



PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



*Rocky Mountain sheep in Clear Creek Canyon
Photo courtesy of Jeffco Parks & Open Space, 2021*

The PLAN Jeffco Monthly November 2025

November – the month when we leave sunny days and cool nights behind and look forward to cold and snow and long evenings in front of a crackling fireplace. We hope your evenings are as comfortable as ours; in fact, we hope they're better.

A quick reminder: when you're trekking in the parks, anticipate trails that may be muddy, frozen, or snow-covered. Don't be surprised if you encounter all these conditions along the same trail, so make sure you've got the proper equipment, and definitely dress in layers!

*We (PLAN Jeffco is now a part of Colorado Gives:
<https://www.coloradogives.org/organization/PLANJeffco>*

We want 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 November, hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

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.

[Download the Enabling Resolution](#)

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/help-2/>

What's New in the Blogosphere?

Huntsman Segment Major Milestone

Canyon Project Hits Major Milestone With Huntsman Segment of the Clear Creek Trail

An engineering miracle on Jeffco Parks & Open Space land is nearing completion in Clear Creek Canyon along U.S. 6. Just beyond Tunnel One, the new segment of the Peaks to Plains Trail is expected to partially open before the end of 2025. This is a moment that Open Space has been planning for years. Currently under construction is a 3-mile concrete trail deep inside one of the least forgiving passages along the rugged river's granite gorge. ...

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 the Zoom link information.

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

As a result, we've had some changes to the Board. You're invited to view these changes at

<https://planjeffco.org/about-3/#boardofdirectors>.

PLAN Jeffco has openings on the Board. We would love to hear from you, we would like to hear your thoughts, we would like you to consider a Board position.

If you're interested in exploring this possibility, drop us an email at ContactUs@PLANJeffco.org

Did you forget to renew your membership? Click on the button below and get caught up!

[Join or Renew My Membership](#)

Other New Stuff on the Website

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

PLAN Jeffco November Board Meeting Minutes 11/20/2025 – DRAFT

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-11-20-2025-draft/>

PLAN Jeffco October Board Meeting Minutes 10/16/2025 – FINAL

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-10-16-2025-final/>

PLAN Jeffco September Board Meeting Minutes 9/18/2025 – FINAL

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-9-18-2025-final/>

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

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – September-October 2025

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

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – May 2025

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-may-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.

OSAC at Open Space Headquarters – November 6th

Presentation of seed-cleaning machine invented by Colorado Mines

Students for their Capstone Project. Trails Partnership Funding announced, including large grant of \$349,570 for Sledding Hill trail. Board member observed such a trail could also be viewed as a form of urban infrastructure.

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>



Traffic comes to halt in both directions on Hwy-6 as construction workers place bridges over Clear Creek and create the underpass for river access as the Peaks to Plains Trail makes substantial progress. Read the full story at <https://planjeffco.org/huntsman-segment-major-milestone/>

Open Space Activities

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.

<https://www.jeffco.us/980/Alderfer-Three-Sisters-Park>

REOPENED: Elk Meadow Park, Stagecoach Trailhead is new and improved.

NOTICE: Lookout Mountain Preserve trail system, Boettcher Mansion, and the Lookout Mountain Nature Center will have intermittent closures starting in December and continuing through the end of March 2026.

NOTICE: Centennial Cone Park hunting closure begins December 1st, will

continue until January 31st. The park will be closed to all other use during this hunting season. The Mayhem Gulch Trailhead parking lot along US Hwy-6 will remain open to visitors who are utilizing Clear Creek Canyon Park.

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.

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 the 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

JCPOS New Director

As Tom Hoby moves on to a new position with the County at the end of this year, we will be welcoming Aaron Roth to JCPOS as the new Director of Jeffco Parks & Open Space.

As written in his "Get to Know Summary" that was provided during the

process, Aaron has worked with the National Park Service, most recently as Deputy Regional Director in the Lakewood office. In that position, he provided strategic leadership for more than 50 National Park units ranging from larger landscapes such as Capitol Reef, Bryce Canyon, Great Sand Dunes, Saguaro, and Dinosaur, to smaller historic sites such as Sand Creek, Fort Laramie, and Devils Tower. For 8 years he was Associate Regional Director for Infrastructure, Facilities and Lands, managing large, multi-faceted parks, infrastructure and land acquisition portfolios. His work impacted 50 million annual park visitors and 3500+ full-time and seasonal employees.

