

April - June 2014

Parks Quarterly Report

jeffco.us/parks



Education Pow Wow at Jeffco Fairgrounds

JEFFCO OPEN SPACE

Apex Park

A few new “green” building techniques and features have been incorporated in the Apex Park trailhead restroom construction. Insulation for the walls and



ceilings is made from recycled textile fibers, primarily denim. Free of fiberglass, chemical irritants and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), this combination makes it free of warning labels, safe for the environment and friendly to install.



Solar shingles have also been installed on the roof. This product combines the weather resistance of a traditional shingle with the electricity production of a

traditional solar panel. Work continues on framing, masonry, exterior trim, electrical and plumbing.

Peaks to Plains Trail (P2P)

Notice to Proceed was issued to the contractor for the JC-1 segment, the first segment, of the Peaks to Plains Trail project. The construction crew from Concrete Express has been making great progress since. The trail corridor is being cleared, walls are going in and we can actually start to get a feel for the trail alignment. We also created a blog for the project to keep staff and the public up-to-date with the project. You can view the blog here <http://peaks2plains.wordpress.com/>.

CAPRA

Staff have been working hard over the last two plus years on attaining national accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). The self-assessment application to meet 144 standards has been delivered to the review team and preparations are underway to host the CAPRA Accreditation Visit the week of July 28th. Three Visitors from parks and recreation agencies around the country will spend four days onsite touring our facilities, reviewing documents and making sure we meet all of the accreditation criteria.

Projects

At Pine Valley Ranch Park, new drainage was constructed at Baehrden Lodge and a contractor removed carpeting from the bedrooms.



Several maintenance improvements occurred at Hiwan Homestead Museum with the installation of a new water heater, electrical repair, plumbing repair and trim carpentry work. A new entry sign and door color welcomes our guests.

Flood Recovery

Since September, 63 volunteer events have contributed to flood recovery work. Projects

completed include the Wild Iris Loop trail turnpike at Alderfer/Three Sisters Park and the opening of most of Apex Park, excluding the lower portion of Apex Trail. Three bridges and a large culvert will need to be completed on this trail segment before the public can fully enjoy the Park.

Jeffco Open Space granted Denver Water Board a License to complete repairs within the easements of Glencoe Valley Road and Long Lakes Feeder Ditch. Cotter Operations will continue the repairs of Glencoe Valley Road north to the White Ranch Park property line once all Planning and Zoning requirements have been addressed.

Federal funding has a number of requirements to reconstruct and relocate a total of 3.8 miles of trails at Apex Park, North Table Mountain Park, and White Ranch Park. In order to receive these funds, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process must be followed to evaluate the consequences of the proposed actions. Staff has drafted an Environmental Assessment (EA) for agency consultation as well as for public review and comment during a 15-day period.

Trail Stewardship Team



Fan Mail:

“My sister and I were walking around Mt. Falcon at the beginning of last week when we ran into a large group of the youth involved in your Trail Stewardship Program. We just wanted to let you guys know how courteous and polite the whole group was to us! Although we had dogs and were walking through where those kids were trying to work, they were great about moving and making us feel like we were not in the way of their work.

Basically, thank-you for all your work and for making what a could have been a stressful situation, very easy!
Jane Nelson

The Trails Stewardship Team works three days a week (Tuesday through Thursday) during the 7-week program. The high-school youth are running strong with 11 crews of 8 teens helping to build and maintain trails and perform other work in the parks.

Nature Education

Nature Center visits, plus group and public programs, reached 23,000 people during the second quarter. Special events involving Lookout Mountain Nature Center staff and volunteers included the Wildflower Festival in June. The Festival was very successful with 600 people attending.



Jeffco Open Space was represented at an Earth Day event, Dinosaur Ridge Day events for boys and girls scouts, and National Get Outdoors Day at City Park in Denver.

Real Estate

Apex Park & Recreation District received a Commissioner's Deed for the former Christ Community Covenant Church property. The District had been leasing the site and transformed the facilities into the Simms Street Recreation Center.



left to right: OSAC Chair Wayne Forman, Commissioner Faye Griffin, Apex Park and Recreation Board Member Jim Whitfield and Apex Park and Recreation Executive Director Mike Miles

On Wednesday, April 2, 2014, Jefferson County Open Space and the Colorado State Board of Land Commissioners completed a Non-Simultaneous Exchange, cash for land, transaction adding 800 acres to Jeffco Open Space and bringing the total

amount of land preserved to 53,617 acres. Other real estate transactions include lease amendments at Apex Park, License Agreement at Coal Creek Canyon Park, recording of the Access Fund transfer at North Table Mountain Park and a Utility easement at White Ranch Park.

Making Hay

Hay season has started at Hildebrand Ranch Park. Jeffco Open Space added two Parks -- Flying J Ranch and Elk Meadow to the list of hay contracted sites. Along with South Valley and Alderfer/Three Sisters Parks, five Parks provide for hay operations to maintain historic agriculture processes and resource management.

