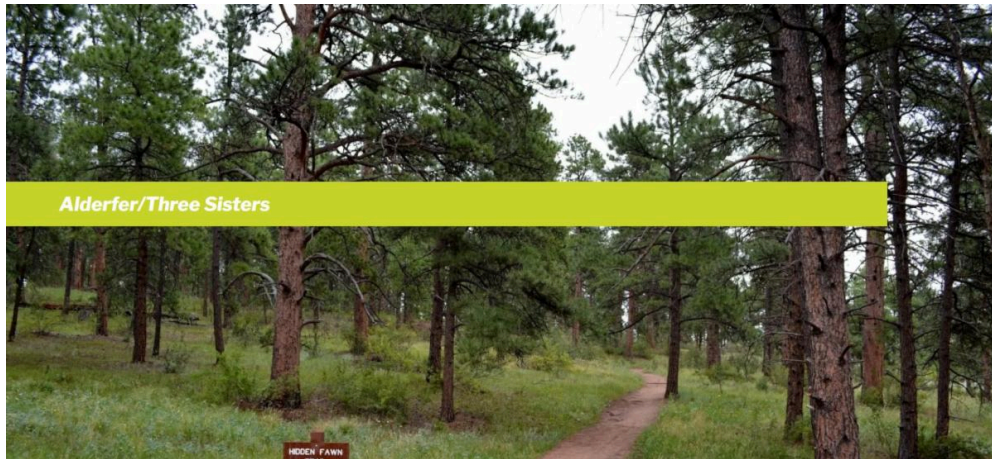




PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



The PLAN Jeffco Monthly May 2026

May 2026. Who would have thought that we would get more snow in the month of May than we'd had in the previous three months combined! Springtime in the Rockies, ya gotta love it!

A quick reminder: late spring, the furred and reptilian friends who live in our parks will be very active. Babies of all type will be born, while our feathered friends from southern climes will be setting up housekeeping. While you're trekking or cycling, anticipate encountering all of them. Keep your earbuds out, make sure you've got the proper equipment and don't forget your sunscreen!

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 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 write articles at <https://planjeffco.org/blog/>

JOIN US AT

What's New in the Blogosphere?

2026
SLASH
COLLECTION DATES & LOCATIONS



SLASH 2026

The 2025 SLASH (Sustainable Lands and Safer Homes) season is upon us. From May 15th to October 25th, four SLASH collection sites will be open for business, mostly Thursday thru Sunday, 9AM to 4PM, unless otherwise posted. You should plan to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to closing... [Read more.](#)

Upcoming Events

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

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

Did you forget to send your annual donation?
Click on the button below and get caught up!

I'd Like to Help

Other New Stuff on the Website

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

PLAN Jeffco April Board Meeting Minutes 4/16/2026 – DRAFT

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-4-16-2026-draft/>

PLAN Jeffco March Board Meeting Minutes 3/19/2026 – FINAL

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-3-19-2026-final/>

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

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – April 2026

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-april-2026/>

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – March 2026

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-march-2026/>

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 – April 2, 2026

OSAC met on May 7th at Open Space Headquarters.

Presentation: Students from the Colorado School of Mines, Senior Design Group, demonstrated an adaptive climbing anchor system for climbers with disabilities. The goal was to design safe, reliable, removable offset anchor system that would position the adaptive climbing chair 4 feet away from the rock face, in order to avoid the chair impacting the rock face on overhangs.

Action item: Lookout Mountain Nature Center policies and rates for event bookings: LMNC reported on the 2025 expansion efforts. There were 9 introductory events, a 60% increase in operating hours, and a 32% increase in visitors. There are plans for even more events and longer operating hours in 2026.

Action Item: Reynolds Park Expansion: 40 acres of vacant land adjacent to Reynolds Park, northeast of the Idlesee campground, will be added for a purchase price of \$238,040. Trail access will be from Reynolds Park. The parcel meets the following criteria from the 2026-203 Greenprint: natural resource attributes, scenic quality, cultural resource preservation, accessibility and connectivity.

The next OSAC meeting will be Thursday, June 4th, 2026, a field trip to Fehringer Ranch and the Jeffco Fairgrounds, for highlights and background information, to be followed by a stakeholder presentation and committee feedback at the Green Mountain Conference Room.

