, which enables the farm to be irrigated early and late in the growing season when other farms often struggle to get water. The abundance of water on the Stromberger Farm will allow it to be a viable operation well in the future. The Natural Resources Conservation Service was a project partner.

18th Annual Phantom Ranch Ball, a make-believe gala, a make-believe ball. You choose the time for your own celebration, but please toast the land by sending a donation! [Click here to attend the event.](#)

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.

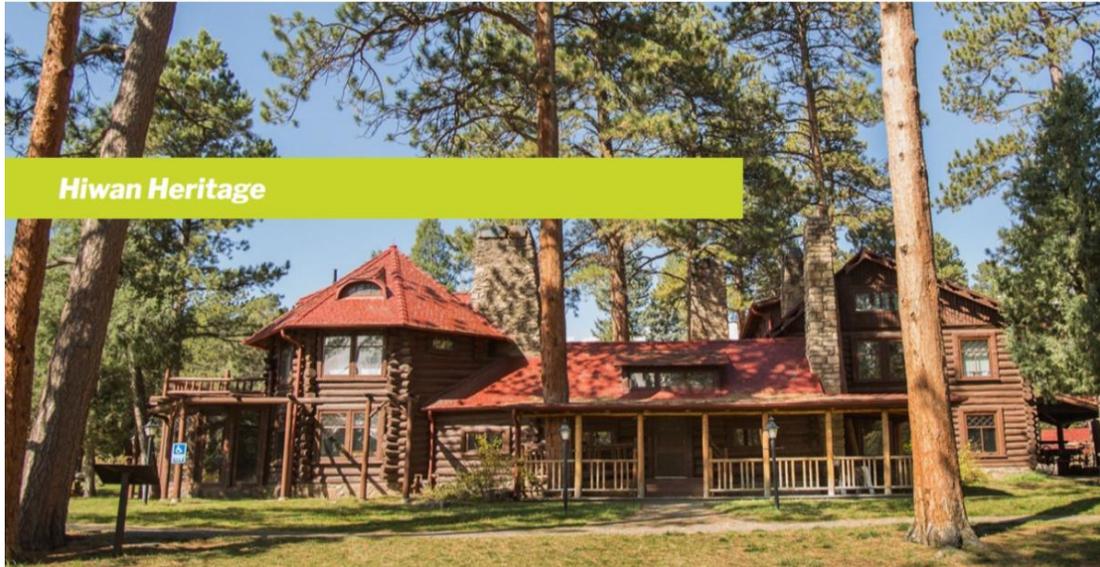
SOLVE is monitoring multiple potential acquisitions being negotiated by Clear Creek Open Space. Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT) is working closely with CCCOS on these projects.

Follow the postings from other conservation groups, listed at the bottom of each of our web pages

<https://www.PLANJeffco.org>

WANT TO SUPPORT OUR WORK?

Join or Renew Your Membership



The vibrant history of Jefferson County comes to life at Hiwan Heritage Park. A magnificent, 25-room log lodge, now a museum, is the centerpiece of the grounds.

This Colorado rustic architectural classic evolved from a one-room cabin constructed in 1893. Originally called Camp Neosho, after the owner's mother, the museum was the former summer camp and residence of one of Colorado's first female doctors, Josepha Williams Douglas, and her family. To avoid development and possible demolition, the Jefferson County Historical Society worked with the newly formed Jeffco Open Space to list Hiwan on the National Register of Historic Places and open it to the public as a museum in 1974. Throughout the lodge are original and historic furnishings, with Native American artwork on permanent display.

To hear the fascinating history of this lodge, drop in for a tour during museum hours or schedule a large group tour. Jeffco Open Space Educators offer programs throughout the year covering the county's wildlife, plants, history and more.

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 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/>

Denver Water, Kiewit Barnard and project support staff have been working through the winter; they are preparing the site and dam for roller-compacted concrete placements. Once temperatures are consistently above freezing, the concrete work will proceed. 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>

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?
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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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