



CLEAR CREEK COUNTY OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

Clear Creek Open Space Commission (2019)

Frank Young, Co- Chair

Jackie Daoust, Co-Chair

Matt Lepkowski, Secretary

Robert Judge, Treasurer

Martha Tableman, Open Space Coordinator

Members: Smoky Anderson, Mark Cucinella, Robert Graham, Patti Hestekin,

Kristin Manwarren, Peter Monson, Alan Roman



INTRODUCTION

Annually, the Clear Creek County Open Space Commission (OSC) presents a report of its activities during the previous year. Having been in existence since 2000, the OSC has seen an increase in the amount of acreage under its management. It is now responsible for managing 5,176 acres.¹ Over the years, the OSC has undertaken a number of large construction projects to enable the citizens of Clear Creek County and others to more easily access Open Space lands and resources. These projects include the Floyd Hill Open Space Trail System, Lawson White Water Park, the Philadelphia Mill Site Fishing Area, and a portion of the Clear Creek Greenway in Clear Creek Canyon.² This report provides some background to the larger projects and an update on new acquisitions that have occurred in 2018 and 2019.

The mission of the Clear Creek County Open Space Commission is *to preserve and maintain the County's unique character and natural environment by protecting our streams, woodlands, meadows, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, prominent vistas, geologic features, and cultural resources to enhance the quality of life for residents and the enjoyment of the outdoors for both residents and visitors.*

The Clear Creek County Open Space Program is funded by the Open Space Trust Fund. It was established in 1999 by a vote of the Clear Creek County voters; it authorizes one mil tax to be collected and placed in the Open Space Trust Fund. Initially, distribution of the funds was allocated 75% land acquisition and 25% management. In 2010, the voters changed the allocation to 60% land acquisition and 40% management. Management includes any activity not associated with the purchase of land. Planning efforts, facility construction, and maintenance are paid for from the Management category. In addition to the Open Space Trust Fund, the Open Space Program has successfully received grants from organizations such as Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife (CPW), Colorado History, Denver Regional Council of Government, and Gates Family Foundation.

Since its inception, the OSC has bought or received by donation about 2,230 acres. In addition, the BOCC has given the OSC management authority for 3,229 acres of former Bureau of Land Management lands, often called "County Lands". The OSC currently oversees 5,176 acres. See

¹ The acreage managed by OSC is less than the two values combined because 904 acres of Beaver Brook Watershed were sold to the US Forest Service as that was the goal when the land was purchased in 2005.

² The Clear Creek Greenway is the portion of the Peaks to Plains Trail which goes from the confluence of Clear Creek and the Platte River that traverses Clear Creek County.



spreadsheet at end of report - Clear Creek County Open Space Properties (2019) for a listing of the properties.

MANAGEMENT

Open Space managed properties can be found throughout the County. (Maps showing their location are available on the County's web site. The link www.openspace.us will take you directly to the web page.) They vary in size, terrain, accessibility, and intensity of use. Management activities include developing management plans, actual construction of trails and other facilities, and day-to-day maintenance (e.g. weeds, erosion control, trash collection, cleaning, and painting of fences, buildings, etc.). In addition, the OSC spends time on efforts that relate to the "workings" of the Open Space Program which include submitting grant applications for funds, the management of grants and contracts received, and participation in County and State efforts that relate to open space.

Following is a summary of management activities undertaken in 2018-2019. Many of them are a continuation of activities begun in 2016 and 2017:

- **Peaks to Plains Trail- Clear Creek Greenway Canyon Phase 1 Starburst Award Winner**– In 2018, the first phase of the Trail in the Canyon received the Starburst Award from the Colorado Lottery. Starburst Awards recognize excellence in the use of Lottery funds for community and conservation projects. Winners are chosen based on the creativity of the project, economic and social impact on the community, and whether the project achieved its goal. Since 1992, the Starburst awards have highlighted creative work in Colorado that has a high economic and social impact from rural to urban and from plains to peaks.

