



PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



New Kiosk at Alderfer/Three Sisters Open Space Park, West Trailhead. Gooseberry and Kinnikinnik shelters in the back. Shelters are reservable through the Evergreen Parks & Rec District. Photo courtesy of MAPoollet.

The PLAN Jeffco Monthly June 2026

June 2026, and summer, in all its heat and beauty, is upon us. Open Space contractors are still clearing forest blow-down from the March wind event in some parks, so be aware and know before you go. Youngsters who have been born in the last month are learning about life, so please keep your fur-buddies on leash. Apex predators, aka bears and cougars, are being forced into more inhabited territory due to the persistent area-wide drought, so please be careful out there! While you're trekking or cycling, anticipate encountering all of them. Keep one earbud out, make sure you've got the proper equipment and don't forget your sunscreen!

The PLAN Jeffco Monthly will be on break for the summer. It's time to get out into the parks, it's time to enjoy the fine weather and catch up with friends and relatives. Publication will resume in the fall, hopefully with a recap to the summer events in conservation news.

We fine folks at PLAN Jeffco wish y'all a wonderful and fun-filled summer, c'ya in September!

Don't forget, 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?



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 June Board Meeting Minutes 6/18/2026 – DRAFT

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-6-18-2026-draft/>

PLAN Jeffco May Board Meeting Minutes 5/16/2026 – FINAL

<https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-5-21-2026-final/>

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

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

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 – May 2026

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

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/>

NOTE: due to recent changes in the security settings for some free PDF readers, you may find that the embedded links in these newsletters are non-operational.

These PDF readers have defaulted their Trust Managers and/or security settings to disallow live links and to restrict links from accessing documents or pages on the Internet.

While we're searching for workarounds that don't mandate you having to make changes to your PDF reader settings, we ask for your patience. We're terribly sorry for this inconvenience.

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

Regular Open Space Advisory Committee in-office meetings are generally held on the first Thursday of every other month, starting at 6:00 PM.

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

Alternate month meetings are in the field. We have been assured that these in-the-field meetings are open to the public; the times and locations should be published on the County calendar.

OSAC in the field – June 4, 2026

The Open Space Advisory Committee June field trip included a tour of Fehringer Ranch, known locally as the Foothills Park & Recreation District: Fehringer Ranch Regional Park, Disc Golf Course, followed by a tour of the Jeffco Fairgrounds and the various buildings that comprise the fairgrounds. The tour concluded with a stakeholders meeting at the fairgrounds Green Mountain Conference Room, facilitated by Tom Hoby, brainstorming on what to do with the aging infrastructure of the Fairgrounds.

The next scheduled OSAC meeting should be Thursday, July 9th, 2026. Based on the alternating meeting schedule, it should be an in-person meeting in the Ponderosa Room, Open Space Building, 700 Jefferson County Pkwy #100, Golden.

*Check the calendar for upcoming agendas
<https://www.jeffco.us/1581/Advisory-Committee>
Find all available past meeting documents & videos at
<https://www.jeffco.us/4528/Past-Meeting-Videos-and-Documents>*



National Trails Day 2026, North Table Open Space Park. Volunteers working on the rock steps to the Quarry. Photo courtesy of JCPOS.

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: [Starting 6/29, temporary closures at Deer Creek Canyon Park.](#)
CLOSED: Beaver Ranch Park Construction Update: The park will be partially closed from June 19 until approximately November 15 for Phase 3 construction.

REOPEN: The top of Jenkins Peak Trail at Elk Meadow Park has reopened following a mountain pine beetle treatment.

SEASONAL CLOSURES: [Seasonal 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

National Trails Day Volunteer Event

Saturday, June 6 - Guided by Open Space staffers from the Natural Resources, Trails and Volunteer Services teams, 85 volunteers took part in National Trails Day at North Table Mountain Park. Despite the heat, the volunteers planted 256 native plants, built 600 feet of new trail, added more rock steps to the Quarry, maintained one mile of existing trail, restored half a mile of unauthorized trail, and removed one and a half acres of invasive weeds.

