PLAN Jeffco

Working to conserve Jefferson County Open Spaces since 1972



Spectacular fall collar in the high country, photo courtesy of John Gritts.

The PLAN Jeffco Monthly October 2026

Happy October, the month of falling leaves, or, as the Lakota would call it, Moon of the Changing Season (*Canwápegi Wi / autumn shift). The sun rises later in the morning and sets earlier in the afternoon. The air has a chill crispness to it. Our summer avian visitors have packed their bags and taken off for points south; the forest seems quieter without them.*

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 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?

At this time, our website is offline due to technical issues. We're working hard to resolve the problem, and as soon as it is back online, we'll notify you via a quick email.
In the meantime, don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Threads or BlueSky – or all five!

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.

OTHER NEW STUFF ON THE WEBSITE

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

PLAN Jeffco October Board Meeting Minutes 10/15/2026 – DRAFT
https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-9-17-2026-draft/
PLAN Jeffco September Board Meeting Minutes 9/17/2026 – FINAL
https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-9-17-2026-final/
PLAN Jeffco July Board Meeting Minutes 7/16/2026 – FINAL
https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/pj-board-meeting-minutes-7-16-2026-final/

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

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – September 2026
https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-september-2026/

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – June 2026
https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-june-2026/

PLAN Jeffco Monthly – May 2026
https://planjeffco.org/portfolio-item/plan-jeffco-monthly-may-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.
If you have downloaded this newsletter and are accessing it as a PDF and the links are still non-operational, it will be necessary to manually type the URL into your browser in order to access the desired page on the Internet.
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.

Study Session Agenda
Thursday October 1st, in-person at 700 Jeffco Pkwy, 3:30 PM

1. Welcome, brief introductions, and the big picture - Aaron Roth
2. Overview of the study - Matt Robbins
3. Facilitation of discussion – Stephanie Karp
    - Lessons from past partnerships
    - Opportunities for collaboration
    - Stronger partnership requirements
    - Concerns, safeguards, and next step

In-person meetings are generally held 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

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: Beginning Monday, November 2, Lower Plymouth Creek Trail at Deer Creek Canyon Park will be closed from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon through Thurs
NOTICE: Rutabaga Ride at Lair o' the Bear Park will be closed from 11/2-11/6 for trail maintenance (weather dependent).
PARTIAL CLOSURE: Beaver Ranch park will be partially closed from September 28 until approximately December 4 for construction. Parking will be available,

though limited. The Bark Park will remain open until the new dog park is built. Dates are subject to change depending on weather or construction delays.
CLOSED: Meyer Ranch Park fully closed for forest health work on Monday, October 19. Closure expected to last through spring 2027. Nearby, alternative park locations in the Conifer/Evergreen/Pine areas are Alderfer/Three Sisters, Beaver Ranch, Elk Meadow, Flying J Ranch, Pine Valley, and Reynolds. Additional information regarding impacts to Conifer area parks can be found **here**.
Visit the Forest Management webpage for more details.
CLOSED: Beginning Monday Sept 28, Meadowlark Trail at Deer Creek Canyon Park will be closed from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, for culvert replacement and drainage improvements. Upper Plymouth Creek Trail has reopened, providing access to the upper portion of the park. View a map of the closure.
REMINDER: Some JCPOS Parks have designated-use trails or alternating use days

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JEFFCO PARKS & OPEN SPACE



Boettcher Mansion, Lookout Mountain Nature Preserve History Tours
Who built the rustic, Tudor arts and crafts style mansion that sits atop Lookout Mountain, in the middle of the Open Space Nature Preserve? The Boettcher Mansion, originally called the Lorraine Lodge, was completed in 1917; it became Charles Boettcher's summer home. It was incorporated into the National Register of Historic Places in January 1984.

Today, the Boettcher Mansion operates as a self-sustaining events venue under Jefferson County Parks & Open Space. It is an impressive example of adaptive reuse, perfectly suited for historic tours, weddings, receptions, meetings and memorial services.

There is a self-guided history tour Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Fireside Room, Lobby, Carriage House, Patios, Aspen and Meadow Rooms are wheelchair accessible. Access to the second floor is available by stairs only. Availability may vary due to private events.

You can schedule a personalized guided tour of this extraordinary building. During the summer months, when the gardens are in bloom, you can even treat yourself to a combination garden & history tour and watch the sunset from the highest spot on Lookout Mountain. To arrange a guided tour, contact Ronnie Terry at 720-497-7632. Advanced booking is required. *https://www.jeffco.us/1859/History*

Whither the Fairgrounds?
GoldenToday, Barb Warden, 10/27/2026

Jefferson County is considering moving the fairgrounds to Fehringer Ranch, which is land south and east of Morrison.

