



# PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



*Aspen grove in Autumn  
Photo courtesy of CarbonFibrePhoto 2021*

## The PLAN Jeffco Monthly Sept-Oct 2025

*We're back! It was a glorious summer. We hope this break was as good for you as it was for your publisher/editor and crew!*

*We're moving into the Autumn of the year. The leaves are turning in the High Country, the nights are cooler, the air fresh and even chill during the day when the sun slides behind a cloud. When you're hiking in the Open Space parks, make sure you're prepared for sudden weather changes, and always dress in layers!*

*We would like to thank every reader, and especially those who have donated to the cause, so that we can continue to advocate for acquisition and protection of open spaces and Jeffco Open Space, in particular. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Threads or BlueSky – or all five! The team will continue to generate blog posts at <https://planjeffco.org/blog/>*

*Wishing everyone a very happy Autumn!*

*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 well 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/>

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## What's New in the Blogosphere?

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There's not much new in the blogosphere unless you haven't checked since last May. The summer break was enchanting, and I (your blogger) didn't do much of anything for the blog. We did have some serious technical issues in the last two months, some of which have been partially resolved – at least for now, so I'll be posting what's been on our editor's drafting board in the near future. DO plan to stop by soon and check out what's new.

### 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](mailto:ContactUs@PLANJeffco.org) a day or two ahead of time to get the Zoom link information.

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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, 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](mailto: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**

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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 September Board Meeting Minutes 9/18/2025 – FINAL  
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-9-18-2025-final/>

PLAN Jeffco June Board Meeting Minutes 6/19/2025 – FINAL  
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-6-19-2025-final/>

PLAN Jeffco May Board Meeting Minutes 5/15/2025 – FINAL  
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-5-15-2025-final/>

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

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – May 2025  
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-june-2025/>

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – April 2025  
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-april-2025/>

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – March 2025  
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-march-2025/>

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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.*

### OSAC in the Field – October 2<sup>nd</sup>

The Open Space Advisory Committee toured the reconstructed Stagecoach Trailhead at Elk Meadow OS Park. The Park Projects Team highlighted the completed trailhead improvements; the Natural Resources Team highlighted restoration techniques used to bring Bergen Creek back from the brink, and general forest health; the Trails Team highlighted trail improvements and renovations.

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>



*2025 National Public Lands Day, the Lariat Loop overlooking North Table Open Space Park. Volunteers cleaning up trash and removing invasive species along the northern section of Lookout Mountain Road.*

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## Open Space Activities

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### Know Before You Go - [JCOS Alerts & Closures](#)

Always check this page before heading out to the Open Space parks for current information on Park and Trail closures, openings, and other operations that may impact your Jeffco Open Space Park experience...

**CLOSED:** The West Trailhead at Alderfer/Three Sisters Park is closed for scheduled improvements beginning May 5 through January 2026. Parking will remain open at the East Trailhead and during non-school hours at Wilmot Elementary School. For more information, please visit the Alderfer/Three Sisters Park page.

**CLOSED:** Portions of Elk Meadow Park, including Stagecoach Trailhead, are closed for trailhead improvements and trail maintenance through the fall of 2025. Trailhead improvements include: a new centrally-located restroom, safety-enhanced road crossing, modern amenities such as EV charging stations, expanded parking, and site restoration. Part of Meadow View Trail is affected. Work will continue through the fall of 2025, weather dependent. Expect crews, dangerous equipment, and enforced closures for safety. The Lewis Ridge trailhead and other portions of the park will remain open. For more information on our wildfire mitigation practices, please visit our Forestry Management page. <https://www.jeffco.us/3343/48512/Forest-Management>

**REOPENED:** Crown Hill Wildlife Sanctuary

The Wildlife Sanctuary at Crown Hill Park reopened on September 23, following a temporary closure caused by elevated water levels in Kestrel Pond. However, a portion of the boardwalk was damaged by the high water and will remain closed until permanent repairs are completed in the near future.