Trailhead Openings

South Table Park – T.Rex Tooth Trail

Alderfer/Three Sisters Park – West Trailhead

Tabor Lake Trail (Wheatridge Parks & Recreation) - benefited from the JCPOS Trails Partnership Program, this provides access to the Clear Creek Trail. <https://www.rootedinfun.com/365/Tabor-Lake-Trail-Project-2022-2025>

Alderfer/Three Sisters Park

The West Trailhead at Alderfer/Three Sisters Park has reopened after being closed for much of 2025. A much-expanded parking lot, new restrooms, and trail improvements to the Bluebird Meadow and Wild Iris trails are waiting for visitors.

Two new shelters, Gooseberry and Kinnikinnick, are still under construction, with completions scheduled for July. These will be reservable through the Evergreen Parks & Recreation District.

<https://www.evergreenrecreation.com/alderfer-three-sisters-barn-site>

Lookout Mountain Preserve

Park Services and Natural Resources came together to install bat boxes at the Lookout Mountain Preserve last month. After a maternity colony of Myotis bats were found in an attic space of the Nature Center, JCPOS decided that it might be a better idea if the bats had their very own space, away from human disturbance.

Bats form maternity colonies, where mothers rear their young communally, to raise the roost temperature so the pups develop faster and to allow mothers to take turns hunting while others stay in the roost. After the mothers and pups left in late summer, exclusion material was installed on the exterior of the building to prevent the bats from using the building in the future.

Each bat box can hold up to 260 bats and contains six individual chambers to allow the bats to find the right microclimate on particularly warm, sunny

days.

North Table Mountain Park

The Stairs to Golden Cliffs are the focus of the JCPOS Trails Team as they improve rock steps and retaining walls up to the Golden Cliffs Trail. They quarried rocks from the top of the park and moved them to the site via truck and rock slings. Over the last month they built 11 new rock steps and 30 square feet of retaining wall spanning 70 feet of trail, splitting and shaping the rocks, transporting them to the site, and puzzle-piecing them together to form a long-lasting solution to a heavily visited and eroded trail.

South Table Park

The new 1-5 mile, natural surface T.Rex Tooth Trail, which opened this past May, has a bit of ancient history attached to it. It is named after the first known Tyrannosaurus Rex tooth discovered in North America, originally found in this area in 1874. Visitors can also view the historic Colorado Amphitheater and enjoy new interpretive signage highlighting the area's fascinating past.

Wildland Wildfire Ready

JCPOS has a Wildland Fire Team. Last month this team, called OSWFT, participated in a critical interagency training session, in preparation for the summer fire season. Attendees practiced hands-on skills and scenarios, including pump and roll mobile attack, structure triage and protection with interagency coordination, developing incident management and coordination, evacuation considerations, line digging practice and techniques, as well as off-road driving and wildland fire chainsaw use. Attending agencies included Genessee Fire, Foothills Fire, Golden Fire, Indian Hills Fire, Evergreen Fire, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention & Control, and Jefferson County Parks and Open Space.

Pride in Action

JCPOS is not all work and no play. Much fun was had celebrating Jefferson County's LGBTQ+ community on June 6 at the Edgewater Pride Parade. Thirty staffers, family members, and volunteers helped decorate and walk in the parade, including two of our county commissioners.

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, located at mile marker 259.21 in Jefferson County. 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 enhance public access, safety, and long-term trail durability while preserving the geological and educational value of the Hogback area. Both the North and South Trails will be rehabilitated, with more than 2,000 feet of trail restored as part of the project.

Work is generally scheduled 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; minimal traffic impacts are anticipated during this project. There will be no access to Tincup Ridge from the south side of the TRex Park-n-Ride during construction. Travelers should use caution near the work zone and be aware of construction equipment entering and exiting the area. The trail will

be closed for replacement work, and the parking lot will be partially or fully closed during construction. Construction completion is anticipated in October.

Open Space Projects	Status	Expected Completion
Alderfer/West Trailhead improvements	completed	
Beaver Ranch park improvements	under construction	Spring 2027
Boettcher Mansion roof repairs	completed	
Clear Creek Canyon Huntsman Segment	under construction	October 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>



Bridge at the CCR Trailhead, Clear Creek Canyon Open Space Park. Photo courtesy of MAPoollet.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

The 2026 SLASH Season is upon us, SLASH sites are open!