Prior to Aaron's work in Colorado, he spent nearly a decade at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (northern California) where he served as Deputy Superintendent/COO for one of the nation's most complex and highly urbanized park systems. He managed a workforce of 350 employees and an annual budget of \$50M-\$70M, augmented by another \$20M-\$50M in philanthropic support. He co-founded the "OneTam" initiative, a model landscape conservation collaborative, bringing innovative solutions to controversial use issues at beloved sites such as Muir Woods and Ocean Beach, and building lasting initiatives to steward complex sites such as Alcatraz Island.

We look forward to welcoming and working with Arron Roth as our new JCPOS Director in the New Year.

Elk Meadow Open Space Park

Elk Meadow Park has fully reopened as of October 25, following forest health management, trailhead improvements, and restoration efforts at the south Stagecoach Trailhead. Following years of planning and collaboration, these improvements enhance public safety, forest health, recreational access, and ecological resilience across Elk Meadow Park — ensuring it remains one of Jefferson County's premier outdoor destinations. Stop by the newly improved trailhead and check out the trail reroutes, new restrooms, upgraded parking, wayfinding enhancements, and extensive forest health and restoration projects.

2026 Small Research Grants Applications Now Open

JCPOS is pleased to offer the Small Research Grant Program to support individuals or groups to conduct applied studies on JCPOS lands in 2026. The goal of this program is to fund research that will inform management of natural, cultural, and recreational resources on JCPOS park lands.

Anyone may apply; motivated undergraduate students and graduate students are particularly encouraged to submit proposals. Awards are typically in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 range, although smaller awards will be considered.

Please contact OSgrants@jeffco.us and you will be connected to the appropriate JCPOS staff person with whom to discuss your project.

[Application details for the 2026 JCPOS Small Research Grants Program](#) included are important dates, proposal requirements, and a list of priority research topics. *Proposals are due by 5:30 p.m., Friday, January 9, 2026.*

Clear Creek Canyon Open Space Park, CCR Trailhead Opening

Jeffco Parks & Open Space held a "cable cutting" ceremony celebrating the grand opening of the Colorado Central Railroad (CCR) Trailhead in Clear Creek Canyon Park on Thursday, November 20. The new segment connects the CCR Trailhead to the Tunnel 1 Bridge, which was opened with

the Gateway Segment in August 2021. This 1.25 mile segment has four new bridges, multiple creek access points, parking for 42 cars, and JCPOS' first elevated viaduct structure. The trailhead officially opened to the public on Friday, November 21.

Hiwan Heritage Park & Museum

Hiwan Heritage Park and Museum hosted some spooky fun on Saturday, October 25, as costumed families filled the grounds for the annual Hiwan Halloween celebration. From ghoulish games to crafty creations and enchanting tales, the day was full of festive thrills for all ages.

As the cobwebs come down and the twinkle lights go up, join the Hiwan Museum's Holiday Open House & New Exhibit Preview on Saturday, December 13, from 3:00-5:30 p.m. Wander through the 25-room historic home museum, explore new exhibit panels, and enjoy holiday music, refreshments, and festive family activities. This free community event, presented in partnership with JCPOS and the Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society, is the perfect way to celebrate the season.

The Cultural Resources Team

The Heritage Stewardship Team has a new name: the Cultural Resources Team. The new name better aligns with JCPOS' dedication to inclusive history and education within Parks & Open Spaces, as well as to the preservation of historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources. The team will continue to work out of the Hiwan Heritage Park and Museum.

Seeding Success

In 2025, the Trails Team, Natural Resources Team, and the amazing volunteers worked side by side to get nearly 12,000 plants in the ground. Over 9,500 plants went in this summer and fall, with about 2,000 planted in the spring. Most of these plants were grown from seed collected on JCPOS property. Some plants were even used for planting survival and success studies funded by the Small Research Grant Program. The Trails and Natural Resources Teams are also working to increase monitoring at planting sites to better understand what is working well and what can be improved upon.

Hildebrand Ranch Open Space Park

This fall, the Natural Resources Team completed a prairie dog fertility control project on one colony in Hildebrand Ranch Park (HRP). JCPOS staff partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS) to capture prairie dogs and administer GonaCon, an immunocontraceptive vaccine. Over the 10 days of trapping, 74 prairie dogs were treated.

Prairie dog colonies along the Front Range are often overpopulated. This causes detrimental impacts to vegetation, including the removal of native plants, invasion of noxious weeds, large areas of bare ground, and erosion issues. Prairie dog population control is typically necessary to preserve native grassland and provide quality habitat for other wildlife species. GonaCon is a non-lethal population control method for prairie dogs.

