



# PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



*Snow in Clear Creek Canyon  
Photo courtesy of Chris Davell, 2025*

## The PLAN Jeffco Monthly January 2026

*January 2026 – it's a new year. There is no doubt that the rest of the year is going to be an extraordinary one, so it's more important than ever to get outside, to let the soothing sounds, smells and sights of nature help heal the torn psyche.*

*A quick reminder: when you're trekking in the parks, anticipate trails that may be frozen or snow-covered. Don't be surprised if you encounter both of these these conditions along the same trail – maybe even some mud on a warm day, so make sure you've got the proper equipment, and definitely dress in layers!*

*PLAN Jeffco is now a part of Colorado Gives...*

<https://www.coloradogives.org/organization/PLANJeffco>

*... and 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/>*

*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**

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## What's New in the Blogosphere?

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### **Miracle Makeover: Stagecoach Trailhead Reopens**

After being closed for restoration since 2017, the former dog park and trailhead off Stagecoach Boulevard reopened Oct. 25, 2025, as a feature inside Elk Meadow Park in Evergreen. Dogs are still welcome in the park, as they are elsewhere in the system, but they must be on leash, as there is no fenced, off-leash area.

The Stagecoach Trailhead is about two miles west of Evergreen Parkway on the south end of Elk Meadow Park. The enclave has 107 acres compared to 1,600 acres in the whole of Elk Meadow Park.

The dog park was originally conceived as a training area for dog owners and trainers in the 1990s. In 2001, a local resident named Judi Quackenboss obtained permission to use private money to build a one-acre fenced-in off-leash area in honor of her late son, John. This area eventually became the Open Space Dog Off Leash Area (DOLA). However, it was severely damaged by overuse, resulting in contaminated streams, vegetation loss and proliferation of undesignated trails. Jefferson County Parks and Open Space fought for years to preserve the land and keep the dog park open before closing it when the wear and tear became too much.

To continue reading go to <https://planjeffco.org/miracle-makeover-stagecoach-trailhead-reopens/>

## 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 at <https://www.jeffco.us/1581/Advisory-Committee>

If you would like to attend a PLAN Jeffco Board meeting, please contact us at [ContactUs@PlanJeffco.org](mailto:ContactUs@PlanJeffco.org) prior to the day of the meeting.



## Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation 2026

The Mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) is back in Jefferson County. This little bug, this native to the western North American pine forests, is responsible for the periodic loss of millions of pine trees – most normally Ponderosa, Lodgepole, Scotch and Limber pines.

Mountain pine beetles (MPB) are always with us, having evolved with the western pine forests. Under ideal conditions, their attacks are low-level, limited to trees that have been stressed due to injuries, drought, over-crowding, fire damage, root disease or old age. However, every 10-30 years, whether [due to beetle population explosions, enhanced drought, or warmer temperatures](#) (or all three), major outbreaks occur. The last major MPB outbreak in Jeffco occurred from 1996 to 2004. [Since 2023 there have been signs of a new resurgence of MPB in our area.](#)

To continue reading go to <https://planjeffco.org/mountain-pine-beetle-infestation-2026/>

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Did you forget to 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 January Board Meeting Minutes 1/15/2026 – DRAFT  
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-1-15-2025-draft/>

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/>

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

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

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

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – September-October 2025  
<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-sept-oct-2025/>

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### What's been happening at the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) meetings...

#### OSAC at Open Space Headquarters – January 8<sup>th</sup>

- Recognition of service for OSAC member Jeremy Hakes (chair for 2 years, served 8 years total)
- Coal Creek Canyon Study Area United Power Utility Easement approval (underground power lines without recorded easements)
- Braun Farm acquisition, adjacent to Matthews Winters Park, 347 acres with possible trailhead from Grapevine Road

- Ken-Caryl Ranch Metro District property transfers (swap of 905 acres on South Hogback for 12-acre Ken-Caryl community center)

*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.*

*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>*



*Entrance to the Jenkins Peak Trail, Elk Meadow Open Space Park. This former dog park housed a popular fenced off-leash area which JCPOS closed down in 2017.*

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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...