The SLASH calendar has been released; now is 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 at <https://www.jeffco.us/2493/Slash-Collection>.

Free Golden-to-Morrison Shuttle (Westracks) will be running through Labor Day, 9/7/26

After years of planning, Jeffco residents will have a new way to reach their favorite parks and museums. Jefferson County and its partners have launched 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.

Get more information about Westracks at <https://www.ridewestracks.com/>
Plan your ride at <https://www.rtd-denver.com/>

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.

<https://coloradosun.com/2026/05/25/colorado-pine-beetles-ponderosa-2025-growth/>

CPR Climate Team: Summertime Means Algae Time

If you're looking to cool down in a local lake, make sure to check for toxic algae blooms first.

So far this year, they've been reported at Barr Lake near Brighton, North Sterling Reservoir in northeastern Colorado, Blue Heron Lake at St. Vrain State Park and Cherry Creek Reservoir. You can check the latest alerts at this site, maintained by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Environmental Public Health Tracking.

Low supply, low demand: Dillon Reservoir water level peaks early at 80% capacity with reduced demand from Front Range consumers

Water levels in the Dillon Reservoir have now peaked for the summer, having reached a maximum 80% capacity on June 17 before decreasing over the coming months.

It's a 19.5% drop — as well as an earlier peak — compared to last year, when water levels reached 99.5% capacity on June 27, 2025.

...part of the reason levels have been able to hold steadier than in other drought-afflicted years is because of lower demand for the reservoir's water, particularly from consumers on the Front Range.

<https://www.summitdaily.com/news/low-supply-low-demand-dillon-reservoir-water-level-peaks-early-at-80-capacity-with-reduced-demand-from-front-range-consumers/>

Several popular campgrounds won't have water for guests amid dry summer in Colorado

Heads up — while your favorite Colorado campground might typically have water available, that might not be the case this summer.

Drought severity has ticked upward in the Centennial State. After a few weeks of relief amid a wet start to spring, the U.S. Drought Monitor indicates that 97.57 percent of the state is experiencing drought — a level not seen since the end of April and prior to this year, not seen since December of 2021.

The ongoing effects of the drought are already far-reaching and as peak summer camping season hits, those planning on spending a night under the stars can expect some impacts.

Aside from how fire bans will likely be widespread, water availability may be impacted, as well. This dilemma is perhaps previewed in a May report from the U.S. Forest Service, which indicates that Lowry, Prospector, Windy Point, and Marvine campgrounds will not have water available for campers for the foreseeable future. Lowry, Prospector, and Windy Point campgrounds are located along the edge of Dillon Reservoir, which has been notably dry, while Marvine is located near Meeker. ...

<https://www.denvergazette.com/outtherecolorado/2026/06/18/several-popular-campgrounds-wont-have-water-for-guests-amid-dry-summer-in-colorado/>

Epicenter of Colorado's most intense drought

As Colorado makes the transition from spring to summer, nearly the entire state remains in drought – 96.56 percent of it, to be exact, with the largest swath of land experiencing the most intense drought located in the heart of outdoor recreation country.

Per June 23 data from the U.S. Drought Monitor, the state's current 'Drought Severity Coverage Index' score (DSCI) is 329 – a number that's been on the rise since early June after a brief mid-May decline and at a level not seen aside from earlier this year since March of 2021. Even more concerning is that the most intense drought is centered on **Eagle County**, which is at a maximum DSCI score of 500 – it's been at this level since the end of March and has never hit that score before with records dating back to January of 2000. For the first time, 100 percent of the county is experiencing stage four (of four) drought conditions.

It's not just Eagle County, either – the entirety of **Pitkin County** and the entirety of **Lake County** are also at a DSCI score of 500 with all local land experiencing drought stage four conditions, as well. The surrounding counties also have large chunks of land at the same exceptional tier, including counties of **Grand, Summit, Garfield, Routt**, and others.

<https://www.denvergazette.com/outtherecolorado/2026/06/26/epicenter-of-colorados-most-intense-drought-is-located-in-heart-of-outdoor-recreation-country/>



Colorado & Southern Railroad at the forks of Clear Creek. Photo courtesy of Denver Public Library. Approximate location of the new CCR Trailhead, Clear Creek Canyon Open Space Park.

