



OSC 2006 Annual Report

Beaver Brook Watershed: Hogan Darrow Design Partners were hired to develop the Management Plan for Beaver Brook Watershed. HDDP, along with a Planning Team consisting of Open Space Commission members, Friends of Beaver Brook Watershed, Lookout Mountain Water District, US Forest Service and community members at large, completed the Plan. During the planning process, two public meetings were held at Clear Creek High School.

The Plan was officially adopted by the Open Space Commission and the Board of County Commissioners. A Special Use Policy and Permit Application for Beaver Brook Watershed was developed, approved by the BOCC, and is in place. A baseline report documenting the current condition of BBW is currently being developed.

A kiosk for displaying signs and information was erected at the Squaw Pass entrance and parking signs were placed at the Pat Creek entrance. Several unsightly culverts in the Watershed have been removed.

A Weed Management Grant of \$5000 for one year was obtained by a partnership between Open Space and Friends of Beaver Brook Watershed to help contain and/or eradicate Musk Thistle, Canada Thistle, Leafy Spurge and Yellow Toadflax and to build a data base of these weeds. There were two public weed days using volunteers to pull and clip weeds and Foothills Vegetation Management was hired to spray the more dense infestations of weeds in the Watershed. Because of the early drought this summer and the delayed growth of the weeds, we have received an extension of the grant until August 2007.

The Clear Creek County Sheriff's office has been hired for security in the property; this has been effective and there have been fewer problems since the patrols began. Friends of Beaver Brook Watershed have created a volunteer ranger program and training of these volunteers has been held. Volunteers patrol the Watershed on weekends.

Open Space is currently working with GOCO to lobby the US Congress to finalize the US Forest Service's purchase of the Watershed.

Coordinator: The full time position of Coordinator was created and the position filled. It is the long-term goal of the Commission that this position will evolve into a director capacity.

Greenway Plan: The final payment of \$24,000 out of \$60,000 from GOCO has been received. The Greenway Plan was presented to the BOCC and was approved. SOLVE has made a pledge of \$500 towards the Greenway. Open Space is currently working on obtaining property and easements along the path of the Greenway.

Whitewater Project: CDOT has approved a \$320,000 Enhancement Grant for construction of the Whitewater Park which includes in-creek structures, creekside terraces, a parking lot, and a changing area. Construction is planned for spring 2007.

Elmgreen Homestead Property: The Management Plan for the Elmgreen property has been prepared. The State Parks Trail grant for this property has been closed out as final determination of a trail was dependent on identification of access. Open Space is still seeking ways to obtain public access to the property.

Noxious Weeds: Open Space members are on the County team and have been attending meetings for the State mandated eradication of Chinese Clematis.

Ballot Initiative: The Trust for Public Land was hired to perform a survey to see if the County residents would be likely to vote for an increase of the mil levy for Open Space funding. After the survey indicated a likely passage of the initiative, it was decided to put the issue to the voters. A volunteer/community, Friends of Open Space, was formed to accept campaign funds and organize the campaign. Yard signs were created and placed around the county, ads were placed in the newspapers, leaflets distributed and community groups were contacted. In spite of our efforts, the 1A ballot initiative to increase funding was defeated.

Geneva Creek Iron Fens: During a work session held at the Iron Fens, it was discovered that the road blocks created by felling trees had been cleared and the Open Space signs had been vandalized and/or taken down. Again, vehicles have been driving in the wetlands doing damage to the fens. The Commission is in the process of working with the Mile High Jeep Club, which is considering both funds to help preserve the fens and volunteers to help patrol the area to keep motorized vehicles from entering the fens.

Miscellaneous:

Open Space Commission members created and manned a booth at Earth Day at the Evergreen Lake House this year where we showcased the Clear Creek County Greenway.

Evergreen Audubon donated funds to establish a bench in Beaver Brook Watershed to honor Ted Swem, a long time employee of the US Department of Interior. The bench has been placed in the Watershed by Commission members.

Clear Creek and the Greenway have been adopted by Trout Unlimited as projects for fund raising.

Several patented mining claims throughout the County have been acquired or are in the process of acquisition by Open Space, both by donation and purchase.

A GOCO grant has been received to help CCCOS and the City of Georgetown to purchase a property in Georgetown that is a key parcel for the Greenway project.

Clear Creek County Open Space is currently working on a Resolution and Regulations for Use and a Special Use Authorization process for all Open Space lands.

The Arrastra grant has been closed out.

Approved by Clear Creek County Open Space Commission

Frank R. Young, Chairman