

Open Space, Parks & Recreation

CENTRAL PLAINS PLAN	COMMENTS	CMP COMPARISON
<p>The area's recreational opportunities are a significant facet of the public's health and quality of life. South Table Mountain's natural beauty is highly valued by the area's residents. Although some of South Table Mountain is privately owned, hiking, exploring, and appreciating the mesa's natural and unique topography have become a community tradition.</p> <p>Open space is an area that is left in its natural form or is an area that provides passive or active recreational opportunities for people.</p> <p>The Open Space and Trails Map shows many of the area's trails, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the Central Plains planning area. The map is not all-inclusive.</p>	<p>Keep: There is specific language regarding South Table Mountain, a unique feature to the area.</p>	<p>Unincorporated Jefferson County has approximately 260 square miles of parks, open space, and open lands. This equals approximately 40% of the County's land area. These include Jefferson County Open Space Parks, Denver Mountain Parks, United States Forest Service land, Colorado State Parks, and parkland owned by a variety of Park and Recreation Districts.</p> <p>The Jefferson County Open Space Program began in 1972 by a vote of the Jefferson County citizens. As of December 31, 2006, the County had acquired 50,383 acres of open space either through fee, conservation easement or lease. There are 30 Open Space Parks that attract 1.6 million visitors per year. Additionally, there are 198.6 miles of trails in the County, with many potential regional trail corridors still to be completed.</p> <p>Some of the needed connections exist in the Jefferson County 5-Year Open Space Master Plan. Many other connections are shown in the existing community plans or subarea plans. These Open Space Parks and trails are a valuable amenity to both visitors and residents of the County.</p> <p>The Open Space Department develops a 5-Year Master Plan which identifies their Goals, Objectives, and Acquisition Values. The 5-Year Master Plan serves as the primary tool providing guidance for Jefferson County's actions related to open space acquisition and trail construction. Specific areas that are of interest for preservation are the Front Range Mountain Backdrop/Foreground Preservation Areas and properties within the Natural Areas Plan.</p> <p>Despite the amount of open lands in the County, there is a need to preserve open areas so that new residents continue to have public and private open space opportunities in close proximity to their residences and to maintain the overall community character.</p>
<p>Goals:</p>		
<p>Provide new and maintain/improve existing recreational opportunities.</p>	<p>Duplicated in CMP</p>	<p><u>Open Space, Open Land, Parks & Trails</u></p> <p><i>General</i> Goal: Provide public and private open spaces, parks and trails for County residents and visitors. (a) Objective: Encourage the acquisition of property for a variety of open land purposes, consistent with the following policies and objectives in this section. 1. Policy: Provide neighborhood parks, open land, trails, and recreational spaces to meet the needs of the citizens in all areas of the County.</p> <p><i>Parks</i> Goal: Ensure adequate park areas for County residents.</p> <p><i>Trails</i> Goal: Provide extensive trail systems throughout the County.</p>

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Development Review Policies:		
1. The Trails 2000 Plan (or latest version) and the Jefferson County Open Space Master Plan, as well as Jefferson County Open Space staff, should be consulted to identify additional trail alignments and areas with high open space values.	Duplicated in CMP - The Trails 2000 Plan concepts have been incorporated into the Open Space Master Plan.	<p><u>Open Space, Open Land, Parks & Trails</u></p> <p><i>Trails</i></p> <p>Goal: Provide extensive trail systems throughout the County.</p> <p>(a) Objective: Connect state, regional, and local trails.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy: Require trail easements or dedications that provide local connections. 2. Policy: The County should continue to require land dedication or right-of-way easements that provide linkages between public open spaces. 3. Policy: Where off-street trail connections are not feasible, establish pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle, and/or other uses of rights-of-way during the design and construction of road improvements. 4. Policy: Create local trails to provide connections between services, parks and neighborhoods. Ensure that amenities such as benches, tables, and exercise areas are provided where appropriate. 5. Policy: Use existing natural or man-made corridors (drainageways, ditch corridors, utility corridors) to support connections. <p><i>Coordination</i></p> <p>(a) Objective: Support the Jefferson County Open Space Master Plan to assess appropriate park locations and priorities for planning public open space in the County.</p>
2. The local park and recreation agencies should be consulted to determine potential parkland acquisitions and trail connections.	Duplicated in CMP	<p><u>Open Space, Open Land, Parks & Trails</u></p> <p><i>Parks</i></p> <p>Goal: Ensure adequate park areas for County residents.</p> <p>(a) Objective: Provide for additional parks and open lands in all areas of the County and for all segments of the population.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy: Provide for additional neighborhood parks in more populated plains areas of the County. 3. Policy: Develop specific requirements for park(s) within new neighborhoods, not just fees for parks. 12. Policy: Encourage tot lots, pocket parks, and other recreational facilities to be provided in new developments. <p><i>Coordination</i></p> <p>Goal: Encourage coordinated comprehensive planning for open space, open lands, parks, and trails.</p> <p>(a) Objective: Support the Jefferson County Open Space Master Plan to assess appropriate park locations and priorities for planning public open space in the County.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy: Coordinate with Jefferson County Open Space, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), local jurisdictions, and park and recreation districts on Master Plan updates. 2. Policy: Support Jefferson County Open Space, local jurisdictions, and park and recreation districts in achieving the goals identified in their Master Plans that are consistent with this Plan. (See Appendix B III. d.) 4. Encourage and support government, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals in acquisition, preservation, and management of open land and encourage public-private sector joint project and cooperation.
3. When a development is proposed on a property or a portion of a property that is identified in the Trails 2000 Plan (or latest version), the Jefferson County Open Space Master Plan, or a park and recreation agency plan, the potential acquisition and/or dedication of the land should be investigated.	Duplicated in CMP – also it is standard procedure to sent all rezoning proposals to JCOS and the local park and recreation district.	<p><u>Open Space, Open Land, Parks & Trails</u></p> <p><i>Coordination</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy: Coordinate with Jefferson County Open Space, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), local jurisdictions, and park and recreation districts on Master Plan updates. 2. Support JCOS, local jurisdictions and park and recreation districts in achieving the goals identified in their Master Plans, that are consistent with this Plan. 4. Encourage and support government, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals in acquisition, preservation, and management of open land and encourage public-private sector joint project and cooperation.