**REMINDER:** Apex, White Ranch, Matthews/Winters, Centennial Cone, and most recently Lair o' the Bear Parks all have designated-use trails or alternating use days. Hikers and runners, please familiarize yourself with these designations; look for and obey signage for your own safety and for everyone's experience.

**REMINDER:** Lookout Mountain Nature Center hours of operation

**The Lookout Mountain Nature Center** has expanded its operating hours by 60%. This expansion reflects Jeffco Open Space's growing commitment to providing enriching environmental education and experiences for the community. With the increased open days and hours, JCOS hopes to welcome more visitors and offer even greater access to our exhibits.

Tuesday - Thursday: CLOSED

Friday - Monday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**SEASONAL CLOSURES:** Opening dates may vary depending on wildlife activity

**Centennial Cone Park:** Elk Range Trail at Centennial Cone Park, including the interior of the park, is closed from February 1 through mid-June to protect elk during their calving season. All other trails are open.

**Clear Creek Canyon Park:** Portions of Clear Creek Canyon Park near Mile Marker 270 are closed to all public use uphill of US Highway 6 from February 1 through July 31 to protect nesting eagles. This closure includes the following rock-climbing sites: Bumbling Stock, Stumbling Block, Skinny Legs, Blonde Formation, and Ghost Crag. The Fault Caves are also included in this closure. Portions of Clear Creek Canyon Park, near Tunnel 2, are closed to all public use uphill of US Highway 6 from February 1 through July 31 to protect nesting eagles. This closure includes the following rock climbing sites: Highlander, Evil Area, and Tetanus Garden.

**Deer Creek Canyon Park/Hildebrand Ranch Park:** The entirety of Black Bear Trail, which connects Deer Creek Canyon Park and Hildebrand Ranch Park, is closed from February 1 through July 31 to protect nesting birds of prey.

**North Table Mountain Park:** Rim Rock Trail at North Table Mountain Park is closed from February 1 through July 31 to protect ground-nesting bird habitat and nesting birds of prey.

**South Table Mountain Park:** Lava Loop trail at South Table Mountain Park is closed from February 1 through July 31 to protect ground-nesting bird habitat and nesting eagles.

**Cathedral Spires Park:** The entirety of Cathedral Spires Park is closed from March 1 through July 31 to protect nesting birds of prey.

**Crown Hill Park:** The Crown Hill Park Wildlife Sanctuary is closed from March 1 through June 30 to protect nesting and brooding waterfowl, as well as creating a critical refuge for all kinds of wildlife including deer, bobcats, coyotes, and others birds, during a critical time in their seasonal life cycle.

**ADDITIONAL CLOSURES:**

White Ranch Park Sourdough Campsite Closure: December-March

Centennial Cone Park Late Season Hunt Closure: December-January

## Jeffco Parks & Open Space Updates

### The Name Change

There are changes afloat...let's start with the name change. Open Space, which was once nestled under the Jeffco Parks & Conservation group, is now Jefferson County Parks & Open Space. Instead of JCOS, it's now JCPOS – an acronym that's not easy to wrap your tongue around. You'll notice that the terms JCPOS and Jeffco Parks & Open Space are starting to appear everywhere...so that's what's going on.

### JCPOS Directorship Changes

Tom Hoby, our Parks & Open Space Director, has announced his resignation, effective 12/31/25. The job description reads: "Jefferson County is seeking a visionary and experienced leader to serve as the next Parks & Open Space Director. This is a unique opportunity to guide one of the top county parks and open space organizations in the nation that is dedicated to conserving natural areas, connecting communities, and providing exceptional visitor experiences and education programs."

Our very own Executive Co-President, Peter Morales, will be part of the review committee for this position. This is a back-to-the-future situation, since Peter was also part of the review committee when Tom Hoby was chosen for this job, back in 2010.

