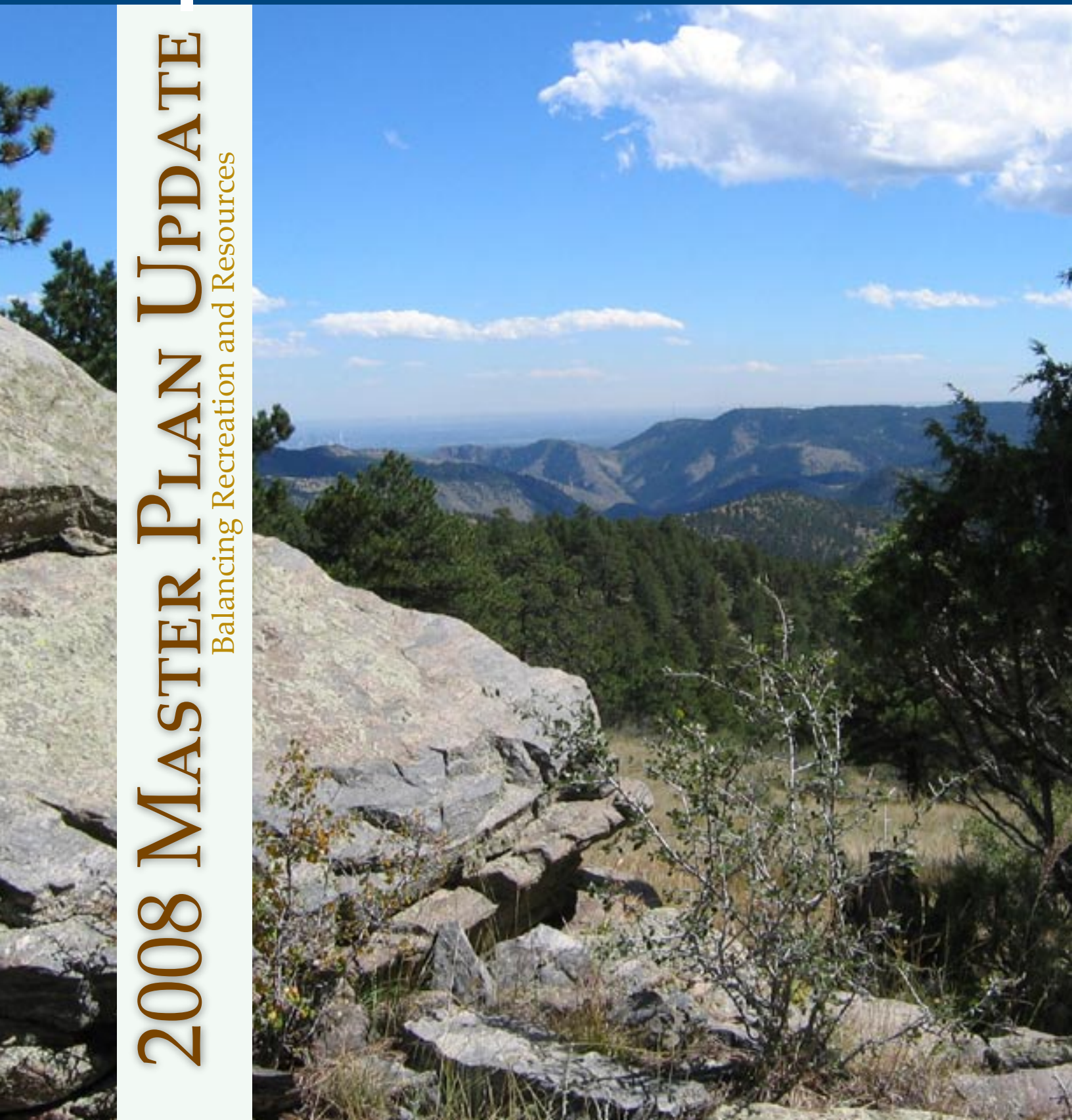
Jefferson County Open Space • Colorado

2008 Master Plan Update

Balancing Recreation and Resources



COMMUNITY RESOURCES - OPEN SPACE - ADOPTION OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Approval of the Open Space Master Plan Update by the Board of County Commissioners.

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution CC08-544 on December 16, 2008, regarding the Open Space Master Plan Update. Such Resolution included the following language:

"Resolved that the Board of County Commissioners approves the recommendation made by the Open Space Advisory Committee on December 4, 2008, to adopt the Jefferson County Open Space Master Plan Update, Resolution Number 08-18."

Commissioner Kathy Hartman
Chairman

Commissioner J. Kevin McCasky

Commissioner Jim Congrove

Approval of the Open Space Master Plan Update by the Open Space Advisory Committee, Resolution 08-18 includes the following language:

"NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Open Space Advisory Committee recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the 2008 Open Space Master Plan Update."

Cover: Centennial Cone Park looking east

Table of Contents

Introduction
Our Mission 6
Statement of Purpose
About the Master Plan 7

History and Background
Gateway to the Rockies 8
From Living Room to Legacy 8

Changes and Issues
Demographics 10
A Sustainable Future 11

Goals and Objectives 13

Acquisition Values
Evaluating Potential Open Space 16

Cities and Recreation/Metro Districts 18

Management Tools
Park Management Plans 19
Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan 19
Resource Evaluation
Management 20
Seasonal/Temporary Closures for
Resource Protection 20
Visitor Count and Survey Program 20
Education and Interpretation 21
Partnerships 21

Appendices
Appendix 1 Master Plan Process 24
Appendix 2 Land Acquisition Summary 25
Appendix 3 Cities, Towns and Recreation/Metro Districts 27
Appendix 4 Jefferson County Open Space Resolutions 33
Appendix 5 Maps 39
- Jefferson County, Colorado
- Conceptual Large Scale Potential Preservation Areas
- Existing Trails and Potential Corridors
- Park, Recreation and Metro Districts

Glossary of Terms 45
Acknowledgements 50

What began as the vision of a handful of forward thinking individuals has evolved into an award-winning Open Space Program and a regional treasure enjoyed by many.

INTRODUCTION

Balancing Recreation & Resources

This Master Plan Update marks a new stage of growth for Jefferson County Open Space. It reflects a time of change from the early years of bold trailblazing to the emergence of a mature system of parks, a system entrusted with balancing strategic land acquisition and the sound management of assets. Throughout the transition, Jefferson County Open Space remains dynamic and forward thinking.

The mission of Jefferson County Open Space is...

to preserve open space lands and natural and cultural resources, and to provide for quality park and recreational experiences.

Open Space Milestones 1970s

1972-Jefferson County voters approve the Open Space Program

1973-Nelson Hogback, first draft of Master Plan

1974-Mount Falcon, Hiwan Homestead, Apex, White Ranch and Standley Lake

1975-Reynolds, Youth Work Program begins, White Ranch dedicated and Hiwan Homestead Museum opens to the public

1976-Winters, Van Bibber, Welchester Tree Grant and Mount Falcon Park dedicated

1977-Matthews, Alderfer, Lookout Mountain South Table Hanging Gardens, West Meadows Golf Course/Foothills, Addenbrooke Park/Lakewood and Reynolds Park dedicated

1978-Three unsuccessful ballot referenda threaten Open Space, Apex Trail designated part of National Trails System by US Department of Interior

1979-Hayden/Green Mountain, Crown Hill and Matthews/Winters Trailhead constructed

6,500 Acres in 1975

=primary acquisition of park

=event

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

About the Master Plan

As an overarching strategic plan, the Master Plan reflects the mission and goals of Jefferson County Open Space. With more than 51,000 acres of land secured, and the bond funds mostly allocated, the future will present a shift toward balancing land management and land acquisition. Striving for balance will also be seen in the protection of natural and cultural resources while providing varied recreational opportunities.

The Open Space Master Plan is revised every five years and this edition is an update to the 2003 version. The purpose of this Master Plan is to set goals and objectives needed to ensure the continued success of the Open Space Program. Included are references to standard procedures to assist the reader in understanding how Open Space works to meet these goals and objectives. This Master Plan, along with the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Board of County Commissioners, guides Jefferson County Open Space in its direction and operation.

The transition from a primarily acquisition focus to a balance of land acquisition with sustainable planning, management and operations has been a prominent shift given our program maturity. This shift is also evident in the prioritization of natural and cultural resource preservation in order to manage and enhance recreational resources. Lands are needed to protect the mountain backdrop and natural areas.

From this shift, a focus of "Shared Use" has evolved. Shared Use is a philosophy allowing opportunities for non-motorized trail use within the system of Open Space Parks without providing multiple uses on every trail at every park. This allows for the provision of varied recreational opportunities while respecting the resources upon which they occur. It may also reduce existing or future conflicts through respecting the needs of various park user groups while not compromising the experiences of others.

Open Space maps and text are intended to be for descriptive and Open Space planning purposes only and are not intended to have an effect on zoning and/or assessed values. Open Space will only acquire property rights from

Open Space Milestones 1980s

willing sellers. Maps do not imply an individual property owner's willingness to sell their property, nor do they imply that Open Space is the only appropriate land use for any particular parcel. It is a guiding principle that eminent domain is not used to acquire private property rights. Irrespective of the Potential Preservation Areas shown on the map(s), other lands with Master Plan values may be considered for potential Open Space preservation.

Any property owner may notify Open Space in writing, at any time, as to whether they are or are not currently a willing seller. Open Space maintains a list of landowners formally withdrawing their property from consideration for Open Space preservation.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Gateway to the Rockies

Jefferson County is located on the western edge of metropolitan Denver and offers a diversified geographical and cultural setting, with urban to rural communities that thrive just minutes from downtown Denver. The County is 774 square miles in size and has an estimated population of 548,557*. More than one-third of the Jefferson County residents are living in unincorporated areas.

Jefferson County is the state's second most populated county and is home to one-in-eight Colorado residents. Residents enjoy easy access to all major arterial highways that make travel into the high country or the urban metropolis quite convenient.

Our residents enjoy varied summer and winter recreational activities, such as horseback riding, biking, hiking, golfing, ice skating and kayaking, to name a few. Regional attractions include Hiwan Homestead Museum, Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Preserve, Boettcher Mansion, Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center, Red Rocks Amphitheater, and Buffalo Bill Memorial Museum and Grave.

From Living Room to Legacy

Following the creation of the cities of Lakewood and Wheat Ridge in 1969, recognition began to spread that the pioneer traditions of an

** Denver Regional Council of Governments, 2007 Population and Household Estimates.*

Open Space Milestones 1990s

open, agricultural Jefferson County were being overtaken by the dynamics of urbanization.

In 1972, a citizen group known as PLAN Jeffco proposed a unique concept to the Board of County Commissioners to preserve the scenic and open lands within the County. Along with authorization to collect one-half of one-percent sales tax to fund the program, the Open Space initiative included the establishment of a representative citizen committee to hear public input and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. The Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) has been at the forefront in engaging constituents through public meetings and community outreach since its inception.

In November 1972, the voters of Jefferson County supported the ballot issue and Enabling Resolution which stated that funds were to be "used exclusively toward planning for, developing necessary access to, acquisition, maintenance and preservation of open space real property for the use and benefit of the public." Jefferson County Open Space was established by and for the people of Jefferson County.

In 1980, the Enabling Resolution was amended to allow for the expenditure of Open Space sales tax funds for construction, acquisition and maintenance of park and recreational capital improvements. A formula based on automobile registration currently allocates to cities in Jefferson County approximately one-third of Open Space funds and the larger portion, about two-thirds, for use at a county-wide level. See Appendix 4 for copies of the Resolutions.