Fehringer Ranch currently has "natural surface trails, a loop trail and an 18-hole disc golf course."

The current fairgrounds has the following facilities:

Indoor and Event Spaces…

Outdoor & Equine Arenas…

Campground & Support Services…

The County has been running a series of open houses to gather public feedback and answer questions.

Jefferson County Parks and Open Space is conducting an evaluation to determine where the county should invest its resources to support community gathering and provide opportunities for equine, youth and agricultural activities. Potential investment locations include the Jefferson County Fairgrounds and Fehringer Ranch (another county property).

A series of open houses are planned to share information, gather community feedback and provide a space for questions.

For questions please contact Katherine Woodhouse, Parks & Open Space Planner at kwoodhou@jeffco.us or 303.271.5925

Click here to visit the Jeffco Fairgrounds & Fehringer Ranch Project Page
Read the entire story at *https://www.goldentoday.com/whither-the-fairgrounds/*

Jefferson County wants to better utilize fairgrounds: Community members favor updating fairgrounds, leaving Fehringer Ranch as is
Golden Transcript, Corinne Westeman, Corinne@cotln.org, Oct 28, 2026

Despite the social media rumors, officials haven't decided to move the Jefferson County fairgrounds to the Morrison-area Fehringer Ranch Park.

Right now, that isn't even up for official consideration.

Jeffco Parks & Open Space has been hosting community engagement meetings around the county this month, asking individuals and groups for feedback on how the agency should invest in these two properties, one of which is underutilized, while the other is relatively undeveloped.

These meetings are part of a larger evaluation process, which started this April and is expected to last until mid-2027.

The evaluation is specifically asking "where (Jeffco) should invest its resources to support community gathering, and provide opportunities for equine, youth and agricultural activities," according to an information sheet provided at the meetings.

The four-meeting series concluded Oct. 27 with an open house at the fairgrounds themselves, with more than 70 Goldenites, fairgrounds users and others stopping by to share their thoughts.

Matt Robbins, the JCOS community connections director, said he and his colleagues have fielded "lots of questions," and that he was "thrilled people are coming out to learn more so we can put to rest the myths on social media."

He invited community members to visit the project website for more information, and fill out the community survey, which will be open until late November.

Read the full article at *https://www.thegoldentranscript.com/news/jefferson-county-wants-to-better-utilize-fairgrounds/article_b80e9fde-b61f-4466-8ad8-*

be6d52ed7169.html

Huntsman Trailhead, Clear Creek Trail, Grand Opening 11/5/26

Thursday, November 5, from 1:00–2:30PM, join JCPOS for the grand opening of the newest trailhead in Clear Creek Canyon Park.

The ceremony will start with a cable-cutting ceremony and brief remarks, followed by a self-guided tour at your own pace. To experience the full loop, including new bridges, rock work, and trail features, plan for roughly a 1-mile walk. Parking will be limited, so please carpool when possible. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Grand Opening: Nov 5, 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Clear Creek Canyon Park, Huntsman Trailhead
25651 US Highway 6
RSVP requested.

The Huntsman Segment includes 1.5 miles of new ADA-accessible concrete trail, a 61-car parking lot, restroom, information kiosks, shade shelter, bike repair station, four new bridges, five creek access points, and access to bouldering and climbing areas. A new soft-surface hiking trail on the south side of Clear Creek will also create a loop option. Catch up on the latest construction details at *https://youtu.be/AOZv3Ym8GIY*.

Clear Creek Trail Update for Goldenites

The Buffalo Rose in Golden was packed to the rafters on Wednesday, October 21st, for JCPOS Project Manager Scott Grossman's update on the Clear Creek Trail. This was Scott's third visit to the Golden Beer Talks, starting in 2017. Regular attendees have been able to watch this monumental project roll out through the years.

Talking points:

· This project seems very local to Golden residents, but it's drawing national attention.

· When they're surveying a new segment of trail, they need to factor in not only topography but historical artifacts, endangered species, current uses, and of course safety of future users.

· Grossman praised Great Outdoors Colorado, which uses lottery proceeds to fund parks and trails.

· This trail is being built in partnership with several other entities and will eventually connect four counties.

