

# Open Space Division · Management Report

April  
2005

JEFFERSON COUNTY

## Priority Land Acquisition

- Final issue of Open Space Sales Tax Revenue Bonds 2005 series occurred in the amount of \$29 million, expending the authority voters approved in 1998 for \$160 million in bonds for priority land acquisition.
- Evaluation of current approved projects and potential preservation concepts continues by Open Space Staff and Open Space Advisory Committee for prioritization of remaining bond funds.

## Leadership

- Hiwan Homestead Museum hosted the Leadership Evergreen community meeting on January 22, 2005.
- Lookout Mountain Nature Center (LMNC) hosted the Leadership Jeffco participants on April 1, 2005.

## Quality Visitor Experiences

- Park Visitor Survey results obtained in 2004 at Apex, Elk Meadow, Matthews/Winters, Mount Falcon and White Ranch Parks were compared to results gathered in 2001. Apex Park showed an increase in biking and a decrease in hiking and wildlife viewing. Other surveyed parks showed opposite results concerning trail visitor use. Visitors supported resource management by trail closure, prescribed burning and seasonal closures.
- In the first quarter of the year, LMNC reached 6,079 visitors including those participating in group and public programs,

- which is down slightly from last year's first quarter.
- Hiwan Homestead Museum served 1,011 people through tours, special events, educational programs and outreach presentations in January and February.

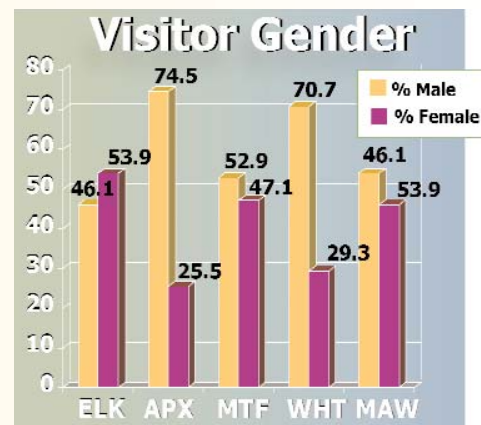


## Environmental and Cultural Education

- Natural Perspectives Series were well attended with 44 people present during the first session in January on wolves and wolf reintroduction efforts in Colorado with Rob Edward, Carnivore Recovery Program Director for Sinapu. The second session featured former National Public Radio science correspondent and author David Baron who spoke to an enthusiastic audience of 80 about mountain lions and his book [The Beast in the Garden: A modern parable of man and nature.](#)
- Special events at Hiwan Homestead Museum included the St. Distaff's Day fiber arts gathering on January 6; a special Valentine's Day Tea on February 14; the "Read Across America" celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2; and a program on the history of the Girl Scouts on March 21.
- In March, photographers from a quilting magazine visited and spent the day photographing log cabin quilts inside the Hiwan Homestead Museum.

## Natural Resource Management & Conservation

- Jefferson County Open Space Natural Resource crews, with the Colorado State Forest Service, conducted a successful prescribed burn of approximately 28 acres at White Ranch Park on March 23.
- Colorado Air Commission granted Open Space a "Significant User Permit" to allow for more resource treatment through prescribed burning.



*Ladies love Elk Meadow Park!*

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### Regional Trail System Contiguity

- A feasibility study of a trail parallel to Clear Creek from State Highways 6 and 58 in Golden west to Clear Creek County was completed. This 12-mile trail is part of the Jefferson County Trails 2000 project, with an estimated cost of \$25 - \$30 million dollars. This concept is a 10-foot wide, predominately concrete trail with 11 creek crossings. The phasing, budget and implementation schedule for this project is under review.



Projects are signed to acknowledge Open Space Fund participation.

### Funding Partnerships

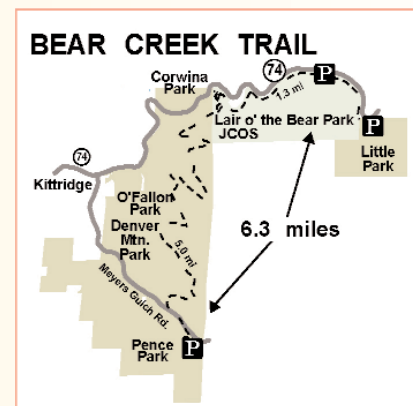
- The Board of County Commissioners approved \$2 million in Open Space Joint Venture Grants with six cities and eight recreation districts in providing recreational capital improvements throughout the County.
- The Board of County Commissioners approved \$150,000 in Conservation Trust Fund Grants with ten agencies in providing recreational and site improvements with each entity.

### Trail Development, Maintenance & Improvement

- Approximately 300 applications were received to fill 50 openings in the Youth Work Program 2005. Selection will occur on April 13 and work commences on June 20. The Youth Work Program provides Jeffco youth ages 14-18 with summer employment in building trails and maintaining Open Space properties.
- Trail construction is underway on South Table Mountain connecting the Foothills Circle trailhead to the mesa rim above the Welch Ditch, Applewood and Rolling Hills Country Club. This one-half mile of trail will establish better alignment and achieve average grades of 10% versus the current grades that are over 20% in some areas.
- The trailhead at Windy Saddle Park, which includes 23 paved parking spaces, is 80% complete. This amenity, along Lookout Mountain Road, will allow for safe parking for both the Beaver Brook and Chimney Gulch trails.
- Hildebrand Ranch Park trail construction continues toward completion of a loop trail available for public use in July, utilizing an Easement through a portion of the TrailMark subdivision.
- The west access road at Centennial Cone Park is currently under construction by the County Road and Bridge Division from Coyote Spur Road into the park and is scheduled for completion in spring 2005. Trailhead facilities will be constructed in 2006.

### Denver/Jeffco Management Plan Implementation

- Counties in Partnership, a cooperative effort between Jefferson County Open Space & City of Denver/Denver Mountain Parks, met on March 16 to refine action plans for the subgroups of Events/Awareness; Management Strategies; and Strategic Leadership. The group agreed to hold a Bear Creek Trail dedication at Lair o' the Bear Park and develop a PowerPoint presentation featuring potential partnership projects.



Counties in Partnership connect parks and communities.