COUNTY NEWS & HAPPENING

Jeffco Wildfire Resiliency Code Takes Effect July 1

This is a reminder that the Jefferson County Wildfire Resiliency Code (WRC) will be effective starting July 1, 2026. The WRC includes structure hardening and defensible space requirements for unincorporated properties in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The WRC requirements only apply to new building and zoning permits.

Structure hardening requirements only apply to certain permits such as new building permits, siding permits, and roofing permits. Contact the Building Safety Division if you have questions about structure hardening.

<https://www.jeffco.us/785/>

Defensible space requirements only apply to certain new building and zoning permits for constructing new buildings, building additions, new decks, replacement decks, re-siding, converting non-residential buildings to residential (i.e. garage to an Accessory Dwelling Unit), and new or renewal of Short-Term Rental licenses. Contact the Planning & Zoning Division if you have questions about defensible space.

<https://www.jeffco.us/786/Planning-Zoning>

The WRC also includes requirements for fences and retaining walls. For example, new fences and new retaining walls within 8 feet of buildings must be constructed with ignition-resistant or noncombustible materials such as metal, masonry, or plastic/composites that meet testing standards.

There are exemptions to the WRC including new buildings 120 square feet or less and at least 10 feet from homes such as garden sheds, playhouses, pergolas, greenhouses, and chicken coops. There is also an exemption for new barns located more than 50 feet from homes.

Additional information can be found on the County's WRC web page.

<https://www.jeffco.us/2672/Defensible-Space-Wildfire-Mitigation>

We encourage applicable associations to review their rules and consider modifications to reflect the WRC requirements, particularly for vegetation management.

Sincerely,
Jefferson County Planning & Zoning

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. <https://www.jeffcosheriffco.gov/news>

Unincorporated Jefferson County is in a Stage 1 Fire Restriction due to dangerous fire conditions –most JCPOS parks are located in unincorporated Jefferson County; expect to see this notice throughout the entire summer and possibly the fall seasons:

<https://www.jeffcosheriffco.gov/safety/wildland-fire/fire-restrictions>

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).

The Final Draft of the Comprehensive Plan have been adopted by the Jeffco Planning Commission; details at <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.

In service to the Conservation Community and you, our conservation advocates, PLAN Jeffco has become a NoCo Places Stakeholder. We will be attending NoCo Places meetings quarterly, and look forward to reporting on plans for a more organized, coordinated, multi-county conservation vision. If you have thoughts or concerns, please don't hesitate to contactus@planjeffco.org, so we can represent you at NoCo Places.

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>

CPW Releases the June 2026 Gray Wolf Activity Map

The [June 2026 report is now available here](#); it displays wolf activity throughout the state during this reporting period. This map indicates watersheds where at least one GPS point from a collared wolf was recorded within the last 30 days. The full Colorado Gray Wolf 2025-2026 Annual Report [is available here](#).

Severe drought conditions prompt CPW to cancel fireworks show at Steamboat Lake State Park

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo. — Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), in collaboration with the North Routt Fire Protection District (NRFPD) and the Routt County Sheriff's Office, has announced the cancellation of this year's Fourth of July fireworks display at Steamboat Lake State Park. This decision was made due to ongoing extreme drought conditions and the impacts to already strained local resources.

CPW implements voluntary fishing closures on the Yampa River near Steamboat Springs

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo. — Extreme low flow and high water temperature conditions have prompted CPW to implement a full-day

voluntary fishing closure on the Yampa River near Steamboat Springs until further notice.

The closure began on June 26; the closure is in place on the Yampa River from the top of the Sarvis Creek State Wildlife Area, about 1.7 miles downstream of Stagecoach Reservoir, downstream through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) stretch of the river.

CPW invites anglers to participate in Green Mountain Reservoir northern pike management tournament

HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS, Colo. — Colorado Parks and Wildlife invites anglers of all ages to participate in the Green Mountain Reservoir northern pike fishing tournament running now through September 30.

For more information on the tournament, prizes, and rules, visit the [Green Mountain Reservoir Management Tournament page](#).

