

Open Space Department · Management Report

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JEFFERSON COUNTY

Priority Land Acquisition

- Completed complex land trade that benefited Open Space with the acquisition of 263 acres on North Table Mountain, 60 acres adjacent to Apex Park, water rights, \$50,000 annual payment, and option on reclaimed mine in exchange for 60 acres of undeveloped land on Matthews/Winters Park north of I-70.
- Eighty acres of the Cathedral Spires Natural Area were preserved. This acquisition also protects peregrine falcon nesting sites, significant geological features and provides administrative access to the Spires.

Leadership

- Open Space staff led a multi-agency project to address visitor capacity issues regionally. The product was a brochure that highlights underutilized recreational opportunities in the region.
- The updated Open Space Master Plan was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on July 29, 2003.

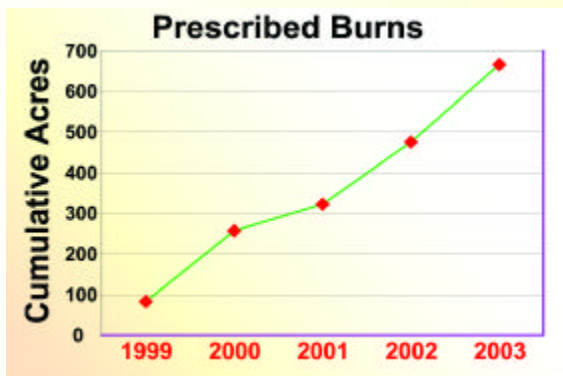
Quality Visitor Experiences

- One picnic shelter has been completed and a second shelter is currently under construction at Flying J Ranch Park.
- The picnic areas and Depot at Pine Valley Ranch have been brought into compliance with ADA standards.
- Park Patroller volunteers logged over 2,000 hours between July and September of 2003.
- Visitor surveys indicated an 11.7% decline in conflict on midday weekends since 1996.



Environmental and Cultural Education

- Staff is working to develop an interpretive sign about the dangers of swift water, which will be placed in Clear Creek Canyon.
- “Fire in the Pines” interpretive panels that describe fire’s role in the ecosystem have been installed at the Lookout Mountain Nature Center, Flying J Ranch, Pine Valley Ranch and Mount Falcon Parks.
- Several improvements were completed at Hiwan Homestead Museum, including restoration of an historic foot bridge and a flagpole, repair and painting of all exterior light fixtures, residing on Pioneer Workshop and removal of old furnaces and boilers.



Natural Resource Management & Conservation

- Controlled burns were conducted at Flying J Ranch, White Ranch and Elk Meadow Parks to reduce fuel loads that contribute to wild fires.
- Non-native grasses at Deer Creek Canyon and South Valley Parks were sprayed in an effort to restore native grasses to those parks.

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Regional Trail System Contiguity

- Wenk & Associates has been contracted to develop schematic designs for 12 miles of the Clear Creek Trail in Clear Creek Canyon.
- DHM Design has been contracted to design a three-quarter mile stretch of the Bear Creek Trail in downtown Evergreen.

Trail Development, Maintenance & Improvement

- Staff replaced about 1,200 feet of concrete trail at Crown Hill Park, between 26th Street and 32nd Street along Kipling.
- Almost four miles of natural-surface trail were constructed at Centennial Cone Park this past construction season.
- The “Zorro Trail,” which links Open Space’s Matthews/Winters Park to the City of Lakewood’s Green Mountain Park, was completed and opened to the public.