JCPOS is joining other Front Range land management agencies to participate in a USDA research study on the effectiveness of GonaCon in limiting prairie dog populations. The study was initiated in Fall 2024, and preliminary results show substantial reductions in juvenile prairie dogs after the breeding season. The Hildebrand colony will be surveyed yearly to

monitor the population and ratio of adults to juveniles.

Meadowbrook Park Neighborhood Pop Up Event

On Saturday, November 8, representatives from the Projects, Planning, and Natural Resources Teams spent the afternoon at Meadowbrook Park, which is the location of the ongoing [Van Bibber trail construction project](#) between Indiana St. and the Fairmount Trail. Staff discussed the construction project and natural resource restoration and management efforts with more than 40 neighbors. Arvada Fire participated in the event to share information about home inspection opportunities for wildfire readiness.

SLASH - Closed for the Season

The SLASH program and the Tincup Ridge SLASH Yard are closed for the season. The release of the 2026 calendar is anticipated for the Spring of 2026. Here are some additional resources/drop sites you can use:

[A1 Organics](#)

2300 W. Radcliff Avenue, Sheridan, CO 80110
9109 Monaco Street, Commerce City, CO 80022

[EnviroWorks](#)

9054 US Hwy 285, Morrison, CO 80465
4200 S. Clay Street, Englewood, CO 80110

Best Outdoor Facilities Award goes to ENOR!

ENOR Environmental Discovery Camp has been recognized with the 2025 Camperoni Award for Best Outdoor Facilities. This parent-voted award highlights ENOR's commitment to getting campers outdoors and exploring the variety of natural spaces across our region. Each summer, campers visit Jeffco Open Space Parks, Colorado State Parks, and Denver Parks, among others. ENOR campers experience and learn in 16 unique locations, gaining a deep appreciation for Colorado's diverse environments.

ENOR stands for Eagle's Nest Owl's Roost. It's an environmental discovery camp sponsored by CSU Extension. It has been getting kids outdoors for 50 years. Camp days are spent discovering Colorado's natural and cultural history – while hiking in a unique local park or open space each day.

ENOR was recognized by Jefferson County Open Space as a pioneer of environmental education and was honored with the Gambel Oak award at the Jefferson County Conservation Awards in 2024. Learn more about the camp in the video nomination at <https://youtu.be/TfqVMKn4EVs>.

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



*Bridge-building on the Huntsman section of the Peaks-to-Plains Trail. On this 3-mile section of the 2P Trail there are 6 bridges, 5 over the creek and one over U.S. Hwy-6.
Read the full story at <https://planjeffco.org/huntsman-segment-major-milestone/>*

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](https://www.jeffco.us/3406/Sustainability%20Commission)

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).

Jefferson County Wildfire Resiliency Code Updates

The County will be updating its defensible space and structure hardening standards to meet 2025 State requirements. This update is not part of the Together Jeffco project, but interested parties can find out more on Jeffco's website. Community Meetings will be held on December 2 and 3, 2025.

[Read](https://www.jeffco.us/2613/Regulation-Updates) more on the Jeffco Planning and Zoning Page:
<https://www.jeffco.us/2613/Regulation-Updates>

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/>

Conifer Library Open House

On Thursday, Dec. 4, from 5 to 8 p.m., the new Conifer Library will host a [Holiday Open House and Community Celebration](#). This coincides with the Conifer community's weeklong holiday celebration that culminates on Dec. 6 with the Conifer Christmas Parade.

Arvada Library is Getting a Redesign

As a part of the Arvada Library Redesign project, the library will be closing temporarily in early 2026 for construction, which is anticipated to take 14 months. During the closure, alternative library services will be available at the former home of Arvada K-8 School, located at [5751 Balsam St. in Arvada](#). This location will offer limited versions of the services available at the Arvada Library including books and DVDs, Wi-Fi, computers and programming. Visit the [project page](#) for the latest updates as well as renderings of the redesigned library.

Historic Land Records Now Online

After years of dedicated work, the Records and Licensing team has digitized and published more than 350,000 historical land records, some dating back to 1859! These records are now searchable online from anywhere. Curious to explore? [Visit the Jeffco Records Search page](#).

Colorado Gives Day: Give Early, Give Hope, Give Opportunity

PLAN Jeffco is now part of Colorado Gives! Early giving is open. Every gift now through Dec. 9 helps organizations reach their goals. This year, Colorado Gives Foundation will match the first \$100 for all new monthly donors, doubling your impact!

Q3 2025 LEA Report

Each quarter Sheriff Reggie Marinelli presents the Law Enforcement Authority (LEA) Report to the Board of County Commissioners. The report highlights key events, statistics and activities from the past three months within the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. You can [read the Q3 2025 report](#) in its entirety on the JCSO website. Want a quick look at the numbers? [View crime totals and data summaries](#).