## **2025 National Public Lands Day**

Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> was National Public Lands Day – the largest volunteer event in the nation. At 16 locations across Jeffco, 447 dedicated volunteers turned out to collect 6350 pounds of trash and 2145 pounds of recyclables. In addition, they spread 50 tons of crusher fines on park trails and planted 1450 native plants. We've scattered a few photos throughout this newsletter, so take a gander at the hard work that these volunteers have done.

## **Join us for the Stagecoach Trailhead Opening at Elk Meadow Park**

The Elk Meadow Park Stagecoach Trailhead grand opening ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. At this time it's not clear if this is a public event, but regardless, the trailhead will be open to the public soon – so check the [JCOS Alerts & Closures page](#) before heading out to check the new facilities or for a hike through the newly-restabilized sections of Elk Meadow

## **Lookout Mountain Nature Center**

Several Ponderosa pines have been removed from the LMNC parking lot in order to make way for additional EV charging stations at the LMNC. Inside the Nature Center there's a new interactive camping exhibit designed to educate visitors about what they'll need to be able to camp safely and comfortably at our Open Space campgrounds.

## **Apex Park & Mount Glennon: Annual Invasive Grass Management Program**

The JCPOS Natural Resources team have been working with a UAV (drone) contractor to control invasive grasses, like cheatgrass and feral rye, at these two parks, 50 acres at Apex and 10 acres at Mount Glennon. Herbicide applications like this typically take 2-3 days. The parks were closed at sunset the day before application started, and reopened an hour or so after the last application had a chance to dry.

As per FAA rules, any person who was not part of the application team were to come within 500 feet of the project area, the project would need to be suspended until those individuals were removed.

## **Rutabaga Ride Maintenance Completed**

In the second week of October, JCPOS contracted with the Colorado Mountain Bike Association to perform maintenance on Rutabaga Ride and Bear Creek Trails at Lair o' the Bear Park. During that time, Rutabaga Ride Trail was closed to allow crews to work safely and efficiently.

## **Hiwan Halloween. Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 PM**

Bring your kids to this FREE drop-in celebration of the best of Halloween, including spooky storytelling, prizes, crafts, candies, with a 2:30 PM costume parade. All ages with an adult, no registration required.

## **Mountain Pine Beetle Control**

Mountain pine beetles (MPB) are back. The infestation, which affects only pine trees, has been building since 2023. Early this summer, JCPOS placed pheromone packets on the north sides of the most valuable Ponderosa pines in six Open Space parks. These packets, filled with verbenone, which indicate to an MPB in flight that the tagged tree has "no vacancy", thus causing it to move to a different, uninhabited tree. These packets are available in limited quantity from the Colorado State Forest Service; delivery will likely begin in February. For more information on how to get on the verbenone distribution list, please email at [CSFS\\_ForestHealth@colostaate.edu](mailto:CSFS_ForestHealth@colostaate.edu).

## **2025 Trails Symposium**

JCPOS staff attended and presented at the Trails Symposium on September 17-18 in Frisco, CO. Our own park services team did a presentation on restoration activities in South Valley and White Ranch, while the trails team did a presentation on mechanized trail building. These symposia bring together trails staff from across the State, from both governmental and nonprofit organizations, fostering insightful conversations on topics such as e-bike and e-device policies, visitor courtesy and conflict issues, volunteer programs, trail building tools, and trail condition data collection.

## **DEI and Accessibility Training**

In the last month, JCPOS has been busy hosting DEI training and gathering trail accessibility information from two events. NOCO Places training helped provide first-hand testimonials from the perspective of both physical and neurodivergent disabilities, focusing on terminology and etiquette surrounding recreation for individuals with disabilities. A second event, which included Fletcher Miller students, enabled JCPOS to collect valuable feedback regarding trail accessibility at Elk Meadow Park.

Fletcher Miller's transition program mission is to create independent living skills, vocational/career exploration, and education/training.