In 1998, the initiative to bond $160 million solely for land acquisitions was placed on the ballot and passed with more than 72% of the electorate supporting the measure. In May 1999, $100 million in bonds were successfully issued and the cities and recreation districts within Jefferson County received an acquisition commitment to a portion of the bond funds for priority projects based upon population figures. In May 2001, $30 million in bonds were issued, with the final $30 million issued in 2004. Remaining bond funds, at the time this update was completed, total less than $15 million.

Properties were acquired to create new Parks such as Centennial Cone, Hildebrand Ranch,

Open Space Milestones 2000s

and North Table Mountain. Also acquired were additions to South Table Mountain, Alderfer/ Three Sisters Park, Meyer Ranch Park and significant portions of the Front Range Mountain Backdrop/Foreground Preservation area.

The Bond Funds allowed Open Space to purchase additional lands, nearly doubling the land mass under the Division's stewardship in the last decade. Now with 51,000 acres secured in fee, Conservation Easement, lease or donation, a shift is occurring from aggressive land acquisition to an emphasis on land management within the unincorporated County. Limited acquisition funds have resulted in the need to balance strategic acquisitions with resource management.

CHANGES AND ISSUES

Operating in an ever changing world, Jefferson County Open Space is affected by many external influences.

Along with the globalization of the business and political world, advances in technology also impact recreation. Stronger and lighter weight materials have been transformed into sleeker, more durable equipment that allows for more rigorous recreation. Personal electronic devices like MP3 players, cell phones and hand-held GPS units may enhance or distract from the outdoor experience, depending on your point of reference. Emerging recreational forms continue to push the boundaries of allowable uses and present management challenges to public land agencies. Motorized use is prohibited on Open Space lands managed by the County Division. Rules and Regulations address uses inconsistent with the intent to balance recreation with resource preservation.

In addition to advances in technology, public recreation providers have been influenced by the evolution of accessibility guidelines. Jefferson County Open Space has followed the development of accessibility guidelines for outdoor areas and trails based on the new United States Forest Service Guidelines issued in 2005. Modified versions of the Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines and the Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines have been adopted in Jefferson County. They are used as guiding documents and best management practices in evaluating accessibility issues.

Hikers and bikers sharing the trail at Mount Falcon Park

Input from park users continues to provide invaluable information to the Open Space Advisory Committee and Open Space staff in the management of the Parks. In order to address issues of conflict among various user groups, and as a means to organize and communicate with their members, the Trail Use Task Force was established by the Board of County Commissioners in November 1995. The Trail Use Task Force was created with representatives from three main user groups (hikers, bicyclists and equestrians) as well as Advisory Committee members and staff.

Demographics

Jefferson County is projected to reach 550,046 residents in 2010 and exceed 611,000 by 2020*. Currently, people under the age of 18 exceed 133,000*, or 25% county-wide, with the resulting implications on facility needs and demands. Popular surveys indicate that trail-based recreation will continue to increase; however, changing populations and their recreational requirements will need to be monitored and accommodated where appropriate.

The number of Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) reaching retirement age has increased dramatically and will continue to increase over the next couple of decades. The aging of the Boomers has great implications for the development and management of Open Space. Those implications include: number of volunteers, types of recreation, effect on revenues, advocacy, discretionary income, emergency medical care and crime.

**Preliminary Population Forecasts by County, 2000-2035, State Demography Office.*

Growth is a top issue facing county residents and has important implications for Open Space. Growth can influence priorities, determine acquisition candidate areas, provide more funds for buying Open Space lands, and impact natural and cultural resources. Growth pressures can affect land management policies and alter the user experience at a park.

This complex issue is best addressed on a regional basis involving all interested parties and not just the cities and recreation districts within the county, but also the governments

A Sustainable Future

Ensuring the future viability of Jefferson County Open Space will require sound fiscal and operational decisions. It will also require strong cooperative efforts and an ability to monitor and adapt to change. Citizens are encouraged to participate in the public process with the Open Space Advisory Committee and outreach efforts.

White Ranch Park

It is important to note that the sales tax funding that supports Open Space could not conceivably provide for the fee-simple purchase of all the land identified as desirable open areas. It is simply too expensive to accomplish this with the estimated future resources available to the Program. Only by combining several land preservation options, with different levels of government, can we preserve sufficient open space lands and begin to guide growth. Various options are available to assist with funding the acquisition and/or development of Jefferson County Open Space. Opportunities include grants (Great Outdoors Colorado, Colorado State Trails), joint ventures, general obligation bonds, cash gifts, land donations processed through the Jeffco Open Space Foundation, Inc. and others, endowments, and long term payouts.

Cooperative efforts from Open Space and other agencies are vital to the success of our Mission. The continued partnership with the recreation districts and municipalities within Jefferson County along with Denver and other surrounding counties, will play an important role in the future ability of Open Space to meet community needs.

Bighorn sheep watching over Clear Creek Canyon

of the entire metropolitan area. The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) is addressing growth with its Metro Vision 2020 Plan and the Urban Growth Boundary. Cooperation on commonly shared goals is essential to meet community objectives. Within Jefferson County, the Planning and Zoning Division is the lead agency for growth-related issues, but Open Space can help shape growth through various land preservation methods.

One chapter of the proposed County Comprehensive Plan is titled, "Open Space, Open Land, Recreation and Trails." The vision is to acquire, preserve and/or protect public and private open space, parks, trails, scenic corridors, and the mountain backdrop to meet current and future needs using land development and zoning mechanisms. The Open Space Division works closely with the Planning and Zoning Division for these respective planning documents, land ownership and development referrals and regional trail connections.

Economic development is also an aspect of growth and there are many reasons why it pays to conserve land.

Sustainability of Open Space will be achieved through sound and efficient management of the lands we have acquired. We will be stewards of the resources entrusted to our care; conduct efficient operations and judiciously expend capital funds; appropriately manage users and provide educational opportunities to all audiences on the value of Open Space in their lives and their community.

Land conservation makes good economic sense.

Among the many agencies that have studied the economic impact of open space, The Trust for Public Lands provides the following summary of why land conservation makes good economic sense:

1. **Parks and open space often increase the value of nearby properties, along withproperty tax revenue.**
2. **Parks and open space attract businesses and trained employees in search of a high quality of life.**
3. **Parks and open space attract tourists and boost recreation spending.**
4. **Parks and open space reduce obesity and health care costs by supporting exercise and recreation.**
5. **Working lands, such as farms and forests, usually contribute more money to a community than the cost of the services they require.**
6. **Conserved open space helps safeguard drinking water, clean the air and prevent flooding – services provided much more expensively by other means.**

Lair o' the Bear Park

ACQUISITION GOAL

Acquire lands to preserve resources and provide for future recreational opportunities.

OBJECTIVES:

- Utilize traditional and innovative means to obtain land interests for the preservation of open space, natural and cultural resources and to support recreational opportunities.
- Expand the use of Conservation Easements as a preservation tool.
- Increase acquisitions and funding through the Jeffco Open Space Foundation, Inc.
- Secure and leverage additional funding through grant opportunities.
- Effectively utilize the following identified acquisition values, preservation concepts, habitat gap analysis and Natural Heritage Inventory update to prioritize acquisitions:
  - Natural Areas Plan sites
  - Contiguity
  - Unique or scenic point/corridor
  - Threatened, endangered or species of concern and rare plant communities
  - Historical, archaeological or paleontological sites
  - Front Range Mountain Backdrop/ Foreground Preservation Area
  - Congruence with community plans
  - Community buffers
  - City or Recreation District recreation/open space potential
  - Regional trails and trail corridors
  - Biodiversity
  - Unfragmented lands and wildlife movement corridors
  - Buffers to wildlife habitat, movement corridors, plant communities and trail corridors
- Identify alignment of regional trail connections.
- Continue to evaluate and re-evaluate land acquisition priorities and opportunities on a regular basis.

LAND MANAGEMENT GOAL

Manage Open Space lands to preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- Seek out and implement new and innovative management practices.
- Make management decisions based on the preservation and/or enhancement of habitat values.
- Utilize partnerships to gather and share resource data and expand our regional ecosystem knowledge base.
- Identify, delineate and map important habitat using, gap analysis of unfragmented natural lands, habitat linkages, Natural Heritage Inventory update and other methods.
- Ensure that Park Management Plans are in place, current, annually reviewed, achievable and that actions are consistent with the Plan.
- Develop a procedure for managing property prior to the development and adoption of Park Management Plans.
- Ensure ecosystems and cultural resources are well managed and conserved.
- Use tools such as conservation zones (Management Unit Designations, Special Protection Areas and Natural Areas) as guidelines for land management and potential development.
- Use Resource Evaluation Management (REM) tools to inventory, monitor and enforce natural and cultural resource capacity.
- Comply with the State of Colorado Historical Preservation Office requirements, as well as the Secretary of the Interior's standard for historic preservation.
- Determine management actions associated with recommendations made by historic assessments, cultural and paleontological studies.

- Identify potential partners to operate and maintain historic structures and cultural amenities (Baehr Lodge, Blair Ranch buildings).

- Assess, manage and protect water resources.

- Use the Acquisition Resolution statement on the purpose of the acquisition as a basis for developing a Park Management Plan.

- Develop a county-wide report that identifies important wildlife species and habitats that can be used to guide park management.

RECREATION GOAL

Provide for quality visitor experiences in a manner that protects natural and cultural resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- Manage recreation through conservation zones.

- Provide for quality recreational opportunities and outdoor experiences in a manner consistent with the Park Management Plans.

- Work with stakeholders to develop outdoor recreation management guidelines and uses.

- Enforce park rules and regulations. Utilize staff, volunteers and stakeholders to monitor user activities and provide educational opportunities (Directed Education and Enforcement Program—D.E.E.P.; Resource Evaluation Management—REM; Park Patrollers/Hosts; Trail Use Task Force).

- Disperse use through partnerships with other public agencies by providing recreation information on a regional basis (Little Known Jewels, regional maps).

- Use surveys and research to understand the needs, trends and desires of park visitors.

- Promote shared use of parks and apply a variety of techniques to address specific user needs and conflicts.

- Support accessible outdoor opportunities.

- Complete development as designated by Park Management Plans at Centennial Cone, Hildebrand Ranch, North Table Mountain Parks and other parks as appropriate.

EDUCATION GOAL

Foster awareness and appreciation for natural and cultural resources and the ethic of resource stewardship.

OBJECTIVES:

- Design and develop educational and interpretive programs and public information to instill an understanding of the value of Open Space resources and experiences.

- Inform the public about the Open Space program, its benefits and resources through printed materials, Web site, signage, interpretive media, public presentations and special events.

- Identify interpretive opportunities; develop programs and media to enhance knowledge of natural and cultural resources.

- Maintain a strong program of trained and actively engaged volunteers.

- Engage people of all ages and abilities in outdoor learning activities and other educational programs (Nature Center and Hiwan programs, outdoor classroom at Lair o' the Bear, Junior Rangers, special events and community festivals).

- Develop and implement community programs that explain and reinforce good trail use etiquette.

- Expand opportunities for groups and individuals to participate in stewardship activities.

- Host regional open space planning, management and other professional seminars.

- Support other County agencies with educational materials relating to open lands protection.

PARTNERSHIPS GOAL

Strengthen and build partnerships for community parks, recreation, open space and trails.

OBJECTIVES:

- Maintain an effective relationship with the City and County of Denver and other counties through Counties in Partnership and umbrella recreation and resource management agreements/efforts.

- Assist cities and recreation districts with funds for acquisitions, trails, park and open space needs (Attributable Shares, Joint Venture Grants, Acquisition and Bond Funds).

- Lead and coordinate quarterly Park Directors meetings to address mutual objectives, issues and priorities.

- Advocate that cities and recreation districts expand resource stewardship through management practices, education and outreach programs.