CPW announces three emergency public fish salvages

CPW has enacted public fish salvages at Wahatoya State Wildlife Area, Mountain Home Reservoir State Wildlife Area and Douglas Reservoir State Wildlife Area.

CPW said that the fish salvages, which started on 6/26, are due to the “imminent drawing down of reservoirs” at the properties in order to meet municipal and irrigation water needs.

All bag and possession limits are lifted, and all legal methods of take are permitted. However, commercial angling, cast netting and seining are not allowed. It is also illegal for anglers to transport live fish from one body of water to another.

CPW closed shooting range at Basalt State Wildlife Area due to extreme fire danger

BASALT, Colo. — Colorado Parks and Wildlife has temporarily closed the shooting range at Basalt State Wildlife Area (SWA). The closure took effect Friday, June 26, and will remain in place until further notice.

Boyd Lake State Park closing boat ramps Sunday for 2026 season

LOVELAND, Colo. — Boyd Lake State Park was closed to boating on 6/28 due to extremely low reservoir levels. The closure is expected to last through the rest of the 2026 season.

Boat ramps are currently sitting in two to three feet of water, with no additional water expected to be allocated to Boyd Lake this summer.

Hand-launched vessels, like kayaks and paddleboards, and swimming will still be allowed.

Park officials are evaluating options for ranger boats and water rescue crafts. Visitors should expect extended response times to water rescues and recreate at their own risk.

Colorado State Forest Service

<https://csfs.colostate.edu/>

News Release - 2025 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests

FORT COLLINS, Colo. – Colorado’s top forest health concern is a mountain pine beetle outbreak on the Front Range that has expanded by nearly 150% from 2024 to 2025, according to a [Colorado State Forest Service report](#).

The report shows the continued spread of mountain pine beetles and other forest insects during the second consecutive year of above-average

temperatures and below-average precipitation.

Emerald ash borer was discovered in six new cities and towns in 2025 – the most initial detections in a year for Colorado since it was first found in the state in 2013. This invasive insect kills all true ash species. About 15% of the trees in Colorado’s urban forests are ash, making emerald ash borer a major threat to trees in communities statewide.

Access resources and guidance for mountain pine beetle, emerald ash borer, Western spruce budworm, Douglas fir beetle, and the roundheaded pine beetle complex at <https://csfs.colostate.edu/forest-management/forest-health-report-2025/>

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: <https://www.birdconservancy.org/what-we-do/education/bird-banding/>

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

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

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, CO 80205

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 Events, Classes & Programs:

<https://www.denveraudubon.org/calendar>

Colorado Open Lands

<https://coloradoopenlands.org/>

733,791 acres of land

3508 miles of waterways
counties

814 projects in 50

New Conservation Project, the Box 6 Ranch

Located in southeast Park County, the 2459-acre Box 6 Ranch is adjacent to 1766 acres of ranchland which has already been conserved by COL. Together, these properties create a 4,225-acre block of conserved land that buffers Pike National Forest to the south.

Rugged and remote, these lands are home to Tier 1 and Tier 2 species of greatest concern, according to Colorado Parks and Wildlife's 2025 Statewide Action Plan. Tier 1 species likely to utilize the Box 6 Ranch include golden eagle, American goshawk, prairie falcon, Gunnison's prairie dog, rosy finch, and several species of bats. Tier 2 species likely and/or known to inhabit the property include a handful of songbirds, rodents, bats, butterflies, and moths. Habitat on the property also supports several big game species including Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, pronghorn, black bear, and mountain lion.

Conservation of this 4-generation ranch contributes to the long-term viability of agricultural land in Park County. It promotes the goals and strategies identified in Park County's Master Plan Update, which include sustaining agricultural land and water resources by preserving agricultural heritage and supporting working lands.

Conservation of the Box 6 Ranch was made possible with grant support from Keep It Colorado and Great Outdoors Colorado through their Transaction Cost Support Program (TCAP)..

New Landlines podcast episode:

This month, Landlines visits the women-owned & operated Redwing Ranch in Gardner, Colorado. Listen to them all at <https://coloradoopenlands.org/podcast/>

Friday, July 24, Grand County Conservation Update & Picnic

Grand Lake Yacht Club | 12:00–2:00 P.M.