## **Shuttle Service Coming in 2026**

Finally, the long-planned-for shuttle service from Golden Station, located adjacent to the Jeffco Government Center, into the parks got the thumbs-up via an unveiling ceremony at this light rail location. The new route will connect riders from the Golden Station to destinations such as Dinosaur Ridge, the Red Rocks Trading Post, and downtown Morrison, with future plans to expand across the Front Range natural areas.

### **South Table Mountain Park New Trail in 2026**

The new multi-use T-Rex Tooth Trail construction is starting this fall and is expected to open to the public in the spring of 2026. This 1.5 mile trail ([use this link to see the map](#)) will connect to Fossil Trail on the west side to the Basalt Cap Loop and the Cretaceous Trail on the east side of South Table park. Always check for up-to-date information before heading out at <https://www.jeffco.us/1430/South-Table-Mountain-Park>

### **Alderfer/Three Sisters Park West Trailhead Improvements May 2025 - January 2026**

What's going on at Alderfer? This West Trailhead Improvement Project includes expanding the existing parking lot, replacing the existing restroom and upgrading the kiosk, installing improved signage, and improving the Bluebird Meadow and Wild Iris trails. This work will result in the trailhead and adjacent roadside parking to be closed until sometime in January 2026. In the meantime, parking at the East Trailhead remains open, as does parking at the Wilmot Elementary School parking lot during non-school hours. Before heading out to Alderfer/Three Sisters, check the status of the work at <https://www.jeffco.us/980/Alderfer-Three-Sisters-Park>

### **SLASH 2025 Ends at Tincup Ridge, October 24-26**

The very popular SLASH program, hosted and administered by JCPOS, is winding down for the year. Budgetary requests for the 2026 year have been made, with requests for improvements at Settlers Drive and Tincup Ridge. We anticipate that the SLASH program will continue, whether or not these improvement requests are granted. Stay tuned.

### **COSA 2025**

In early October, JCPOS teams presented at the annual Colorado Open Space Alliance conference in Steamboat Springs. Members of the Park Rangers team were honored by the Rocky Mountain Ranger Association and won awards for education and backcountry rescue/evacuation. Team members presented multiple topics, and Director Tom Hoby gave his "40 from 40" presentation, "a powerful reflection on the lessons, ideas, and perspectives he's gained over four decades in public service. Drawing from 40 years of experience in parks and open space, Tom shared key takeaways that highlight the values, challenges, and meaningful moments that have shaped his remarkable career."

### **Beaver Ranch Park Culvert Work**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, a sinkhole opened on the road into Beaver Ranch Park, necessitating the park closure for a two days. The culvert that diverted Casto Creek under the road collapsed. JCPOS and the Beaver Ranch community completed a temporary fix, which stabilized the situation. The plan is to replace the temporary fix with a concrete box culvert next year, as part of the planned park improvements.

### **Clear Creek Trail - Huntsman Segment Construction Update**

The three-mile Huntsman Segment is nearing completion. Two new bridges were set in place during the wee hours of September 24<sup>th</sup> – a Wednesday night, during which U.S. Highway 6 was totally shut down, from Golden to the junction of Hwy-119, the turnoff to Black Hawk.

One of the bridges is a 121-foot span that passes over Hwy-6. It has a starburst design and protective mesh fencing, meant to protect pedestrians from falling over the edge onto the highway. The other bridge, further upstream from the first, connects to the concrete box culvert that passes underneath Hwy-6. The underpass was installed the past spring; it connects directly to the Huntsman's Ranch trailhead.

JCPOS estimates that the eastern 1.5 miles of this segment will open November 20<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. The rest of the segment will open in the fall of 2026. The latest video is at <https://youtu.be/a-U5DjTal3Y>

### **SER Field Trip at Beaver Ranch Park**

The Society for Ecological Restoration World Conference was held this year in Denver. JCPOS hosted a field trip for participants from across the country at Casto Creek, down near Beaver Ranch OS Park. Some of the work on the creek is capturing and reducing sediment from flowing into the North Fork of the South Platte River by using low-technology processes to restore the creek's original purpose, aligning with its floodplain and the restoration of its wet meadow plant and animal community.

