

Open Space Division · Management Report

July
2005

Priority Land Acquisition

- A grant in the amount of \$45,000 was awarded to Jefferson County by the Department of Energy to complete a complex lease with the Colorado State Land Board. The grant will preserve approximately 60 acres located along Highway 93, east of the railroad tracks and south of Rocky Flats. Under the terms of the proposed lease the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will manage the property for the continued conservation of the Woman Creek riparian corridor.
- Open Space received a gift of a Conservation Easement from Ramon and Marie Bisque for 21.9 acres located west of Blue Mountain Drive in Blue Mountain Estates.



View of Woman Creek Riparian Corridor.

Leadership

- An Open House was held in Pine Grove on June 18 for the Foxton-Pine Grove Project in response to the community kick-off held March 5, 2005. Educational materials were provided at topic stations to include: Reception, Historic and Cultural Resources, Natural Resource Conservation, Recreational Amenities, Planning & Zoning, Law Enforcement, Education and or Volunteer.

Foxton-Pine Grove Project Participants

Duane Holmes	NPS-Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
Pat Holcomb	Preservation Inc.
Anne Mancusso	Colorado Division of Wildlife
Steve Priest	Pike National Forest
Neil Sperendeo	Denver Water
Jean Reince Schwartz	Open Space
Heather Gutherless	Planning & Zoning
Mike Sensano	Sheriff's Office

Quality Visitor Experiences

- In the second quarter of the year, Lookout Mountain Nature Center reached 8,688 guests through nature visits and group and public programs. While this number is down about 20% for the same period last year, staff vacancies contributed to the reduced number of programs.
- Hiwan Homestead Museum served approximately 3,000 people in April, May and June through guided tours, special events, and outreach programs. On May 16, the Museum hosted a sold-out tea with a program by Mary Jane Bradbury entitled "Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History." The program was one of the best-quality presentations featured at Hiwan and was well-received by the audience.



Environmental and Cultural Education

- Three special programs/events from the Lookout Mountain Nature Center were held during this time period: Migration Celebration vignettes held at Matthews/Winters and Crown Hill parks in April and May; Search the Night Sky in May; and Wildflower Festival in June. All three were successful, but numbers were slightly lower than past years generally due to weather conditions.
- As part of the Natural Perspective Series, Lookout Mountain Nature Center co-sponsored an event with author, Gary Ferguson. He spoke to a crowd of over 300 people about wolves and wolf reintroduction at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden.
- The Backyard Habitat program at Lookout Mountain Nature Center will be certified in July. This is the first certified National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat at a public facility in Jefferson County.

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JEFFERSON COUNTY

Environmental and Cultural Education (continued)

- In May, Hiwan Homestead Museum opened an exhibit entitled "Victorian Treasures." This exhibit showcases some of the Jefferson County Historical Society's spectacular costume collection from the Victorian era. The exhibit will be on display through November.
- The annual Discovery Days children's day camp at Hiwan Homestead Museum ended June 30th. About 160 children attended the camp throughout the month of June, that followed the theme of "Pioneers." The day camp is co-sponsored with the Jefferson County Historical Society.



"Victorian Treasures" Exhibit at Hiwan Homestead Museum

Natural Resource Management & Conservation

- Natural Resource crews have been involved in spring noxious weed control on nearly a dozen Open Space parks. Open Space has designated two parks as being herbicide free for 2005 – Reynolds and Mount Falcon.



The new Windy Saddle Park Trailhead on Lookout Mountain Road.

Regional Trail System Contiguity

- In May 2005, Jefferson County Open Space completed improvements to the Windy Saddle Trailhead on Lookout Mountain Road. These improvements included organizing the previously unpaved parking area, which now accommodates 24 vehicles. The cost was approximately \$268,000.

Trail Development, Maintenance & Improvement

- In June 2005, Jefferson County Open Space completed upgrades to the west parking area at White Ranch Park. These upgrades corrected drainage to reduce erosion and properly direct stormwater runoff from the existing lot and park entry road .

Denver/Jeffco Management Plan Implementation

- The Strategic Leadership subcommittee of Counties in Partnership have developed a presentation designed for the Denver City Council and other decision makers to enlist support for combined management efforts identified in the Denver Mountain Parks/Jefferson County Open Space Management Plan.