**NOTICE:** The Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Boettcher Mansion will be closed beginning Sunday, February 1.

**CLOSED:** The northeast segment of the Two Brands Trail at Hildebrand Ranch Park will be closed beginning Monday, January 19, for trail

maintenance.

**CLOSED:** Bailout switchbacks on Dakota Ridge at Matthews/Winters Park closed for construction beginning Monday, Jan 12.

**CLOSED:** Centennial Cone Park closed for hunting 12/1-1/31.

**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.

**CLOSED:** The West Trailhead at Alderfer/Three Sisters Park is closed for scheduled improvements beginning May 5 through spring 2026.

**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.

**ADDITIONAL CLOSURES:**

White Ranch Park Sourdough Campsite Closure: December-March

Centennial Cone Park Late Season Hunt Closure: December-January

## JEFFCO PARKS & OPEN SPACE

### Conservation Greenprint 2026-2030

Parks & Open Space's (JCPOS) five-year strategic plan was unanimously approved for adoption by the Board of County Commissioners on November 4, 2025. This framework will inform organizational action plans for the next five years and help guide work plans and projects. View the final version of this document, along with contributing resources on the [Plans & Projects page](#).

### 2025 Raptor Monitoring Annual Report

The JCPOS Natural Resources Team is pleased to share the completed [2025 Raptor Monitoring Annual Report](#). The report highlights this year's fieldwork, notable raptor observations, and the ongoing efforts to better understand and protect raptor populations.

### New Task Force Targets Mountain Pine Beetle Outbreak

In mid-December the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners and JCPOS welcomed Governor Polis to Elk Meadow Park for a press conference announcing an executive order establishing the Ponderosa Mountain Pine Beetle Task Force.

The task force will bring together state, local, federal, private, and nonprofit partners to advance both urgent and long-term strategies. Its work will focus on strengthening cross-jurisdictional collaboration, developing innovative solutions, enhancing forest health programs, expanding public education efforts, and improving wildfire detection, suppression, and recovery initiatives.

Governor Polis also announced plans to submit a supplemental request to the legislature outlining recommended actions to support programs that assist landowners and protect forest resources statewide.

Jefferson County Commissioner Lesley Dahlkemper highlighted local efforts and announced an upcoming MPB Landowner Assistance pilot project, scheduled to launch in early 2026.

In addition to county leadership, members of the JCPOS Natural Resources, Stewardship, and Community Connections Teams were available to answer audience questions about MPB and the Elk Meadow Park forest health project.

Information for landowners about MPB, how to manage it, and the upcoming Landowner Assistance program is available at [Jeffco's MPB page](#).

### **Alderfer/Three Sisters OS Park**

The Bluebird Meadow Trail, located on the west side of the park, has a new boardwalk. The new section replaced the failing portion of the existing turnpike, which had succumbed to rot due to continual high water in this area. The elevated boardwalk ties into the existing structure, helping to prevent erosion, muddy sections, braided trails, and ongoing water damage.

The West Trailhead at Alderfer/Three Sisters Park will remain closed for improvements through spring 2026.

### **Lookout Mountain Preserve 2026**

The Lookout Mountain Preserve trail system, Boettcher Mansion, and Lookout Mountain Nature Center will be subject to intermittent closures through March 2026 due to ongoing forest health work.

JCPOS will treat approximately 73 acres of ponderosa pine forests at Lookout Mountain Preserve. The primary goals of this project are ponderosa pine enhancement and wildfire risk reduction to the Lookout Mountain Nature Center, Boettcher Mansion, and the surrounding community.

The Wildfire Mitigation Incentives for Local Government Grant Program is a partial funder of this project.

For your safety, do not enter closed areas and respect all posted signs and barriers. For more information, please visit the [Lookout Mountain Nature Center](#) and the [Forest Management](#) webpages.