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>



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: [Beaver Ranch Park closed 5/27 – 6/19. Bark Park is closed. Disk golf and zipline are operating by reservation only.](#)

CLOSED: [As of 3/30, the top of Jenkins Peak Trail at Elk Meadow Park is closed for mountain pine beetle treatment.](#)

CLOSED: [The northeast segment of the Two Brands Trail at Hildebrand Ranch Park will be closed beginning Monday, January 19, for trail maintenance.](#)

SEASONAL CLOSURES: [Wildlife Closures at multiple parks Feb 1- July 31](#)

REMINDER: [Some JCPOS Parks have designated-use trails or alternating use days](#)

JEFFCO PARKS & OPEN SPACE

Free Golden-to-Morrison Shuttle (Westracks) Launches on May 23

After years of planning, starting May 23, Jeffco residents will have a new way to reach their favorite parks and museums. Jefferson County and its partners are launching [the free Westracks shuttle](#) that will convey people between [the RTD station](#) at the Jefferson County Government Center and various parks and museums in the Golden and Morrison areas. The program will run through the summer, on weekends and holidays, from 9 am to 5 pm, connecting the Jeffco Government Center/RTD Golden station to Matthews/Winters Park to the Martin G. Lockley Discovery Center at

Dinosaur Ridge to the Red Rocks Trading Post to downtown Morrison to the Morrison Natural History Museum, and back again.

[Read the full story here.](#)

South Table's Newest Trail Opened May 26

The long-awaited T.rex Tooth trail, located on the south side of South Table Open Space Park, opened this week. The 1.5 mile, multi-use, soft surface trail connects to Fossil Trail, Old Quarry Trail, and the Basalt Cap Loop, to form a 3-mile loop. The T.rex Tooth trail passes by the Colorado Amphitheatre, a natural stone amphitheater which was constructed in 1935 by the WPA – the Works Progress Administration. This historic site, close by Camp George West, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located on non-public Department of Energy property. Stay on trail.

The Junior Ranger Program Wraps Up for the Year

The year-long and very popular Junior Ranger Program wrapped up in mid-May, with 40 kindergarten students from Parmalee Elementary sworn in as junior rangers, promising to protect their parks and share their knowledge with friends and family. These children completed eight education programs throughout the school year, and passed a final quiz, with questions like "what should you do if you're lost?"

Open Space Volunteer Services Engages with Sensory Exploration in the Outdoors

The Gateway Trailhead at Clear Creek Canyon Park was the site of a very special event this past month. Young adults with disabilities, supported by the Jeffco Transition Services and Open Space Volunteer Services, participated in a sensory nature walk. Participants explored sights, sounds, textures, and smells using a communication board to identify and categorize each sense. JTS supports young adults with disabilities as they transition from high school into adulthood by building skills for education, employment, independent living, and community engagement.

Clear Creek Canyon Park, Huntsman Segment, Tunnel 1 to Huntsman's Rancho

The newest, under-construction trail in the Clear Creek Canyon Park project, will be directly accessible from the Huntsman's Rancho Trailhead. This past month, two brand-new suspension bridges were installed. For a behind-the-scenes look at how these bridges are being constructed, and the adventures that will be offered sometime this year, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDDDNxRQuGA>

Barbed Wire Removal Is Ongoing

Last month, 41 VOC Cairn students and 9 Open Space Volunteer leaders removed 5.45 miles of barbed wire fencing in the Guy Gulch Study Area and Centennial Cone Park. Ranchers and agricultural landowners view barbed wire as the cost-effective method to contain livestock and protect private property. The problem, though, is that derelict, obsolete, or poorly designed barbed wire fencing is a leading cause of injury and mortality for migrating and local wildlife, such as elk, deer, and bighorn sheep, which get tangled in the wires. Therefore, there is a critical need to remove barbed wire fencing from Open Space lands.

Two Brands Trail, Hildebrand Park, Gets an Upgrade

The Two Brands Trail, located on the northeast side of Hildebrand, was upgraded this winter, with the addition of 10 new culverts and an irrigation ditch above the trail to better manage water flow and improve long-term sustainability. Hopefully, this lovely, natural-surface trail, which runs through a hayfield, will no longer be a sea of mud at certain times of the year.

