

Open Space Division ■ Management Report

April- June
2007

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Priority Land Acquisition

- Open Space completed the acquisition of 0.12 acres between 10th Avenue and 12th Avenue on Wadsworth Boulevard as a priority for the City of Lakewood. This is the final parcel to be acquired for a three-acre linear park known as Two Creeks Park.



- The acquisition of 1.4 acres from Johns Manville Corporation provides an addition to Hildebrand Ranch Park. This property was identified for scenic preservation and contiguity of park management by Jefferson County Open Space.

Lastest O. S. acquisitions in Lakewood and Littleton.

Leadership

- Hiwan staff members John Steinle and Meghan McGinnes attended the annual Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums conference in Grand Junction, where each one participated in presenting informational sessions.
- With more than 80 entries at the annual Evergreen Rodeo Parade, the Open Space entry featuring Hiwan Homestead Museum was awarded second place. Hiwan staff and Open Space volunteers handed out brochures and candy to a crowd of 2,000 people.

Quality Visitor Experiences



- The Trail Use Task Force, a combination of staff, Open Space Advisory Committee members and hiker, biker and equestrian representatives from the community, met on May 17. User group representatives gave brief updates regarding community feedback; community meetings; trail building opportunities and in park use and conflicts. Staff gave brief presentations regarding Trail Design and Construction; parking lot design; capital projects and specific park updates. The next meeting is scheduled for October 23.
- The second community open house for South Table Mountain Park was held to present trail and parking concepts along with the baseline vegetative community types. There was no opposition to the plan as presented. The Park Management Plan (PMP) team reviewed information received and a concept plan was added to the web site. Outreach to the Applewood Property Owners Association, Table Mountains Conservation Fund and Save the Mesas groups resulted in additional comments. A presentation to OSAC of the updated South Table Mountain Park Management Plan is anticipated for the fall 2007.

Environmental & Cultural Education

- Attendance and outreach at Hiwan Homestead Museum during the second quarter of 2007 totaled approximately 6,000. Several special programs were presented including a stop on a

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Environmental & Cultural Education (continued)

tour of historic foothill properties by Professor Tom Noel (Dr. Colorado) and his Colorado History Group. Other programs included the Jefferson County Historical Society's annual Spring Fling, Mother's Day Tea, Cowboy Songs Concert by Rex Rideout and Mark Gardner and Navajo weaver Lynda Teller Pete.

- The annual Discovery Days day camp was offered from June 5 - 22 and was attended by roughly 160 children who enjoyed the Cowboy theme.
- The traditional Pioneer History program for school groups and the newer Arts of the Tribal Southwest program were both well attended during the second quarter.



Interpreting Jefferson County's bounty of natural resources.



Lookout Mountain Nature Center Volunteers teach the connection between butterflies and garden flowers.

- Two native gardens have been rehabilitated at the Lookout Mountain Nature Center including a full sun garden in the back of the building.
- The Lakewood Gulch stream stabilization project at Welchester Tree Grant Park is complete except for revegetation.

Regional Trail System Contiguity

- Trail construction is underway at Reynolds Park to create a loop on the former Schmidt property, to take advantage of the scenic vistas of the South Platte.

Trail Development, Maintenance & Improvement

- The Elk Meadow Park entry road and parking lot improvements at Lewis Ridge Road has been completed. The steep grade to the entry required significant effort and cost to maintain the existing gravel surface. Road grading, asphalt paving, chip seal surfacing, drainage improvements, new culverts and seeding were performed to reduce sedimentation and erosion.
- Staff has completed a ten-car gravel parking lot at the Dog Off-Leash area of Elk Meadow Park. The lot is across from the existing parking area on Stagecoach Boulevard and was a response to the increasing popularity of the Dog Off-Leash area.
- Youth Work Program (YWP) crews hardened the picnic areas at Lair o' the Bear.



Dog Off Leash Area located in the southern part of Elk Meadow Park.

Counties in Partnership

- Representatives from the City and County of Denver, Denver Mountain Parks, Jefferson County and the Open Space Division will be meeting on July 25 at Chief Hosa Lodge to continue to identify areas of cooperation and opportunity.