Community Resources

Historic Resources

For purposes of this document "Historic Resources" encompasses historic, Cultural, Archaeological, and Paleontological Resources and Historic Districts.

The County contains numerous Historic Resources that provide links to the County's history, influence community character, chronicle change, and mark growth. These resources are often fragile, limited, and irreplaceable.

In 2003, the County's Historic Landmark Designation Program was established. This is a voluntary program that identifies historic and architecturally significant structures, buildings, and sites and awards those properties with a Certificate of Landmark Designation. Currently there are 35 Landmark Designated properties in the County.

Jefferson County also contains many significant Archaeological and Paleontological Resources. Dinosaur Ridge is part of the Morrison-Golden Fossil Areas National Natural Landmark. Fewer than 600 National Natural Landmarks are designated in the United States. (See Appendix C IV.d.)

Goals

- Balance development with the preservation and integration of significant Historic Resources.
- Recognize the particular importance of Historic Districts.

Policies

A. Developing with Resources

1. Promote the County's heritage by encouraging New Development to integrate significant Historic Resources into development plans, site designs, and architectural details. (See Appendix C IV.a.&b.) When it is not feasible to integrate the Historic Resource without it being altered beyond its historic significance, the following recommendations are listed in order of preference:
   a) Notify the Jefferson County Historic Commission and other State and local historic preservation agencies for proper care and handling of the Historic Resource.
   b) Provide documentation of the significant Historic Resource before alteration or demolishing the resource.
   c) When possible, relocate the significant Historic Resource on or off of the site.
   d) Integrate the historic context of the on-site resource into the new development, even if the historic significance is altered.
1. If evidence of Historic Resources exist on a site, applicants should do a visual survey of their site and obtain a cultural resource survey from the State, then work with appropriate agencies to assess the findings.
2. Evaluate and mitigate negative impacts of New Development on the area's Historic Resources.
3. Enhance significant Historic Resources with improvements such as landscaping, social gathering places, benches, signage, etc. when practicable.

B. Historic Districts

1. Protect the character of established Historic Districts through site preservation, Adaptive Reuse, or integration of the Historic Resource into the development.
2. Encourage new building architecture and site design to incorporate and complement the unique features of the Historic District.

(Long-Range Planning Issues)

Resources

Historic Resources

Jefferson County has a rich history filled with interesting people and events. Many of the structures and places where notable Jefferson County citizens lived and worked, and where historic events occurred, are still standing as a visual reminder of an earlier time. These resources are important because they help establish the community character. The identification and recognition of these resources are the foundation for their Preservation.

For purposes of this document "Historic Resources" encompasses historic, Cultural, Archaeological, and Paleontological Resources and Historic Districts.

Goal

Preserve, reuse, rehabilitate, or enhance Historic Resources that provide a link to the County's heritage while recognizing their social and economic significance for the County's future.

Policies

A. Land Use

1. Encourage land uses that protect the County's Historic Resources.
2. Promote existing benefits and explore new incentives that would encourage developers to protect and integrate a Historic Resource into the New Development proposal.
3. Encourage acquisition, Preservation, and management of Historic Resources.
4. Develop procedures and standards that will help identify, evaluate, and document, Historic Resources.

B. Documentation

1. Create and maintain an inventory of the County's Historic Resources.
2. Encourage Historic Resources to be designated with monument-style markers.

C. Historic Districts

1. Support the designation of new Historic Districts.

D. Coordination

1. Coordinate Preservation efforts with national, state, and local Preservation agencies, landowners, developers, and the community.
2. Encourage public-private sector joint projects.
3. Partner with non-profit organizations to acquire funding to protect Historic Resources and provide educational opportunities for the public.

4. Support the Jefferson County Historical Commission in determining priorities for protection and education.
5. When updating Area Plans, work with appropriate agencies to create design guidelines for properties that are either in close proximity to or contain resources listed or eligible for listing on the national, state, or local registries, where appropriate.
6. Encourage owners of historic properties to apply for national, state, and/or local Preservation status, which may enable them to receive grants and other financial advantages.

Outreach

Historic

Education about the County's Historic Resources is important because these resources provide a linkage to the County's history, chronicle change and mark growth. They are valued by the County's citizens, tourist, historians, and government and contain great social and economic significance. The destruction of Historic Resources is an irreversible loss, especially since Preservation is beneficial in so many ways.

Goal

Promote education about the County's heritage and the benefits of preserving Historic Resources.

Policies

A. General

1. Use education and incentives in lieu of stringent regulatory control to encourage the Preservation, restoration, and interpretation of the County's Historic Resources.
2. Provide educational information to landowners about financial benefits for the Preservation of a historic Landmark. (See Appendix C IV. c.)
3. A listing of agencies, non-profit organizations, historical societies, history museums, libraries with history collections, and other entities and organization involved in archaeology and/or Historic Preservation should be maintained by the County as an educational resource for owners of Cultural Resources and other interested parties.