Join Colorado Open Lands for a community picnic in Grand County! After joining forces with Colorado Headwaters Land Trust in 2024, we're excited to share a conservation update, connect with neighbors, and introduce our team. Enjoy a buffet lunch and drinks while celebrating the landscapes we work together to protect. [Learn more and sign up here.](#)

Wednesday, July 29, Guanella Pass Restoration Hike & Picnic

9:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Explore how low-tech restoration is helping return beavers to the landscape and revive riparian ecosystems. Senior Restoration Program Manager Dirk Rasmussen will share insights on this work as you enjoy a guided hike (approx. 1 mile) followed by a picnic. [Sign up here.](#)

Friday, August 7, Beer 'N Brats Picnic

Westcliffe | 12:00–2:00 P.M.

Gather at Dunn Workin' Ranch with hosts Patti and Chris Dunn for our annual Beer 'N Brats picnic. Enjoy food, drinks, and beautiful views while celebrating recent conservation success in the San Isabel region. [Learn more and sign up here.](#)

Tuesday, July 28, World Conservation Day Webinar

Online | 12:00–1:00 P.M.

Step inside a working ranch where conservation is just the beginning! Join us for an inspiring, behind-the-scenes look at regenerative ranching with Christy Wyckoff, owner and operator of Redwing Ranch, a woman-led, conserved ranch in Huerfano County. [Sign up here.](#)

Lessons from the Land - Events for Everyone!

Join us on a journey to discover the conservation values that COL protects! Reach out to Elizabeth Silverman to learn more at ESilverman@ColoradoOpenLands.org or 303.988.2373 ext 216.

History and Mergers <https://coloradoopenlands.org/history-and-mergers/>
Stay connected with COL via text messaging – simply text PROTECT to 303-988-2373.

Spring 2026 Publication <https://coloradoopenlands.org/publications/>
More Conservation Updates <https://coloradoopenlands.org/latest-news/>

Mountain Area Land Trust

<https://savetheland.org/>

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

Read about more News and Success Stories at

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

MALT's Spring 2026 newsletter <https://savetheland.org/spring-2026-newsletter/>

Permanent Protection of Republican Mountain

MALT, in partnership with the Town of Silver Plume, has permanently protected 311 acres on Republican Mountain through a voluntary conservation easement.

For more than three decades, the tiny Town of Silver Plume has held a bold vision: to protect the historic and scenic landscape that rises above its community. Towering above one of Colorado's most storied mining towns, Republican Mountain is a place where history, wildlife, recreation, and community converge.

Once home to some of the Rocky Mountain West's earliest productive silver mines, this remarkable landscape contains dozens of cultural and archaeological sites that will be preserved alongside critical wildlife habitat, watershed resources, and ecological values.

The new Silver Plume Mountain Park secures safe public access to the historic 7:30 Mine Trail—an important connection to Silver Plume's mining heritage—while preserving dramatic mountain views, watershed health, and the surrounding forested landscape.

Republican Mountain is crucial winter range and lambing grounds for the Georgetown herd — one of Colorado's largest and most genetically significant populations of bighorn sheep, according to Colorado Parks & Wildlife.

Stewardship Day at Floyd Hill Meadow

August 6, 9AM – Noon, Floyd Hill Meadow, 53 Beaver Brook Canyon Rd, Evergreen

[Sign up here.](#)

Miles for MALT: a month-long hiking challenge

September 1-30, 2026

[For more information](#)

MILES FOR MALT | Kick off Community Hike at Flying J Ranch

September 4, 8:30 AM - 10 AM, Flying J Open Space Park, 9661 County Highway 73, Conifer

[Sign up here.](#)

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>

Conservation Events

July 7 – Wildfire Mitigation Talk with Eagle Valley Land Trust

July 9 - Save the Land with Aspen Valley Land Trust

July 11 – Starry Evening Gala with Crested Butte Land Trust

July 18 – 24th Annual Caddis Cup with Crested Butte Land Trust

July 27 – Sweetwater Ethnobotany Tour with Eagle Valley Land Trust

July 31 – Summer Forest Bathing with Eagle Valley Land Trust

Rally 2026 Registration is Open!