- Strengthen partnerships to enhance resource protection and recreational opportunities across the county and beyond.
  - Regional trails and local trail connectivity
  - State and Federal lands
  - Natural Resource management partners (Front Range Fuels Task Force, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife)
  - Cultural and historic resources (Jeffco Historical Society, Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance, Dinosaur Ridge)
  - Great Outdoors Colorado
  - Surrounding counties
  - South Platte Protection Plan

- Evaluate transit-oriented developments and determine park and open space trail corridor opportunities. Connect regional trails to park-n-rides to enhance human-powered commuting when feasible.

- Assess feasibility and align partners to implement priority segments of the Clear Creek Canyon Park and trail plan.

SUSTAINABILITY GOAL

Ensure the viability of Jefferson County Open Space for future generations.

OBJECTIVES:

- Work to ensure future funding for acquisition and management of Open Space.

- Project future staff, operational and maintenance needs and costs.

- Create and implement a plan to position Open Space for future organizational success and engage constituents to act on behalf of the Program.

- Ensure an enduring volunteer program and partnerships.

- Create practices that ensure environmental and physical sustainability.

- Develop and implement a preventative maintenance plan for all parks and facilities.

- Conduct management processes for protection of Open Space lands in perpetuity.

ACQUISITION VALUES

Property nominated for consideration by Open Space, or within a partnership with the cities and recreation districts, must meet criteria established in this Master Plan, or by the particular municipality or district. Any individual can submit a proposal for consideration for acquisition. Review occurs at monthly Open Space Advisory Committee public hearings where citizen participation is encouraged. Open Space works only with willing sellers and negotiates final terms that meet the overall objectives and purpose of the acquisition, which may include natural, cultural or recreational resource values.

EVALUATING POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE

Large scale preservation areas represent top candidate areas for protection within the unincorporated County. These criteria or values have the support of the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Board of County Commissioners. Open Space staff will continue to evaluate land characteristics within these areas and pursue the acquisition of any parcels that become available.

These significant preservation areas consist of the Front Range Mountain Backdrop/ Foreground Preservation Area, Natural Areas Plan and the North Area Conservation Effort.

Red Rocks trail at Matthews/Winters Park

In an effort to evaluate which lands should be considered for inclusion, a set of priority values has been identified that supports the Open Space mission, goals and objectives. Criteria utilized by cities and recreation districts for potential land acquisitions are evaluated on an ongoing basis.

Responsible resource management of these four habitat types is essential to the existing species of plants and wildlife.

Forest communities include ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, mixed conifer stands, and limited aspen stands. It is vital, where feasible, to manage these forests to improve health and bring conditions back to pre-settlement conditions. Activities often involve forest thinning and prescribed fire.

Shrublands in the foothills commonly include Gambel oak, mountain mahogany, wax currant, and Rocky Mountain maple. Shrubland management is often limited to structures and adjacent forest stands where removal is important to reduce fire hazards.

Grasslands are most heavily impacted from past land practices and development. Management includes noxious weed management, prescribed fire and, when possible, maintaining appropriate agricultural practices, such as grazing or haying.

Riparian and wetland areas make up a small fraction of Open Space lands, but their importance within the landscape is crucial. Plant and animal diversity are highest in these communities. Management of these areas protects critical areas while providing recreational use.

An internal assessment is used to determine whether or not a property meets any of the following Acquisition Values:

Natural Areas

- Front Range Mountain Backdrop/ Foreground Preservation Area
- Natural Areas Plan Conservation Sites
- North Area Conservation Effort
- Lands that support areas of significant biodiversity
- Areas of unfragmented lands and wildlife movement corridors that sustain natural environmental processes

Regional or Other Trails

- Master Plan trail corridors
- Properties for on-park trails identified in the management plans of the County, cities and recreation districts
- Off-park linkages to regional projects

Contiguity

- Lands that connect Jefferson County Open Space lands with other public lands
- Lands that would connect Jefferson County Open Space lands with Denver Mountain Parks property
- Lands that provide for open space contiguity in the Jefferson County Open Space system

Unique or Scenic Point or Corridor

- Lands seen from transportation corridors that would preserve areas of visual significance
- Lands that protect visual character to and from Jefferson County Open Space parks
- Landscapes which have special visual qualities, such as rock outcroppings, meadows, ridgelines, peaks, unusual landforms and other geological features

Threatened, Endangered or Species of Concern

- Lands that have and/or support threatened and endangered species habitat
- Lands that have and/or support species of concern and rare plant communities

Historical/Archaeological Site

- Historic sites or places that contain elements reflecting the County's cultural wealth
- Archeological, paleontological significance
- Cultural resources

Front Range Mountain Backdrop/ Foreground Preservation

- Lands that are within the Front Range Mountain Backdrop/Foreground Preservation Area

Congruence with County Comprehensive Plan and Community Plans

- Lands that are referenced in the County Comprehensive Plan or the Community Plans that support values for Jefferson County Open Space

Buffers

- Lands that serve as buffers to wildlife movement corridors, important wildlife habitat areas, plant communities, views and trail corridors
- Lands for their open space values that would help define and separate development communities

Partnerships

- Partnerships to acquire and/or manage open space, trails and parklands
- Provide trail and open space amenities and linkages for regional projects

Open Space can acquire land for preservation in a variety of different ways. Among the more common methods are:

Fee-simple acquisitions; Conservation Easements; agreements; leases or licenses; trail easements; land donations through the Jeffco Open Space Foundation, Inc. or others; testamentary gifts and partnerships with land preservation organizations such as Mountain Area Land Trust, Clear Creek Land Conservancy and Trust for Public Land.

CITIES, TOWNS AND RECREATION/METRO DISTRICTS

As the Denver metropolitan area continued to expand in the late 60s and early 70s, the residents of Jefferson County voted to tax themselves one-half of one-percent on sales to establish the Open Space Fund and acquire land for the benefit of the citizens. At this time the only open space-type parks in Jefferson County were Denver Mountain Parks. Concurrently, the cities of Wheat Ridge and Lakewood were incorporated and the majority of the voters lived in the urban area. As part of the strategy to assure success for the Open Space ballot question, the initiative included a component to share sales tax revenues with the cities for their specific park and recreation purposes. The measure passed handily and the relationship between the cities and the recreation districts with the Jefferson County Open Space Division has been indelibly intertwined.

Capital improvement dollars benefit the community

The County administers the Open Space Fund using a formula based on motor vehicle registrations within city boundaries. Approximately one-third of the sales tax funds collected for Open Space go to the cities. Cities use these funds to meet the park, open space and recreation needs of their citizens as authorized by their elected officials and city staff.

The remaining two-thirds of the Open Space Fund are used for acquisition of county-wide priority lands, as well as operations and maintenance of the unincorporated Open Space Parks.

As lands were acquired with Open Space funds, the cities struggled to develop these lands into recreational amenities. In 1980, the Open Space Resolution was amended to allow funds to be used for recreational capital improvements. A portion of the funds managed by the County Open Space Division are set aside for Joint Venture Grant opportunities. Eligible projects include local and regional trail connections, neighborhood and regional park improvements, athletic sites and facilities, swimming pools, playgrounds, picnic shelters, accessibility improvements, historic preservation, environmental education facilities and recreation centers. A portion of the Open Space Fund is budgeted annually for this competitive grant funding of matching capital improvement dollars used by the cities and the recreation districts.

Acquisition dollars managed by the Open Space Division may be used with city funds to acquire priority properties, with the properties ultimately deeded to the cities for open space and recreation purposes. For the recreation districts, lands acquired with Open Space Funds are leased to the districts for their open space and recreation management. Within the urban environment, open space and recreational purposes determined by the community being served often have an emphasis on active, organized or team recreation that may be facility oriented. County residents who see the "Jefferson County Open Space funds used at this site" signs can be assured that their sales tax dollars are well leveraged.

MANAGEMENT TOOLS

One of the challenges Jefferson County Open Space faces daily is balancing its resource stewardship responsibilities with providing public access for recreation within the unincorporated County. Open Space uses various methods and approaches to managing the lands and resources. Some of the management tools are described below; however, the list does not include all tools available to the Division. The "Little Known Jewels" brochure emphasing regional outdoor recreation opportunities and outdoor recreation management guidelines are good examples that are not detailed in this Master Plan update.

Park Management Plans

A Master Plan is by nature broader than a management plan. Comprehensive management that preserves and protects the resources of the parks is accomplished through Park Management Plans. These were initiated in 2001 and continue to be updated and implemented annually for every Open Space Park.

To assure resource preservation, the impacts of the public's use on the area's natural and cultural resources must be continually assessed. To accomplish the dual mission of resource stewardship and provision of recreational opportunities, Open Space has adopted a planning process that allows staff to respond to changing environmental and social conditions in a timely manner.

Each Open Space Park has a Management Plan that is developed with representatives from each section of the Open Space Division with appropriate stages of community input. The Plans provide the most complete picture of the Parks and the most appropriate direction for effective management. To further ensure that the Plans remain relevant, they are reviewed and updated annually.

There are several main components of the Management Plan. The Park Vision describes the kind of recreational experiences Open Space would like to offer visitors, as well as describing the significant natural and cultural resources of the Park. The Park Vision is based on the purpose for which the land was purchased. This language provides staff with general direction to address issue-driven actions and for making resource and visitor management recommendations.

The Management Directions section includes guidelines on how areas are designated and what types and level of activities or development should be allowed within those designations.

In general, the philosophy for Open Space management is to provide public recreation "shared use" within the Open Space system.

Equestrians enjoy a warm day at Crown Hill Park

Some Parks are designated for one or two user groups only; for example Mount Galbraith Park is a hiker-only park. It also supports an alternating weekend schedule at Centennial Cone Park which allows for hikers and equestrians on odd days and bikers and equestrians on even days. Shared use honors the vision of each unique property and allows the overall Park system to support many varied recreational opportunities.

Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Funding for the majority of the priority actions identified in the Park Management Plans comes from the Capital Improvement Plan.

This allocation plan of capital improvement funds allows for strategic planning and project management. Established at $10 million over five years these funds are dedicated to park, trail and facility construction and renovation. An additional $250,000 is consistently budgeted annually for natural surface trails.

Resource Evaluation Management

Resource Evaluation Management is a framework to establish and manage specific natural, cultural and recreational resource issues. Key concerns are identified and, where feasible, monitored. Indicators and thresholds of change are established toward developing desired standards. The Park Management Plan identifies steps to assess the applicable approach. Some of these pertain to best management practices for conserving resources while others use measurable indicators. Conflicting resource issues must be identified and a balance achieved through agreement of acceptable change. Resource monitoring provides a flow of information that may indicate a need to alter or adapt management.

Seasonal/Temporary Closures for Resource Protection

Seasonal closures are used as a management tool to protect wildlife during a critical period in their life cycle. Temporary closures are also used to protect trails from deterioration during inclement weather conditions. The closure restricts a defined area that is normally open to public use.

Criteria used to determine closures for wildlife include species status as threatened, endangered or "species of concern"; use of seasonal concentration areas; area requirements for a species and the type of impacts on a species.

Some properties or portions of properties will need to be closed to the public for resource protection and to conduct studies of unique resources.

