



**Open Space Advisory Committee
Directors Report
November 2, 2023**

1. Advisory Committee - Plans for December and the coming year

December 7, 5:00-6:00, Study Session, Buffalo Rose State Room.

December 7, 6:00-7:30, End of Year Celebration, Buffalo Rose, State Room.

Mark your calendars: In 2024, we plan to continue hosting Regular Session Meetings on the first Thursday of odd number months and Study Sessions/Field Trips on the first Thursday of even number months.

2. Committee membership

John Litz is now a lifetime Emeritus Member. Karin Rueff and Cindy Baroway are our newly appointed members. Their bios and photos can be found on the Advisory Committee webpage:

<https://www.jeffco.us/1581/Advisory-Committee>.

3. Evergreen Lake North Trail Ribbon Cutting

On Oct. 24, Evergreen Parks and Recreation District hosted the Evergreen Lake North Trail Ribbon Cutting and Community Night. The Evergreen Lake North Trail improvement is a seven-year, multiple-agency collaboration. The project has been funded primarily by grants and contributions that included \$1,000,000 from the Trails Partnership Grant Program from Jefferson County Open Space.

4. Great Outdoors Colorado Site Visit

Five JCOS staff hosted three GOCO board members and five GOCO staff for a grant site visit to the Central Canyon section of the Peaks to Plains trail. The tour included the segment of trail currently under construction and viewing the area where the next segment will be constructed.

5. OSWFT Training

The Open Space Wildland Fire Team (OSWFT) had the opportunity to attend a prescribed burn at Bear Creek Lake Park. This was hosted by Lakewood and West Metro Fire with 13 agencies participating to get hands-on, live fire training. The fire burned 58 acres over two days. During this two-day training, OSWFT was able to bring out nine members of the team to experience this live fire exercise. They gained valuable hands-on experience in firing operations, ignition, suppression, holding, mop-up, and structure triage.

6. Narrow Gauge Slabs Rock Work

Eight volunteers helped move a little over a ton of Pikes Peak granite on Saturday, October 7 at the Narrow-Gauge Slabs at Pine Valley Ranch Park. This rock will be used in the construction of retaining walls at the base area of the new Narrow Gauge Slabs crag.

7. Tiers of Zion Climbing Improvements

The Boulder Climbing Community is halfway through an improvement project for the Lower Tiers of Zion climbing area at Windy Saddle Park, and the base area below the lower section is looking stout! The Boulder Climbing Community has been quarrying and shaping TONS of rock from lower down on the hillside, rigging it in place, and then using a grip hoist to highline them to the base area.

8. Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) Conference

October 2-4 the Viewline Resort at Snowmass hosted the 2023 COSA conference. Sessions and field trips covered a wide range of topics, offering opportunities for collaboration, partnerships, and sharing ideas.

The Natural Resources Team was awarded the Blue Grama Award for “Outstanding achievement in ecosystem resilience” for the RESTORE grant project, which involved the treatment of over 4,300 acres across seven open space parks and involved multiple agencies.

The JCOS Team presented the following sessions:

- Out for Safe Spaces: Matt Martinez of JCOS and Jefferson County Communities that Care.
- Scaling up herpetological sampling with artificial cover objects, Tools and Techniques for Effective Data Collection and Analysis: Andrew DuBois, Lauren Hendricks, Chris White, and Steve Germaine.
- Lasting Partnerships, Lasting Impact. Keys to Collaboration in Public Lands Stewardship: Rachel Brenna.
- Motivating Behavioral Change: Creating a Lasting Impact Through Ranger Contacts: Ranger Kevin Blackwell.

The Rocky Mountain Ranger Association (RMRA) presented a Distinguished Service Award to JCOS Park Ranger KJ Glover for her extraordinary work training Park Rangers in Columbia.

9. National Public Lands Day 2023

On Sept. 23, 388 volunteers came out to 14 project sites throughout Jefferson County in honor of National Public Lands Day. In partnership with the City of Arvada and Wheat Ridge, JCOS was able to lead participants in an effort that resulted in over 3,000 pounds of trash collected, over 400 pounds of glass and aluminum recycled, 8 acres of noxious weeds removed, 250 native plants planted, and 2,000 square feet of graffiti eliminated!

10. Alderfer/Three Sisters Forestry Work

Over 55 acres have been finished, and an additional 15 acres are nearly completed. All of the prep work for the approximately 25 acres of handwork is complete, and cutting on that unit should be finished in the next few weeks.

11. Director’s Forum for Volunteers

On October 24, Tom Hoby gave a presentation to Jeffco Open Space Volunteers to thank them and update them on current projects and initiatives.

12. Conservation Awards

The annual Conservation Awards will be held on January 31, 6:00-7:30 p.m. in Lakewood. Advisory Committee members will receive an invitation.