### **Matthews/Winters Park Improvements**

Improvements are coming soon to the switchbacks on the Bailout Trail to mitigate erosion and ensure sustainability of the slope. Please give crews and equipment space to operate and respect closures. Construction will stage near Red Rocks Entrance 2. Expect closures January through spring of 2026. For more information, visit the [Matthews/Winters Park webpage](#).

### **Registration is OPEN!**

Get outdoors this summer with ENOR Environmental Discovery Camp, helping youth explore the greater Denver metro area with a different hike every day. For grades 4 - 8. Scholarships are available. [Register Today](#)

### **Announcing the (John) Litz Scholarship**

Jeffco Open Space Foundation is proud to announce it is accepting applications for its first-ever [Litz Scholarship Awards](#). The future health of our shared public lands, open spaces, and vital natural ecosystems depends on passionate and well-educated professionals. This scholarship is

intended to help students committed to these fields achieve their educational goals.

John Litz was one of the founders of PLAN Jeffco. From the time of PJ's inception until his death in late December 2023, John guided PLAN Jeffco and Jeffco Open Space, offering ideas and schemes that enabled both organizations to continuously grow and develop. John served on the Open Space Advisory Committee for decades.

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



## **COLORADO** Wildfire Resiliency Code Board

*Senate Bill 23-166 established a Wildfire Resiliency Code Board in the Division of Fire Prevention and Control to help enhance community safety and resiliency from wildfires through the adoption of codes and standards.*

*Defensible space and structure hardening requirements will apply to mountain areas and parts of the plains per the [proposed Wildland Urban Interface \(WUI\) map](#).*

*For more information go to <https://www.jeffco.us/2613/Regulation-Updates>*



*Mitigated forest along the new natural-surface trail to the top of Jenkins Peak, Elk Meadow Open Space Park.*

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## **ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

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## **POUDRE RIVER TRAIL NEARS COMPLETION**

<https://www.denvergazette.com/outtherecolorado/2026/01/19/a-major-accomplishment-poudre-river-trail-nears-completion-touring-45-miles-in-northern-colorado/>

After more than 40 years in the making, the eventual unbroken 45-mile-long trail will connect Watson Lake, northwest of Fort Collins, to Greeley's Island Grove Regional Park. Completion is expected this spring.

## **COULD BEAVERS BE THE SECRET TO WINNING THE FIGHT AGAINST WILDFIRES?**

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/beaver-dams-wildfires-climate-change>

The East Troublesome fire erupted on October 21, 2020, whipped by strong winds and fueled by drought-parched forests. The fire roared through northern Colorado's spruce and fir woods; it leaped roads and rivers and the Continental Divide, scaling mountain passes above tree line. It incinerated historic buildings in Rocky Mountain National Park and homes in Grand County, killing two people. Ultimately, it torched nearly 200,000 acres, making it the second largest fire in Colorado's history.

In the end, just about the only thing the East Troublesome didn't consume was beaver ponds...

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## **COUNTY NEWS & HAPPENING**

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### **JEFFCO Sheriff'S Office LEA Report**

<https://www.jeffco.us/4873/Sheriff>

Sheriff Reggie Marinelli shares the JCSO Law Enforcement Authority (LEA) Report with the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners each quarter.

Read the full Q4 2025 report: <https://www.jeffco.us/4981/2025-LEA-Reports>

### **JEFFCO Commissioners Issue Statement on ICE Operations**

<https://www.jeffco.us/m/newsflash/home/detail/2548>

### **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 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>

## **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/>

2025 Annual Report <https://www.nocoplaces.com/reports/>

### **Construction for Arvada Library Redesign is Underway**

Construction for the [Arvada Library Redesign](#) has officially begun. The Arvada Library is closed during construction and is expected to reopen in spring 2027.

During the closure, come visit us at the [Arvada Balsam Temporary Library](#), opening soon.

