

Open Space Division • Management Report

Oct. - Dec.
2008

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Priority Land Acquisition

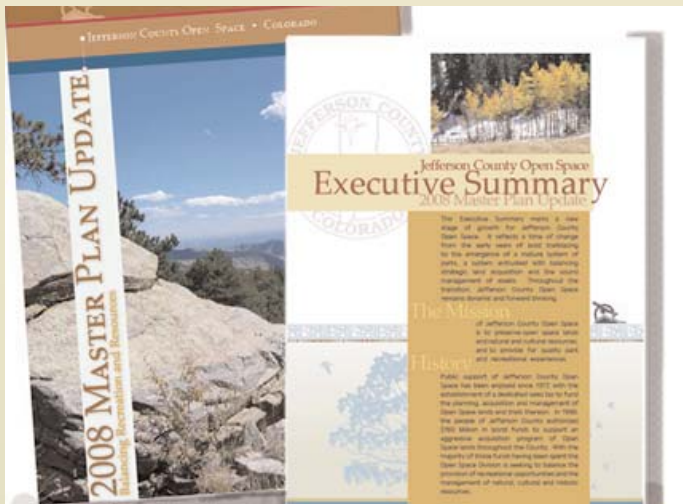
- Open Space acquired 7 acres of the Lewis property located west of the Evergreen Parkway at Bergen Peak Drive. Contiguous to Elk Meadow Park, the property was acquired for protection of scenic and natural values such as wetlands and mature ponderosa pine stands and would provide a buffer between the Park and nearby development.
- The County completed all the necessary trail agreements to complete the construction of the trail through Cub Creek Ranch subdivision in the Evergreen area.
- The County completed the acquisition of approximately 59 acres located south of Highway 285 and west of Meyer Ranch Park from the Norm Meyer family. This property was acquired for scenic preservation, trail purposes and expansion of the Park.



Newly acquired land west of Meyer Ranch on U.S. Highway 285.

Leadership

- The Jefferson County Open Space 2008 Master Plan Update has been completed and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners. Changes from the 2003 Update include a revised Mission Statement and six goal statements. The Mission of Jefferson County Open Space is to preserve open space lands and natural and cultural resources, and to provide for quality park and recreational experiences. Goals, and their associated objectives, have been organized into the following categories: Acquisition, Land Management, Recreation, Education, Partnerships and Sustainability.



The tradition of responsible and effective planning continues with the latest Master Plan Update.

Quality Visitor Experiences

- In 2008 Open Space issued 281 Special Activity Permits for our Parks. By placing the Special Activity Permit application on the web site, Open Space has been able to improve customer service and provide information more quickly to Park users.

- Sixty-six permits were issued for shelter reservations at Pine Valley Ranch Park. These permits were for picnics, family reunions, weddings, club meetings, church services and fund raising events. Open Space has experienced an increase in permit requests for commercial activities, non-profit events, research projects and student films.

Environmental & Cultural Education

- Lookout Mountain Nature Center reached about 8,000 people through nature visits and group and public programs in the fourth quarter. Overall, over 45,000 people were served in 2008 with programs and visitor services.

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Environmental & Cultural Education *(continued)*

- "Halloween Trail--The Mystery of the Missing Pine Cones" was well attended with the two-evening attendance reaching 500 people at the Nature Center and Preserve.
- "Nature's Gifts," a Nature Center holiday program for youngsters up to 8 years old, was successful with a total of 250 attending during the three-day offering.
- Hiwan Homestead Museum was decked out in scary fashion for the Halloween Celebration. Halloween crafts, non-scary stories for the younger children, treats and a showing of the old horror film classic Bride of Frankenstein provided entertainment for all.



Halloween was extra mysterious this year at the Nature Center.

- The Evergreen Holiday Walk on December 5th was a BIG success, with 200 people enjoying the holiday nutcracker decorations at Hiwan Homestead Museum, with chestnuts roasting on an open fire, hot cider, popcorn and performances by the Rocky Mountain Academy and Kinetic Arts Studio musicians and dancers.
- The Hiwan Christmas Tea was sold-out on December 8th. Danielle Heller, Director of the Peak Academy of Dance, gave an interesting presentation on the various versions of The Nutcracker, in tune with the museum's nutcracker decorations.
- The very popular Native American beadwork exhibit, "Brilliant Beads," ran through the end of November. It included beadwork from the Jefferson County Historical Society collection, as well as items from the Buffalo Bill Museum, the Humphrey Memorial Museum and from Al Huffman's personal collection.
- The number of people served by the Hiwan Homestead Museum in 2008 through its various programs, events and outreach activities totaled 16,500.



Open Space staff help update tree inventory data.

Natural Resource Management & Conservation

- Prescribed burning was applied to approximately 33 acres of White Ranch Park. December snowfall allowed for pile burns of slash debris to occur. Natural Resource crews also conducted mistletoe removal.
- Mount Falcon Park was the site of reclamation for forest management activities on skid roads and disturbed areas. Pile burning of forest debris continues throughout the winter.
- Approximately 197 acres of Alderfer/Three Sisters Park has been marked for forest management activities. This includes 93 acres of shaded fuel breaks that will help protect the Park, Evergreen Heights and Evergreen Park Estates subdivisions from wildfire. Work is planned to begin in Spring 2009. Demolition of the Fox Perry cabin on the eastern portion of the Park has been completed.
- Second entry mistletoe removal and tree thinning has taken place in the dog off-leash area at Elk Meadow Park.

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Funding Partnerships

- Jefferson County Open Space submitted a grant application to the Colorado State Trails program for \$300,000 in funds to construct approximately seven miles of natural surface trail from Reynolds Park to the South Platte River. The multiple-use trail will be constructed on Denver Water Board property through a trail agreement. Grant award notification is anticipated in April 2009.

Trail Development, Maintenance & Improvement

Hildebrand Ranch Park

County Road and Bridge have mobilized at Hildebrand Ranch Park to begin the entry drive, parking area and concrete box culvert. A second contractor will install a Bio-Aquifer Storm System that incorporates concrete pavers where vehicle traffic occurs, creating a storm water storage and bio-treatment volume in the aggregate beneath the pavement. With technical support from Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, this system design eliminates the need for large on-site detention ponds. The area is closed to the public during construction. Open Space crews will then complete the project with signage and fencing.



Breaking ground for the entry road leading into Hildebrand Ranch Park.

North Table Mountain Park

Design is underway for a parking lot, trailhead and entry road at North Table Mountain Park with access from Highway 93. The 40-car parking lot will have a separate equestrian lot. The design is being done by Parsons Brinckerhoff, Highways & Transportation, Planning & Development, as well as assistance from a senior engineering class at the University of Colorado Denver. Construction is scheduled for completion by County Road and Bridge in 2009 with the restroom and other trailhead improvements scheduled for 2010.

Centennial Cone Park

Open Space Building Maintenance and Construction crews are completing construction of vault restrooms at the north and west trailheads of Centennial Cone Park. In cooperation with the Golden Gate Fire District, a 15,000-gallon fire cistern near the west entrance was installed with the assistance of County Road and Bridge.

Lair o' the Bear Park

As a venue for environmental education programming, the outdoor classroom structure at Lair o' the Bear has been completed. The structure was designed and built by Open Space staff.



Working together to make Lookout Mountain Trail more accessible.

Counties in Partnership

- Denver Mountain Parks and Jefferson County Open Space have worked together to develop a collaborative project at Denver's Colorow Point Park trailhead to facilitate public access to Lookout Mountain Trail. County Highways and Transportation engineers and Road and Bridge crews assisted in completing a paved, controlled parking area along the County-managed road.