### **Deer Creek Canyon SER Volunteer Project**

Not that long ago, Deer Creek Park was the focus of many of us who live in the Colorado Front Range. The aftermath has been a perfect location for projects by the SER, the Society for Ecological Restoration. Staff from three JCPOS teams (Trails, Natural Resources and Volunteer Services), joined by 15 volunteers, planted 1100 native shrubs and forbs in an effort to combat the infestation of invasive species. The workers were able to discuss the impacts of the Quarry Fire, the purpose of wildfire in the West, and ongoing restoration efforts along the bulldozer line and the rest of the park. JCPOS is very indebted to the continuing efforts of their OS volunteers.

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



*2025 National Public Lands Day, the Lariat Loop overlooking South Table Open Space Park. Volunteers cleaning applying a fresh coat of white-wash to the retaining walls along the northern section of Lookout Mountain Road.*

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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%20Commission)

**Jefferson County – COVID-19 Updates**  
<https://www.jeffco.us/3999/Coronavirus-Disease-2019-COVID-19>

**TOGETHER JEFFCO** <https://togetherjeffco.com/>

*Jefferson County is in the third phase of the Together Jeffco Plans and Regulations Update. 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).*

The Transportation and Mobility Plan was heard by the Planning Commission on September 24<sup>th</sup>.  
[Details are on the Transportation and Mobility Plan page](#)

View the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) – FINAL <https://togetherjeffco.com/cwpp>  
View the Evacuation Annex (EA) – FINAL <https://togetherjeffco.com/cemp>

**NOCO PLACES - A Common Voice for Public Lands** <https://www.nocoplaces.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.*

Conservation and Recreation Vision <https://www.nocoplaces.com/conservation-and-recreation-vision/>  
Programs and Workshops <https://www.nocoplaces.com/unauthorized-trail-rehabilitation/>  
Shared Messaging <https://www.nocoplaces.com/messaging/>

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## Our Conservation Partners

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### 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>

**State Wildlife Action Plan:** The State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) is an expansive resource on the status of some wildlife populations in Colorado, with an emphasis on individual species and their habitats. The insights found in the SWAP will help CPW forge new partnerships, strengthen old ones and inform policy, keeping Colorado a hotbed of biodiversity.

**Colorado's Outdoors Strategy:** Colorado's Outdoors Strategy, one of the first of its kind in the United States, is the state's conservation, outdoor recreation, and climate resilience strategy. It advances coordination, tools, and funding to align, prioritize, and implement strategic actions on the landscape for conservation, outdoor recreation, and climate resilience.

**Backcountry Search and Rescue Surcharge:** Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is proposing increasing the Backcountry Search and Rescue (BSAR) surcharge on most licenses and registrations. The surcharge increase proposal was heard by the Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) at the August 21-22 PWC Meeting. The PWC is scheduled to consider the proposal for final adoption at the November 13-14 PWC meeting.

**Wolf-Livestock Conflict Minimization Program Guide:** The Wolf-Livestock Conflict Minimization Program Guide provides information on a variety of tools and methods available for livestock producers to employ in efforts to reduce the likelihood of wolf-livestock conflicts and establishes a framework for CPW's response, along with available support from other state, federal and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Download the link [here](#).

**Colorado Angler Survey Summary Report:** This study assessed anglers' fishing behaviors and experiences in Colorado, evaluated their attitudes towards fish management, and examined fishing pressure throughout the state. This survey was also intended to identify any changes over time in the preferences of those fishing in Colorado's waters. The results of this study will ultimately be used to inform future fish hatchery and fish management plans for the state of Colorado.

### **Waterfowl hunters like me? We're a pain in the ANS (Aquatic Nuisance Species)**

Wherever you like to waterfowl hunt, remembering to clean, drain and dry your gear will protect the waters that support the habitat Colorado's game species rely on.