### **New myDMV Experience on the Way for Colorado Drivers**

Colorado is upgrading its digital DMV platform. As a result, all online and in-person DMV services will be unavailable Feb. 13–16, with limited in-person services Feb. 17–19.

If you recently purchased or registered a vehicle, please stay on top of deadlines and plan ahead to avoid delays. [Learn more about the upgrade and how to prepare.](#)

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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>

### **Colorado Parks and Wildlife asking for tips in bald eagle shooting**

Operation Game Thief (OGT) at 1-877-265-6648 or [game.thief@state.co.us](mailto:game.thief@state.co.us)

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Approves Colorado's 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan**

The plan will guide Colorado's efforts to conserve the state's most vulnerable species and the habitats they depend on for the next 10 years.

### **Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting recap for January 14-15, 2026**

[Learn more about the Parks and Wildlife Commission on CPW's website](#)

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife invites Indigenous and American Indian community members to listening sessions through the month of February**

For more information, [visit cpw.info/listening](https://cpw.info/listening).

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife provides update on 2025-2026 gray wolf release season population source plans**

More information about the Wolf Restoration Plan [can be found on CPW's website](#).

**Soldiers convicted of poaching on Fort Carson and state lands**

Learn more about this case: [Following the Tracks: Wildlife Officer closes major poaching case](#)

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife launches public engagement for new firearms safety program ahead of Aug. 1, 2026, implementation**

Firearms Safety Program: [dnr\\_cpw\\_firearmsafety@state.co.us](mailto:dnr_cpw_firearmsafety@state.co.us)

Public & Stakeholder Meetings: [dnr\\_cpw\\_planning@state.co.us](mailto:dnr_cpw_planning@state.co.us)

**Colorado invests \$9.99 million into Outdoor Projects**

[Read more about Colorado's Outdoors Strategy](#)

**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>

### **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.

**Centaur Ranch Project:** 150 acres, started September 2024, expected completion 2025

**Miramonte Phase 3 Project:** 60 acres, started August 2024, expected completion 2025

### **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 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/>

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/>

727,453 acres of land, 3443 miles of waterways, 807 projects in 50 counties

**Taylor Ranch, northern Fremont County:** the 3638-acre ranch, located in the high foothills, stretches across 5.5 linear miles along the eastern flank of the Waugh Mountain. The property includes high mountain meadows, mixed-conifer and aspen forests, oak woodlands, and riparian vegetation along numerous creeks and small tributaries. It includes 3.5 miles of North Tallahassee Creek, a perennial stream with water rights that irrigate hayfields and pastures used by livestock and wildlife. The property is rich with wildlife year-round and connects to over 11,000 acres of public land.

**Juniper Series Event, A Winter Gathering for Conservation-Minded Women:** Morning Snowshoe in Nederland and/or Luncheon in Boulder, Feb 19, 2026: for women who care deeply about conservation and want to connect, learn, and get involved. Contact Elizabeth Silverman at [ESilverman@ColoradoOpenLands.org](mailto:ESilverman@ColoradoOpenLands.org) with questions or [reserve your spot here](#).

**Conservation Leadership Series 226** will kick off in April. This program was created for early- to mid-career professionals in any field (no prior conservation knowledge required) who are interested in engaging with land and water conservation and who want to bring their learning into their communities as conservation leaders. [Learn more here](#).

**New Episode of Landlines podcast:** Riverside restoration with Riparian Reconnect, a partnership dedicated to restoring Colorado riverscapes. Find Landlines by COL at [RSS.com](https://rss.com/podcasts/landlines), Apple and Spotify, or stream it directly from <https://rss.com/podcasts/landlines>.