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4. Developers should coordinate with public entities to provide trails and public access along flood plains and/or easements such as ditches, roads, power lines, etc., whenever possible.	Duplicated in CMP	<p><u>Open Space, Open Land, Parks & Trails</u></p> <p><i>General</i></p> <p>3. Policy: Encourage parks, trails, and open lands to be integrated into major infrastructure projects such as roadways, drainage improvements, reservoirs and utility corridors.</p> <p><i>Trails</i></p> <p>5. Policy: Use existing natural or man-made corridors (drainageways, ditch corridors, utility corridors) to support connections.</p>
5. Developers should provide trail connections to adjacent open space areas, trails, schools, bus stations, Regional Transportation District park-n-Rides, and light rail stations. This includes providing a safe crossing at roads whenever possible.	<p>First sentence is duplicated in CMP.</p> <p>Add a policy regarding safe road crossings to the Transportation chapter, Trail System section of the CMP to address second sentence.</p>	<p><u>Open Space, Open Land, Parks & Trails</u></p> <p><i>Development Review</i></p> <p>2. Policy: Maintain excellent access to public and private open spaces, trail corridors and facilities for active and passive recreation through dedication of appropriate easements.</p> <p>5. Policy: Create greenbelt connections to public open spaces.</p> <p>13. Policy: Provide open land and trail corridors within residential development to allow access to natural features and to promote recreation and exercise opportunities.</p> <p><i>Trails</i></p> <p>1. Policy: Require trail easements or dedications that provide local connections.</p> <p>2. Policy: The County should continue to require land dedication or right-of-way easements that provide linkages between public open spaces.</p> <p><u>Transportation</u></p> <p><i>Trail System</i></p> <p>(a) Objective: Provide connections between neighborhoods, local Activity Centers, schools, public places and transit.</p> <p><u>Housing</u></p> <p><i>Site Design</i></p> <p>(a) Objective: Create neighborhoods that encourage residents to be healthy and promote active living.</p> <p>1. Policy: Enhance residential neighborhoods by providing direct access to parks, community focal points and trails.</p> <p>2. Policy: In the plains and mountain Activity Centers, a neighborhood park or greenbelt with trail should be within convenient walking distance of all homes within a neighborhood.</p> <p>Add as Policy 3 under the Transportation chapter, Trail Systems, Objective B.: Safe crossings of major roads should be provided.</p>
6. The property between Orchard Road and Meadow Sweet Road, south of West Colfax Avenue, should be developed as a passive park. A long-term maintenance plan for the park should also be developed.	Keep	This is not addressed in the CMP.
7. The slopes and top of South Table Mountain should be preserved as open space.	Keep	This is not addressed in the CMP.

