Jefferson County Open Space
enriching life

South Table Mountain Park Projects – 2013

Background

As part of the citizens' initiative to establish Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) in 1972, County residents identified South Table Mountain as one of a number of key landmarks to acquire. Ever since, JCOS has worked to protect the timeless value of the mesa for the enjoyment of visitors and future generations. This is in keeping with our enabling resolution, which calls 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 …" Through land acquisitions and conservation easement agreements with the State of Colorado and the U.S. Department of Energy, JCOS has preserved 1,500 acres of South Table Mountain as public open space.

Existing Conditions

As JCOS provides more trails in the park, we also must respect private properties interspersed on the mesa restrict public access. Worn paths created through repeated use promote trespassing and erosion. Be good neighbors, do not trespass and respect area closures.

2013 Project Goals & Details *(also see attached map)*

1 **Service Roads:** We are bringing service roads to a standard that can accommodate utility company vehicles. Many of these road sections are being incorporated into a system of sustainable trails at South Table Mountain Park.

2 **Designated Trail Construction:** Starting in late summer 2013, we will build three (3) miles of trail on the western portion of the mesa. Crushed granite will be used for its durability and for water management following rain and snowmelt on the mesa top. Undesignated trails leading to private property or restricted areas will be closed.

3 **Neighborhood Access:** Visitors enter the park through several neighborhood access points. Signs will be placed to welcome visitors to the park, provide a map, and convey JCOS Regulations. We'll improve designated trails from residential areas to reduce erosion.

❹ **Existing Parking:** Pleasant View Community Park at Camp George West (1220 Kilmer Street, Golden) is the only official parking area for South Table Mountain Park at this time. A 3/10th-mile trail corridor leads across Denver West Parkway and onto the mesa. When driving to South Table Mountain Park, please use this trailhead and reduce neighborhood congestion.

Q & As

Why should I use designated trails?

South Table Mountain has been well-traveled from an array of entry points. By staying on improved designated trails, you'll help reduce trail damage, vegetation loss and disruption of wildlife patterns. Designated trails are designed to prevent erosion and trespassing, and to provide a safer recreation experience.

Why is the north part of the mesa designated as 'No Public Access'?

Access here is restricted by terms of the JCOS land acquisition from the former property owners. Open Space has agreed to honor those restrictions and not allow for public recreation in these areas.

What are the plans for a central trailhead?

In 2013, we will not construct a central trailhead with a parking lot and restrooms along Quaker Street, inside the park boundary. We continue to work with other private and public landowners and develop a trailhead plan. This idea has been largely supported by citizens and endorsed by the Open Space Advisory Committee. The building of a trailhead is consistent with the vision of our Park Management Plan for developing an improved, multi-use loop trail system for this regional park while protecting wildlife and directing visitors away from private property.

About Jefferson County Open Space

Jefferson County voters voted to establish JCOS in 1972 and fund an open space program through a one-half of one percent sales tax. The JCOS system includes 28 parks and 227 miles of trails. In the Golden area, JCOS manages Apex Park, Matthews/Winters Park, North Table Mountain Park, South Table Mountain Park, Windy Saddle Park and Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Preserve.

Contact

To be included in the South Table Mountain Park e-mail list or submit a comment or question, e-mail stm@jeffco.us. To receive our monthly e-newsletter, Parks Panorama, subscribe on our home page jeffco.us/parks. The main JCOS phone number is (303) 271-5925.