### **Jefferson Conservation District**

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

Active JCD Forestry Projects [click here](#)

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

Lone Rock Phase 2, no report.

### **Bird Conservancy of the Rockies**

<https://www.birdconservancy.org>

**Monitor Migration:** <https://www.birdconservancy.org/nfc-lightsout/>  
**Bird Banding Results:** <https://www.birdconservancy.org/what-we-do/education/bird-banding/>

### What We Accomplished This Year:

Bird Surveys Conducted: 34,013  
Products Informing Conservation: 237  
Landowners Supported: 774  
Acres Restored/Enhanced: 222,411  
People Reached Via Education: 33,951.

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/>

Primary Source Magazine Spring/Summer 2025 <https://online.fliphtml5.com/rtbnt/sjmm/#p=1>  
Birding Day Camps for the youngsters in Colorado <https://www.birdconservancy.org/what-we-do/education/bird-camps/>

### Denver Audubon

<https://denveraudubon.org>

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

**Save the Date: Friends & Supporters Appreciation Night with Paul Bannick.** Celebrate community, conservation, and the wonders of woodpeckers at this special event featuring award-winning author and photographer Paul Bannick. Nov 12, 5-8PM, Ken Caryl Ranch Dakota Lodge, 14422 W Ken Caryl Ave. [Register for this free event here.](#)

**Save the Date: Walk the Wetlands.** Stroll along the South Platte River and wetlands with our Audubon Master Birders to spot fall migrants and local waterfowl. Trail: Easy to moderate, gravel and some uneven/muddy spots. November 2, 2025, 8 - 11:30 AM, Denver Audubon Kingery Nature Center, 11280 Waterton Rd, Littleton, CO 80125. [Register for this free event here.](#)

**Save the Date: Coyote Friendly Communities.** Learn how to safely and compassionately coexist with coyotes in this engaging presentation with Project Coyote. Saturday, November 1, 2025, 4-5:30PM, Denver Audubon Kingery Nature Center, 11280 Waterton Rd, Littleton, CO 80125. [Register for this free event here.](#)

### Colorado Open Lands

<https://coloradoopenlands.org/>

710,304 acres of land, 3372 miles of waterways, 797 projects in 50 counties

**COL Press Room: August 2025** <https://coloradoopenlands.org/press-room/>

Wet Mountain Tribune: Passionate regenerative farm owner Pari Morse awarded Alice Proctor Award  
Sky-Hi News: Himbaugh Gulch trail opens in Hot Sulphur Springs  
The University of Colorado Law School: Acequia Assistance Project Enters 14th Year Providing Pro Bono Legal Services

**Salazar Ranches Costilla Permanently Protected, September 10, 2025** - Salazar Ranches Costilla consists of 767 acres in Costilla County west of San Luis. The Salazar family completed another easement with COL in 2024 and are strong proponents of easements as tools to protect water rights in particular. Three generations of the family... <https://coloradoopenlands.org/salazar-ranches-costilla-permanently-protected/>

**Hillside Mountain Ranch Permanently Protected, September 10, 2025** - Hillside Mountain Ranch is located in the Wet Mountain Valley north of Westcliffe and is highly visible from CO Highway 69. The 314-acre property consists of mountain grasslands, upland scrub habitat, herbaceous wetlands, and hayfields irrigated by senior water rights... <https://coloradoopenlands.org/hillside-mountain-ranch-permanently-protected/>

**La Dolce Vita Ranch Permanently Protected, August 4, 2025** - La Dolce Vita Ranch is a 446-acre

property on the north slope of Thirtynine Mile Mountain near Guffey and approximately 1/4 mile from Pike National Forest. The property is a mix of rolling of montane grasslands, punctuated with mixed conifers, stands of aspen, rocky outcroppings, and... <https://coloradoopenlands.org/la-dolce-vita-ranch-permanently-protected/>