Registration is now open for Rally: The National Land Conservation Conference, the Land Trust Alliance's premier annual gathering for land conservation professionals. This year's conference takes place September 16–19 in Denver, Colorado.

Keep It Colorado is proud to be part of Rally 2026 — the KIC team will be presenting a session on orphan easements and leading a field trip through Boulder. Whether you're looking to deepen your expertise, connect with peers from across the country, or explore Colorado's open lands firsthand, Rally is the place to be.

[Register today.](#)

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/>

Colorado HB26-1230 was signed into law on June 1 to extend the conservation easement tax credit for five more years. This new law extends the current sunset date from December 31, 2031 to December 31, 2036,

and unlocks \$50 million annually in tax credits from 2032-2036. This is a landmark financial incentive for conservation easement donations; it is one that has allowed landowners to continue the legacy of family ranches, preserve scenic vistas and cultural heritage, and connect essential wildlife habitat across the state.

Involved in this work was Keep it Colorado, bill sponsors Rep. Matthew Martinez, Rep. Elizabeth Velasco, Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer, and Sen. Dylan Roberts, and all the supporters and champions who made the successful passage of HB26-1230 into law possible.

30th Annual Castle Rock Rotary Ducky Derby

June 28, Festival Park, Castle Rock

[Buy Your Duckies 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 available July 1st

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/>

2026 Educational Field Trip:

Magic Mountain Saturday August 15 – visit the website for more information.

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>

Project 1163: Saturday June 27th, 2026 9:00 am
Rock Work on Turkey Trot, Mt. Falcon

Project 1181: Sunday July 12th, 2026 9:00 am
Lakewood TBD

Project 1182: Thursday July 2nd, 2026 5:00 pm
Green Mountain Maintenance, Green Mountain

Project 1164: Thursday July 9th, 2026 5:00 pm
Green Mountain Maintenance, Green Mountain

Project 1183: Thursday July 16th, 2026 5:00 pm
Green Mountain Maintenance, Green Mountain

Go to website, click on Project number to sign up.

SOLVE (Save Open Lands, Vistas and the Environment)

PLAN Jeffco's sister organization in Clear Creek County

<http://www.solveccc.org>

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.

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

[Colorado Open Space Alliance \(COSA\)](#)

[Colorado Native Plant Society](#)

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

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

<https://www.PLANJeffco.org>

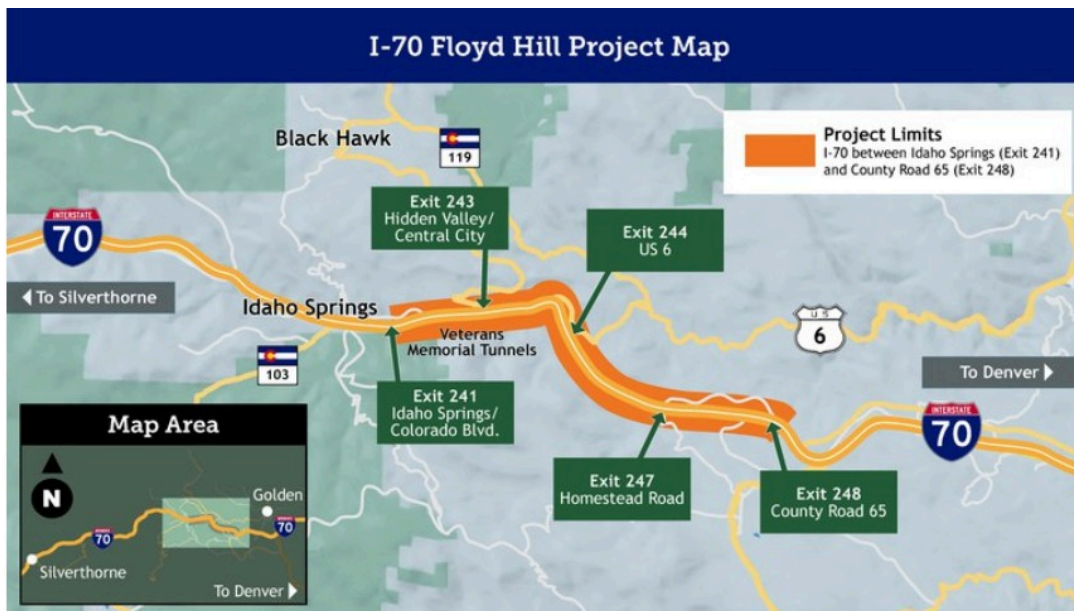
[Colorado Open Space Alliance \(COSA\)](#)

[Colorado Native Plant Society](#)

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

WANT TO SUPPORT OUR WORK?