· Jefferson County originally called this project the Peaks to Plains Trail. The current name, "Clear Creek Trail", was adopted because some of the project partners were already using that name.

· The first section of this trail opened in 2016. That segment was four miles long. An additional 1.75 miles opened in 2021. Another 1.5 miles will open on November 5th.

· The question Grossman hears most frequently is "When will it be done?" That depends on funding, which in turn depends on economic and political conditions. They have the next couple of years of construction covered and they'll keep applying for grants as they become available.

2026 Front Range Open Space Research Symposium

Grant recipients who are doing research on Front Range open spaces will share their findings on what is shaping conservation, recreation management, and climate resilience *in this 2-day online presentation*.

What: Recipients of small research grants from Jefferson County Parks & Open Space (JCPOS), City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP), Boulder County Parks & Open Space (BCPOS), and the City of Longmont will share findings on wildlife, ecosystems, recreation, and climate change.
When: Wednesday & Thursday, Nov 4-5, 9AM - 12:30 PM
Who: Everyone is welcome to attend this free, virtual conference. *Click here to register.*
Schedule: Wednesday: Ecology, Vegetation & Applied Management
Thursday: Monitoring, Biodiversity, & Regional Collaboration

Invasive Species Management

Mountain Pine Beetle Monthly Tips - the infestation is not over yet. The number of sites affected by mountain pine beetle (MPB) within the county has increased significantly since 2025. Fall is a good time to start looking for newly infested trees.

Look for the following:

Frass: sawdust-like material at the base of trees or in the crevices of bark

Pitchtubes: orangish-pink, popcorn-shaped accumulation of sap on the trunk of the tree

Feeding galleries: adults form vertical feeding galleries under the bark that are usually filled with frass.

The trees that faded and turned red this season have died. They are no longer at risk of spreading MPB because the adult beetles that matured over the summer have already left those trees.

Learn more by visiting the Jeffco *Invasive Species Management Webpages*

Protect What Matters

What do Colorado's forests make possible in your life?

Maybe it's a favorite trail. Clean drinking water. A family tradition. Wildlife. Your livelihood. Or simply knowing these places will still be here for the next generation.

Those personal connections are at the heart of Protect What Matters, a new film featuring six Coloradans whose lives are shaped by our forests.

Their stories span outdoor recreation, education, ranching, local business, clean water, family, and the experience of wildfire itself. Together, they tell a larger story about why caring for Colorado's forests matters.

And there's more agreement around that idea than we sometimes realize. New research finds that 80% of Westerners agree healthy forests require active stewardship, while 82% want more done to overcome the barriers preventing that work.

Protect What Matters is an invitation to make that support visible. Not by telling people what they should care about, but by asking them what they already do care about.

Protect What Matters is a campaign led by Forest Trends in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service and community-connected partners in Colorado's Front Range. The campaign aims to build public support for the forest management needed to protect forests, strengthen communities, and increase wildfire resilience.

Watch the film at *https://protectwhatmatters.us/*

Stay up-to-date with what's happening at Open Space:

https://www.jeffco.us/1541/Event-Calendar

Open Space Projects	Status	Expected Completion
Beaver Ranch park improvements	under construction	Spring 2027
Clear Creek Canyon Huntsman Segment	under construction	November 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
Lookout Mtn Nature Center - roof replacement & solar install	procurement	Fall 2026

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



Fall morning on the Grant Terry Trail, Clear Creek - photo courtesy of Richard Lukin

COUNTY NEWS & HAPPENING

Jeffco Wildfire Resiliency Code Took Effect July 1
This is a reminder that the Jefferson County Wildfire Resiliency Code (WRC) is now in effect. 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.
Additional information can be found on the County's WRC web page.
https://www.jeffco.us/2672/Defensible-Space-Wildfire-Mitigation

JEFFCO Sheriff'S Office LEA Report
News & Press Releases: *https://www.jeffcosheriffco.gov/news*
Wildland Fire Management Program:
https://www.jeffcosheriffco.gov/safety/wildland-fire
Emergency Management: https://www.jeffcosheriffco.gov/safety/oem
Lookout Alert: *https://www.jeffcosheriffco.gov/safety/oem#lookout-alert*
Hi-Lo, It's Time to Go: *https://www.jeffcosheriffco.gov/safety/hi-lo*

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 Unified Land Use Code (ULUC) draft and associated Zoning Map are now available for public review; the comment phase concluded on October 18. Please visit the Jefferson County Planning & Zoning page to view links to the Draft Regulations, Proposed Zoning Map and other helpful documents. *https://www.jeffco.us/5234/*
Hearing dates will also be posted on the Planning & Zoning page.

OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERS

NOCO PLACES - A Common Voice for Public Lands
https://www.nocoplaces.com/
Stewarding Colorado's Northern Front Range Through Regional Collaboration

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.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

https://cpw.state.co.us

Gray Wolf Reintroduction News
The *October 2026 Collared Gray Wolf Activity Map* is now available and displays wolf activity throughout the state during this reporting period.

Leftover (Remaining) Limited Hunting Licenses
View Leftover List: *https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Leftover.pdf*

BearWise Basics
https://bearwise.org/six-bearwise-basics/

Episode 3.6: Adaptive Make-A-Wish Adventure
Listen to the podcast:
https://coloradooutdoorsmag.com/2026/08/27/colorado-outdoors-podcast-episode-3-6-adaptive-make-a-wish-adventure/

Waterfowl hunters can help keep our waters ANS-free
Help stop ANS (aquatic nuisance species): *https://cpw.state.co.us/aquatic-nuisance-species*

Restoring Wetland Habitat at State Wildlife Areas
Learn more at Colorado Outdoors Online:
https://coloradooutdoorsmag.com/2026/07/27/beavers-join-collaborative-effort-for-wildlife-and-habitat-enhancement/

2026 Colorado Outdoors Hunting Guide
https://cpw.widencollective.com/assets/share/asset/danaoif3ot

Colorado State Forest Service

https://csfs.colostate.edu/

Resources for Communities, Homeowners, Wood Businesses, Educators

2025 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests
https://csfs.colostate.edu/forest-management/forest-health-report-2025/

Jefferson Conservation District

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

Make every acre count - forest restoration, wildfire mitigation, and noxious weed management in Jefferson County, Colorado and surrounding areas. 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 = 26,114
Products Informing Conservation = 105
Landowners Supported = 638
Acres Restored/Enhanced = 33,901
People Reached via Education = 41,641

News Release: Fort Collins, CO – August 25, 2026
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and partners launch SPARRO, putting powerful conservation information directly into the hands of grassland managers working across the Great Plains.
https://www.birdconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/SPARRO_PressRelease_BirdConservancy_20260825.pdf

Denver Audubon

https://denveraudubon.org

Publications: https://www.birdconservancy.org/resource-center/publications/
Upcoming classes, programs & events: *https://www.denveraudubon.org/calendar*
Birding Hotline: *https://www.denveraudubon.org/resources#BirdingHotline*

Colorado Open Lands

https://coloradoopenlands.org/
725,538 acres of land
3508 miles of waterways
812 projects in 50 counties

Spring 2026 Newsletter: *https://coloradoopenlands.org/wp-content/uploads/Spring-2026-web.pdf*

New Conservation Project: Dyer Property, Routt County:
This 679-acre protected property features sagebrush and mountain shrublands as well as grass pastures. Over a mile of Smuin Gulch flows through the property. It is utilized by black bear, elk, moose, mountain lion, mule deer, and pronghorn. The property provides habitat for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, greater sage-grouse, and northern leopard frog, all Colorado Species of Concern. The property abuts two additional Colorado Open Lands conservation easements totaling over 6,600 acres, adding to the benefits for wildlife and offering uninterrupted viewsheds to the public.
Project partners include Natural Resources Conservation Service (a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture) and Routt County Purchase of Development Rights.

New Conservation Project: Lower Spring Ranch, Moffat County:
This 3,517-acre protected property is located northwest of Craig, within the Great Divide area, which is dominated by expansive rolling sagebrush and exceptional wildlife habitat. The property comprises part of the High Country Lamb sheep operation and consists of sagebrush shrublands. Habitat is provided for bald eagle, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, ferruginous hawk, greater sage-grouse (all Colorado Species of Concern), burrowing owl (State Threatened), and big game species including elk, mountain lion, mule deer, and pronghorn. The property ties into a larger

regional network of over 1.5 million acres of public lands and conserved properties.

Project partners include Natural Resources Conservation Service Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (NRCS/ACEP) and the Bureau of Land Management's and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Sage Grouse Fund.