Visitor Count and Survey Program

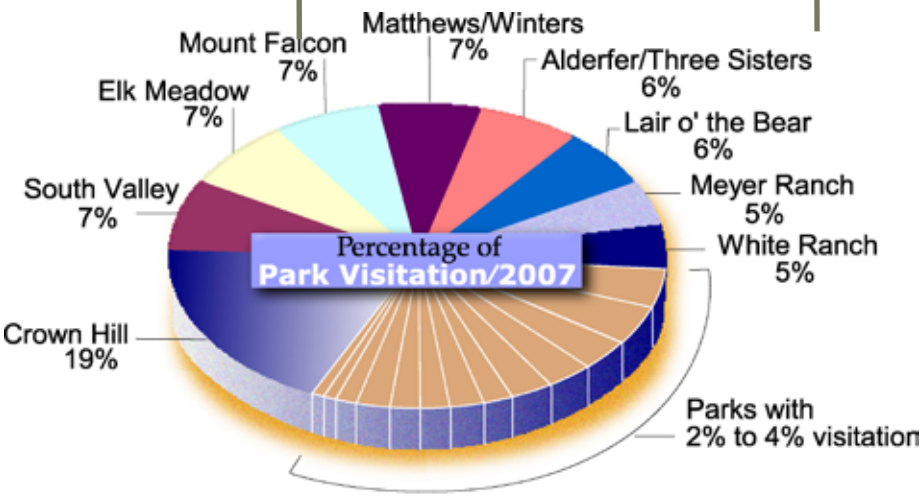
Along with monitoring and managing natural resources, Jefferson County Open Space tallies park visitor counts and records their experiences. The data collected from the Visitor Count and Visitor Experience Survey Programs are used to inform Open Space staff about the number and type of Park users at specific locations. They also assist in developing specific management actions to address a variety of Park issues.

For several years, Open Space has used a combination of data collection tools to track visitation numbers at Open Space Parks. Some of these tools include: inductive loop vehicle counters, infrared trail counters, visitor logbooks and site-specific visitation surveys. When compiled and analyzed, the visitation data can provide important information such as park-to-park visitation differences, seasonal trends and weekday/weekend variations. This data can be used in policy decisions, Park management actions, staff/resource allocations and facility design.

The Visitor Experience Survey information helps monitor recreation conflict and implement adaptive management strategies. A consistent random sampling plan is used to ensure adequate representation of weekdays and weekends and time periods throughout the day. Volunteers assist with collecting the self administered write-in surveys at trailhead locations.

The community of recreational users attracted to and using Jefferson County Open Space is

In recent years, Jefferson County Open Space Parks experienced upwards of 1.9 million annual visits by people from Jefferson County and beyond. The chart below displays how these visits were distributed across the Open Space Park system in 2007.



varied and growing in numbers. Management techniques are adapting to these changes with an eye on the most sustainable treatment for the good of the underlying ecosystem.

Education and Interpretation

Educational and interpretive programs and exhibits are a strong component and a means to share the value of the natural, cultural and historic resources while protecting the character of the Parks.

Knowledge provides a foundation for appreciation. Environmental education and cultural history interpretive programs are conducted by staff and volunteers from the Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Hiwan Homestead Museum. Exhibits located throughout the Open Space Park system help residents and visitors of all ages to learn about the interface of the mountains and plains in which we live. School and other youth groups participate in more formal programs that meet state educational standards. The Open Space Rangers conduct education efforts on resource protection, wildlife behaviors and maintaining a safe and enjoyable Park experience through their user contacts. General information services are provided through Park maps, brochures, events, speakers, Web site, signage, volunteer training and media relations. An integration of all these educational components helps to build an appreciation by the public of the Open Space Division and the assets under County management.

Partnerships

Faced with the inevitability of more users and limited funds, Open Space pursues strategies to address existing concerns and projected changes.

Open Space develops partnerships with many different groups, individuals, various Jefferson County Divisions, other local government open space programs (Colorado Open Space Alliance), surrounding counties, Denver Mountain Parks, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado State Parks and Colorado State Forest Service. Other partners include committed volunteers, advocacy groups, land trusts, and agencies with compatible missions.

To ensure long term financial sustainability, Jefferson County Open Space continues to solicit partners with a cultural and historic resource emphasis to manage and maintain historic buildings and provide services.

Elected officials celebrate Denver/Jefferson County cooperation

APPENDICES

Appendix 1
Master Plan Update Process

Appendix 2
Land Acquisition Summary

Appendix 3
Cities, Towns and Recreation/Metro Districts

Appendix 4
Jefferson County Open Space Resolutions

Appendix 5
Maps

1. Jefferson County, Colorado
2. Conceptual Large Scale Potential Preservation Areas
3. Existing Trails and Potential Corridors
4. Park, Recreation and Metro Districts

A Plan for All

In the spring of 2007, work began on the 2008 update to the Jefferson County Open Space Master Plan. The previous Plan was published in 2003 and the ensuing work was in keeping with a Jefferson County practice to update the Open Space Master Plan every five years.

The Planning and Development Section was assigned the project lead and initiated work on the Internal Scoping Phase. This included an introductory presentation to all Jefferson County Open Space employees via small group meetings.

The Plan is a guiding tool for staff, as well as a source of valuable educational information for citizens, decision makers, partners and other interested parties.

Inclusion and Balance

Jefferson County Open Space continued to find that strategic land acquisitions were being balanced with natural and cultural resource protection. Diminishing bond funds along with challenging resource allocation issues precipitated the need to revisit the Mission, Goals and Objectives of the Division. It was important to hear from both internal and external stakeholders to ensure the production of an inclusive Plan.

An internal liaison group was formed to streamline working with Open Space employees and communicating updates to all sections through regularly scheduled staff meetings. A series of workshops over a four-month period, supported by Planning and Development staff facilitating and recording the meetings, allowed the resulting Internal Input Team to focus on the Mission Statement, Goals, Objectives and Maps. The Team consisted of representatives from the all of the Open Space sections. See acknowledgments on back cover.

The bulk of the Internal Input Team's work concluded after presentations and discussions with the Management Team. The Internal Input Team worked with Management Team to prepare the draft document for a presentation to our constituents.

Outreach

An informational Open House and kick-off for the Master Plan Update took place in partnership with Denver Mountain Parks on October 13, 2007 at Red Rocks Park.

The Open House Forum celebrated the legacy and future of Denver Mountain Parks and Jefferson County Open Space

Outreach began early in the process with informational requests to the Cities, Park and Recreation Districts, a multitude of public and private agencies and individuals during the month of November 2007. Comments were accepted in the form of informative letters, public open houses, e-mail correspondence and phone calls.

The Draft Plan was available for public and staff comment online and at the Open Space office in Golden by April 2008. In concert with the web posting, public open houses focusing on the Draft took place on April 12 and 17, 2008 in the Jefferson County Open Space meeting rooms.

Board Approvals

A series of presentations to the Open Space Advisory Committee resulted in recommendations for approval/adoption of the Plan by the Board of County Commissioners as noted on page 3.

Copies Available

The 2008 Jefferson County Open Space Master Plan Update and Executive Summary are available at *http://openspace.jeffco.us*

Limited print copies are available and can be obtained by contacting:

Jefferson County Open Space
700 Jefferson County Pkwy., Suite 100
Golden, CO 80401-6018
(303) 271-5925
e-mail:trock@jeffco.us

Acquisition Summary as of December 31, 2007

Park/Area	Acres Fee Simple	Conservation Easement	<Lessor>[a]	Lessee[b]	Funds ($)
Alderfer/Three Sisters	1,128.8170				12,003,637.00
Apex	691.0843				990,692.00
Cathedral Spires	404.1400	120.0000			399,500.00
Centennial Cone	3,279.9670				22,060,500.00
Clear Creek Canyon	3,117.5160	160.0000		240.0000	10,273,710.50
Coal Creek Canyon	2,777.7110	682.8000			16,686,204.00
Crown Hill	241.8400				7,045,710.00
Deer Creek Canyon	1,631.0330				5,406,403.79
Elk Meadow	1,383.9603	184.3700			5,258,252.00
El Pinal/Evergreen	0.5400				17,000.00
Flying J Ranch	415.4350				3,304,248.06
Foothills Business Park	14.2840				11,082,562.00
Halm	2.0000				**donation**
Hildebrand Ranch	1,493.3800			160.0000	8,507,151.00
Hiwan Homestead Museum	1.9730				231,500.00
Hogback	615.4700				3,027,236.00
Lair o' the Bear	392.1423				1,327,452.00
Lookout Mountain Nature Preserve	110.0000				**donation**
Matthews/Winters	2,238.7922				3,132,842.00
McKay Conservation Easement		6.0000			**donation**
Meyer Ranch	516.9685	10.3400			2,851,482.75
Mount Falcon	2,330.1090				1,698,677.00
Mount Galbraith	878.1390	70.8900			3,150,000.00
Mount Glennon	332.5330				1,122,910.00
Mount Lindo	823.9004				424,500.00
Mount Tom/Van Bibber Headwaters	463.7900				3,000,300.00
North Table Mountain	1,969.8560				12,106,496.00
Pine Valley Ranch	883.7169				2,350,100.00
Ralston Creek	689.7850	619.4200			4,663,943.00
Ramstetter West	70.6000				635,404.50
Ramstetter/Crawford Gulch		417.2000			309,974.00
Reynolds	1,954.7400				3,969,593.00
Rocky Flats (forego mining)					2,541,618,00
South Table Mountain	841.9000	634.1300			11,425,842.00
South Valley	995.0160				8,280,160.00
Stafford Hogback	116.4330				647,278.95
Van Bibber	133.0700				1,060,776.00
Welchester Tree Grant	19.8510				153,500.00
White Ranch	4,253.7100	110.5000		26.7400	4,778,080.00
Windy Saddle	882.6210				693,605.00
Total Unincorporated Parks	**38,096.8239**	**3,015.6500**		**426.7400**	**$174,899,061.60**
CITIES					
Arvada	1,859.5206				31,559,006.96
Broomfield*	7.9690				200,000.00
Edgewater	16.7010				2,631,937.34
Golden	178.5704		<191.000>		5,720,066.00
Lakewood	2,460.1790				25,298,612.46
Morrison	104.7760				253,000.00
Mountain View	0.3481				93,000.00
Westminster	3,047.5292				23,941,018.09
Wheat Ridge	346.1797				9,979,500.15
Total City	**8,021.7730**				**$ 99,993,141.00**

Park/Area	Acres Fee Simple	Conservation Easement <Lessor>[a]	Lessee[b]	Funds ($)
PARK AND RECREATION/METRO DISTRICTS				
Apex (*formerly North Jeffco*)	35.9610	<35.961>		2,644,000.00
Bowles Metro	0.0000	<0.0>		0.00
Columbine Knolls-Grove Metro	16.7700	<16.777>		64,733.00
Evergreen	44.4430	<44.443>		530,000.00
Foothills	1,044.5801	<1044.5801>		18,503,290.00
Ken-Caryl Ranch Metro	203.3441	<203.3441>		1,240,160.00
Leawood Metro	0.0000	<0.00>		0.00
Normandy Estates Metro	0.0000	<0.00>		0.00
Pleasant View Metro	65.6750	<65.6750>		1,353,225.00
Prospect	30.5195	<30.5195>		401,560.00
South Suburban	0.0000	<0.00>		0.00
Total Recreation Districts	**1,441.2927**			**$ 24,736,968.00**
OTHER				
Fairgrounds	32.6180			1,427,102.00
Beaver Ranch	445.2900		<445.290>	1,285,000.00
Senate Bill 35 (unincorporated)	69.2760			0.00
Trails	21.6775			103,184.50
	568.8615			**$ 2,815,286.50**
GRAND TOTAL (Fee, Conservation Easement, Lease, Donation)	**51,571.1411**			**$303,899,236.05**

** Prior to formation of Broomfield City and County*
a Lessor - an owner of property who rents to another party
b Lessee - one who holds a lease

The Open Space Program has enjoyed a long and successful partnership with the cities, towns and recreation/metro districts throughout the County. Cooperative efforts have led to the preservation of many open space areas and the development of active recreation sites.