**Faucette Land and Cattle Headquarters Ranch Permanently Protected, July 7, 2025** -This 3,137-acre ranch spans four separate parcels in Conejos and Alamosa Counties. It includes 1.25 miles of La Jara Creek, the associated wetlands and riparian areas, and irrigated cropland and pastures, along with native shrub and grass lands. The ranch is used for... <https://coloradoopenlands.org/faucette-land-and-cattle-headquarters-ranch-permanently-protected/>

**Agricultural Property in Conejos County Permanently Protected, July 7, 2025** -The ranch consists of five parcels across 549 acres. It features prime soils, and the conservation easement protects the significant irrigation water rights, including surface and groundwater. The land is used for cattle grazing, hay production, and assorted crops... <https://coloradoopenlands.org/agricultural-property-in-conejos-county-permanently-protected/>

**Flying W Ranch/Vulcan Property Permanently Protected, July 7, 2025** -This 285-acre property southwest of Gunnison is adjacent to a 4,000-acre conserved ranch with the same landowner. The property is used for seasonal cattle grazing and consists of montane sagebrush shrubland; riparian areas along Camp Creek, Little Camp Creek, and Little Willow Creek... <https://coloradoopenlands.org/flying-w-ranch-vulcan-property-permanently-protected/>

**McKee Ranch Permanently Protected, July 7, 2025** - Located in northeastern Moffat County, this conservation easement includes two non-contiguous tracts of land: the 482-acre Four Mile Creek Ranch and the 1,143-acre Slater Creek Ranch. Four Mile Creek Ranch consists of sagebrush shrublands and two miles along Four Mile Creek... <https://coloradoopenlands.org/mckee-ranch-permanently-protected/>

**Landlines by Colorado Open Lands:** introducing a new **podcast** which will take deeper dives into how land and water protection and restoration gets done in Colorado. Hosted by Leslie Volkar, you can find Landlines by COL at RSS.com, Apple and Spotify, or stream it directly from <https://rss.com/podcasts/landlines>.

**Stay connected with COL** via text messaging – simply text PROTECT to 303-988-2373.  
Spring 2025 Newsletter <https://coloradoopenlands.org/publications/>  
More Conservation Updates <https://coloradoopenlands.org/latest-news/>

### **Mountain Area Land Trust**

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

nearly 27,000 acres of land in 6 counties

#### **Save the Date: Colorado Gives Day Happy Hour**

Join Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT) to toast our supporters on Colorado Gives Day, Tuesday, Dec. 9 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Drop by to enjoy a beer, glass of wine, soda and light appetizers, as well as door prizes! Get more information and register for this event at <https://savetheland.org/events/colorado-gives-day-happy-hour/>.

#### **Save the Date: Colorado Pollinators Feb 4, 2026**

MALT hosts expert educators from the Butterfly Pavilion to explore the roles of bees, butterflies, beetles, moths, and other crucial insects in our local ecosystem. Learn why these pollinators are the superheroes behind Colorado's natural beauty and how you can help protect them. Plus, see the Butterfly Pavilion's diverse collection of pollinator specimens! Get more information and register for this event at <https://savetheland.org/events/colorado-pollinators/>

#### **Save the Date: Conservation Trends in the West March 4, 2026**

Lori Weigel, Principal of [New Bridge Strategy](#), will share an inside look at the findings from the annual bipartisan Conservation in the West poll, which digs into Westerners' views on climate change, public lands, water, wildlife, and other important conservation issues. Get more information and register for this event at <https://savetheland.org/events/conservation-trends-in-the-west-2/>.

### **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.*

<https://www.keepitco.org/news/2025/6/24/spring-summit-2025>

<https://www.keepitco.org/whats-new>

**Keep It Colorado Awards** \$553,850 to Help Conserve 16,000 Acres 6/25/25 - KIC will award \$553,850 in assistance to seven nonprofit Colorado land trusts, which will support landowners who have volunteered to protect their properties through conservation. The 10 selected projects will help permanently protect 16,026 acres encompassing vital wildlife habitat, working farms and ranches.