Appendix C: Environmental

IV. Historic, Cultural, Archaeological, & Paleontological Resources

a. Historic Preservation Techniques

- Preservation easement
- Landmark Program
- Historic District
- Historic District Design Guidelines
- Section 106, Area of Potential Effect

b. Site Design Techniques to Enhance Compatibility with Cultural/Historic Resources

- Large buffers
- Transition areas
- Architectural context

c. Educational Information

Educational information about benefits of preserving Historic Resources can be found at the Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

d. National Natural Landmark

The National Park Service administers the National Natural Landmarks Program, which recognizes and encourages the conservation of outstanding examples of our country's natural history. It is the only natural areas program of national scope that identifies and recognizes the best examples of biological and geological features in both public and private ownership. National Natural Landmarks (NNLs) are designated by the Secretary of the Interior, with the owner's concurrence. To date, fewer than 600 sites have been designated.

Dinosaur Ridge is part of the Morrison-Golden Fossil Area National Natural Landmark area, designated in 1973. In the late 1800's, the Morrison Fossil Area was the site of the first major discovery of giant dinosaur fossil bones in North America. Fossils from nine species of dinosaur were recovered, seven of which were newly discovered species.

More information is available about the National Natural Landmark program at http://www.nature.nps.gov/nnl/.

e. Supporting Links/Referral Documents

- The Antiquities Act of 1906 – 2006
- The National Historic Preservation Act / National Register
- The National Environmental Policy Act
- The State Antiquities Act
- Historic Monuments Act
- Local Government Land Use Control Enabling Act
- Colorado House Bill 1041 (HB 74-1041)

- Model Land Use Regulations
- Jefferson County Open Space Program
- Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives

f. Archeological Resources:

- Archaeology is the study of material remains of past human life or activities that are at least 100 years of age. Rock shelters, camps, and Artifacts scatter the hogback country from southern Wyoming to northern New Mexico. The Dakota Hogback is rich in evidence of peoples past. Examples of these resources include places of early human occupation, areas where evidence of farming or hunting and gathering is found, burial and other funeral remains, aboriginal Artifacts, and structures dating from Prehistoric periods. The State of Colorado archaeologist has responsibility for Archaeological Resources. The opportunity to excavate archaeological sites is important and ensures a continuing link to information about this area's past inhabitants and geological condition. Please note that Archaeological Resources are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act and therefore are not shown on the Historic Locations map.

g. Paleontological Resources:

- Paleontology is the study of fossils. "Body fossils" are the skeletal remains, shell and impressions of organisms which indicate where they died or were buried. "Trace fossils" are tracts, trails and traces of organism activity.
- Dinosaur Ridge is Jefferson County's most famous dinosaur fossil localities. Bone fossils representing life 150 million years ago in the Late Jurassic Epoch can be found on the Morrison Formation (west side of the Dakota Hogback), which crosses a large part of the Rocky Mountain region. Track fossils representing life 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period can be found on the east side of the Dinosaur Ridge/Dakota Hogback. These extensive track bearing beds can be traced along the entire Colorado Front Range and reveal the shoreline sediments of an ancient seaway that might have been a dinosaur migration route ("Dinosaur Freeway").
- Please note that Paleontological Resources are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act and therefore are not shown on the Historic Locations map.

h. Geological Resources

- The Front Range and the Hogback are major geological features that reveal Earth's changing landscape dating back over one-and-a-half billion years. The Hogback is composed of various kinds of sedimentary rock formed when materials (sediments) such as sand or mud were deposited in layers at the bottom of lakes, seas, or other low lying areas.
- The dynamic surface of the Earth caused movement and pressures that fractured and displaced these rock layers – uplifting them to the west so that they now tilt or dip to the east (tectonic activity during the Laramide orogeny, 72-40 million years ago). Wind and water then eroded the soft layers, leaving the harder layers in the sharp relief of a ridge known as the Hogback.

i. Local museums

- Dinosaur Ridge (Dinosaur Tracks), www.dinoridge.org
- Morrison Natural History Museum, http://www.mnhm.org/
- Littleton Historical Museum, www.littletongov.org/museum
- Hiwan Homestead Museum in Evergreen (repository of Jefferson County's historical documents), http://jeffco.us/openspace/openspace_T56_R10.htm.
- Humphrey Memorial Park and Museum, www.hmpm.org
- Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave, www.buffalobill.org
- Boettcher Mansion, jeffco.us/boettcher
- Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, www.mines.edu/Geology_Museum

- Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, www.rmqm.org
- Golden History Center, www.goldenhistory.org
- Astor House Museum, www.goldenhistory.org
- Clear Creek History Park, www.goldenhistory.org

j. Local historical societies

- Arvada Historical Society, arvadahistory.org
- Friends of Dinosaur Ridge, www.dinoridge.org
- Jefferson County Historical Society (JCHS), www.jchscolorado.org
- Ken-Caryl Ranch Historical Society, www.ken-carylranch.org
- Lakewood Historical Society, lakewoodhistory.org
- Westminster Historical Society
- Wheat Ridge Historical Society, www.wheatridgehistoricalsociety.org