Open Space Joins CDOT at the I-70 Roadcut

Some projects take a while to come to fruition. Back in 2023, JCPOS partnered with CDOT to apply for a Transportation Alternatives Program grant to rehabilitate two historic 1969 trails running parallel to I-70 through the Hogback Cut. External partners, including Colorado School of Mines, Colorado Geological Survey, USGS, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, and Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance, brought awareness for the need of this project and have helped throughout the design process. The project goals are to make the trails accessible, update interpretive signage, and improve pedestrian connections along Colfax Ave./Hwy 93. In April, the project received the award for Best Project by the State Transportation Commission at the Environmental Awards ceremony. Construction is anticipated to begin in early June and be completed by October. Expect partial closures of both the T-Rex and Stegosaurus Park-n-Rides during construction.

Open Space Projects	Status	Expected Completion
Alderfer/West Trailhead improvements	under construction	June 2026
Beaver Ranch park improvements	permitting	Spring 2027
Boettcher Mansion roof repairs	under construction	June 2026
Clear Creek Canyon Huntsman Segment	under construction	Fall 2026
Clear Creek Canyon Central Segment	design	TBD
North Table Mountain trailhead improvements & Tucker Gulch extension	design	Summer 2027
Settlers Drive SLASH site	design	TBD
Stafford Hogback new trailhead	planning	Summer 2028
Van Bibber - Indiana to the Fairmont trail	under construction	Spring 2027

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>



ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Boulder County Offers Free Shuttle Service to Popular Colorado Trailhead

This free shuttle bus service will operate on Fridays, weekends, and holidays this summer and fall, carrying passengers from Nederland High School to the Hessie Trailhead. The Hessie Trailhead offers access to Lost Lake and the Indian Peaks Wilderness area off of Fourth of July Road. Visitors can park in Boulder and ride the RTD bus route NB that then connects with the Hessie Shuttle in Nederland. The shuttle service began on Friday, May 22. The last day the shuttle service will be available is Sunday Oct. 11.

Golden Unveils Lions Park Playground Plans

The City of Golden is planning to redesign the Lions Park playground. The playground will be redesigned late this year, with an opening planned for the spring of 2027. There are three design concepts, each costing about \$2 million to construct. Golden plans to expand the trail section between Ford Street and the Billy Drew Bridge, from the current 9.5 feet wide to a comfy 12 feet. Funding hasn't been identified for this improvement, but construction could start as early as 2027. [For more information, read here.](#)

Pine Beetles Feast on Ponderosas Accelerated 150% in 2025, State Forester Reports

The Colorado Sun, Michael Booth 4:08 AM MDT on May 25, 2026, Updated 4:43 PM MDT on May 26, 2026

The voracious pine beetle's renewed assault on Colorado forests expanded rapidly in 2025, chewing through nearly 150% more Front Range ponderosa pine than the year before, according to a new state forester's report.

The state's urban canopy is also being nibbled to death — by the emerald ash borer. The ambitious invader showed up in six new cities in 2025 after years of warnings from local arborists about the spreading threat.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Time to Get Ready for the Upcoming 2026 SLASH Season

The much-anticipated SLASH season is just around the corner! With the calendar now released and warmer weather on the horizon, it's the perfect time to start clearing your property and preparing for drop-offs. Fees are based on 6 cubic yards (162 cubic feet) of material per load, at a rate of \$24 per load (credit cards only). For accepted vs. nonaccepted material and all other information, [please visit the county SLASH website](#). For a downloadable copy of the SLASH summer schedule, please go to <https://planjeffco.org/slash-2026/>.



COUNTY NEWS & HAPPENING

JEFFCO Sheriff'S Office LEA Report

News & Press Releases: <https://www.jeffcosheriffco.gov/news>

Help shape Jefferson County's all-hazard safety plan. The county's Hazard Mitigation Plan is open for your input, May 21 – June 5, 2026. Share your thoughts to help protect our neighborhoods from wildfire, flood, and severe weather.

TOGETHER JEFFCO

<https://togetherjeffco.com/>

Jefferson County is in the fifth and final phase of the Together Jeffco Plans and Regulations Update! Together Jeffco is a three-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).

Details are on the Comprehensive Plan page <https://togetherjeffco.com/cp>

OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERS

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/>

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 thank local Backcountry Search and Rescue Teams for helping outdoor recreationists in need

DENVER — In honor of National Search and Rescue Week, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) wants to recognize the Backcountry Search and Rescue teams in each Colorado county that help people who are stranded, lost or injured while recreating in the backcountry. Backcountry search and rescue (BSAR) teams throughout Colorado are a network of first responders who provide critical, life-saving services to the public. These teams are affiliated with county sheriffs and are composed of dedicated, highly skilled professionals and volunteers.

