Open Space Division - Management Report

July-Sept.
2010

JEFFERSON COUNTY

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

- The Real Estate and Planning and Development Sections have been working on a matrix to prioritize unincorporated County, City and Recreation District priorities for presentation to the Open Space Advisory Committee at a November Retreat. The goal will be to have strategic guidelines for future acquisitions.

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

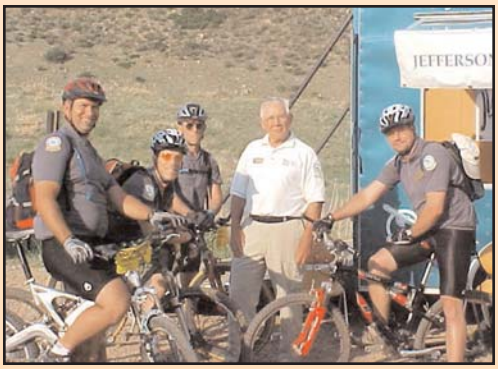
- 2010 Volunteer Trail Day Events included the July 17th observance of National Trail Day with construction activities occurring at Apex Park. The September 18th event was held at Reynolds Park.

- Masonry Restoration is underway at Hiwan Homestead Museum with assistance from Colorado State Historical Fund grant of $64,900.

- Forest management activities included fuel wood sales of downed timber at Flying J Ranch and Alderfer/Three Sisters Parks; mastication of slash and clean up at Alderfer/Three Sisters Park, and a Tanoa Fuel Break at Elk Meadow Park that is partially funded by a Colorado State Forest Serice Wildland Urban Interface grant of $40,000.

- The typical seasonal closure for Peregrine nesting at Cathedral Spires Park was extended an additional week to allow the birds time to fledge. The Park Management Plan team is considering a management strategy that might allow protection of the nesting areas and recreational climbing to occur away from nest sites.

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



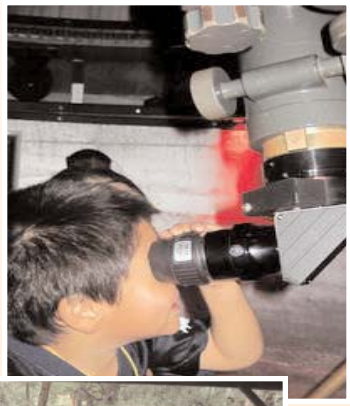
- Bike Right and Share the Trail events to promote good trail etiquette by all trail users were held throughout the summer at Apex, Centennial Cone, Elk Meadow, Lair o' the Bear, Matthews/Winters, Meyer Ranch and White Ranch Parks.

continued on page 2

July-Sept. 2010

JEFFERSON COUNTY

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



- Among the many educational offerings provided by the Lookout Mountain Nature Center, the Junior Astronomy Program was featured in the Canyon Courier newspaper. Other program titles offered during the third quarter included This Old Solar House, Creepy Critter Crawl, Sounds Like Night and Your Two Sense.

- Hiwan Homestead Museum hosted summer "Just Being Kids" craft classes during the month of July as well as featured the High Line Silver Cornet Band in Concert on the evening of July 21st.

The Children's Tea Party was enjoyed on August 9th and the summer wrapped up with the Evergreen Fine Arts Festival in the Grove the final weekend in August.

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

- Open Space Advisory Committee members and several staff attended the Colorado Open Space Alliance Conference of local government open space programs in September. Jefferson County was featured at the conference as a host organization with several sessions and field trips led by Open Space staff.

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

- Multiple projects were completed by Park Services and Park Construction to maintain facilities for visitors. Work included tree pruning along the Clear Creek and Van Bibber Trail corridors and parking lot maintenance at Hiwan Homestead Museum, Lookout Mountain Nature Center, Flying J Ranch and Lair o' the Bear Parks.

- Salvaged from a demolition project at Flying J Ranch Park, staff removed and donated 26 double-hung, insulated windows to Habitat for Humanity.

-end-