

Open Space Division - Management Report

April-June
2010

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Acquisition: Acquire lands to preserve resources and provide for future recreational opportunities

- ♦ As part of the County's trailhead and parking lot development for North Table Mountain Park, the County requested and was granted a License with the City of Golden for the installation of a two-inch water tap and supply line that will service a sanitary facility and help establish a screening berm currently being constructed within North Table Mountain Park.
- ♦ Open Space acquired 5.594 acres located at the southwestern corner of Highways 93 and 72. Contiguous to Denver Water Board property on two sides, this property was acquired for its Open Space Master Plan Acquisition Values as part of the Front Range Mountain Backdrop/Foreground Preservation Area and as an addition to Coal Creek Canyon Park.



Land Management: Manage Open Space lands to preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources

- ♦ With the completion of the parking lot on the west side of North Table Mountain Park, the public now has access to the first phase of formalized trails. A temporary kiosk and park brochure describes the need and purpose of seasonal or special protection area closures. A permanent restroom is under construction. Additional trail work will continue as future phases of the Park are completed
- ♦ Seasonal closures for protection of wildlife have been lifted at Centennial Cone Park, South Valley Park and Crown Hill Sanctuary.

Recreation: Provide for quality visitor experiences in a manner that protects natural and cultural resources



- ♦ A tool for supporting Open Space Trail Etiquette is a bright yellow bandana printed with guidelines for Park visitors. Businesses, trail advocates and clubs have been invited to participate in a second printing. These bandanas have been well received at Bike Right and Share the Trail events where Park Rangers and Volunteers provide etiquette education in the parks.

continued on page 2

April-June
2010

JEFFERSON COUNTY

continued from page 1

- ◆ Hildebrand Ranch Park Dedication was held on Thursday, May 6. Information stations featured the Park's ranching history, resident wild-life and the use of permeable paving for the parking lot. A Westernaires Color Guard and music by the 4th Artillery Quadrille Ensemble helped to set a celebratory atmosphere. Jefferson County Commissioners Kathy Hartman, Faye Griffin and J. Kevin McCasky were on hand to officially open the Park.



Education: Foster awareness and appreciation for natural and cultural resources and the ethic of resource stewardship

- ◆ The Open Space Advisory Committee was treated to a special environmental education tour of Ralston Buttes Sensitive Area led by Open Space staff. The Committee enjoyed a similar experience to those occasionally offered to the public and volunteers as a special event program.



- ◆ In the first offering of its kind for Jefferson County Open Space, Camp Junior Ranger provided families with young children the opportunity to have a unique outdoor experience with staff, rangers and volunteers sharing

stories about the history, flora and fauna of Jefferson County. An overnight stay at White Ranch Park re-inspired adults and introduced their children to the great outdoors.

Partnerships: Strengthen and build partnerships for community parks, recreation, open space and trails

- ◆ With structures identified for demolition at Flying J Ranch Park, Open Space provided a training opportunity for the Evergreen Fire Protection District in burning an old barn on the Park. The exercise was successful for the fire district and for Open Space.

continued on page 3

April-June
2010

JEFFERSON COUNTY

continued from page 2

- ♦ Colorado State Forest Service Grants for Forest Management and Fire Mitigation resulted in \$92,100 in funds to defray projects planned by Open Space Natural Resources.

White Ranch Park -- \$39,900 Forest Restoration Pilot Grant

Coal Creek Canyon Park-Ranson Edwards -- \$12,200 Emergency Supplemental Funds

Elk Meadow Park -- \$40,000 Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation

Sustainability: Ensure the viability of Jefferson County Open Space for future generations



- ♦ Twice each year, Open Space staff meet to hear Division and County updates as well as participate in an educational program. On June 10, the All Staff meeting included presentations from Natural Resources staffer Bryan Posthumus on raptors in Jeffco followed by HawkQuest founder and master falconer Kin Quitugua. Kin engaged the audience with live birds including a Bald Eagle, Great Horned and Burrowing owls, Peregrine falcon and Harris hawk.
- ♦ The 35th year of the Youth Work Program got underway on June 21. A record 462 applications were received for 80 positions and 50 alternates. The summer employment opportunity for Jeffco youth ages 14-18 involves building and maintaining natural surface trails across the Open Space system.