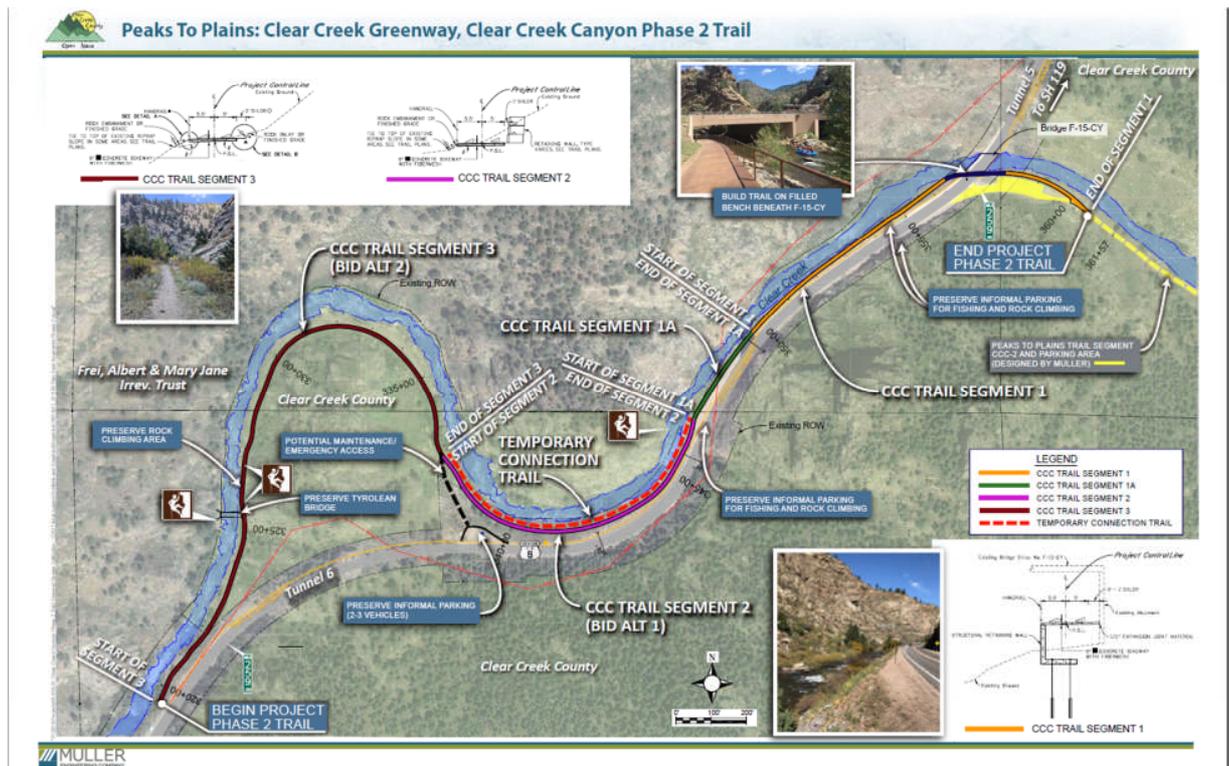
The Project area recognized is a collaborative effort between Clear Creek and Jefferson Counties, as well as the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), on a 4-mile segment of the Peaks to Plains Trail that straddles both counties in Clear Creek Canyon. Three miles of this segment opened to the public on July 28, 2016 after more than three years of challenging design, permitting and construction. The Project would not have been possible without a \$4.6 million grant from Great Outdoors Colorado, funded by the Colorado Lottery, which was awarded in 2012 as part of the River Corridors Initiative.



Receiving the Starburst Award

- **Peaks to Plains Trail- Clear Creek Greenway Canyon Phase 2**– Phase 2 will build the next segment of the Greenway – from the Tunnel 5 Oxbow Trailhead Parking Lot under the US 6 bridge and upstream to and around Tunnel 6. Over the past two years, the focus has been on developing and then refining the design in response to issues raised by CDOT as they reviewed near final plans. When the plans were finalized, the Project received clearance from CDOT to advertise. To ensure that the contractor selected has experience building trails in a tight canyon environment, a prequalification process was developed and approved by CDOT and FHWA. Contractors have to prequalify to submit bids which are awarded based on the lowest bid. The process required contractors to provide information detailing their previous experience in building similar recreational trails, identify personnel with previous experience and their involvement on this project, and demonstrate familiarity with CDOT, various types of retaining walls, and micro-piles. We developed a “new” process, and when we received and reviewed the submittals, we encountered problems. The process was too rigid as it required the contractor to pass on all 5 requirements.