The various cities and park and recreation districts within the County have their own acquisition and development priorities and have projects identified in their capital improvement plans to meet community needs.

CITIES AND TOWNS

ARVADA

The urban and park design program directs the planning, acquisition, design and construction of new parks, trail areas and beautification of open space areas throughout the city. The division also coordinates the capital maintenance plan for existing parks, develops project priorities and bids and supervises major repair projects in existing parks.

The division works closely with Jefferson County Open Space, the North Jeffco Recreation and Park District and other public and private agencies in acquisitions, grants, reimbursement and planning projects.

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan is part of the City of Arvada Comprehensive Plan. The City will continue to implement the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, as updated periodically—see Chapter 7: Arvada Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan summary *http://arvada.org/docs/11298514492005_Comp_Plan_CH_7.pdf* Also note Chapter 3 —Goals and Policies: Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space *http://arvada.org/*

- Conserve and maintain important open space lands in and around Arvada to help define the character of the community.
- Develop parks, trails and outdoor recreational facilities in an environmentally sensitive manner to help protect and enhance the natural environment.
- Develop a safe and comprehensive multi-purpose trail system.

EDGEWATER

The City of Edgewater is in the process of creating a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan to update the 1982 document. Goals for the City of Edgewater include introduction of new recreational programs and identification of additional recreational facilities within the one square-mile municipality.

GOLDEN

Golden Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by City Council on January 24, 2008. It is now available electronically at *www.cityofgolden.net/parksandrec*

- The city will provide a balanced system of parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities that is equitably distributed and accessible to all residents.
- The city's parks, trails, open space, and recreation system will serve the diverse needs of the community, including health promotion, and environmental, economic, and social sustainability.
- The city's parks, trails, and open space system will promote tourism in the city, serving to attract visitors to the community through the provision of recreational opportunities that are unique to Golden and the surrounding environment.
- Preservation and improvement of the natural environment, including the surrounding foothills, waterways, and mountain backdrop, are vitally important to Golden's character.
- The city will develop a safe, comprehensive, and multi-purpose trail system that promotes walking and other forms of non-motorized travel.
- The Clear Creek Corridor will be celebrated as one of the community's most important assets. The corridor is a healthy aquatic resource that serves a variety of ecological functions while also serving to attract visitors to the city, contributing to the vitality of the downtown and providing a variety of

recreational opportunities for Golden residents and visitors.
- The city will conserve heritage resources that represent the community's identity and uniqueness. The city will also support cultural and heritage preservation through interpretation, education, and incentives.
- Develop an adequate level of funding to achieve the vision and goals of this master plan.

LAKESIDE

For information, contact the Town of Lakeside, 4601 Sheridan Blvd., Denver, CO 80212

LAKEWOOD

The City of Lakewood Department of Community Resources updated its master plan for parks and recreation services. This master plan was formally adopted by Lakewood City Council on April 28, 2008. The master plan identifies seven Action Themes that reflect areas of emphasis for the plan's goals, objectives and strategies. These Action Themes are:

- Enhance level of service for parks, recreation and cultural facilities
- Trail development
- Facility and park management
- Natural areas management and environmental education
- Program development
- Community involvement and communications
- Proactive planning and sustainable funding

The following should be considered Lakewood's current priorities as it relates to park and open space priorities.

Land Acquisitions

In the proposed Department of Community Resources Master Plan, there are a total of 16 properties identified as acquisition priorities based upon one or all of the following criteria:

- Adjacent to existing park or trail land;
- In areas of Lakewood that have lower walking access to park and open space areas;
- Provide trail connections; and,
- Protect unique or significant resources.

Increase Level of Service to the Northeast Portion of Lakewood

Disparities in park and open space lands and services can be found in the Northeast portion of Lakewood. Land acquisition opportunities in this part of the community need to be investigated and pursued. Five potential properties in the northeast portion of Lakewood are included within the 16 acquisition priorities mentioned above.

Trail Connectivity

The expansion of existing trail systems to increase opportunities and access to park, recreation and cultural facilities was identified as a goal of the master plan. Expansion of existing trail systems will also provide improved access to employment and commercial centers and light rail.

Identify and Develop Facilities Related to New Trends in Parks and Recreation

Historically, Lakewood has provided its citizens with a wide variety of recreational opportunities. The Department of Community Resources Master Plan recognizes these past successes but also recommends Lakewood make the development/redevelopment of park, open space and recreational facilities a priority. Much of what Lakewood accomplished from the park and open space capital improvement standpoint is dependent upon Jefferson County Open Space. As Open Space develops its vision and strategic intent for their master plan, Lakewood encourages the continuation and or possible enhancement of the joint venture grant program.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

The Town of Mountain View will continue to manage and maintain the recreational resources currently enjoyed by the community. *http://home.att.net/~mvpd/home.html*

MORRISON

Morrison is in the process of updating our Comprehensive Plan which will include an Open Space, Trails and Parks/Recreation element. The Planning Commission's ongoing survey and public meetings have led them to believe that the connecting of large open space tracts and parks will be a priority for the Town over the period of the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission recommended this be done in setting up a capital improvements plan

as part of our current budget process for 2008. The updated Comprehensive Plan is expected to be formally adopted in early 2008.

The following are deemed important related to Open Space planning in the Town of Morrison:

- Connect the Bear Creek Trail to the Morrison Natural History Museum and the Mount Falcon Open Space with a trail along the highway which will be suitable for hikers and bicyclists.
- Extend the Bear Creek Trail from its western terminus to the western end of Denver Mountain Parks Morrison Park.
- Connect the Bear Creek Trail to Colorado Highway 74 and Red Rocks Park at/near one of the two access points to Red Rocks.

While not within the boundaries of Morrison, it is recommended that Open Space and other partners develop a trail linkage between Matthews/Winters Open Space and the Bear Creek Trail through or adjacent to Red Rocks Park. It is also recommended that Open Space and others develop and or improve connections between the Town of Morrison, Denver Mountain Parks, and Jeffco Open Space facilities at Lair o' the Bear Open Space near Idledale and with segments further up the canyon.

The demand for trail related parking in Morrison continues to be on the increase. Open Space is aware of and should closely track and participate in discussions with Lakewood and Morrison related to impending development in the Rooney Valley, in and around the area between Alameda and Morrison Road (Highway 8) to the east and west of C470 and to areas west of C470 which will be impacted by the new interchange at Alameda and C470. Opportunities will exist to develop appropriate trail, open space and recreational use of land in this changing area.

Finally, Jefferson County, the Town of Morrison, Great Outdoors Colorado and Friends of Dinosaur Ridge have collaborated on the development of facilities on Open Space property where the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge facilities are located.

WESTMINSTER

The City of Westminster is focused on preserving the areas around Walnut Creek, Standley Lake, Westminster Hills, and Lower Church Lake as open space for the residents of Westminster and Jefferson County. Priorities include:

- Widen the areas around the Walnut Creek trail to provide an additional buffer for wildlife. Protect properties in the Old Wadsworth enclave area to preserve the rural look that is currently there.
- Focus on adding additional open space areas on the west side of Standley Lake to maintain the rural character of this area and to protect the Big Dry Creek valley.
- Focus on protecting the remaining inholdings within the Westminster Hills area north of Standley Lake.
- Protect Lower Church Lake on Wadsworth Boulevard and 108th Avenue as open space.

WHEAT RIDGE

2006 Parks and Recreation Master Plan
http://www.ci.wheatridge.co.us/GovSite/uploads/199/1295.pdf

The City of Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Master Plan will become the guiding document for the future as it relates to parks, trails, and recreation within the city. As Wheat Ridge continues to transition and evolve as a premier community within the greater Denver metropolitan area, so will the park and recreation needs of the city. Easy and equitable access to parks and recreation facilities is a highly valued element of any community. A high quality public realm, including tree-lined streets, safe pedestrian and bicycle environments, high quality natural areas, places to recreate and meet neighbors, attractive parks, recreational facilities and places for community gatherings and celebrations, enhances community livability and desirability. In addition, the urban forest, parklands, the Greenbelt, and other open spaces improve environmental health by providing cleaner air and water and preserving critical urban wildlife habitat.

The benefits of a great park and public open space system go well beyond its contribution to the physical environment of Wheat Ridge. The public park system is available to all citizens,

regardless of their age or economic status. It is truly one of the great benefits for all people. Quality parks, recreation, and parks that celebrate local culture, heritage and values improve physical and mental health, create opportunities to develop and enhance the community, add to civic pride, and provide positive opportunities for leisure time pursuits. Parks also provide for business, tourism, art, and cultural interests and needs. This Master Plan is crucial to charting a clear direction for continued investment in this valued community asset.

RECREATION/METRO DISTRICTS

APEX PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

Apex Park and Recreation District (formerly North Jeffco Park and Recreation District) encompasses about 60 square miles and primarily serves northeast Jefferson County. Apex is dedicated to connecting people with outstanding and affordable recreation activities. Our goal is to enhance the lives of individuals of all ages and interests, thus benefiting the community, the environment and the economy. The District is currently involved in updating the active recreation site and facility plan. Staff anticipates completion of the plan and board approval in 2008. *http://www.apexprd.org/*

BOWLES METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

The Bowles Metropolitan District is located in Littleton. The District exists to provide the basic infrastructure of public improvements necessary to serve the general community. *http://bowlesmetrodistrict.org/*

COLUMBINE KNOLLS RECREATION DISTRICT

Strategic Plan 2008-2013 for Columbine Knolls Recreation District is committed to keep improving and enhancing our patrons' recreation experiences. The District's focus is to continue enhancing and maintaining the existing facilities.

Goals

- Expand outdoor pool facilities
- Replace playground equipment
- Replace park irrigation systems
- Rebuild tennis courts
- Expand senior opportunities
- Increase financial reserves
- Develop interactive Web site

EVERGREEN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

http://www.evergreenrecreation.com

The Evergreen Park and Recreation District has purchased about 40.20 acres of land in the Bergen Park area, Buchanan Park, for future development and park open space. This area is currently undergoing a Master Plan process by a committee of citizens, board and staff. To begin development of this park, the District requested a 2008 Jefferson County Open Space Joint Venture Grant for a hard surface trail to come off the Open Space Pioneer Trail. Part of this trail is on Denver Mountain Parks property.

FOOTHILLS PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

http://www.ifoothills.com/downloads/Master_Plan_2005/Master_Plan.pdf

To allow for additional population growth, along with the inclusion of unincorporated lands into the District, acquisition of new parklands and trail corridors needs to occur. The District is considering the possibility of inclusions to the south and west of its existing boundaries to include areas along the US 285 corridor and west towards the foothills. Staff received several inquiries about inclusion into the District from residents within and surrounding the Roxbourgh area.

The land development and demographic patterns of this area, which crosses the Jefferson and Douglas County boundaries, is compatible with existing characteristics of the Foothills District.