As the demand for outdoor recreation increases in Colorado, so does the need for BSAR services. Colorado residents help fund local search and rescue teams by purchasing a [Keep Colorado Wild Pass](#) with their annual vehicle registration. Another way people support the teams is by paying the

[Colorado Backcountry Search and Rescue](#) surcharge when purchasing CPW registrations and licenses.

To learn more about Colorado's Backcountry Search and Rescue Program and county grant opportunities, visit cpw.state.co.us/backcountry-search-and-rescue-program.

CPW Releases Gray Wolf Annual Report for Biological Year 2025-2026

This year's annual report is the third produced by CPW and includes updates on:

- Monitoring and biological management of Colorado's gray wolf population

- Conflict minimization and depredation compensation

- Ongoing research being conducted by CPW and collaborators

- Interagency collaboration and outreach

The full Colorado Gray Wolf Annual Report [is available here](#).

CPW to implement out-of-state vehicle license plate daily parks pass

DENVER — The Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) recently approved a parks pass specifically for vehicles with out-of-state license plates for \$15 per day. This fee goes into effect on May 1, 2026. A similar fee structure is used on other CPW products and is in line with other states. [Learn more at cpw.state.co.us/parks-passes](http://cpw.state.co.us/parks-passes).

Governor Polis signs Colorado Outdoor Opportunities Act, strengthening CPW's role in outdoor recreation

WINTER PARK, Colo. — At a ceremony today, Governor Jared Polis signed [HB26-1008](#), the Colorado Outdoor Opportunities Act, legislation that strengthens Colorado Parks and Wildlife's role in coordinating outdoor recreation planning and management across the state while advancing conservation, wildlife protection and climate resilience efforts. The legislation solidifies and expands CPW's leadership in outdoor recreation management and implementation of [Colorado's Outdoors Strategy](#) and its long-term goals focused on conservation, outdoor recreation and climate resilience.

Governor Polis signs 'negligently luring bears' bill to enhance enforceability of state statute

WINTER PARK, Colo. — On Wednesday, May 27, Governor Jared Polis signed [House Bill 26-1342](#), strengthening penalties to those found knowingly feeding bears. HB 26-1342, which amended [Colorado Revised Statutes 33-6-131](#), was a priority bill for Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources during the 2026 legislative session. It removed the requirement to prove that an individual "intentionally" lured bears through mismanagement of food or edible waste and reduced the burden of proof to "knowingly." The bill also removed a previous requirement that first-time offenders receive a warning, enhancing enforceability. CPW, along with all peace officers, now have the discretion to either provide a warning or to immediately issue a violation to individuals whose knowing actions have caused some form of human-bear interaction or conflict.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife launches Otter Y.E.A.R. iNaturalist project and invites the public to help track river otters statewide

4/13/26 DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is asking the public to help document river otter distribution across the state through a new community science project on the iNaturalist platform, part of the agency's 2026 Otter Y.E.A.R. (Yearlong Engagement and Assessment of River Otters).

The project marks the 50th anniversary of river otter reintroduction in Colorado. Otters once occupied the major rivers of the state, but they were wiped out by the early 1900s due to the absence of any rules governing the take of wildlife or water pollution. Colorado Division of Wildlife reintroduced 120 river otters between 1976 and 1991.

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 helps landowners plan and manage forestry projects on their land to reduce wildfire hazard and restore ecological integrity.

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

<https://www.birdconservancy.org>

Bird Surveys Conducted 26,114

Products Informing

Conservation 105

Landowners Supported 638

Acres Restored/Enhanced 33,901

People Reached via Education 41,641

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>

Publications: <https://www.birdconservancy.org/resource-center/publications/>

Block Party: Saturday, June 13th, 12 – 3PM at Maxline Brewing. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

Save the Date: A Night For The Birds annual fundraiser

When: October 16, 2026, from 6 – 9 p.m.

Where: Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd, Denver. Tickets will be available in August.

Denver Audubon

<https://denveraudubon.org>

What We're About: <https://denveraudubon.org/about-us/>

Denver Audubon Blog: <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/>

731,875 acres of land 3507 miles of waterways 813 projects in 50 counties

Miller Property

A third-generation family ranch, the Miller property is located northwest of Fort Collins in the Laramie Foothills. The Miller family initially conserved parts of the ranch with Legacy Land Trust (which merged with COL in 2016). With this new addition to the earlier easements, they have now conserved the remainder of their ranch, totaling 371 acres.

