

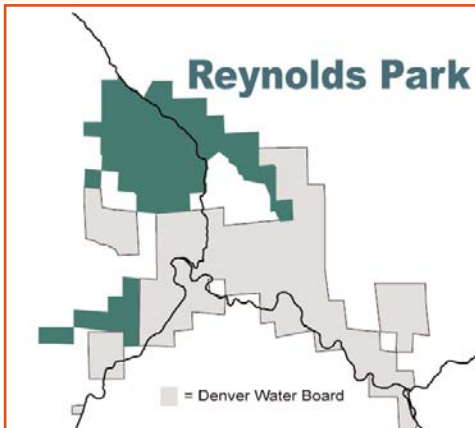
# Open Space Division · Management Report

Jan. - March  
**2008**

JEFFERSON COUNTY

## Priority Land Acquisition

- Coal Creek Canyon Park -- Brothers Conservation Easement  
The County acquired Conservation and Trail Easements consisting of approximately 70 acres located in Coal Creek Canyon. These Easements connect two Open Space parcels and were acquired for the preservation of potential trail linkages as shown on the current Open Space Master Plan. Under the Conservation Easement the owner reserved one residential building site within a maximum 3.5 acre building envelope.
- Reynolds Park -- License Agreement



*Joint agreement between JSOS and DWB makes safety a priority.*

The County granted the Denver Water Board a License over an existing two-track road in Reynolds Park that will allow the Water Board, Colorado State Forest Service and its contractor to access adjoining Water Board property for forest management and fire control. The initial term of the License Agreement is through December 31, 2008 and will renew annually for nine additional years. Unless terminated, the License Agreement will expire on December 31, 2017. The License was granted at no cost to the Water Board.

## Leadership

- Park Management Plans (PMP) for 29 Park properties have been updated for 2008. New Plans completed recently include North Table Mountain Park and an update to the original South Table Mountain Park Plan to include the property acquired from Coors Brewing Company. The Plans define individual Open Space properties, the Open Space vision of a park and serve as a tool for making organizational priority and budget and staff resource allocation decisions.
- During the end of 2007 and first quarter of 2008, Open Space staff prepared an update to the Open Space Five-Year Master Plan. Utilizing a group of internal stakeholders (staff) and outreach to cities, recreation districts, counties and advocacy groups, a draft plan has been presented to the Open Space Advisory Committee and to the public for comment and review.
- The South Table Mountain Park Management Plan (PMP) was prioritized for an update in response to the acquisition of the Coors Brewing Company property in late 2004. In updating the Plan, public input for South Table Mountain involved two public open house events and a total of six other staff meetings with stakeholder groups such as the Applewood Property Owners Association, Table Mountains Conservation Fund Board and Save the Mesas. Staff also provided an update to the Golden Rotary and met with City of Golden and Pleasant View Metro District staff. The PMP has been updated and endorsed and Open Space will be pursuing new actions and additional management.
- The North Table Mountain Park Management Plan was recently endorsed. This ended a lengthy process that involved two public open house events and the formation of a citizens' Ad Hoc Committee. Open Space staff worked with OSAC and the Ad Hoc Committee to incorporate some of the recommendations from the Committee Report. Open Space has started implementation of the phases of Park development in the areas of trailhead design and trail layout.
- In 2007, a total of 1,101 Volunteers contributed 20,611 hours of their personal time to Open Space in a variety of support areas including Park Hosts, Park Patrollers, Naturalists, Tour Guides, Natural Resource Avian Monitors, Water Samplers and assistants to the Visitor Survey project, park maintenance, community and corporate group projects and Volunteer Trail Building Days in the Parks.

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## Leadership (*continued*)

- So far in 2008, Open Space has been able to recruit 70 new Volunteers to further assist in providing program support and continue to provide a wide variety of volunteer opportunities to our Open Space constituents.

## Quality Visitor Experiences

- Hiwan Homestead Museum led the design of a full color promotional brochure for the facility and its programs. Approximately 15,000 brochures will be printed and provided to visitor centers and tourist locations.
- Annual Visitor Experience Surveys will be conducted in 2008 at Centennial Cone, Elk Meadow, Matthews/Winters and White Ranch Parks. Administered largely by Volunteer Park Hosts between May 1 and Sept. 30, 2008 the surveys are an excellent management tool for visitor experiences.

## Environmental & Cultural Education

- Hiwan Homestead Museum's Valentine's Day Tea was sold-out and the program by author Carolyn Campbell was a hit. She recited her poetry relating to her home-front experiences during World War II.



- On March 10, Debra Faulkner presented an excellent program on the life and mysterious death of Emily Griffith, a visionary for free universal adult education.
- In the first quarter of the year, the Lookout Mountain Nature Center reached 6,307 visitors through Nature Center visits and group and public programs, up 23% through this period last year. So far this year, Public Program numbers are at an all time high.

## Natural Resource Management & Conservation



*Activity captured with motion-activated cameras near the perimeter fence at Lookout Mountain Nature Preserve.*

- Pile burning was completed at Elk Meadow and White Ranch Parks. Fuel break and fire mitigation work continues at Mount Falcon Park with work occurring near the parking lots and picnic area. Natural Resource staff are preparing for possible Spring prescribed burns at Elk Meadow and White Ranch Parks.
- Staff has been working to develop Bluebird and Forest Steward Volunteer programs.
- A perimeter fence modification at the Lookout Mountain Nature Preserve was implemented to accommodate wildlife movement. One of the original intents of the tall chain link fence around the Preserve was to keep animals (such as elk) inside the compound so hunters would have easy access to wild game. Today, the fence serves to deter after hours trespass, reduce social trail development and limit access by

dogs. The fence has some historic significance and represents a boundary marker for the Preserve. Since August, 2007, several motion-activated cameras placed by JCOS Natural Resource staff have captured images of an amazing array of wildlife including mountain lion, bobcat, black bear, coyote, fox, deer, elk, skunk and raccoon. Some dogs and a few people were captured by the cameras too, but these were infrequent.

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## Funding Partnerships

- A total of \$2,101,373 dollars has been awarded in Joint Venture Grants to five cities and nine recreation districts to assist in funding of recreational capital improvements.



- A total of \$184,200 in Conservation Trust Funds in 2008 was awarded to seven entities to assist in recreational improvements throughout the County.
- West Denver Trout Unlimited (TU) secured an Easement from the County and was awarded Conservation Trust Funds to restore a portion of Clear Creek to improve habitat and provide improved fishing access. Called "The Golden Mile" the project brought together TU, Federal Fishing is Fun, JCOS, the City of Golden, Coors Brewery, Ben and Albert Frei of AFS Quarries and Frontier Environmental.

## Trail Development, Maintenance & Improvement

- Matthews/Winters Park: Trailhead safety improvements are near completion at Matthews/Winters Park. The 15 car parking lot expansion and associated drainage improvements should be completed by County Road and Bridge crews to alleviate on-road parking. Additional trails and a boardwalk are also being built to provide for ADA access and to segregate the different types of trail users.
- Open Space staff will design and construct two vault restrooms at the north and west trailheads of Centennial Cone Park with completion anticipated by Fall 2008.



*Construction of boardwalk at Matthews/Winters Park.*