View representative projects in Colorado: *https://coloradoopenlands.org/success-stories/*
Colorado Open Lands History: *https://coloradoopenlands.org/history-and-mergers/*

Mountain Area Land Trust

over 28,000 acres of land in a 6-county area
https://savetheland.org/

Upcoming event: Colorado Gives Day open house

When: Tuesday, December 8th, noon – 2PM
Where: 908 Nob Hill Rd, Suite 200, Evergreen

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

Honor Colorado's conservation legacy by voting yes on Prop 137
https://www.keepitco.org/news/2026/10/20/honor-colorados-conservation-legacy-by-voting-yes-on-prop-137
Trust Our Land: Conservation is a Team Sport
https://www.keepitco.org/news/2026/10/1/trust-our-land-conservation-is-a-team-sport
AG Phil Weiser, State Legislative and Local Leaders Across Colorado Endorse Proposition 137
https://www.keepitco.org/news/2026/9/30/state-and-local-leaders-across-colorado-endorse-proposition-137

Douglas Land Conservancy

https://douglaslandconservancy.org/

To protect and conserve the natural character, habitats, ecosystems, and open spaces of the Central Front Range region of Colorado
Over 28,000 acres of land in Douglas, Jefferson & Elbert Counties

Another Bluebird monitoring season in the books

https://douglaslandconservancy.org/2026/10/another-bluebird-monitoring-season-in-the-books/

DLC Watercolor Class- Moon & Trees

https://douglaslandconservancy.org/2026/10/dlc-watercolor-class-moon-trees/

Indigenous People's Day 2026

https://douglaslandconservancy.org/2026/10/indigenous-peoples-day-2026/

Stewards of Golden Open Space

https://stewardsofgolden.org/

Update on Golden's Open Space Master Plan
https://www.cityofgolden.gov/government/initiatives_plans/master_plans/index.php
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)

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*

1204 Saturday October 31st 9:00 AM Maintenance on Turkey Troy Mt. Falcon
1208 Saturday November 7th 9:00 AM Rock step project on Green Mtn Green Mountain
1205 Saturday November 14th 9:00 AM Rock step project on Green Mtn Green Mountain
1206 Saturday November 21st 9:00 AM Maintenance on Turkey Trot Mt. Falcon
1207 Sunday December 5th 9:00 AM Rock step project on Green Mtn 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

Links: *https://www.solveccc.org/Links.html*
Library: *https://www.solveccc.org/Library.html*

SOLVE has been instrumental in:
* preserving the Beaver Brook Watershed
* preserving the James Peak Wilderness Area
* developing an environmentally responsible solution for the refurbishing of Guanella Pass
* creating a ballot measure that resulted in the formation of the Clear Creek County Open Space Commission

SOLVE activities include:

* researching all aspects of land use issues
* obtaining a balance of natural areas and sustainable development
* advocating realistic alternatives for land use preservation in remote areas
* advising the County policy makers
* promoting the health and safety of residents
* educating the public

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

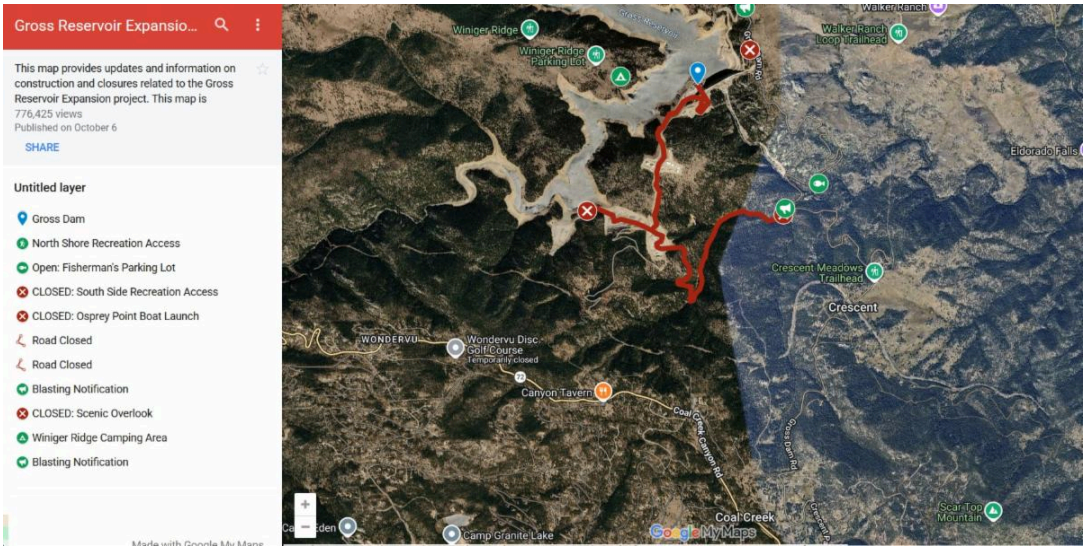
https://www.PLANJeffco.org

Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA)
Colorado Native Plant Society
Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust

WANT TO SUPPORT OUR WORK?