Since none of the contractors were able to pass all five requirements, the prequalification request was re-issued with revised requirements and clearer directions. On the second round, we prequalified 2 contractors out of 4 submissions. The two contractors then submitted bids. Unfortunately, the bids came in higher than the available funding. CDOT and FHWA required the Project scope to be revised to reflect what can be built with available funding and re-advertise. The two contractors



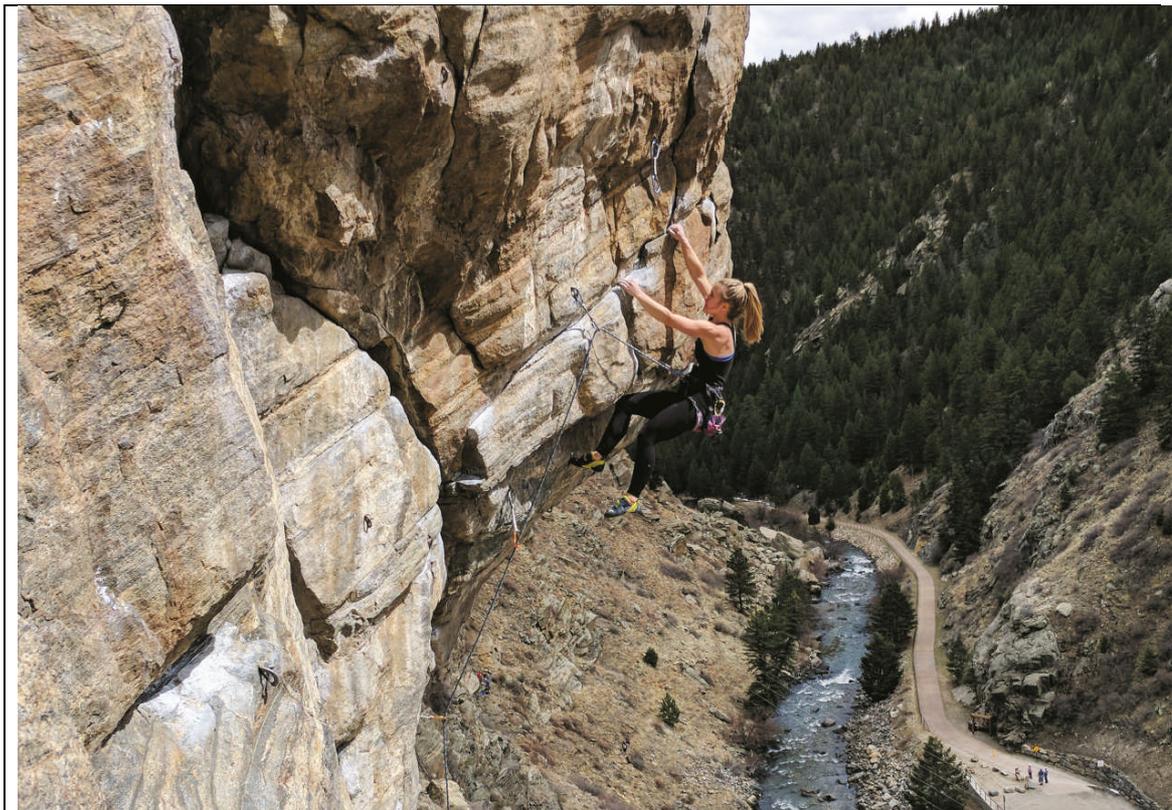
previously prequalified would not have to prequalify again. Muller Engineering is revising the plan set. Upon completion, the Project will be re-advertised. It is anticipated that with available funds about ¼ mile will be built.

