

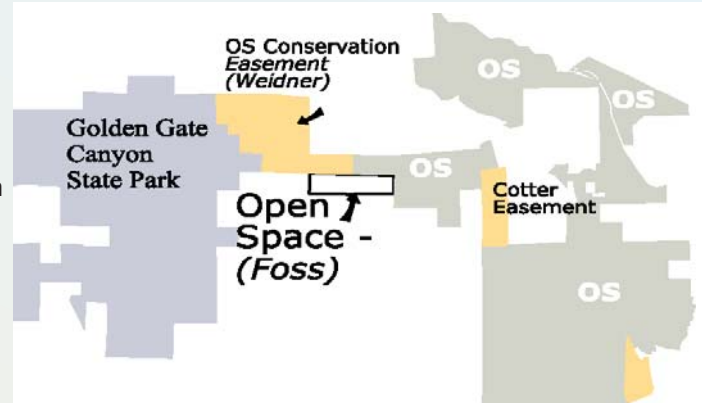
Open Space Division · Management Report

Jan.-March
2007

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Priority Land Acquisition

- Approximately 58 acres were acquired contiguous to Flying J Ranch Park from Charles Tracey, Jr. at a cost of \$750,000. The acquisition allows for park expansion and future trail opportunities.
- Located east of Golden Gate Canyon State Park and northwest of White Ranch Park, Open Space acquired approximately 137 acres from Patrick Foss for natural resource values and scenic preservation. The property also preserves a portion of the Ralston Creek corridor, a Natural Heritage Inventory site. The cost of the acquisition was \$1,260,877.
- A license was granted to the Denver Water Board for access through a portion of Reynolds Park to the adjacent Water Board property for timber management. The temporary Easement was granted at no cost to the Water Board.
- The City of Lakewood was granted a subordination of reversionary interest on approximately one acre at Hayden/Green Mountain Park. This action would allow the City of Lakewood to maintain and improve water service to customers in the Green Mountain area. The County received \$4,810.12 for this Easement and subordination.



Lastest O. S. acquisition, purchased from Patrick Foss, solidifies many goals.

Quality Visitor Experiences



- The Open Space Rules and Regulations were revised and updated to bring fine assessments in alignment with similar land management agencies and to clarify process as part of County Policy.
- Annual Visitor Experience Surveys are being prepared for Apex, Crown Hill, Mount Falcon, Van Bibber Parks and the Lookout Mountain Nature Preserve. These surveys will be conducted largely by Volunteer Park Hosts between May 1 - September 30, 2007.
- 2006 survey results from Flying J Ranch, Pine Valley Ranch, Reynolds and South Valley Parks were presented to the Open Space Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on March 1, 2007. Results indicated that all four parks showed a slightly higher percentage of female visitors than male visitors and approximately one third of all visitors to these parks noted Jefferson County as their residence.
- Visitors to Open Space Parks will be able to learn about trail construction, trailhead development and special projects through postings of a Parks Project Update on the kiosks.

Environmental & Cultural Education

- Hiwan Homestead Museum hosted the annual Jefferson County Historical Society Wassail Party to usher in 2007. Approximately 60 attendees enjoyed a Scottish New Year celebration (Hogmanay) complete with haggis, a bagpiper and several knobby-kneed men in kilts!

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Environmental & Cultural Education *(continued)*

- The Museum expanded its community connections by hosting the January Evergreen Area Chamber of Commerce mixer and a kickoff session for Leadership Evergreen.
- Museum Program Coordinator Meghan McGinnes and her dedicated behind-the-scenes volunteers installed a beautiful exhibit of the Asian dolls from the Julia Douglas doll collection on January 18.
- Special events of note in the first quarter include the Valentine's Day Tea, a sold-out success including a talented 11-year-old harpist. March was distinctive for the number of outreach programs presented by the staff, including sessions for Northeast Elementary School in Parker and the DAR chapter in Franktown. During the first quarter, Hiwan served an estimated 2,500 people through tours, special events, education in spite of five snow closure days.



The Asian Doll Exhibit at the Hiwan Homestead Museum.



Facility upgrades take place at the Lookout Mountain Nature Center.

- Lookout Mountain Nature Center attendance was also impacted by snow with 4,889 served through Nature Center visits and group and public programs, down about 16% through this period last year.
- Some facility improvements have occurred thanks to the work of our Building Maintenance and Construction crew. New low-level parking lot lights, the new kiosk and new log benches built from logs from thinning projects at the Nature Center and other parks have been installed. Building Maintenance & Construction also built new donor gift shelving from beetlekill wood and a "nest" for the discovery room.

Natural Resource Management & Conservation

- Welchester Tree Grant Park is undergoing a significant drainage improvement project constructed by the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District and Jefferson County Highways & Transportation Division. Neighbors to the park were alerted to the activity and given information about the project through mailing of approximately 1,000 Neighborhood Update newsletters.

Regional Trail System Contiguity

- Public presentations were conducted for the Clear Creek Canyon/Grant Terry Bridge project scheduled for implementation in 2007. In 2005, Open Space, with Wenk Associates, completed a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a multi-purpose trail through Clear Creek Canyon from Golden to the Clear Creek County line. The 12.5 miles of trails identified in the feasibility study have been divided into eight segments to help determine priorities and potential phasing opportunities. The first segment of development in Clear Creek Canyon Park runs from the mouth of the canyon, west of the US Highway 6

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Regional Trail System Contiguity (*continued*)

and State Highway 93 intersection to Tunnel One. Several elements are involved, the first being a connection from the City of Golden's natural surface trail on the north side of Clear Creek to the Open Space property on the south side of Clear Creek. The placement of the bridge for trail users across Clear Creek will provide public access to an area known as Grant Terry Park.



Wheat Ridge's Creekside Park receives Joint Venture Funds.

Funding Partnerships

- A total of \$2 million in Joint Venture Grants were awarded by the Board of County Commissioners involving five municipalities and seven recreation districts to provide recreational capital improvements for the citizens of Jefferson County.
- \$150,000 in Conservation Trust Fund grants were awarded by the BCC to nine entities to help fund outdoor recreation improvements and amenities.

Trail Development, Maintenance & Improvement

- The summer Youth Work Program received over 175 applications from Jeffco residents ages 14-18. Thirty-six are returning applicants from 2006. Eighty positions will be selected by lottery on April 11.

Denver/Jeffco Management Plan Implementation

- Open Space is anticipating a July meeting date with Denver to stimulate the management partnership for mountain parks and Open Space.



It's that time of year again; Jefferson County Open Space revs up for the Youth Work Program.