



JEFFCO PARKS

Quarterly Report

April – June 2013

enriching life

PARKS 4DX

Launched Franklin Covey's Four Disciplines of Execution (4DX) program, with ongoing weekly meetings within the Parks Department to establish and implement commitments in order to "wow" our customers. The program includes collecting Net Promoter Scores (NPS), a measurement of the likelihood a customer would recommend Parks to a friend, family member or colleague. The initial measurement period established a baseline NPS score of 83 with a goal to attain an NPS of 87 by the end of August.

Living Snow Fence

Parks staff participated in a field project to plant a living snow fence at Elk Meadow Park in Evergreen. See a project video on Jeffco's YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZ7myBJ9USI>

Parks Plan

A series of 10 public meetings were held across the County to gather public input on an umbrella Parks Master Plan to be completed by the end of the year.

RTD Light Rail Opening

Parks staff hosted a variety of information booths, including a very popular petting zoo courtesy of CSU Extension, at the Opening Celebration of the West Line of FasTracks.



Light Rail Event Petting Zoo

Hildebrand Ranch Park

Parks Leadership Team enjoyed a special access field trip into a sensitive resource area at Hildebrand Ranch Park. Highlighting the visit were the protective behaviors of two hawks of their cliff nesting chicks, a visit to beaver ponds and the ridge-top appearance of a watchful mother bear and her two cubs.

BOETTCHER MANSION

The Boettcher Mansion hosted 82 events within the second quarter. Events included 22 weddings, 13 weekend site tours for prospective brides and grooms, corporate and governmental conferences, photo shoots and history tours. Events of special note include Denver City Council's annual budget meeting, presided by Mayor Michael Hancock, Colorado Department of Education health and wellness retreat and the West Chamber's "Business Before Hours" networking session.

The 4th Annual Gathering of the Guilds highlighting 25 regional artisans including book and papermakers, metal smiths, woodworkers, painters, printers, textile artists and restoration specialists, was held April 27 as a presentation of the best in Colorado Fine Craftsmanship. The Gathering is one place where local Guilds and Artisans inspired by the Arts & Crafts Movement can come together to celebrate their craft. Demonstrations and lectures were enjoyed by nearly 200 visitors.

CSU EXTENSION

Master Gardeners give "Lessons from the Demo Garden"

Jefferson County's Colorado Master Gardeners use the demonstration garden within the Fairgrounds as the series location for Saturday classes held on seed starting, soils, irrigation, 3 ½ season gardening, intensive spacing of crops and intercropping. 200 participants learned new horticulture skills bringing in nearly \$4,000 in fees in cost recovery to the County.

4-H Judging Teams Net Results

The Livestock Quiz Bowl Team was undefeated in nine rounds of competition at the State 4-H Conference held the third week of June. Other successful teams include the Jeffco Livestock Judging Team, Horse Judging Team and individual efforts in performance and halter judging categories.

ENOR Launches 6th Grade Camp

Falcon's Aerie 6th grade ENOR camp began June 10 with 40 youngsters experiencing a week of outdoor environmental learning. In addition to the campers enjoying the week, parents gave the program high reviews: "I really enjoy every aspect of this program and recommended it to someone else," "This was my child's 3rd year doing your camp. She loves hiking!," "I love that my daughter is outside, active and learning to appreciate Colorado." "This is the 3rd program my child has attended – he has enjoyed them and has learned a lot about the environment. He has spoken very highly of his leaders."



ENOR Camp

Camps including ENOR 4th and 5th grade programs and the 3rd grade Science Explorers programs continue through mid-July. ENOR camps are held in various Open Space and Parks throughout the County. Science Explorers meet on the Jefferson County Fairgrounds and their experiences include science lessons from Colorado Master Gardeners and a close-up examination of worms.

Is a Pie Plate an Asset?

90 Jeffco senior citizens attended a workshop “Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate?” a program to address transferring personal property. Participants heard about family communication as the key to avoiding conflicts when passing along family treasures when decisions can be made without stress, grief or under pressure.



Colorado Master Gardeners at ENOR Camps

FAIRGROUNDS

Use and revenue up

The Fairgrounds reported a 21% increase in use and revenue compared to the same quarter of last year. The site hosted 508 events and facilitated 518 campground reservations equaling 3,324 camping nights.



Record Attendance

In April, the Jeffco High School Rodeo broke a record for attendance at the Fairgrounds exceeding 2012’s mark of 850 spectators.

Fires Displace Animals

The Fairgrounds rented stalls to 35 performance horses evacuated by the Black Forest Fire and housed 77 animals displaced by the Lime Gulch Fire.

Jeffco High School Rodeo action

OPEN SPACE

Apex Park Fire Mitigation

Following up on comments received during the Apex Park Trailhead project public input process, staff hosted a meeting of Apex Park neighbors on the west end of the Park to discuss concerns about wildfire in the area. Representatives from Colorado State Forest Service, Jefferson County Fire Management, Foothills Fire District and Open Space took questions from a gathering of nearly 30 residents about the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, escape routes, water availability, defensible space, pine beetle, insurance, signage and fire risk associated with Apex Park. Information was also provided to interested homeowners neighboring the park as to how they might extend their defensible space onto Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) land through a program developed in 2003.