Election Results Are In

Jeffco once again led the state in voter turnout. Despite being the fourth-largest county in Colorado, Jeffco received the most ballots. Unofficial results for the 2025 Coordinated Election are [now available](#), with final certification expected by the end of November.

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>

Mountain lion illegally killed near Almont; information sought by CPW

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11232025/mountain-lion-illegally-killed-near-almont-information-sought-cpw>

Shape the Future of Outdoors: Apply Now for the Outdoor Equity Grant Board

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11212025/shape-future-outdoors-apply-now-outdoor-equity-grant-board>

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting recap for November 13-14

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11202025/colorado-parks-and-wildlife-commission-meeting-recap-november-13-14>

Reward doubles, investigation continues after multiple elk poached in Las Animas County

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11192025/reward-doubles-investigation-continues-after-multiple-elk-poached-las-animas-county>

Lake Pueblo State Park winter boat access shifts to North Ramp on Wednesday, Nov 18th

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11182025/lake-pueblo-state-park-winter-boat-access-shifts-north-ramp-wednesday>

Biologists use drones to track endangered black-footed ferrets fitted with sensors

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11182025/media-availability-biologists-use-drones-track-endangered-black-footed-ferrets-fitted>

CPW seeks public input on its Draft Beaver Conservation and Management Strategy through December 17

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11172025/cpw-seeks-public-input-its-draft-beaver-conservation-and-management-strategy-through>

CPW seeks tips related to bighorn ram poaching case near Saguache

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11142025/cpw-seeks-tips-related-bighorn-ram-poaching-case-near-saguache>

Colorado Parks and Wildlife continues increased zebra mussel sampling on the Colorado River with multi-agency effort

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11132025/colorado-parks-and-wildlife-continues-increased-zebra-mussel-sampling-colorado-river>

Parks and Wildlife Commission approves dual classification for bison

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11132025/parks-and-wildlife-commission-approves-dual-classification-bison>

Colorado Backcountry Search and Rescue surcharge fee increases to better support local search-and-rescue volunteers

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11132025/colorado-backcountry-search-and-rescue-surcharge-fee-increases-better-support-local>

Fishing is Fun grants available for projects that improve angling opportunities in Colorado

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11102025/fishing-fun-grants-available-projects-improve-angling-opportunities-colorado>

Chatfield Reservoir tree removal project resumes next week, Nov 7th

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11072025/chatfield-reservoir-tree-removal-project-resumes-next-week>

Colorado Parks and Wildlife begins process of drafting a Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11072025/colorado-parks-and-wildlife-begins-process-drafting-book-cliffs-bison-management-plan>

Media statement: Confirmed mortality of wolf 2506 in southwest Colorado

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11072025/media-statement-confirmed-mortality-wolf-2506-southwest-colorado>

Bull moose attacks woman in Boulder County

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11062025/bull-moose-attacks-woman-boulder-county>

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to meet November 13-14, 2025

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11062025/colorado-parks-and-wildlife-commission-meet-november-13-14-2025>

Veterans and military get free entry into Colorado state parks on Nov. 11

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11042025/veterans-and-military-get-free-entry-colorado-state-parks-nov-11>

Keep Colorado Wild Pass Program advances Colorado's outdoor recreation and conservation goals

<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/11032025/keep-colorado-wild-pass-program-advances-colorados-outdoor-recreation-and>

Golden Gate Canyon tree cut permit application window opens Nov 1st
<https://cpw.state.co.us/news/10302025/golden-gate-canyon-tree-cut-permit-application-window-opens-nov-1st>

Jefferson Conservation District

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

JCD assists private forest landowners in planning and implementing projects with the shared goals of wildfire mitigation and forest ecosystem restoration.

JCD's mission is to provide leadership through effective partnerships to enhance and sustain our natural resources.

JCD implements its mission currently through its forest restoration program, its noxious weeds management program, and through various partnerships with local and national conservation organizations.