The ranch consists of a mix of rolling hills, shortgrass prairie, irrigated meadows and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of Park Creek, a tributary of the Cache La Poudre River. The habitats support a great variety of wildlife, including elk, black bear, pronghorn, wild turkey, and a variety of bird species. Additionally, Bell's Twinpod, a rare plant only endemic to Larimer and Boulder Counties, has been found on the property. The Miller family works with The Nature Conservancy to have students from Colorado State University come out annually to survey the property for Bell's Twinpod.

The Laramie Foothills has long been a priority conservation area for the local community. Nearly 30 years ago, The Nature Conservancy, Legacy Land Trust, and Larimer County began building a vision for community-based conservation in this region, which ultimately resulted in the groundbreaking Laramie Foothills Mountains to Plains Project. The group realized that this region harbored tremendous biodiversity with large intact tracts in this unique transition zone where the high plains meet the foothills. Miller Ranch is surrounded by conservation easements on nearly all sides, many of which resulted from the Mountains to Plains Project. Protection of the entirety of the Miller Ranch builds upon this strong foundation, connecting those existing conserved lands and ensuring that wildlife corridors don't become fragmented.

Larimer County and Keep It Colorado were project partners.

Episodes of Landlines podcast:

Protecting shortgrass prairie with Southern Plains Land Trust:

<https://rss.com/podcasts/landlines/2633866/>

Riverscape Restoration with Riparian Reconnect:

<https://rss.com/podcasts/landlines/2460443/>

Spotlight on Outreach and Education:

<https://rss.com/podcasts/landlines/2392915/>

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

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

Fall 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/>

Permanent Protection of Steiger Farms in Conifer

MALT is proud to announce the permanent conservation of Steiger Farms —protecting 40 acres of scenic open space, wildlife habitat, and agricultural heritage in the heart of Conifer.

For years, this highly visible landscape near Highway 285 represented uncertainty for the community, as the parcel had once been considered for development—an outcome that could have dramatically changed the character of this important gateway to Conifer.

Instead, Carly and Blaize Steiger imagined a different future for the property.

In 2022, five years after moving to Conifer, Carly and Blaize established Steiger Farms, building a thriving horse boarding, riding lesson, and equestrian education business on their original 10-acre property on Light Lane. When the adjacent parcel became available, they saw an opportunity not only to grow their agricultural business, but to help preserve the rural landscape and sense of place that drew them to the small town in the first place.

Today, through this conservation effort, Steiger Farms ensures the landscape will remain protected as scenic open space and working agricultural land for generations to come.

MALT is honored to partner with Carly and Blaize Steiger in protecting this meaningful property and helping ensure that a visible and important piece of Conifer remains open, scenic, and connected to the community for generations to come.

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/whats-new>

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

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

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

History of Greenland Ranch Lecture + Bike/Hike: Tuesday, June 2, 5:30pm – dusk. [Register here.](#)

Plein Air 101: Take Your Art Outside: Sandstone Ranch Open Space picnic shelter, June 11, 9 – 11am. [Register here.](#)

Save the Date: 2026 Under a Wild Sky Fundraiser

Where: Maytag Ranch, Larkspur, CO

When: Saturday, August 29th, 2026

Why: annual fund-raiser, Retro Cowboy theme

[Tickets on Sale Soon](#)

Save the Date: 2026 Oak Leaf Symposium

Where: PACE Center, Parker, CO

When: October 22, 10am-3pm

Why: Each year, DLC presents the Oak Leaf Award to a regional conservation hero. We also recognize outstanding land stewardship with the Mel Sorensen Stewardship Award. This year's awards will be part of a half-day educational symposium inspired by our award recipients, who will be announced soon. The inaugural Oak Leaf Symposium is open to conservation professionals, DLC volunteers, and the public. The program includes a keynote and breakout sessions. We'll conclude with lunch and an awards ceremony for our honorees, whose dedication exemplifies our mission of land conservation and stewardship.

