

Open Space Division · Management Report

Oct. - Dec.
2007

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Priority Land Acquisition

- Open Space acquired 5.5 acres located northwest of the intersection of 100th Avenue and Simms Street adjacent to Westminster Hills Open Space property. Considered a high priority acquisition for Westminster to expand its existing Westminster Hills Open Space, the City and Jefferson County each paid 50% of the purchase price of \$785,000.
- Located two miles east of Blue Mountain and contiguous to Coal Creek Canyon Park is the acquisition of the Miller, Irwin, Talcott property consisting of 72 acres, acquired for preservation of its potential trail corridor and protection of important wildlife habitat.
- A priority acquisition for the City of Lakewood was accomplished with the purchase of 7.83 acres, located west of Sheridan Boulevard at 5370 West Ohio Avenue. The purchase price for the land was \$800,000 and \$77,000 for the associated water. The property is suitable for development of athletic fields and to relieve over-use at nearby Ray Ross Park.
- The Faller acquisition, contiguous to Reynolds Park, consists of 410 acres and is located west of Foxton Road. Suitable for scenic and wildlife habitat preservation, the property provides soft surface trail opportunities and a potential trail connection to the Denver Water Board property to the south.
- Open Space has acquired a Conservation/Trail Easement across approximately 107 acres located two miles north of the intersection of Golden Gate Canyon Road and Crawford Gulch Road. The intent of the Easement is to preserve the scenic quality, the riparian corridor, wildlife habitat and potential trail connections and a trailhead. Terms of the Ramstetter family Conservation Easement reserves one residential building site within a maximum five acre building envelope.



View looking east towards the Ramstetter Conservation Easement.

Leadership

- 2007 Open Space Annual Achievement Awards were presented at the Winter All Staff meeting in December. The Team award went to the Building Maintenance and Construction Team for construction of the entry gates at the Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Preserve. Natural Resource staff member Jerry Bader was recognized for individual achievement for his work on the historic irrigation ditches and water rights at Hildebrand Ranch Park; and Karey Baker from Planning & Development worked to educate staff on important use of fire doors. Mike Faber and Colton Secary from the Park Maintenance subsection were lauded for their achievement in safety for helping rescue auto accident victims on Highway 285, while en route to a work site.



Jerry Bader, awarded "Special Achievement by an Individual" at the Winter All Staff meeting, congratulated by Director Ralph Schell.

Continued on page 2

Oct. - Dec.
2007

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Quality Visitor Experiences

- Open Space and Road & Bridge staff are working collaboratively to make improvements to the Matthews/Winters Park trailhead. Road & Bridge anticipates construction of the parking lot and entry road improvements will be completed by Memorial Day, 2008. Work is scheduled to begin on the site in the first weeks of January 2008. Open Space will construct several new trail segments, totaling approximately ½ mile, that will help reduce congestion at the heavily used trailhead. Designated use trails will allow bicyclists to travel separated from hikers



Nature's Gifts event at the Lookout Mountain Nature Center.

and equestrians in the immediate area of the trailhead. A new 8-foot wide board walk will carry the bicycle traffic across the Mount Vernon Creek riparian area. New kiosks at the trailhead will provide improved visitor information as well as educate park visitors to the purpose and layout of the new trail system.

- A new permanent restroom structure has been completed at the eastern trailhead of Alderfer/Three Sisters Park. Additional improvements to the parking lot and signage are scheduled for the new year.

CULTURAL INVENTORY



Open Space staff completed a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory this Autumn.

Environmental & Cultural Education

- Class III Cultural Resource Inventories were completed on portions of White Ranch, Flying J Ranch and Reynolds Parks and for the entire South Table Mountain Park. The survey revealed a total of ten historic and two prehistoric sites along with a number of isolated finds. Four of the historic sites may be eligible for the State and/or National Register of Historic Places.
- In the fourth quarter of the year, LMNC reached 9,600 people through nature visits and group and public programs. Over 45,000 people were served by the Nature Center through programs and visitor services in 2007. Nature's Gifts, for children up to 8 years old, was presented in three sessions with attendance reaching 230 participants.
- Hiwan Homestead Museum special events included the Outdoor Quilt Festival with more than 100 quilts loaned for display by groups and individuals around the Evergreen area. In 2007, over 18,000 people were served by Hiwan staff and volunteers through visitation and outreach programs.
- Open Space staff have been working with the Lariat Loop partners to create several interpretive panels that will be set up in downtown Evergreen. They will deal with the history of the area, plus the parks and other recreation opportunities available to visitors.

Natural Resource Management & Conservation

- Pile burns of forest management debris occurred at Elk Meadow and White Ranch Parks. Prescribed fire was applied at Mount Falcon and White Ranch Parks to reduce wildfire fuels and restore nutrients that enhance wildlife forage.

Oct. - Dec.
2007

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Regional Trail System Contiguity

- A new trail now connects South Table Mountain Park to the new Pleasant View Park at Camp George West. It is a 6 foot wide, crusher-fine trail constructed in an Easement obtained from National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The trail is approximately 1,100 feet long and will allow visitors to access South Table Mountain from a trailhead at Pleasant View Park.

Trail Development, Maintenance & Improvement

- The Clear Creek/Grant Terry Park bridge and the approaches are complete. Open Space Trails crew completed a short trail to the west, on the south side of the creek of Grant Terry Park.
- Across from the existing Stagecoach Boulevard trailhead at Elk Meadow Park, a parking lot was constructed to access the Dog Off-Leash Area. An accessible trail and accessible viewing pad were constructed to allow wheelchair entry to the fenced dog park. Construction was done by Open Space crews with assistance from Road & Bridge.



Grant Terry Park is located at the entrance to Clear Creek Canyon.

- A vault restroom will be completed in January at the east trailhead at Alderfer/Three Sisters Park.



Breaking ground at the Dog Off-Leash Area near Elk Meadow Park in Evergreen.

Counties in Partnership

- Denver Mountain Parks and Jefferson County Open Space launched master plan updates for both programs at a joint event on October 13th at Red Rocks Amphitheater.



Construction of a new restroom at Alderfer/Three Sisters Park.