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/>

Register for Bird Camps 2026: <https://www.birdconservancy.org/what-we-do/education/bird-camps>

News releases <https://www.birdconservancy.org/news-and-events/press-releases/>

Travel Opportunities <https://www.birdconservancy.org/get-involved/take-a-birding-tour/>

Activity Calendar <https://www.birdconservancy.org/events/>

Bird Conservancy Blog

<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/>

Where To Go Birding:

<https://www.denveraudubon.org/resources#WheretogoBirding>

Native Plants for Birds: <https://www.denveraudubon.org/colorado-native->

[plant-resources#NativePlantsforBirds](#)

Conservation & Research: <https://www.denveraudubon.org/conservation-and-research#ConservationandResearch>

Upcoming Classes, Programs & Events:
<https://www.denveraudubon.org/calendar>

Colorado Open Lands

<https://coloradoopenlands.org/>

717,839 acres of land, 3403 miles of waterways, 80 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

History and Mergers: <https://coloradoopenlands.org/history-and-mergers/>

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/>

over 27,000 acres of land in its 6-county area
Read about more News and Success Stories at

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

Sign up for MALT's newsletter at

<https://savetheland.org/category/newsletter/>

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/>.

November 13th: MALT Milestone

Announcing 100 easements and 475 acres protected in Fairplay: <https://savetheland.org/malt-milestone-announcing-100-easements-475-acres-protected-in-fairplay/>

November 6th: MALT Milestone

MALT announces the conservation of 35 acres in southwestern Jefferson County: <https://savetheland.org/malt-announces-the-conservation-of-35-acres-in-southwestern-jefferson-county/>

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's 2024 Annual Report is available at

<https://www.keepitco.org/annual-reports-990s>

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.

News & Press Releases <https://www.keepitco.org/whats-new>

Event Highlights <https://www.keepitco.org/out-and-about-event-highlights>

Land Trust Events <https://www.keepitco.org/out-and-about-event-highlights>

Coalition & Industry Events <https://www.keepitco.org/coalition-industry-events>

The Source Newsletter <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

<https://douglaslandconservancy.org/guided-hikes-educational-events/>

Upcoming Events <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/events/>

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

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

2026 Under a Wild Sky Fundraiser, scheduled for Saturday, August 29th, Maytag Ranch, Larkspur, CO

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. The photo contest opened for submissions on October 29 through November 12th. There are some fabulous nature photos available for viewing at <https://douglaslandconservancy.org/annual-photo-contest/>

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>

Stewards of Golden Open Space have been participating in the planning process for Golden's Open Space Master Plan. Phase 2 was adopted last June. Development of phase 3 is ongoing, pending support from the City of Golden.

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>

No projects listed...

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, Zion Lutheran Church, Idaho Springs.

SOLVE is monitoring multiple potential acquisitions being negotiated by Clear Creek County Open Space. SOLVE is considering aligning with CCCOS as they develop their ambassador program, similar to JCPOS' ambassador program. CCCOS is planning for their future Volunteer Program, modeled in part after the Jeffco Open Space Volunteer 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](#)

WANT TO SUPPORT OUR WORK?

Join or Renew Your Membership



The 3-mile segment from the Tunnel 1 Trailhead to the Huntsman Gulch Trailhead is scheduled to be fully open by the end of 2026, weather permitting. The 1.25-mile segment that stretches from the Tunnel 1 Trailhead on the east to the CCR Trailhead (labelled Narrow Gauge Trailhead on the map above) opened on November 20th. Check the PJ blog for a forthcoming article on the grand opening ceremony, which was held on that day.

WATCH THIS SPACE...Local Goings-on

Gross Reservoir Updates

Status: A preliminary injunction against construction was lifted in May 2025, allowing the project to move forward as planned. However, Denver Water is still in the process of appealing other rulings and addressing remaining issues through the appellate court.

Goal: The project aims to increase water storage capacity from about 42,000 acre-feet to 119,000 acre-feet to provide a more secure water supply for Denver Water customers and create an environmental pool for South Boulder Creek.

Construction: The project involves raising the dam by 131 feet. Construction on site preparation, including reinforcing the dam's base, has been underway since 2022. The new, higher section is being built using roller-compacted concrete.

Legal and community issues: Residents have experienced impacts like noise, and there has been legal back-and-forth regarding land use authority and environmental concerns.

Recreation and public access: due to ongoing construction, access to the south side of the reservoir is closed. The North Shore Picnic Area is the only public access for recreation activities.

Parking: The North Shore parking lot has 100 spaces and can fill to capacity on busy weekends. Visitors are encouraged to carpool or visit on weekdays.

Recreational boating: Human-powered watercraft can be used from Memorial Day weekend through September 30.

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>

Support conservation in Jeffco, donate here so we can keep doing what we do!

JOIN or RENEW

**Know someone who might be interested in this newsletter?
Subscribe, like, share - forward this to them, and thank you!**



About PLAN Jeffco

In 1972, PLAN Jeffco launched the citizen's initiative which created the Jeffco Open Space Program, protecting more than 70,000 acres comprising 27 parks and more than 270 miles of trails.

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

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