Once the Project has been awarded, staff will continue fundraising efforts. While the second submittal round was underway, Denver DRCOG issued a call for grant applications for MMOF funding. The County submitted a grant application and was awarded \$500,000 towards the P2P Trail Phase 2 Project.



With receipt of the DRCOG Grant, available funds for the construction phase of the Project are as follows:

- \$ 250,000 from CPW Trails Program
- \$ 500,000 from Colorado the Beautiful Grant
- \$ 480,000 from CDOT
- \$ 500,000 from DRCOG
- \$ 120,000 from Clear Creek County Conservation Trust Fund
- \$2,000,000 from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)
- \$ 30,000 from Al Frei and Sons (in-kind road materials)
- **Total \$3,880,000** plus \$12,500 in Administrative time from Clear Creek County Open Space staff



Climber Above Oxbow Trailhead P2P Trail- Clear Creek Greenway



- **Hidden Valley Open Space Park Plan** – With the acquisition of the Saw Mill Gulch parcel, the Open Space Commission now manages all of the land along the Peaks to Plains Trail - Clear Creek Greenway between the Game Check Station Trailhead and Two Bears (formerly Kermits) where what is locally known as the Scott Lancaster Trail ends at the intersection of US6 and I70. OSC thought it made sense to consider management of these parcels as a unit and thus have designated it as Hidden Valley Open Space Park.

While the OSC manages lands on both sides of I70, most of the land which is available for recreation is along the south side of Clear Creek and goes from Clear Creek up to the ridge and beyond. The key element in the Park is the Greenway Trail that follows Clear Creek on the south side which is the opposite side from I70. As the western anchor of the Park, the Game Check Station Trailhead to the west provides parking, Creek access and restroom facilities. The Trail follows County Road 314 east to the Hidden Valley interchange and then continues to its eastern end just beyond the Floyd Hill bridges by the I70 exit ramp to US6. Along the existing Greenway Trail, there are several very small meadows and many Creek access points used by fishermen.

Wanting to get some expert guidance on how the area can be managed, OSC hired ERO to develop a conceptual plan. The draft plan was completed in December 2019 and will be reviewed and approved in early 2020. Given the physical constraints, the plan proposes that the Greenway Trail follow its existing alignment. It does need to be brought up to "Greenway" standard. It proposes three loop trails starting in the Saw Mill Gulch parcel that provide a path to get up on the ridge. Otherwise, the small meadows are accessible and there are many Creek access points for fishing. Parking at the east end as well as at the Hidden Valley interchange needs to be addressed. Possible options will depend on what alternative CDOT chooses for rebuilding the Floyd Hill Bridges.



Hidden Valley Open Space Park

Recreation Concept Development

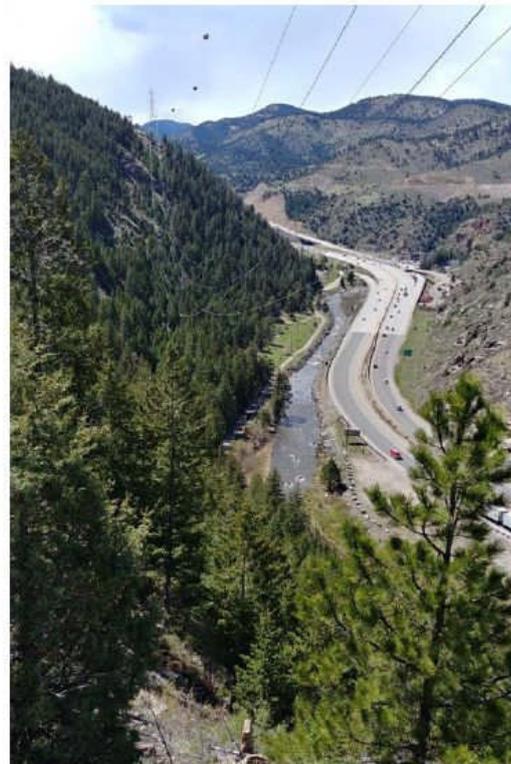
Clear Creek County, Colorado

Background and Setting

Located along the Clear Creek Canyon between Floyd Hill and Idaho Springs, the Hidden Valley Open Space Park consists of about 464 acres of land that is owned and managed by Clear Creek County Open Space.

