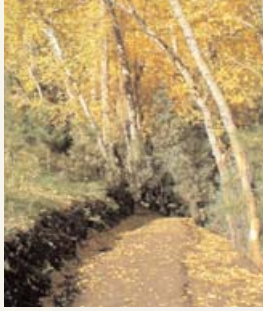


Open Space Division · Management Report

October
2005

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Priority Land Acquisition



Fall Colors in Jefferson County Open Space Parks

- A priority trail connection has been achieved through the exchange of Easements at no cost to either party between the Cotter Corporation and the County. Cotter obtains legal use of the historical access road to their property in Section 25 and the County obtains a critical Trail Easement. The future trail will connect approximately 4,000 acres of Open Space lands from the northern end of White Ranch Park along the Ralston Creek corridor.
- Rooney Incorporated granted an Easement to the County allowing the Dinosaur Ridge Visitors Center to improve their parking area. The Friends of Dinosaur Ridge have leased and managed the property known as the Dinosaur Ridge Visitors Center for eleven years. The Easement will allow for additional access to the west.
- Jefferson County, the City of Littleton and the South Suburban Parks and Recreation District completed an Easement to provide community access to Hildebrand Ranch Park in southern Jefferson County. A loop trail on the 1,400 acres provides for public use in advance of trail-head development.
- Open Space received a gift from Peter Paul Luce of a Conservation Easement on 29 acres located west of Blue Mountain Drive in Blue Mountain Estates.

Leadership

- Jefferson County Open Space participated as a Steering Committee member of the sixth annual Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) Conference held in Colorado Springs, September 15 & 16. COSA is a statewide networking organization for publicly funded open space programs.
- Colleen Gadd, Visitor and Resource Protection Supervisor, was called into service in San Antonio, Texas as a member of the County Incident Management Team to process displaced victims of Hurricane Katrina.
- Kim Frederick, Trails Supervisor, was honored as "Trail Advocate of the Year" at the Colorado Trails Symposium held in Broomfield, September 22 & 23, 2005.



*Kim Frederick
"Trail Advocate of the Year"*

Quality Visitor Experiences



*Flying J Ranch Park Dedication
October 1, 2005*

- Flying J Ranch Park was officially dedicated on Saturday, October 1, 2005 with special guests Commissioner Dave Auburn and family. The 361-acre Park features over four miles of trail; three picnic shelters and a restroom constructed of timbers harvested from forest management projects on the Park.
- Visitor Surveys have been completed at Alderfer/Three Sisters, Windy Saddle, Lair o' the Bear, Meyer Ranch, Mount Galbraith and Deer Creek Canyon Parks. Comparative data to the 2002 surveys will be available in coming months.
- In preparation for winter visitors at Pine Valley Ranch Park, the Park Services Building and Construction crews installed a wind shield at the warming hut next to Pine Lake. The shield gives additional protection to ice skaters and cold weather enthusiasts.
- To convey the dangers of swiftwater along Clear Creek, educational and warning signs have been installed at heavily used access points.



*Interpretive Signage
at Clear Creek Canyon*

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Environmental and Cultural Education

- In the third quarter of the year, LMNC reached 16,709 guests through nature visits and group and public programs. While this number is down about 8% for the same period last year, staff vacancies contributed to the reduced number of programs. Public and group programs for August and September are up from the same period last year.



*In the backyard...
Lookout Mountain Nature Center*

- The Bear Creek Festival was held Saturday, September 17 at Lair o' the Bear Park. Although the date was moved to later in the year, attendance was comparable to 2004's July event.
- The Backyard Wildlife Habitat Garden outside the Lookout Mountain Nature Center is the first public facility in Jefferson County certified by the National Wildlife Federation.

- Hiwan Homestead Museum celebrated their 30th Anniversary by hosting a Mountain Heritage Festival on August 6. Community groups provided displays and information booths, tours of the seventeen-room log lodge were provided and the granddaughter of Dr. Josepha Douglas, one of Colorado's first women doctors, shared memories of her visits to Hiwan.

Natural Resource Management & Conservation

- Successful fuel wood sales were held at Flying J Ranch & Elk Meadow Parks in September and October. The fuel wood is a product of forest management activities on the parks and provides residents access to low cost fuel wood. Approximately 700 permits were issued.



*Fuel Wood Sale
Elk Meadow Park*

Regional Trail System Contiguity

- The City of Golden granted a Trail Easement to Jefferson County over a portion of Heritage Square to acknowledge Apex Trail, define maintenance responsibilities and allow for the County to realign the trail in a mutually acceptable location.

Funding Partnerships

- Colorado Historical Society has awarded a \$50,000 grant for historic structure assessment of buildings located at White Ranch, Hildebrand Ranch, Centennial Cone, Alderfer/Three Sisters and Lookout Mountain Nature Preserve Parks.



Hildebrand Ranch Park

Trail Development, Maintenance & Improvement

- A neighborhood walk-in access has been formalized from Lois Lane into the former State Land Board-Evergreen Mountain property, now a part of Alderfer/Three Sisters Park. The formalization allows for proper maintenance of endorsed trail connections and reclamation of social trails.
- Open Space Maintenance crews completed the last sections of hard surface trail replacement at Crown Hill Park. Contractors replaced broken and uneven concrete in 2003 and 2004, however additional sections were in need of repair this year.