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

**Stay connected with COL** via text messaging – simply text PROTECT to 303-988-2373.

## Mountain Area Land Trust

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

over 27,000 acres of land in its 6-county area

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

Sign up for the newsletter at <https://savetheland.org/category/newsletter/>

**Frank Alderfer Passes into History:** Many know Hank through the Alderfer family's ranching heritage and the landscape that bears their name. Alderfer/Three Sisters Open Space Park stands as a living testament to the family's care for the land – rolling meadows, ponderosa forests, and well-loved trails that continue to welcome hikers, riders, and wildlife alike. It is a place where you can still feel Hank's spirit: practical, generous, and deeply rooted in this community. Hank's passion, wisdom, and generosity will continue to guide those who steward the land and protect the places he cared about so deeply.

**Republican Mountain, Clear Creek County:** Following a \$300,000 grant award from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) late last week, Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT), in partnership with the Town of Silver Plume, is in the final stages of permanently protecting 350 acres on Republican Mountain in Clear Creek County. Republican Mountain was the site of the first productive silver mining district in the Rocky Mountain West.

**Boulder County, 29 Acres Permanently Protected:** Located north of Lyons, Colorado, the property spans both sides of the St. Vrain River and borders scenic Highway 36. Pastured and hayed for 165 years, the land is framed by mature cottonwoods, the St. Vrain River, and the Steamboat Mountain Potential Conservation Area. Its diverse habitat supports an active wildlife corridor and raptor nesting sites.

### **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/>.

*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>

**Policy Update: Extending the Conservation Easement Tax Credit:** KIC representatives are working with the State legislators to extend the tax credits for the next five years, so that projects in progress can receive their expected tax credits and new projects can move forward. Research from Colorado State University found that for every \$1 invested in conservation, as much as \$64 in public benefits are generated. They expect the bill to be introduced in the House of Representatives in the next few weeks.

**Nottingham Ranch:** is in the final stages of securing permanent protection for this 19,000 acre property via a conservation easement led by the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust and partners. [Read more here.](#)

**Spring Summit Call For Presentations:** May 27-29, 2026 at Colorado Mountain College's Spring Valley campus in Glenwood Springs. [Review last year's program here.](#) [Submit your proposal](#) by February 25<sup>th</sup>.

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/>

**2026 Under a Wild Sky Fundraiser**, scheduled for Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>,  
Maytag Ranch, Larkspur, CO

**DLC's New Program: Reel Nature:** on January 24<sup>th</sup>, DLC inaugurated their new nature movie series with the G-rated March of the Penguins. Follow DLC for the announcement of their next movie, planned for March'26.

**DLC's Tiny Landscapes:** DLC is sponsoring watercolor classes this year. [Register here](#) for more information.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 partnering with the Friends of Clear Creek, a non-profit organization, as they develop a volunteer program for Clear Creek Open Space, modeled in part after the Jeffco Open Space Volunteer program. One of the PLAN Jeffco Board of Directors has been working on this project.

SOLVE is mentoring a School of Mines student who will be studying water quality issues in Clear Creek County for his Senior Project.

SOLVE will be monitoring the rewrite of the Clear Creek County Master Plan to close loopholes that enable developers to build in inadvisable and sensitive locations.

SOLVE will be monitoring water availability issues at the Clear Creek High School, which is currently served by the Table Mountain (aka Lookout Mountain, formerly Beaverbrook) Water District.

**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](#)

## WANT TO SUPPORT OUR WORK?

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*Retaining wall and bench in the visitor area, made from locally-sourced boulders, Stagecoach Trailhead, Elk Meadow Open Space Park.*

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

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### **Gross Reservoir Updates**

Starting Tuesday, Jan. 12, Denver Water began repairs to the bridge where Gross Dam Road crosses South Boulder Creek.

Starting Wednesday, Jan. 21, Denver Water started maintenance on the bridge where Gross Dam Road crosses South Boulder Creek.

Gross Dam Road is a private road that the public is allowed to use when it can be done safely and without impacting dam-building operations. During periods of maintenance the public should plan for delays while traveling through the area and follow all signage and personnel instructions.

For general project information, please email [grossreservoir@denverwater.org](mailto:grossreservoir@denverwater.org) or call 303-628-6348.

Visit the [Project My Map](#) for the most current information.

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.

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