Land Acquisition

The District works closely with Jefferson County Open Space to identify future acquisitions. The following are the District's current acquisition priorities presented to Jefferson County Open Space staff for consideration as part of the Master Plan update:

- Bergen Reservoir #1 and #2; approximately 85 acres located at the northwest intersection of C-470 and Bowles Avenue
- Dutch Creek Regional Trail Corridor; approximately 40 acres of land located adjacent to Dutch Creek from Wadsworth Avenue westward to C-470
- C-470/Centennial Trail; +/- 5 acres at C-470 and Dakota Ridge High School
- County Blosser Parcel; 22 acres east of Kipling Parkway at Meadow Drive
- County Parcel; 4 acres south of the Dutch Ridge Townhomes
- Englewood Federal Prison Surplus Land; approximately 25 acres south of and adjacent to the Schaefer Athletic Complex
- Meadowbrook Heights; approximately 45 acres located southwest of Chatfield Avenue and Carr Street

KEN-CARYL RANCH METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

The Ken-Caryl Ranch Metropolitan District offers playgrounds, softball diamonds, soccer fields, an inline hockey rink, and volleyball courts for the enjoyment of the residents of the District. *http://www.ken-carylranch.org/SiteSection.asp?pt=Parks%5F%26%5FOpen%5FSpace*

LEAWOOD METROPOLITAN RECREATION DISTRICT

The Leawood Metropolitan Recreation and Park District was organized in 1974 in order to accept the donation of Leawood Park from K. C. Ensor, the developer of Leawood. As a district organized under Colorado statutes, the district may levy taxes to develop and maintain parks. *http://leawoodca.com/parks.html*

NORMANDY ESTATES METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

In the Normandy Estates community, the recreation facilities (pool, tennis courts, park, playground, parkway entrance) are owned and managed by the Normandy Estates Metropolitan Recreation District (NEMRD) - a separate and unique entity from the homeowner association (Normandy Estates Improvement Association). *http://normandyestates.info/nemrd/nemrd.htm#About_NEMRD*

PLEASANT VIEW METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

A portion of the charge of the District is to provide parks and recreation services to the community of 4,600 + residents. The District currently has three completed parks. Other than upgrading existing amenities that include, but are not limited to picnic tables, playground equipment, etc., these parks are in fairly good shape. Two other parks that are in various stages of construction also fall under the management of the District.

For background, nationally in metropolitan areas there is a ratio of approximately 2 acres of park space per 1000 users. District wide, Pleasant View is well in excess of the national average. It is obvious by the data that the District overall is well ahead of national averages in users vs. acreage available. However, on the south side of the I-70 corridor, the District provides no parks to our residents, falling out of the national average in that portion of the District. Ideally, this would be addressed by providing at least one small neighborhood park, but probably two, due to the location of major thoroughfares in that portion of the District. Neighborhood sized parks, typically 1-2 residential lot sized areas could fill the need.

Westblade Park is located 16780 West Mount Vernon Drive and is managed as an open space-type park. This park would lend itself well to installing fitness stations around the walk. Also an additional possible use of this park could be the creation of a disk golf course.

Pocket Park

The Pocket Park, located at Ulysses Street and Mount Vernon Road, is a small (~1/4-1/3 acre) lot that will be landscaped and possibly contain a small picnic area when complete. No tall trees may be planted here due to constraints put on

the property by the Jefferson County Division of Highways and Transportation concerns of ice build up on Mount Vernon Road.

Pleasant View Community Park at Camp George West

The Pleasant View Community Park at Camp George West (PVCP) will be the showcase park. It will be about 40 acres in size and contain numerous fields for sports, hiking trails, historic structures, access to the new Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) South Table Mountain Park, and other typical park amenities. Due to the size this park, it will be classified as a community park.

While the first phase of construction has been completed, including much of the needed infrastructure to support a park of this size, there is much yet to be completed. Future phases of construction at this site would then include restrooms, possibly a concession stand, additional play fields and hiking trails.

PROSPECT RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

http://www.prospectdistrict.org/

In 2008 Prospect Recreation and Park District will be updating its Master Plan. All properties, facilities, amenities and services will be examined as part of the Master Plan update process.

Prospect has acquired, through its existing lease with Jeffco Open Space, an additional 1.48 acres of land at Tanglewood Park. This property will be evaluated in the 2008 Master Plan update and subsequently developed.

The last remaining parcel of land that Prospect has yet to develop is an 18-acre property at 5550 Indiana Street immediately south of Van Bibber Open Space. This land is presently undeveloped and is under the constraints of a conservation easement. Prospect hopes to complete trail connections from this property to Jeffco Open Space's Van Bibber property at some point in the future.

Prospect is hopeful of expanding both Arapahoe Park and Prospect Arena, if property can be acquired to allow for the expansions.

Trail connectivity remains a high priority for Prospect. A portion of the neighborhood trail along the north side of 44th Avenue between Arapahoe Park (Indiana Street) and Eldridge Street may be reclaimed as part of the Cabela's retail development project in the Clear Creek Valley.

Trail connections still outstanding are:

- West 32nd Avenue multi-use trail from Maple Grove Park (Maple Grove is located on West 32nd Avenue between Gardenia Street and Howell Road) west to McIntyre Street and then north to the Clear Creek Trail;
- The Prospect Trail in the Coors Tech Center west to the Fairmount Trail via a bridge over the Farmers High Line Canal;
- A trail along Welch Ditch from West 32nd Avenue to Denver West;
- A multi-use trail on the west side of McIntyre Street from the Clear Creek trail north to 56th Avenue.

Prospect would also like to complete an agreement with the Farmers' High Line Canal Co. allowing use of the access road for pedestrian activity. Connections could conceivably be made to numerous trails along this route, including an inter-jurisdictional connection to the north.

SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

www.ssprd.org

Within Jefferson County, a portion of the TrailMark subdivision is managed and maintained by South Suburban Park and Recreation District as indicated in Appendix 5 Maps - Park, Recreation and Metro Districts. The District has provided maintenance and ownership mapping of the area to Open Space.

In a broader context, South Suburban Park and Recreation District's Board of Directors invited all District residents to participate in the process of updating the District's Gold Medal long-range plan. This plan will help guide the District in fulfilling the park and recreation needs of the community for the next several years.

The Gold Medal Citizens' Committees met during the spring and summer months to analyze current recreational programs and facilities, parks, trails and open space; to research demographics and trends; and to make recommendations to the District's Gold Medal Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will present final recommendations at the regularly scheduled public Board of Directors meeting on November 12, 2008.

The following is the original Jefferson County Resolution that allows a one-half of one percent sales tax for the purchase of land for Open Space.

Mr. Commissioner Trezise moved that the Resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on the 28th day of August, 1972, relating to the adoption of the one half percent (1/2%) county-wide sales tax to be used to acquire open space land, be repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
STATE OF COLORADO
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Article 10, Chapter 138, Colorado Revised Statutes, 1963, as amended, makes provision for a countywide sales tax; and

WHEREAS, the said Article became effective July 1, 1967; and

WHEREAS, said Article provides for the submission of such sales and services tax proposal to an election by the qualified electors of the County by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Section 4 (3) of said Article provides: "Such county-wide sales tax proposal by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners shall be submitted at the next regular general election if there be one within the next succeeding one hundred twenty days after the adoption of such resolution---"; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jefferson, State of Colorado, desires to refer to the qualified electors of the County of Jefferson, State of Colorado, to be determined by majority voting thereon the question of whether such tax shall be approved or disapproved; and

WHEREAS, a general election is scheduled within one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the said Article provides that the County Clerk shall publish the text of such sales tax proposal four (4) separate times, a week apart, in the official newspaper of the County and each city and incorporated town within the County; and

WHEREAS, the said Article provides that the proposal shall contain certain provisions concerning the amount, levying and scope of said tax.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that there shall be referred to the qualified electors of the County of Jefferson at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 1972, the following proposal:

RESOLVED, that a county-wide one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) sales tax in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, Chapter 138, Colorado Revised Statues, 1963, as amended, is hereby imposed on the sale of tangible personal property at retail or the furnishing of services in the County of Jefferson, as provided in sub-section (5) of said
Article 10, and as is more fully hereinafter set forth. For the purpose of this sales tax proposal, all retail sales are consummated at the place of business of the retailer unless the tangible personal property sold is delivered by the retailer or his agent to a destination outside the limits of the County of Jefferson, or to a common carrier for delivery to a destination outside the limits of the County of Jefferson. The gross receipts from such sales shall include delivery charges, when such charges are subject to the State sales and use tax imposed by Article 5 of Chapter 138, C.R.S. 1963, as amended, regardless of the place to which delivery is made. In the event a retailer has no permanent place of business in the County of Jefferson, or has more than one place of business, the place or places at which the retail sales are consummated for the purpose of a sales tax imposed by this proposal shall be determined by the provisions of Article 5 of Chapter 138, C.R.S.1963, as amended, and by rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Revenue. The
amount subject to tax shall not include the amount of any sales or use tax imposed by Article 5 of Chapter 138, C.R.S. 1963, as amended. The proposal shall be the same as the tangible personal property and services taxable pursuant to 36 Section 138-5-4, C.R.S. 1963, as amended. All sales of personal property on which a specific ownership tax has been paid or is payable shall be exempt from said sales tax of the County of Jefferson when such sales meet both of the following conditions:

(a) the purchaser is a non-resident of, or has its principal place of business outside of, the County of Jefferson; and
(b) such personal property is registered or required to be registered outside the limits of the County of Jefferson under the laws of the State of Colorado. The sales tax imposed

shall be remitted to the Director of Revenue of the State of Colorado as provided in Article 10, Chapter 138, C.R.S. 1963, and by him shall be distributed to the County Treasurer of the County of Jefferson, Colorado. The tax imposed by this resolution and proposal shall be subject to all the provisions of Article 10, Chapter 138, Colorado Revised Statues 1963, as amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the majority of the qualified electors voting thereon vote for approval of this county-wide one-half percent sales tax proposal, such county-wide sales tax shall be effective beginning July 1, 1973.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cost of the election shall be paid from the General Fund of Jefferson County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk shall publish the text of this sales and service tax proposal four (4) separate times a week apart, in the official newspaper of the County of Jefferson and each city and unincorporated town within this county.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any provision of this resolution or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not effect other provisions or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this resolution are declared
to be severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the conduct of the election shall conform, so far as is practicable, to the general election laws of the State of Colorado.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all of the net proceeds received by Jefferson County, Colorado, from the Director of Revenue of the State of Colorado from the aforementioned sales tax shall be expended only for the planning for, developing necessary access to, acquiring, maintaining, administering, and preserving open space real property orinterests in open space real property, and developing paths and trails thereon, for the use and benefit of the public, such open space real property or interests in open space real property to include but not be limited to land in its natural state, parks and recreation lands, greenbelt and agricultural buffer zones, scenic easements, floodplains, paths and trails, historic monuments, wild rivers, wilderness areas, wildlife habitats, community open space lands, etc.; or the payment of indebtedness incurred for such acquisition, and for such expenditures as may be necessary to protect such open space properties or interests in real properties so acquired from any and all threatened or actual damages, loss, destruction or impairment from any cause or occurrence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the real property or any interest therein acquired by use of proceeds of said sales tax be ever sold, exchanged, transferred, or otherwise disposed of, the consideration for such sale, exchange, transfer, or disposition shall be subject to the same expenditure and use restrictions as those set forth herein for the original proceeds of said sales tax, including the restriction set forth in this paragraph; and if said consideration is by its nature incapable of being so subject, then the proposed sale, exchange, transfer, or disposition shall be unlawful and shall not be made.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County will, if said sales tax measure be approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon, establish a citizens advisory committee to make recommendations to County and municipal officials regarding selection of open space land to be acquired, maintained,
or preserved and establishment of priorities therefor; and may be separate and additional resolution promulgate such rules and regulations as may be required to implement this proposal for the best interest and preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Jefferson County, including, without limiting the generality of
the foregoing, all rules and regulations designed to assure that all proceeds from said tax and reimbursements, rebates, or refunds thereof shall be used for the purposes herein set forth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of said citizens advisory committee be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County; and that said citizens advisory committee be composed of three (3) representatives of municipal government selected from lists of nominees submitted by the individual municipalities located wholly or partly within Jefferson County, three (3) representatives of County government selected as the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County shall determine, except that at least one of said County Government representatives shall be a professional planner employed by Jefferson County, three (3) representatives of Jefferson County citizens at large, selected as the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County shall determine, and one(1) representative of recreation and/or park districts selected from lists of nominees submitted by such districts which are located wholly or partly within Jefferson County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that portions of the net proceeds from said sales tax, after deducting Jefferson County administrative expenses, shall be deemed attributable to each municipality located wholly or partly

