

Crown Hill Park Frequently Asked Questions



1. Why doesn't Open Space keep water in the Crown Hill Lake (Lake) and Kestrel Pond?
 - a. The water in Crown Hill Lake is owned by the company which manages Crown Hill Cemetery. This water is used to irrigate the cemetery grounds. This water is delivered through the Agricultural Ditch from its source in Clear Creek.
 - b. The water which flows into Kestrel Pond comes from a deep aquifer well which pumps water into the Lake. The water is then moved from the Lake into Kestrel Pond through a head gate. If Crown Hill Cemetery does not have sufficient water stored in the lake to allow water to flow into the pond, then it is not possible to add water until the Lake level is above the head gate. Kestrel is usually filled in the spring when the Agricultural Ditch has free flow status into the Lake.
 - c. From a natural resource view point it is desirable to have the pond dry up periodically, thus seasonal variations in the Kestrel Pond water levels are actually beneficial to the wildlife in the refuge area. The reason that it is important to have the water level in Kestrel Pond vary is because it provides a variety of food sources to the wildlife that are using the pond.

2. Why is the fenced Kestrel Pond area closed to public use?
 - a. The Kestrel Pond wildlife refuge is closed from March 1 to June 30 each year during the peak nesting season for multiple avian species.
 - b. Trail use in the area is limited to pedestrians and dogs are not permitted within the fenced area of the wildlife refuge in a further attempt to provide a refuge for wildlife within the heavily used Park.
 - c. The five acre pond lies within a fenced area that was recently increased from 32.9 acres to 35.7 acres.
 - d. An overlook platform has been constructed to allow visual access to the pond area even during the seasonal closure.

3. How was Crown Hill Park purchased and why is it managed by Jefferson County Open Space?
 - a. The west half of Crown Hill Park was purchased in 1979 using funds generated by the voter-approved ½% retail sales tax within Jefferson County. The funding was divided at 50% from the Jefferson County share of the Open Space fund, 25% from the City of Lakewood share of the Open Space Fund and 25% from the City of Wheat Ridge share of the Open Space fund.
 - b. Because Crown Hill Park is located in unincorporated Jefferson County management of Crown Hill Park is the responsibility of the County.
 - c. The east half of the park was purchased in 1995 using 100% Jefferson County share of Open Space funds. A GOCO grant was also used in supporting this purchase.

4. Who is responsible for the equestrian training ring?
 - a. During initial planning for Crown Hill Park the City of Lakewood agreed to construct and manage the equestrian training ring near the west parking area. This was to meet specific requests from a number of equestrian owners in the area south of 26th Avenue.
 - b. The management responsibility for the equestrian ring remains with the City of Lakewood.

5. Why have the natural surface trails on the west end of the park been converted to a crusher fine natural surface?
 - a. Beginning in 2009, Open Space trails crews have been upgrading the natural dirt surface trails to a crusher fines surface.
 - b. During the last several months the west half of the park has been upgraded using more efficient equipment and concentrated manpower.
 - c. This type of surface provides better drainage to allow for all weather use, simplifies ongoing maintenance (top-dressing with new crusher fines) and gives a clear visual clue to visitors as to which paths are appropriate for use.
 - d. These efforts will help decrease trail braiding, widening and decrease damage to wildlife habitat adjacent to the trails.

6. What are the impacts of the proposed project elements on the wildlife in Crown Hill Park?
 - a. Open Space natural resource staff indicates that the effect of this project and the various elements associated with this project will have minimal impacts the natural resources found on the Park.
 - b. The increase in the area of the wildlife refuge, the removal of the dispersed exercise equipment and the proximity of the proposed project elements to the existing high activity parking/trailhead area all indicate a net minimal impact.
 - c. Open Space natural resource staff is consulting with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife professionals to confirm that the natural resources impacts will be minimal.