

# Open Space Division · Management Report

July  
2004

JEFFERSON COUNTY

## Priority Land Acquisition

- Seventeen and one quarter acres contiguous to Centennial Cone were acquired. In addition to its wildlife habitat, scenic values and natural surface trail potential, the property has four structures that may be suitable for storage and/or a residential facility for park maintenance and patrol.
- Open Space accepted a donation by Jennifer and Eric Ramstetter of their partial ownership of mineral rights in approximately 1,760 acres in the vicinity of Windy Saddle Park, which will either preclude future mining or yield a royalty stream to the County if the mineral interests are ever exploited.

## Leadership

- Open Space Advisory Committee members and staff met with the Trail Use Task Force to formulate steps to enhance the effectiveness of the user group representation. Conclusions included additional small group and biannual meetings of the Task Force and clarification of Task Force member and staff roles and responsibilities.



*One of three beautiful picnic shelters nearly finished at Flying J Ranch park.*

## Quality Visitor Experiences

- David Smith, Trails Worker, won the top lifesaver award at the recent County Safety Awards program for his assistance to a visitor and his dog who were both bitten by a rattler.
- The three picnic shelters at Flying J Ranch Park were substantially completed in June, construction on the restroom has started, a new well has been drilled and the parking lot subgrade was completed.

## Environmental and Cultural Education

- Open Space's Youth Engaged in Service and Stewardship (YESS) program kicked off with the enrollment of nine teens. The YESS program is an opportunity for young people to learn more about the natural resources of Jefferson County through education, volunteer service and career exploration.
- Lookout Mountain Nature Center staff hosted the annual Wildflower Festival at the Center and the Migration Celebration was held at both Matthews/Winters and Crown Hill Parks.
- In this year's second quarter, Lookout Mountain Nature Center staff and volunteers provided programs and services to 17,740 visitors and Hiwan Homestead Museum served over 6,000 visitors.
- Hiwan Homestead Museum hosted Discovery Days – Children's Daycamp, adult education classes featuring the art of traditional crafts and a Living History Conservation Debate between Enos Mills and a fictitious local developer.



*Open Space's Youth Engaged in Service and Stewardship (YESS) program.*

## Natural Resource Management & Conservation

- Open Space, along with the City of Boulder Open Space, Boulder County Open Space, U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, participated in a Grasslands BioBlitz in late June. Over 100 scientists gathered data over a 24-hour period to create a biodiversity snapshot of the grasslands in northern Jefferson County and southern Boulder County.

Continued on back page

July  
2004

JEFFERSON COUNTY

**Natural Resource Management & Conservation (continued)**

- Natural Resources staff completed a Prairie Dog Management Plan for Open Space parks. This plan provides general guidelines for management of the limited prairie dog habitat within Open Space lands and any future park development.
- Staff completed a 40-acre forest restoration project at Elk Meadow Park, which included thinning ponderosa pine trees and removing Douglas fir.

**Funding Partnerships**

- Open Space contributed \$186,240 to the City of Edgewater's purchase of the vacant King Sooper's store in Edgewater. The City plans to develop the store into an indoor recreation center and city offices.
- Great Outdoors Colorado has invited Jefferson County Open Space to submit a full application for the Front Range Mountain Backdrop/Foreground Preservation project. Staff will submit an application in early August, with awards being announced in December.

**Trail Development, Maintenance & Improvement**

- Eighty participants launched the 29<sup>th</sup> Youth Work Program (YWP). Most work for the YWP participants will be trail construction on the west side of Centennial Cone, but the crews will also assist with painting at the Fairgrounds, piling slash with Natural Resources crews, trail maintenance on South Table Mountain and trail construction at White Ranch and Hildebrand Ranch Parks.
- Almost one mile of new trail has been excavated on Centennial Cone Park, with new tread having been completed on one-third of that mile.



*Youth Work Program in action.*