within Jefferson County in accordance with the following formula: the amount deemed attributable to the municipality shall be that
amount which bears the same ratio to the entire net proceeds from said sales tax after said deduction for Jefferson County administrative expenses as the sum of Jefferson County automobile registrations within said municipality bears to the sum of all of the Jefferson County automobile registrations. In making the foregoing computations, the latest available automobile registration figures shall be used.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that fifty percent (50%) of that portion of the net proceeds from said sales tax attributable to each municipality, after deduction of Jefferson County administrative expenses, shall be, upon specific requests therefor from time to time by the municipality, expended by Jefferson County for the purposes herein set forth, subject to the condition as to use of proceeds from the sale or other disposition of such acquired real property or interests therein, and right to examine and copy the municipal audit and work papers used in producing said audit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County shall adopt regulations requiring biennial review by the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County, with citizens advisory committee participation, of the expenditures of all of the net proceeds from said sales tax made for the preceding two (2) years, and of the proposed expenditures to be made during the next succeeding two (2) years, with a view to establishing priorities therefor; and for such purpose the relevant official County and municipal audit reports and work papers used in producing said audit reports shall be made available to the citizens advisory committee and the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ballot Question on the county-wide sales and service tax for open space land proposal that shall be referred to the qualified electors of the County of Jefferson at the general election to be held on Tuesday, the 7th day of November, 1972, shall be:
OPEN SPACE LAND BY MEANS OF A COUNTY-WIDE ONE-HALF OF ONE PERCENT (1/2 OF1%) SALES TAX
"Shall a county-wide one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) sales tax be imposed in Jefferson County, the proceeds of which will be spent only for planning for, developing necessary access to, acquiring, maintaining, administering, and preserving open space real property or interests in open space real property, and developing paths and trails thereon, for the use and benefit of the public, in accordance with the proposal in the Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners dated September 29, 1972."

Yes_____
No _____

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice of the adoption of this county-wide sales and service tax proposal by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon shall be submitted by the County Clerk and Recorder to Director of Revenue at lease one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the effective date of such tax, together with a certified copy of this Resolution.

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jefferson and State of Colorado that this resolution is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, safety and welfare, and that it shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.
Mr. Commissioner Lewis seconded the adoption of the foregoing Resolution. The roll having been called, the vote was
as follows:
Mr. Commissioner Jack L. Trezise - "Aye";
Mr. Commissioner Joe B. Lewis - "Aye";
Mr. Commissioner Bill Huntsbarger, Chairman- "Aye";
The Resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jefferson, Colorado.

DATED: September 26, 1972

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss:
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)
I, Norman C. Allen, County Clerk and Recorder and Clerk to Board of County Commissioners certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted at the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held on September
26, 1972.

Date of first publication:
October 12, 1972

NORMAN C. ALLEN

By_____
Eleanor Martin, Clerk to the Board
Deputy County Clerk and Recorder
and Clerk to the Board

Date of last publication:
November 2, 1972

Mr. Commissioner Trezise moved that the following Resolution be adopted:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
STATE OF COLORADO
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners has adopted a county-wide sales tax proposal by resolution dated the 26th day September, 1972; and

WHEREAS, said sales tax proposal will appear on the ballot of the general election to be held on the 7th day of November, 1972;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon approve said county-wide sales tax proposal, each vendor, as defined in Article 5 of Chapter 138, C.R.S., 1963, as amended, shall irrespective of the schedule of sales tax hereinafter adopted, be liable and responsible for the payment of an amount equivalent to one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) of all sales made by him of commodities or services as specified in Section 138-5-4, C.R.S., 1963, as amended, and shall before the 20th day of each month make a return to the Director of Revenue for the State of Colorado for the preceding calendar month and remit an amount equivalent to said one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) on such sales to said Director, less three and one-third percent (3 1/3%) of the sum so remitted to cover the vendor's expense in the collection and remittance of said tax.

Mr. Commissioner Lewis seconded the adoption of the foregoing Resolution, and upon a vote of the Commissioners as follows:

Mr. Commissioner Jack L. Trezise - "Aye";
Mr. Commissioner Joe B. Lewis - "Aye";
Mr. Commissioner Bill Huntsbarger, Chairman - "Aye";
The Resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jefferson, Colorado.

DATED: September 26, 1972

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss:
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)

I, Norman C. Allen, County Clerk and Recorder and Clerk to Board of County Commissioners certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted at the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held on September 26, 1972.

Date of first publication:
October 12, 1972

Date of last publication:
November 2, 1972

NORMAN C. ALLEN
By_____

Eleanor Martin, Clerk to the Board
Deputy County Clerk and Recorder
and Clerk to the Board

The following is the amendment of the Jefferson County Open space Sales Tax Resolution, which authorizes construction, acquisition and maintenance from the sales tax generated funds.

Commissioner Clement moved that the following
Resolution be adopted:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY
STATE OF COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. CC80-711
RE: OPEN SPACE
Amendment of the Jefferson County Open Space Sales Tax
Resolution to authorize construction, acquisition and
maintenance of capital improvements.

WHEREAS, the Colorado General Assembly made effective on July 1, 1967, through Chapter 138, Article 10, Colorado Revised Statutes 1963, as amended, provisions for the imposition of a sales tax by counties in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County, Colorado (the "Board"), adopted a County-wide sales tax proposal by a Resolution adopted by the Board on August 28, 1972, repealed and reenacted by the Board on September 26, 1972, and, as so repealed and reenacted, approved by the electors of the County at the election held on November 7, 1972 (the "Jefferson County Open Space Sales Tax Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Open Space Sales Tax Resolution specifies the purposes for which the funds derived from such sales tax can be expended and the interests which can be acquired therewith; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board to amend the Jefferson County Open Space Sales Tax Resolution to expand the open space purposes for which the sales tax proceeds may be expended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jefferson, State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. The 8th Resolved paragraph of the body or the Jefferson County Open Space Sales Tax Resolution
which specifies the purposes for which the sales tax proceeds may be expended and the interests which may be acquired with such proceeds be amended as follows:
(New material is in capital letters; deleted material indicated by dashes through words.)

> "Be it further resolved that all of the net proceeds received by Jefferson County, Colorado, from the Director of Revenue of the State of Colorado from the aforementioned sales tax WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE FOR THE OPEN SPACE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS PARAGRAPH shall be expended only for
> the planning for, developing necessary access to, acquiring, maintaining, administering, and preserving open space real property or interests in open space real property, and developing paths and trails thereon, AND CONSTRUCTION, ACQUIRING AND MAINTAINING PARK AND RECREATIONAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS for the use and benefit of the public, such open space real property or interests in open space real property to include but not be limited to land in its natural state, parks and recreation lands, PARK AND RECREATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, greenbelt and agricultural buffer zones, scenic easements, floodplains, paths and trails, historic monuments, wild rivers, wilderness areas, wildlife habitats, community open space lands, etc.; or the payment of indebtedness incurred for such acquisition, and for such expenditures as may be necessary to protect such open space properties or interests in real properties so acquired from any and all threatened or actual damages, loss, destruction or impairment form any cause or occurrence."

SECTION 2. ELECTION REQUIREMENT. This amendment shall be effective only upon the submission of this resolution to and its approval by a majority of the registered electors of the County voting thereon, at the general election to be held November 4, 1980.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. Subject to the requirements of Section 2 of this resolution, the effective date of this amendment shall be January 1, 1981, and shall be applicable to all sales tax proceeds available for the open space purposes specified in the Jefferson County Open Space Sales Tax Resolution, and interest thereon, which are received by the County after January 1, 1981 from the Executive Director of the Department of Revenue.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this resolution shall for any reason be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this resolution.

SECTION 5. This proposal shall constitute a separate and independent proposal for determination by the registered electors of the County, not to be dependent upon any other amendment of proposal, but to be in addition to and not in lieu of any other amendment or proposal which may be presented at such election.

Commissioner Martin seconded the adoption of the foregoing Resolution. The roll having been called, the vote was as follows:
Commissioner Robert F. Clement - "Aye";
Commissioner James E. Martin - "Aye";
Commissioner Harold A. Anderson, Chairman - "Absent":

The Resolution was adopted by majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jefferson, State of Colorado.
Dated: September 29, 1980

1 *Jefferson County, Colorado*
2 *Conceptual Large Scale Potential Preservation Areas*
3 *Existing Trails and Potential Corridors*
4 *Park, Recreation and Metro Districts*

Glossary of Terms

The following terms are used in this Plan or are common to Open Opace and used by staff and officials.

Active Recreation - Generally refers to activities that may be organized or team based and may require the use of equipment such as balls, nets, goals, targets or specially designed facilities.

Administrative Directive - A Management Tool that provides direction to staff when specific conditions exist, such as social trails, encroachments, or when an unusual request is made of the Division.

Agreements or Leases – A legal document that provides for use upon lands by an entity other than the fee simple owner. For example, Open Space lands are leased to recreation districts for management of parks and open space purposes.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) A universal accessibility code adopted by the Federal government. Current standards have been proposed for outdoor recreation accessibility by the United States Forest Service to the United States Access Board.

Approved Projects - A property proposal received by staff and recommended by the Open Space Advisory Committee becomes an approved project when the Board of County Commissioners authorizes the project for expenditures related to due diligence and negotiation.

Attributable Shares - Based on a formula using motor vehicle registrations, a portion of the Open Space sales tax allocated to the cities within Jefferson County.

Best Practices - A management idea which asserts that there is a technique, method, process, activity, incentive or reward that is more effective at delivering a particular outcome than any other technique, method, process, etc. The idea is that with proper processes, checks and testing, a desired outcome can be delivered with fewer problems and unforeseen complications. Best practices can also be defined as the most efficient (least amount of effort) and effective (best results) way of accomplishing a task, based on repeatable procedures that have proven themselves over time for large numbers of people.

Board of County Commissioners (BCC) The Board of County Commissioners, elected by the voters of Jefferson County, approve expenditures of the Open Space Fund.

Bond Funds - A total of $160 million borrowed against future sales tax revenues and approved by the voters of Jefferson County in 1998 for the specific purposes of an aggressive property acquisition initiative by Open Space.

Capital Improvement Plan (Five-Year CIP) - A budgetary mechanism that recommends allocations for capital projects within the Open Space Program over a five-year period using estimates of sales tax revenues, operating expenses and fund reserves.

Capacity - A measurement of park visitation that maximizes the number of users without compromising the status of the natural or cultural resources.

Census - Demographic and numeric figures of populations.

Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) An alliance of publicly-funded, local government open space programs organized for the purpose of sharing information, cooperation and peer support.

Conservation - An ethic of resource use, allocation, exploitation, and protection of plants, animals and their habitats.

Conservation Easement - An interest in real property that provides for agreed upon existing uses by the landowner without further/future development occurring. Monitoring of conditions assures the adherence to the conservation values being protected.

Conservation Trust Funds - Funds collected by the State from Lottery Funds and distributed to the counties for local government and open space projects. Jefferson County distributes these funds through a competitive grant process administered by the Open Space Division and allocated through recommendations by the Open Space Advisory Committee to grant applicants.

Conservation Zones - Distinct geographic areas based upon resource values and

management use criterion. Often used as a management tool, they can be used at a park-specific (Management Unit Designation) or regional scale (Natural Areas).