2014 Planning Retreat

Jeffco Open Space Managers and Regional Park Supervisors met at the Lookout Mountain Nature Center to discuss 2014 priority projects in preparation of County Budget requests. Rising to the top of the list were multiple restroom replacements for older facilities within the system and continuation of projects currently underway.



Lookout Mountain Nature Center

An estimate of 24,000 people were reached through nature visits and group and public programs during the second quarter. This figure is up about 7% from the same period last year. The Wildflower Festival was very successful with about 700 people attending. LMNC also conducted many vignettes in our Parks and participated in several large outreach events including Earth Days, Dinosaur Ridge Days and National Get Outdoors Day at City Park in Denver.

Wildflower Festival participants

OSAC Retreat

In a workshop retreat, the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) heard presentations from Jeffco staff on the Parks Master Plan project, Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies update, Advisory Committee Roles and Guidelines, green practices and technology recommendations, real estate process and 2014 Budget and the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Party for Parks

In celebration of Denver Mountain Parks 100th Anniversary, Great Outdoors Colorado's 20th Anniversary and Jefferson County Open Space reaching the 40-year milestone, the Jeffco Outdoors Foundation (formerly Jeffco Open Space Foundation) hosted the "Party for Parks" at Red Rocks Park Amphitheatre on April 5. Over \$90,000 was raised for the Foundation in support of programs connecting children and families to nature across the amazing parks and open space of Jefferson County. Special guests included Governor John Hickenlooper, as well as staff, supporters and friends of the three honored organizations.

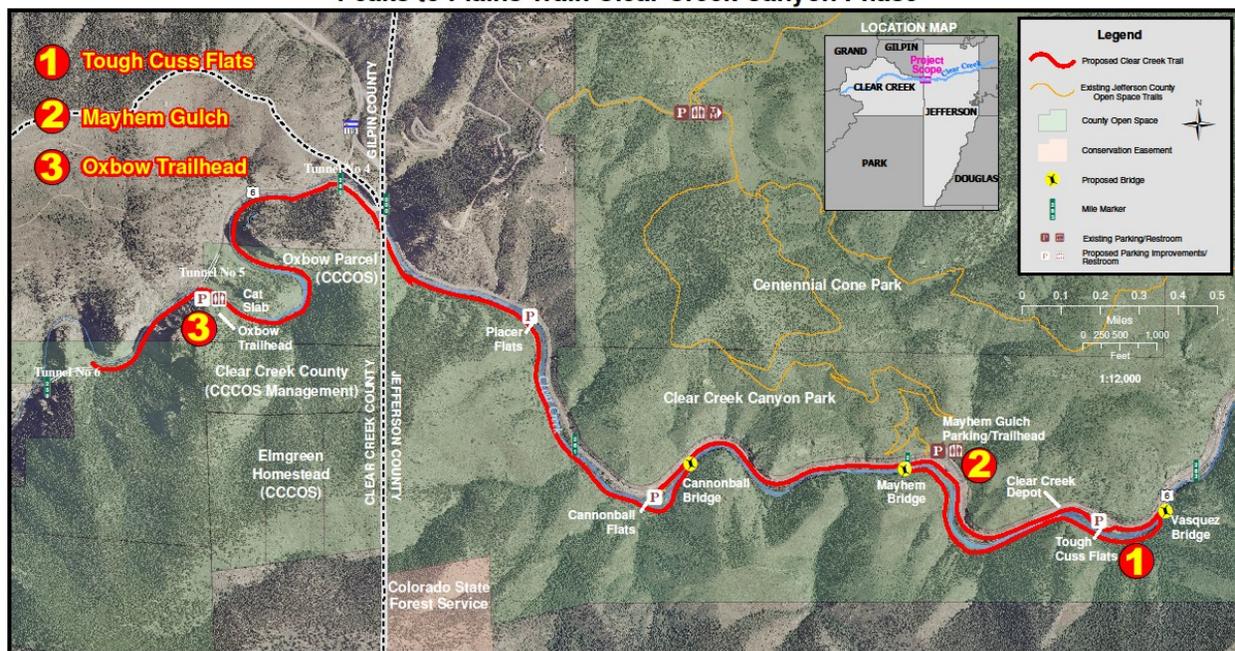
Party for Parks steering committee chairman Greg Stevinson and Governor Hickenlooper



Peaks to Plains Trail Contract Award

Following a competitive process, a phased contract was awarded for the Clear Creek County/Jefferson County joint project to build nearly 6 miles of trail within Clear Creek Canyon and spanning the County line. Concrete Express and Muller Engineering have combined efforts to perform design/build services for the hard surface trail that becomes a segment of the 65 mile Peaks to Plains trail connecting Loveland Pass at the Continental Divide to the confluence of the South Platte River Trail in Adams County. This project received a grant award of \$4.6 Million from Great Outdoors Colorado under their River Corridors Initiative.

Peaks to Plains Trail: Clear Creek Canyon Phase



Trails Stewardship Team

Over 368 applications were received from high school-age Jefferson County teens to participate in the 2013 Trail Stewardship Team. Selected were 96 crew members, 11 crew leaders and 2 supervisors for the program and began work on June 17. The 7-week employment program involves trail construction, maintenance and other labor activities supplemented with environmental education messages.