History Education

Pioneer-palooza was this year's theme for Discovery Days at Hiwan Homestead Museum. The full-day, week-long day camp for children 6-13 years old featured crafts, activities, tours and games. Highlights included learning to pack a pioneer wagon, make toys out of thread spools, churn butter, pan for gold to spark interest in history. Older youth also visited different Jeffco Open Space Parks to learn about the history of Jefferson County.

JEFFCO FAIRGROUNDS

Revenues

Second-quarter highlights from the Fairgrounds show revenue generation continuing ahead of projections for 2014 while operational expenses pace as planned. Bolstered by new events and a busy start to camping season, the latest financial reports show more than \$262,000 in revenue generated during the first half of the year, well ahead of 2013.

First Time Events

Thousands of new customers have been attracted to the Jefferson County Fairgrounds' facilities through these first-time events, enhancing our diversity and usage over the past few months.

Diesels On The Mountain, produced by the National Hot Rod Diesel Association (NHRDA), was a two-day, multiple-venue



event with the Jeffco Fairgrounds hosting truck-pull activities on Friday, May 30th and Bandimere Speedway hosting multiple events on Saturday, May 31. This first-time event attracted 2,500 fans.

One of these exciting new events was the Jeffco Education Pow Wow on May 3. This fundraiser attracted over 1,000 fans, vendors and several groups of dancers on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Previously held at Red Rocks Community College, the event was held in the picnic pavilion and campground areas of the Fairgrounds.

Colorado Mine Safety Training, a three-day training competition for teams and individuals was hosted at the Fairgrounds in mid May. This event occupied multiple Fairgrounds facilities and served as team-building and training/enhancement of mine rescue skills for the metal/non-metal mining industry. Areas of competition included mine safety, first aid, team technician, team trainer and overall champion.



The Fairgrounds was proud to host another fundraiser 4-H as a Barn Dance. Over 300 supporters enjoyed a wonderful barbeque dinner in the Fairgrounds' Event Center followed by dancing, a silent auction and fellowship. Nearly \$16,000 was generated in support of the 4-H programs in Jefferson County.

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

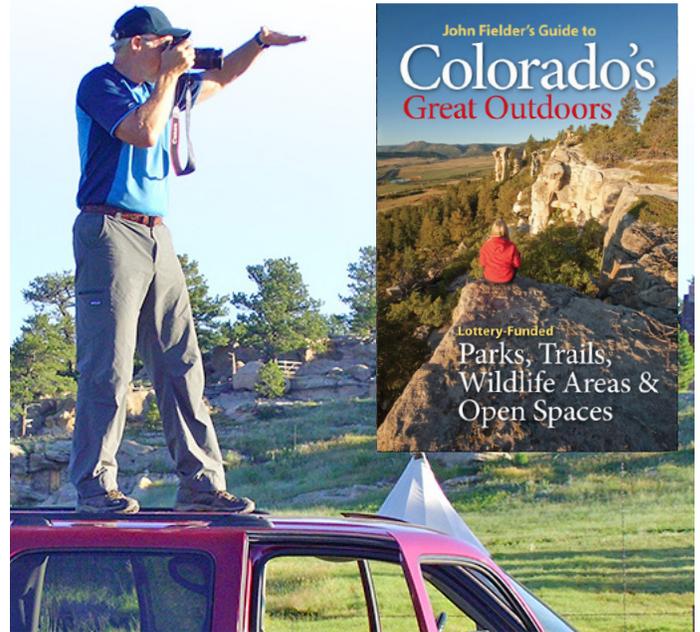
The CSU Extension Horticulture Demonstration Garden recently harvested 30 gallons of greens for the Arvada Food Bank. Thanks to a number of Master Gardeners who diligently prepared and maintained the gardens, Arvada Food Bank recipients enjoyed fresh kale, spinach and five varieties of heirloom lettuces, mesculun mix and radishes.

BOETTCHER MANSION

Events

The Mansion hosted 60 events such as weddings, receptions, rehearsals, luncheons, banquets, photo shoots, conferences and retreats.

"A Night with John Fielder" was co-hosted with the Jefferson County Historical Commission, with 150 attendees, including Commissioner Casey Tighe.



The Mansion sponsored the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society's Annual "Gathering of the Guilds" featuring 24 local artisans and ongoing demonstrations and presentations on book design, bungalow renovations, knifemaking and wood refinishing.

Cultural History and Site Tours

Cultural history tours were presented to drop-in visitors and a seniors group from Covenant Village. Representatives of Lakewood Sister Cities previewed an event where 20 tourists from Germany will visit the Mansion in September. Mansion staff also conducted 122 site tours for prospective clients and vendors.

Projects

Completed Flagstone Safety Project for the front entrance garden. Completed removal of two fallen trees, clearing debris from gutters and downspouts and irrigation system startup.