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Implementation Strategies		
1. Encourage park and recreation agencies to continue to coordinate services with other park and recreation agencies to offer residents a variety of recreational services and opportunities.	Duplicated in CMP	<u>Open Space, Open Land, Parks & Trails</u> <i>Coordination</i> 4. Policy: Encourage and support government, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals in acquisition, preservation, and management of open land and encourage public-private sector joint projects and cooperation.
2. The county should work with private property owners to develop public trails along ditch easements, where feasible.	Duplicated in CMP	<u>Open Space, Open Land, Parks & Trails</u> <i>Trails</i> 5. Policy: Use existing natural or man-made corridors (drainageways, ditch corridors, utility corridors) to support connections. 7) Coordination 6. Policy: Involve ditch companies in planning for public and private open spaces, trails, and recreation.
3. An improved multi-use trail network should be developed that coordinates regional, state and local trail planning efforts.	Duplicated in CMP	<u>Open Space, Open Land, Parks & Trails</u> <i>Trails</i> Goal: Provide extensive trail systems throughout the County. (a) Objective: Connect state, regional, and local trails. 1. Policy: Require trail easements or dedications that provide local connections. 2. Policy: The County should continue to require land dedication or right-of-way easements that provide linkages between public open spaces. 3. Policy: Where off-street trail connections are not feasible, establish pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle, and/or other uses of rights-of-way during the design and construction of road improvements. 4. Policy: Create local trails to provide connections between services, parks and neighborhoods. Ensure that amenities such as benches, tables, and exercise areas are provided where appropriate. 5. Policy: Use existing natural or man-made corridors (drainageways, ditch corridors, utility corridors) to support connections.
4. Public access and parking plans should be identified when open space acquisitions and improvements are conducted. Negative impacts on adjacent residential and non-residential uses should be minimized. Trails should avoid impacts on maximum wildlife quality areas and/or high geologic hazard areas.	Add to CMP	Modify to say: Negative impacts of trailheads and parking on adjacent residential and non-residential uses should be identified when improvements are proposed and minimized. Add as Policy 8 under the Open Space, Open Land, Parks & Trails chapter, Trails, Objective A. Third sentence is covered by new Policy 6. f. under Trails: The trail network should accommodate a variety of users, including hikers, bikers, and equestrians. These trails should: f. avoid damaging or impairing areas containing endangered species or fragile environments
5. The county should evaluate the construction of a multi- use trail from Isabel Street to Denver West Parkway.	Keep	This is specific to the area.

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<p>6. The county should work with the park and recreation agencies to build trails connecting open space areas, schools, bus stops/stations, Regional Transportation District park-n-Rides, and light rail stations to residential neighborhoods and non- residential uses.</p>	<p>Duplicated in CMP</p>	<p><u>Open Space, Open Land, Parks & Trails</u> <i>Development Review</i> 2. Policy: Maintain excellent access to public and private open spaces, trail corridors and facilities for active and passive recreation through dedication of appropriate easements. 5. Policy: Create greenbelt connections to public open spaces. 13. Policy: Provide open land and trail corridors within residential development to allow access to natural features and to promote recreation and exercise opportunities.</p> <p><i>Trails</i> 1. Policy: Require trail easements or dedications that provide local connections. 2. Policy: The County should continue to require land dedication or right-of-way easements that provide linkages between public open spaces.</p> <p><u>Transportation</u> <i>Trail System</i> (a) Objective: Provide connections between neighborhoods, local Activity Centers, schools, public places and transit.</p> <p><u>Housing</u> <i>Site Design</i> (a) Objective: Create neighborhoods that encourage residents to be healthy and promote active living. 1. Policy: Enhance residential neighborhoods by providing direct access to parks, community focal points and trails. 2. Policy: In the plains and mountain Activity Centers, a neighborhood park or greenbelt with trail should be within convenient walking distance of all homes within a neighborhood.</p>
<p>7. The trail network should accommodate all users, recognizing that trail users have different levels of ability, seek different levels of challenge, and use different recreational equipment.</p>	<p>Add to CMP</p>	<p>Modify policy to say: The trail network should accommodate a variety of users, including hikers, bikers, and equestrians. These trails should: a. vary in length and ascent to accommodate different levels of ability; b. allow for use of different non-motorized recreational equipment; c. traverse diverse landscape to vary the nature experience; d. access views and vistas; e. intersect to allow the traveler a choice of paths to a destination; and f. avoid damaging or impairing areas containing endangered species or fragile environments</p> <p>Add as Policy 6 under the Open Space, Open Land, Parks & Trails chapter, Trails, Objective A.</p>
<p>8. The county should investigate incentives that could be offered to developers to provide trails and trail connections.</p>	<p>Modify CMP</p>	<p>Modify Implementation i. under the Open Space, Open Land, Parks & Trails chapter, General, Objective C, Policy 1. to say:</p> <p>Review existing laws, policies, practices, and budgeting and find ways to eliminate disincentives and provide incentives for preservation of land and provision of trail connections.</p>
<p>9. Security in parks and open space areas should be increased. Law enforcement agencies should continue to coordinate security efforts.</p>	<p>Duplicated in CMP</p>	<p><u>Services, Special Districts, Facilities, & Utilities</u> <i>Services</i> (b) Objective: Ensure that proposed new development will be served by fire protection, law enforcement, and emergency services essential for the daily needs of residents and businesses. 1. Policy: Consider all applicable public safety needs in the review of land development proposals.</p>