**Save the Date: Rally 2026: the National Land Conservation Conference - Denver, CO**

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:00 AM

Saturday, September 19, 2026 8:00 PM

Rally is the exciting annual gathering of inspired and passionate land conservation practitioners from around the world who are dedicated to conserving cherished places in our communities. In 2026, Rally will once again return to Denver, CO! Serving as the premier training and networking conference, Rally offers learning sessions focused on land conservation topics, networking events, exhibits, plenary sessions and an awards presentation celebrating conservation leadership.

Learn more at <https://landtrustalliance.org/resources/connect/rally-the-national-land-conservation-conference>

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/>

over 28,000 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/>

**DLC's Under a Wild Sky event** (September 27<sup>th</sup>) attracted 300 attendees. Photos will be available on the DLC website.

**Public Statement** from Douglas Land Conservancy regarding Palmer Lake Annexation and Proposed Bucc-ee's

<https://douglaslandconservancy.org/2025/08/public-statement-from-douglas-land-conservancy/>

**DLC's Annual Photo Contest Opens October 29.** The photo contest will open for submissions on Wednesday, October 29 at 8:00 am MST, and close to new submissions on Wednesday, November 12 at 8:00 am MST. [View contest rules and submit photos on our website.](#)

**Save the Date:** First Annual Oak Leaf Symposium: the Power of Volunteerism for Lasting Conservation Impact. November 13, 10AM – 3PM. Pace Center, Parker CO. [Tickets on sale now.](#)

## **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 \(pdf\)](#)

<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>

Saturday October 25th, 2025 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Maintenance on Turkey Trot, Mt. Falcon  
Saturday November 1st, 2025 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Trail construction at Peak View, Peak View Park  
Saturday November 8th, 2025 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Maintenance on Turkey Trot, Mt. Falcon  
Saturday November 15th, 2025 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Trail construction at Peak View, Peak View Park  
Saturday November 22nd, 2025 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Trail construction at Peak View, Peak View Park

### **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.*

SOLVE is monitoring multiple potential acquisitions being negotiated by Clear Creek Open Space. SOLVE is considering aligning with CCCOS as they develop their ambassador program, similar to JCPOS' ambassador program.

**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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*2025 National Public Lands Day, the Gateway Trailhead, Clear Creek Open Space Park. Open Space Volunteers planting native forbs and shrubs alongside the rabbitbrush and grasses.*

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

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### Gross Reservoir Updates

As reported in the Colorado Sun, Denver Water and Save the Colorado must enter mediation at the end of the month to see if a deal is possible on the mid-project challenge to the water utility's \$531 million dam raising underway at Gross Reservoir in Boulder County, according to an order from the U.S. Court of Appeals.

<https://coloradosun.com/2025/10/21/denver-water-gross-dam-mediation-save-the-colorado/>

In the meantime, the latest report from the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project ([grossreservoir@denverwater.org](mailto:grossreservoir@denverwater.org)) talks about Safety First and the changes that will be necessitated by the seasonal shift. They reported that Denver Water and its contractor, Kiewit Barnard, are building 118 4-foot-tall concrete steps from the bottom of the existing dam to the new dam crest, 131 feet above the existing dam, using roller-compacted concrete (RCC) since April. This part of the project started in 2024. As of Oct. 20, 90% of the RCC needed to raise Gross Dam has been completed. Work to raise the dam will continue as long as possible into 2025 until conditions are too cold to place concrete.

**Know Before You Go:** Information about recreation access, road closures and blasting at Gross Reservoir during the expansion project can be found on the [project MyMap](#).

Stay up to date at <https://www.denverwater.org/grossreservoir/news>  
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>

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## 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.

Follow us on [FACEBOOK](#)

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Part of [LINKEDIN](#)? So are we!

Like [THREADS](#)? They're fun!

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