I want to support PLAN Jeffco's work

WATCH THIS SPACE...Local Goings-on



Gross Reservoir Updates as of October 2026

Legal update

On Sept. 15, 2026, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals confirmed that the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project was lawfully permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The ruling allows Denver Water to proceed with the final stages of the project and begin filling the expanded reservoir. *Read Denver Water's full statement on the court's decision.*

Project Update, October 2026

Since completing roller-compacted concrete placements on June 3, 2026, crews have stayed busy working on features that support the long-term operation of the dam and reservoir, including:

· Constructing the rounded top of the dam spillway and support structures for the bridge crossing over the spillway. The bridge will be installed over the coming months, and work along the dam crest will continue into 2027.

· Completing underwater upgrades to the auxiliary outlet works, which provide an alternative method for releasing water from the reservoir. This work is expected to wrap up later this month.

· Placing conventional concrete in the stilling basin, drilling dam drains and completing electrical installations. This work will continue into 2027.

Activities on the dam are expected to be completed in summer 2027. Learn more at *https://www.denverwater.org/grossreservoir/construction*.

Tree Removal Update

Reservoir site preparation, including tree removal in the expansion area, is expected to begin in 2027.

To keep community members informed, we have created a new email notification list dedicated to tree removal updates. Subscribers will receive information about contractor selection, project timing and community cord-wood opportunities.

You can *sign up for notifications here or update your preferences using this link*.

To learn more, read the Tree Removal Plan in our online document library.

As a reminder, we encourage everyone to check the Project My Map when traveling around or visiting Gross Reservoir. This map has the most up-to-date information on road restrictions and recreation access.



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

I-70 Floyd Hill Project Update October 2026

Project Overview

Scope: Covers 8 miles of I-70 from west of Evergreen to eastern Idaho Springs (adding a third WB express lane, frontage road section, and

interchange improvements).

Timeline: Construction began July 2023. New alignment targeted for 2028; full project completion in 2029.

Key Traffic Shifts & Closures

In early November, motorists can expect an overnight closure of eastbound I-70 between Idaho Springs (Exit 241) and Hidden Valley/Central City Parkway (Exit 243) for crews to safely shift eastbound I-70 traffic to the north onto the newly completed bridge over Clear Creek. This work will also require an extended closure of the eastbound I-70 off-ramp to Hidden Valley/Central City Parkway (Exit 243) for crews to safely tie in the off-ramp to the new eastbound I-70 alignment.

The overnight full closure of eastbound I-70 between Idaho Springs (Exit 241) and Hidden Valley/Central City Parkway (Exit 243) is scheduled from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 1.

All work is progress- and weather-dependent and subject to change. If weather or unforeseen circumstances impact this work, crews will shift the closure schedule, and the eastbound I-70 closures and traffic shift could occur from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., Monday, Nov. 2.

I-70 Sun Glare Safety Detours Begin Sunday, Nov. 1

Heads up! Daily eastbound I-70 sun glare safety detours will start Sunday, Nov.1, and continue through February 2027. Motorists can expect up to one-hour closures between 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. along eastbound I-70 from US 6 (Exit 244) to County Road 65 (Exit 248). Traffic on eastbound I-70 will be rerouted at US 6 and motorists can either stay on US 6 through Clear Creek Canyon or take eastbound US 40 to return to eastbound I-70 at County Road 65. Learn more about sun glare safety on the Colorado Department of Transportation's Sun Glare Safety webpage.

Upcoming Traffic Hold for Blasting

In early November, motorists can expect a 20-minute traffic hold between Idaho Springs (Exit 241) and US 6 (Exit 244) for crews to conduct a blasting operation to demolish the existing eastbound I-70 bridge over Clear Creek. Stay the course on I-70 - there is no detour route. Plan for a delay up to 45 minutes as the traffic queue clears. Stay tuned to our Project updates for more information!

Future Major Closures

Mid-to-Late October: Overnight EB I-70 closure (Exits 241 to 243) to shift traffic onto the new bridge.

Mid-November: Overnight EB I-70 closures at US 6 (Exit 244) to install bridge construction equipment.

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 land 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!

I want to support conservation in Jeffco!

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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