

1. Why is Apex Park closed?

Record rainfall along the front range beginning Monday, September 9th and continuing through September 14th resulted in significant damage to the trail system at Apex Park including both the East and West trailheads. After assessing all the damage to our Open Space Parks, Apex Park was declared the most impacted. Presently we are developing a repair plan. Until we are able to repair some of the damage and provide stable and safe trail experiences, Jeffco Open Space will not be opening the park to public use.

2. Where is the trail damage located?

- a. The East and West trailheads have trail erosion damage.
- b. Apex Trail between Pick 'N Sledge and Enchanted Forest has severe gullies up to 6 feet in depth and debris piles from dislodged rocks and boulders.
- c. Sluicibox Trail from Pick 'N Sledge down to Apex Trail is moderately to severely damaged.
- d. The high water flow through Lena Gulch during the storm has undercut Apex Trail in multiple locations and created rock and debris piles as well as steep drop-offs.

3. How do you define severe damage?

- a. This is heavy damage considered to be hazardous for trail use and includes eroded gullies 1 to 6 feet in depth and 6 to 15 feet wide cutting directly across or running parallel to the trail.
- b. Heavily eroded trail with debris piles.
- c. Steep rocky trail sections eroded to bedrock and covered with loose rock.
- d. Severely damaged trail sections will require considerable engineering, manpower and materials to be brought back to a useable and safe condition. There may also be several bridges and trail crossings in places where they never existed before.

4. How do you define moderate damage?

- a. This includes damage mostly confined to the trail tread, culverts, rock walls and erosion structures including water bars and check dams.

5. When will trail repair work at Apex Park begin?

- a. Recovery work has started. The first two volunteer days will help to place safety barriers on Apex Trail. The repair plan and sequence is being finalized and trail repair will begin as soon as possible. Other influences upon beginning repairs are winter weather and workload involving the restoration and maintenance of the entire Open Space trail system.

6. How long will it take to complete all the trail repairs?

- a. We anticipate repair work on a large scale in spring of 2014 and will continue through the entire 2014 work season.

7. Why can't a portion of the park be opened now?

- a. Apex Trail is the main artery of the trail system. Other trails in the system form loops utilizing access from Apex Trail. There are two public access points at the East and West end of Apex Trail. Both of these access points have trail damage. Since there is damage throughout the trail system the repair plan will need to incorporate a deliberate sequence of repair. A phased plan is being carefully considered which would allow for partial openings of the park in phases. The plan involves first repairing the area of the park which has minor and moderate damage - the top or northeastern part - and opening that portion first. This portion would include the trails Pick 'N Sledge, Grubstake Loop, and Bonanza. Weather conditions over the winter and steep terrain conditions for material loads will determine the timeframe for this phase. A second phase would include the western portion of the park including Sluicebox, upper Apex Trail, and Enchanted Forest. That portion of the park would be opened upon repair completion. The last phase would include work on the heavily damaged length of lower Apex Trail.
- b. If a phased repair plan precedes and portions of the park are made durable and safe for public use, Jeffco Open Space is considering how best to maintain a desired visitor experience. With limited trail access the result of a phased repair plan, Open Space may adopt a temporary management practice of alternating use by hikers and mountain bikers until the remainder of the Park is repaired and opened. Once all the repairs have been made to the trails, the directional management on odd-numbered days at Apex Park by mountain biking visitors is intended to be restored.

8. Will the repairs result in any trails or trail segments being permanently eliminated?

- a. Our goal is to not eliminate trails, but to repair the trails. During development of the repair plan we will consider many variables such as trail user safety, maintenance feasibility of the trail system, trail sustainability and continuation of 'odd day, bikes one way' on Argos Trail.
- b. During the process of creating the repair plan it may become apparent that trail reroutes will produce a more sustainable trail system. We would then consider rerouting trail segments by the addition of switchbacks or trail realignments.

9. What will be the cost of repairing the trail system?

- a. At this time we are concentrating on developing the work plan and have not done any cost analysis.

10. How many hours will it take to repair the trail system?

- a. At this time we are concentrating on developing the work plan and have not done any cost analysis.

11. When will there be an opportunity to volunteer at Apex to help Open Space with the trail repairs?

- a. The first volunteer efforts will start in late November. Future volunteer days will be posted on our social media sites and the Open Space website at www.jeffco.us. You can also sign up to receive email alerts when volunteer days are announced.

12. Were any other Jeffco Open Space Parks damaged by the same storm?

- a. Matthew/Winters Park sustained trail damage and the picnic area was damaged by debris and water. Repairs have been completed through the use of volunteers and Open Space staff. The park is open for use.
- b. Alderfer Three Sisters Park had some minor trail damage which was fixed utilizing volunteers.
- c. White Ranch Park sustained trail damage which required closing the East trail head access on Belcher Hill Trail. This section of Belcher Hill Trail has since be fixed and reopen. Wrangler’s Run Trail, portions of Rawhide Trail and Mustang Trail remain closed. The majority of the trails at White Ranch are open.
- d. Elk Meadow Park sustained some trail damage. Volunteers and Open Space staff have repaired some of the damaged areas and continue to work on fixing all the trail sections needing attention. The majority of the trails are open for use, including the Dog Park.
- e. North Table Mountain Park had a good deal of damage. Sections of North Table Loop which were damaged have already been fixed. We continue to work with volunteers repairing damaged areas. Rim Rock Trail remains closed due to ground water and a portion of the East end of Mesa Top Trail is closed due to a 20-foot eroded gully which is impassable. Most of the trails are open and users can still enjoy a great trail experience.
- f. Lair o’ Bear Park was quite heavily damaged and was the only other park in addition to Apex that was closed. Open Space maintenance crews worked on repairs from September 16th to November 8th. All of the bridges at the park were inspected by an engineer and one of the bridges was found to be unsafe and has been closed (Dipper Bridge). Lair o’ the Bear opened back up after repairs on November 9th.