[Tickets on Sale Soon](#)

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>

SOLVE (Save Open Lands, Vistas and the Environment)

PLAN Jeffco's sister organization in Clear Creek County

<http://www.solveccc.org>

Links: <https://www.solveccc.org/Links.html>

Library: <https://www.solveccc.org/Library.html>

Could Silver Plume may have more protected acres per capita than any other town in Colorado

In the last few years, tiny Silver Plume has emerged as one of the most conservation-minded towns in the state. The home to 210 residents earlier this month closed a deal for 122 mining claims on the top of Republican Mountain above town, adding about 350 acres to its 300-acre Silver Plume

Mountain Park. So for every Silver Plume resident, there's protection for a little more than 3 acres of historic land in the headwaters of Clear Creek.

It started in the early 1990s, when the Bureau of Land Management transferred around 3,200 acres to the then-nascent Georgetown-Silver Plume National Historic Landmark District Public Lands Commission in a deal that included about 600 acres for Silver Plume.

In 2022, Silver Plume spent \$500,000 on about 200 acres of mining claims. Adding those acres to the town's mountain park, which spans Interstate 70, permanently removed the prospect of mining or development on the steep terrain inside the Georgetown-Silver Plume National Historic Landmark District.

In the last year the town again rallied its partners to raise nearly \$900,000 to buy 122 mining claims from a private owner. The effort was kick-started with \$300,000 from GOCO in December. The new 350 acres of Taylor-Kennedy mining claims permanently removes the threat of roads and development within the high-altitude parcels.

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](#)

[Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust](#)

WANT TO SUPPORT OUR WORK?

[**I'd Like To Support Your Work**](#)



WATCH THIS SPACE...Local Goings-on

Gross Reservoir Updates

Gross Dam injunction heads back to court after talks stall

<https://coloradosun.com/2026/05/28/gross-reservoir-expansion-injunction-u-s-court-of-appeals/>

The Colorado Sun, Michael Booth 3:59 AM MDT on May 28, 2026

Denver Water is appealing a federal ban on filling its \$600 million expanded reservoir in Boulder County, as opponents demand a dismantling.

The dispute over whether Denver Water can ever fill its expanded Gross Reservoir in Boulder County will head back to U.S. appellate court in July, after settlement talks between the frustrated water agency and environmental opponents failed to reach a mitigation deal.

Denver Water is asking the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals to nullify rulings by a U.S. District Court judge against the \$600 million Gross Dam project.

Project Updates

For general project information, please email grossreservoir@denverwater.org or call 303-628-6348.

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

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

Project Information & Impact: <https://www.denverwater.org/grossreservoir>

I-70 Floyd Hill Project Update

Clear Creek Greenway Trail Courtesy Shuttle Available

Starting Friday, May 22, the I-70 Floyd Hill Project will offer a daily, on-demand courtesy shuttle to help Clear Creek Greenway Trail users bypass the one-mile trail closure between the US 6 (Exit 244) and Hidden Valley

(Exit 243) interchanges. The Project requires a long-term closure of the Clear Creek Greenway Trail for construction activities through 2029, during which it is unsafe for multi-use travel.

To use the shuttle, trail users will need to head to the east or west end of the trail closure to be picked up. Once you arrive at the location, dial 720-760-2718, and the shuttle will pick you up and drive you to the opposite side of the trail closure to drop you off. Expect delays as the driver may be driving other trail users, parked on the opposite side of the trail or stuck in I-70 traffic delays. A maximum of four people are able to ride the shuttle at a time. The shuttle is not equipped with child safety seats.

The Shuttle will run from Friday, May 22, to Monday, September 7, daily 8am to 6pm.

For more information, please visit the [Clear Creek Greenway Trail webpage](#).

Keep Up With Construction

See the Project in progress! Check out the [I-70 Floyd Hill Project's photos webpage](#) to see the exciting developments underway and the most recent construction photos.

About the Project

The I-70 Floyd Hill Project will improve eight miles of the I-70 mountain corridor, from west of Evergreen to eastern Idaho Springs. The Project will deliver a third westbound I-70 travel lane, which will function as an Express Lane, to improve the current two-lane bottleneck. Other major elements include constructing a missing two-mile section of the frontage road between Evergreen and Idaho Springs, building an eastbound I-70 extended on-ramp for slow-moving vehicles, improving traffic flow and access at interchanges and intersections within the project limits, improving sight distance on roadway curves, improving the Clear Creek Greenway trail, and creating safer wildlife movements.

Construction began in July 2023. I-70 will be in its new alignment in 2028, with the entire project expected to conclude in 2029.

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>.

PLAN Jeffco, a dedicated non-profit organization staffed completely by volunteers, 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, while educating our visitors about the open spaces and their inhabitants.

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.

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

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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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