Counties in Partnership - A working relationship and formal planning effort established between Jefferson County and the City and County of Denver to enhance the efficiency and economy of recreational management upon Jefferson County Open Space and Denver Mountain Parks properties within Jefferson County.

Cultural Resources/Features - Opportunities for education or restoration of historic uses of properties are valued as cultural resources/features. These features can be the subject of personal or non-personal interpretation developed by staff and volunteers.

Dedication by Plat - The obligation of property owners to set aside a portion of their commercial or residential project for park or open space purposes as a requirement of their development process.

Denver Mountain Parks - Historic property owned by the City and County of Denver within Jefferson County that was acquired by the 1912 Olmstead Plan for parks and scenic drives.

Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) - Fifty-five (55) participating county and municipal governments within the nine-county metro area engaged in regional planning and cooperation.

Enabling Resolution - The November 1972 Board of County Commissioners Resolution endorsed by a vote of Jefferson County residents dedicating a sales tax fund to establish the Open Space Division and its appointed Citizen Advisory Committee.

Environmental Education - An educational science and philosophy of engendering the understanding of the natural world, its condition and interdependencies to all human audiences.

Fee Simple - Ownership of most or all property rights upon a segment of land.

Final Terms Resolution - Upon the satisfactory negotiation of a purchase agreement, staff will bring forward to the Open Space Advisory Committee a final terms Resolution recommending completion of an acquisition utilizing Open Space funds that are authorized by the BCC.

Front Range Mountain Backdrop/ Foreground Preservation Area - A five-county planning effort to identify and preserve the visual backdrop of the front range of the Rocky Mountains from Wyoming to Colorado Springs. Utilizing funds from Great Outdoors Colorado, the counties of Larimer, Boulder, Jefferson, Douglas and El Paso cooperatively mapped and pursued for acquisition properties that met the Front Range Mountain Backdrop/ Foreground Preservation Area criteria.

Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines (FSTAG) - The Forest Service has developed accessibility guidelines for trails managed for pedestrian/hiker use because there are no other guidelines that have completed the United States Access Board rule-making process that recognize and preserve the unique aspects of hiking trails.

Geographical Information System (GIS) - Any information system capable of integrating, storing, editing, analyzing, sharing and displaying geographically referenced information.

Go Forth Resolution - Property proposals received by staff are evaluated for Master Plan values and if accepted by Management Team, staff will request the Open Space Advisory Committee recommend funds be expended by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for due diligence.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) - An administrative body that allocates State Lottery proceeds into the four fund quadrants of Local Government, Open Space, Wildlife and State Parks. GOCO grant mechanisms provide for park, trails and open space projects.

Guidelines - A series of management protocols (Climbing Guidelines, Hang Gliding Guidelines, Prospecting Guidelines) that have been developed through collaboration with representatives from the specific user groups that have historically used Open Space properties prior to the County acquiring such lands.

Historical/Archaeological Site - A designation to encompass everything from the

remnants of ancient or historic civilizations to personal reflections of times gone by. History is a part of who we were, who we are and who we will be.

Integrated Treatment Methods - Largely used in weed management, integrated treatment involves a combination of methods to control or eradicate invasive species, such as biological, chemical and mechanical treatments.

Interpretation - The study and story-telling of relationships of humans to the cultural and natural resources that exist or existed upon the landscape.

Jeffco Open Space Foundation, Inc. - A not-for-profit foundation (501(c) 3) established to accept gifts of money, goods, services or property on behalf of the Jefferson County Open Space Division.

Joint Venture Grants - Following the 1980 amendment to the Open Space Enabling Resolution to provide expenditures for capital projects, Open Space established a competitive grant program from a portion of cities and recreation district capital projects. Projects require some portion of matching dollars from the applicant. Grant awards are recommended by the Open Space Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Land Donation - An opportunity for the County to receive interest in a property through donation/gift with related tax benefits to the donor.

Lariat Loop Heritage Alliance - A not-for-profit group of supporters banded together to promote and sustain the historic loop road and the attractions/features that make up the cultural and scenic necklace of parks and venues of Denver and Jefferson County.

Land Trusts - Not-for-profit organizations that seek out landowners for donation or sale of Conservation Easements or other property interests for any number of conservation purposes.

Leverage - In finance, leverage is using given resources in such a way that the potential positive or negative outcome is magnified.

Management Team - The leadership of the Open Space Division consisting of the Director and Section Managers (Acquisitions, Administration/Education Services, Citizen Outreach, Park Services, and Planning & Development).

Management Unit Designations (MUD) - A designation of segments of park property used within the context of the Park Management Plan describing the resource values and appropriate level of public access/ activity to maintain the specific characteristics of the segment. (e.g., Sensitive MUD–protected by seasonal or permanent closure for its ecologically unique characteristics and critical wildlife habitat; Parkland MUD, Natural MUD).

Mission - Statement of purpose for an organization or corporation. The mission of Jefferson County Open Space is to preserve open space lands, natural and cultural resources, and to provide for quality park and recreational experiences.

Multiple Use - A philosophy for user management upon Open Space lands that allows for non-motorized hiking, equestrian and mountain biking uses upon the same trails.

Natural Areas Plan - A designation of areas for potential preservation utilizing the Natural Heritage Areas Plan from 1993. These areas have been approved for due diligence expenditures in an umbrella resolution for the Natural Areas Preservation authorized by the Board of County Commissioners in 2002.

Natural Heritage Inventory Sites - Areas for potential conservation that have been identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program as places that are essentially in a natural undisturbed state, or not seriously disturbed by human activity.

North Area Conservation Effort - Areas identified in proximity to Highways 72 and 93 suitable for scenic preservation, land form preservation, trail and recreation purposes, wildlife habitat and natural resource protection.

Open Land - A term used by County Planning & Zoning to describe public and private open spaces, excluding Jefferson County Open Space, and other areas that appear open, but might be held privately by individuals or organizations. The term "open land" also means the amount of undeveloped area within a non-residential project that may be landscaped or left in its natural state.

Open Space - Properties or interest in real properties acquired with the Open Space fund, donation or grants pursuant to identified Jefferson County Open Space Master Plan acquisition values. A Division of county government within the Community Resources Department charged to administer, manage and operate Jefferson County Open Space lands.

Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) A volunteer citizen committee, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, whose purpose is to hear public input, advise and make recommendations to the Commissioners regarding Open Space acquisitions, fund expenditures and management. Three members represent the County, three represent the Cities, three are selected At-Large and one member represents the park and recreation districts. Two alternates also serve.

Open Space Fund - One-half of one-percent sales tax revenues collected across the County to be expended exclusively for park and open space purposes.

Park Management Plan (PMP) - A location-specific document that defines the vision and articulates the management actions intended for a particular park. These Plans are crafted by a cross-section of professional Open Space staff, endorsed by the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Board of County Commissioners and are utilized as a management tool.

Park Vision - A component of the Park Management Plan that defines the experience a park visitor would encounter at this particular property. The vision acknowledges the significant natural and cultural resources of a park.

Passive Recreation - Recreational activities that can be described as informal, non-motorized or human powered. Does not include team activities.

Pocket Parks - A small park often created as a public space requirement for a large building project, generally urban and upon an irregular parcel.

Policy - Refers to the process of making important organizational decisions, including the identification of different alternatives such as programs or spending priorities and choosing among them on the basis of the impact they will have. Policies can be understood as political, management, financial and administrative mechanisms arranged to reach explicit goals.

Prescribed Burns - Prescribed burns are the intentional ignition of grass, shrub, or forest fuels for specific purposes according to predetermined conditions. A technique used by Open Space in forest management and restoration.

Preservation - Setting aside undeveloped lands, parks, or other conservation areas in an effort to sustain habitat, wildlife, scenic or historic/cultural resources.

Proposal Process - Any member of the community may submit a proposal to Open Space for fee acquisition or any number of property rights. These proposals are reviewed by staff and presented to Management Team. Management Team determines if a presentation is made to the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) and OSAC will either recommend the proposal to the Board of County Commissioners or reject the proposal.

Park and Trail Coordinating Committee (PTCC) - An internal staff group that coordinates projects regarding cross-sectional priorities related to capital and trail projects as well as park management plan actions.

Public Lands - Governmental entities including cities, counties, states and the federal government all manage lands which are referred to as either public lands or the public domain.

Public Open Space - Property that is owned by a public entity for open space purposes. This may include entities such as Jefferson County Open Space, Denver Mountain Parks, cities and park and recreation districts.

Private Open Space - Land that is designated as open space through a zoning or subdivision plat document that is owned privately, such as by a homeowners' association. Public access to private open spaces is usually restricted.

Regional Trail System - Trails that connect public lands, parks and other trail systems within a broad geographical area.

Regional Visitor Capacity Brochure - "Little Known Jewels" is a compilation of

public outdoor recreation opportunities that at specific times/days are underutilized. Contributing agencies use these brochures to distribute recreational use when their facilities are at capacity.

Resource Evaluation Management (REM) - A framework to establish and manage specific natural, cultural and recreational resource issues. Resource monitoring provides a flow of information that may indicate a need to alter or adapt management.

Restoration - Protect, improve and enhance habitats, vegetation, historical buildings and cultural artifacts.

Revegetation - Re-establishment of vegetation consistent with the surrounding landscape over disturbed areas due to wear from social use, erosion or construction activities.

Scenic Corridors - Viewscapes that have been identified for protection.

Seasonal/Temporary Closures - Closures of designated park/open space areas for management of natural resources, wildlife lifecycles or hazard mitigation.

Sensitive Management Unit Designation - Within the Park Management Planning process, areas of Open Space lands may contain specific resource or cultural values that need to be protected from human disturbance. These areas do not allow for general public use and are only accessible by permit or scheduled guided tours.

Shared Use - A philosophy allowing opportunities for non-motorized trail use within the system of Open Space Parks without providing multiple uses on every trail at every park.

Social Trails - Paths that occur when users go off-trail, a short cut or use in an area that has not had trails constructed by staff to Open Space maintenance and construction standards.

Special Protection Areas (SPA) - Special Protection Areas (SPA) are areas that contain natural, cultural and/or historical resources or other park resources that are deemed significant and that face a real or potential threat of being negatively impacted without special management measures.

Staff Recommendation - Upon receipt of a property proposal within the unincorporated County, Open Space staff will evaluate the property for park and open space purposes using a variety of criteria to make a staff recommendation to Management Team and to the Open Space Advisory Committee.

Sustainable Design - The art of designing physical objects and their placement within the built environment to comply with the principles of maximizing economic, social and ecological sustainability.

Testamentary Gifts - Specific property distributed to recipients as indicated within a will.

Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E) - The Endangered Species Act was passed by Congress in 1973 to protect species of plants and animals which were in danger of disappearing from the face of the earth. The law provides protection from direct human threats, such as killing and trapping, as well as for the ecosystem on which the species depends. Animals which are listed as endangered or threatened by the Department of the Interior are protected by the law on both public and private lands.

Trail Easement - An assignment of a property right to allow for passage over effected property from one point to another.

Trail Use Task Force - Volunteer representatives from the primary trail user groups (bikers, hikers, equestrians) who meet on a regular basis to promote cooperation and education about trail use issues.

United States Access Board - Independent federal agency whose primary mission is accessibility for people with disabilities.

Universal Design Standards - Standards that address the needs of people with disabilities but also a comprehensive concept that can benefit all users.

Volunteers - Involved citizens who enable Open Space staff to expand management, education, restoration, patrol and monitoring without increasing operational expenses.

Wildlife Corridors - Areas used by wildlife for movement to and from habitats.

Youth Work Program (YWP) - A summer youth employment program for Jeffco residents age 14-18 involving park and trail maintenance and trail construction.

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Kathy Hartman, District No. 3

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