I'd Like To Support Your Work



Map of the I-70 Floyd Hill Project limits spanning I-70 between Idaho Springs (Exit 241) and County Road 65 (Exit 248). The map includes the key exits within the project limits including Hidden Valley/Central City (Exit 243), US 6 interchange (Exit 244) and Homestead Road (Exit 247). Map courtesy of CDOT, <https://www.codot.gov/projects/i70floydhill>

WATCH THIS SPACE...Local Goings-on

Gross Reservoir Updates

2025 Year in Review

<https://www.denverwater.org/grossreservoir/news/2025-year-review>

About the Project

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

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

I-70 Floyd Hill Project Update

Holiday Travel Planning

In observance of the Fourth of July holiday, there will be no scheduled traffic impacts for the I-70 Floyd Hill Project on eastbound and westbound I-70 starting today, Friday, June 26, through 6 a.m., Monday, July 6.

The Clear Creek Greenway Trail Courtesy Shuttle will operate over the holiday for bicyclists using the trail. Visit the Clear Creek Greenway Trail webpage for more information on the shuttle service. Please watch for increased traffic volumes over the next week, drive safely and use COtrip.org or the COtrip Planner App to plan your trip!

Rock blasting operations will resume the week of July 5.

Upcoming Westbound I-70 Closure

In mid-July, motorists can anticipate a series of overnight westbound I-70 closures at the bottom of Floyd Hill, between the US 6 interchange (Exit 244) off- and on-ramps, for crews to install a movable platform, called a form traveler, which will be used to construct a concrete cast-in-place segmental bridge. The segmental bridge will carry westbound I-70 in its new alignment.

Detour: Westbound I-70 motorists will merge into one lane and exit at the US 6 (Exit 244) off-ramp, and then turn left to access the US 6 on-ramp to return to westbound I-70.

Stay tuned to our Project updates for more information on when the overnight closures will occur, and check out [The Live Lift webpage](#) for segmental bridge details!

Hidden Valley Roundabout Construction

As part of the I-70 Floyd Hill Project, crews have begun construction on a new roundabout at the I-70 and Hidden Valley/Central City Parkway (Exit 243) interchange. Construction on the new roundabout will occur in multiple phases, with the first phase lasting through early 2027. The new roundabout will improve traffic flow and safety operations while connecting the new US 6 frontage road to Central City Parkway.

The week of July 5, motorists can anticipate a traffic shift near the Hidden Valley/Central City Parkway (Exit 243) interchange. Crews will reduce Central City Parkway to one lane in each direction and shift traffic south to allow crews room to construct the north portion of the roundabout and the new bridge over Clear Creek, east of the interchange.

Keep Up With Construction

When driving through the I-70 Floyd Hill work zone, please stay alert, never drive distracted and follow the posted speed limits. This not only keeps you safe but also our crew members who have families waiting at home for them at the end of each day. Here's how you can keep our crews safe while driving through the I-70 Floyd Hill Project work zone:

- Do not follow construction vehicles and equipment into the work zone.

- Be aware of narrower lanes and shoulders.

- Follow posted speed limits, which are reduced to as low as 45 MPH.

- Put the phone down. Never drive distracted.

Watch for increased truck traffic entering and exiting the work zones.
Leave extra space between you and the car in front of you.
Adjust your driving for current road conditions.
Watch for our crews so everyone can get home to their families each day.

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!

JOIN or RENEW

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



About PLAN Jeffco

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

Follow us on [FACEBOOK](#)

Enjoy our postings on [INSTAGRAM](#)

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

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

Reach for the sky, join us on [BLUESKY](#)!

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

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