

Jefferson County Parks – enriching life

Boettcher Mansion | CSU Extension | Fairgrounds | Open Space

Third Quarter Report 2011

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS

A new name, tagline and staff core values/commitments were all adopted this quarter. In our case, the consensus is that the simple short approach is best and we settled on “Jefferson County Parks.” Our desired outcome for all four service areas is to enrich life for people and nature. We believe that these enriching outcomes occur in all of our service areas through land conservation, outdoor recreation, events and education programs. As a result we developed and have started to use, this concise strapline “enriching life.” Over 60% of Parks Staff participated in developing the following core values/commitments statements.

Practice Responsible Management of our human, natural, historical, park and financial resources.

Provide Quality Experiences to our customers, visitors, participants, staff and volunteers.

Exchange Information and Foster Collaboration to produce the best possible results.

BOETTCHER MANSION

Events hosted at the Boettcher this quarter:

86 weddings and receptions

21 rehearsals

30 conferences, including four county functions

In July, the Boettcher Mansion served as a backdrop for a 4-day film shoot for Inferno Productions’ upcoming independent release of “The Highwayman.”



“The Highwayman”

Robert Chavoustie, CSU Master Gardener, completed a new garden with flagstone terrace, landscaping and lighting at the Boettcher Mansion.



The Garden at Boettcher Mansion

CSU EXTENSION

Programs delivered during this quarter:

1,555 youth served through Eagles Nest Owls Roost (ENOR), Science Camp, 4-H clubs and Operation Military Kids for young people with active military parents.

Yard and Garden (Horticulture) agents experienced a 30% increase in citizen calls and launched the first ever Building Urban Farmers Program.

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Second Wind Fund 5K and Music Festival

FAIRGROUNDS

Mile High Outdoor Advertising began the re-zoning process for a proposed digital billboard sign at the Fairgrounds.

Events hosted at the Fairgrounds this quarter:

1,510 Event Days

2,586 Recreational Vehicle (RV) reservation days

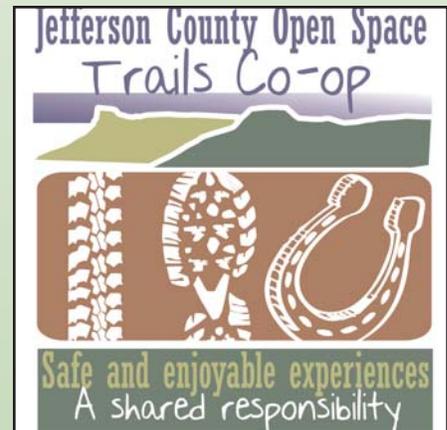
3,500 participants at the Second Wind Fund 5K and Music Festival

Microsoft Corporation Western Show, BBQ and Disco

Two new horse hitching rails at the Fairgrounds Rodeo Arena were installed as an Eagle Scout project and passive solar panels were installed on the RV Restroom facility.

OPEN SPACE

A subcommittee of the Trail Users Forum and former Trail Use Task Force group conducted a series of meetings this past summer to evaluate transitioning this citizen group to become part of the overall Open Space Program. The outcome of this effort was to form a Co-op of volunteers that includes individuals, groups and non-profit organizations, businesses and staff members working together towards a common goal of "safe and enjoyable trail experiences." This new program, called the Jefferson County Open Space Trails Co-op has the potential to engage a wide array of volunteers for the mutual benefit of hikers, runners, equestrians, mountain bikers and park visitors and will target three key roles and categories for recruiting and engaging volunteers. These include assisting as an Education Member, Stewardship Member and an Information Exchange Member to connect visitors, interested groups and Jefferson County Open Space in an information exchange to sustain and enhance life-enriching experiences on Open Space trails.



Trails Co-op

Annual Evergreen Fine Arts Festival was held in Heritage Grove adjacent to Hiwan Homestead Museum and involved 115 booths. Organized by the Evergreen Artists' Association, this year about 5,000 visitors attended the late August event.

Renovation of the Heritage Grove Pavilion has been completed. Several structural supports were failing and needed replacement and split-log siding was added to make the pavilion fit in with the other Hiwan buildings. Zuni Sign repaired and repainted the sign and it is back in place.

In the third quarter, Hiwan Homestead Museum served 11,202 people through education programs, special events, community festivals, classes and exhibits.

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Visitors to the Elk Meadow Park Dog Off-Leash Area celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the "Bark Park," the 6-acre fenced portion of the park located on the south side of Stagecoach Boulevard in Evergreen. Dogs were treated to biscuits, water and complimentary "Wag-n-load" pouches - specially designed bag for pet waste to help maintain a clean and healthy environment. Seventy-five human and at least as many dogs were in attendance.



Elk Meadow Park Dog Off-Leash Area Celebration

Open Space, along with our consultant RRC Associates, has developed the first scientific, random-sample citizen survey, which is being mailed to 10,000 County residents. This quantitative survey will collect opinions from County residents who may or may not be visitors to Open Space Parks, trails or facilities. Once adequate time has been allowed for responses, an online version of the survey will be provided through the Open Space website, allowing everyone an opportunity to participate.

The National Sports Center for the Disabled brought 282 blind climbers to climb on the east side of Clear Creek Canyon's Tunnel #1 this year. This is their third year climbing at our Park by way of a special activity permit.

Five miles of the planned 9-mile Reynolds Park to the South Platte River Trail have been completed.



North Table Mountain Park QR Code

A County Information Technology and Open Space pilot program using Quick Response or QR code smartphone applications was launched for capturing information about North Table Mountain Park.

How to Crack This Code

1. Download a QR code reader for your mobile phone.
2. Now open it and use your phone's camera to read the QR code.

This code is optimized for iPhones and phones with Android operating systems.

Information available by scanning the QR code includes a Park map, Outdoor Insights newsletter featuring North Table Mountain Park, volunteer opportunities and a feedback option through text messaging. Lessons learned will be applied to the second test location, the Lookout Mountain Nature Center.