The land included in this park is located on both sides of I-70. The steep forested slopes and rocky canyon walls define the area and provide a scenic backdrop for the highway. The land to the north of I-70 is inaccessible and is too steep for recreation. South of Clear Creek, a regional electric transmission line is overhead and a portion of the Peaks to Plains Trail – Clear Creek Greenway runs alongside Clear Creek. While the busy I-70 corridor is a dominating feature in the area, a more natural setting can be found on the south side along the Clear Creek riparian corridor, within quiet side canyons and along the upper ridgelines.

This recreation concept identifies opportunities to improve, manage, and protect the amenities in this corridor. These amenities include the regional Peaks to Plains Trail – Clear Creek Greenway, Clear Creek access points, and existing/potential hiking trails within and above Sawmill Gulch.

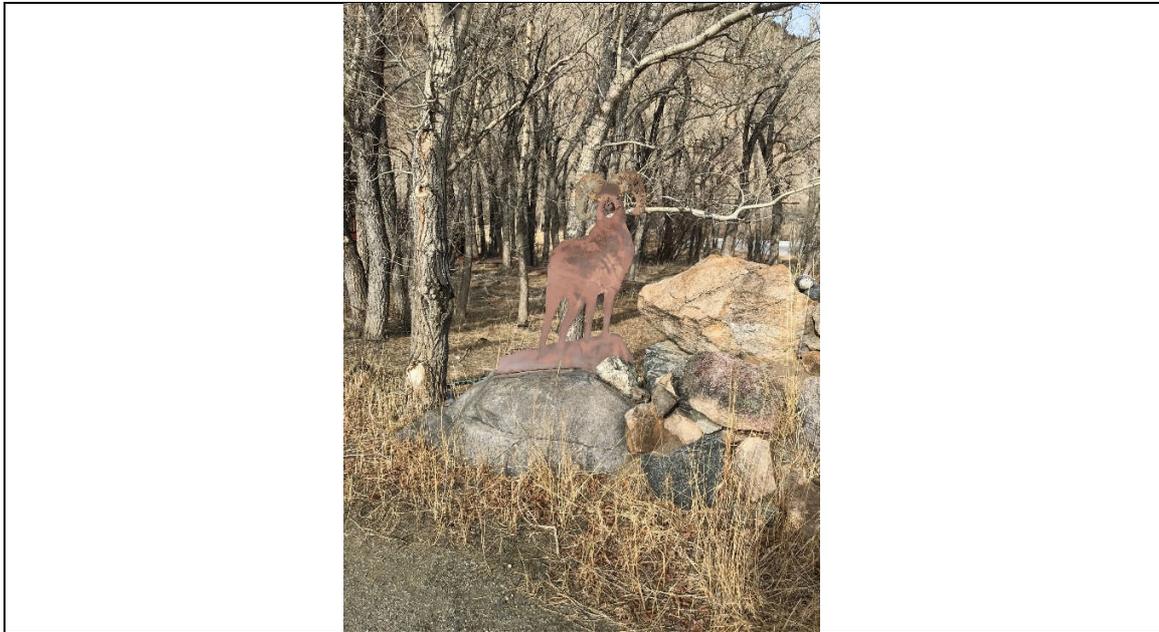


View from upper ridgeline, looking west

The following map illustrates the Hidden Valley Open Space Park Concept Plan.



- **Alvarado Open Space Park (aka Shadows Ranch)** – Over the past two years, OSC has been working towards the goal of opening the Park to the public. Efforts have been undertaken to remove hazards. In 2018, a local contractor was hired to remove an old shed, take out an unsafe log bridge, and remove fencing from what were wolf enclosures. In 2019, OSC also worked with the Clear Creek Fire Authority to have the large front building burned down as a training opportunity for the fire crews. As part of the preparations for the burn, commercial cooking appliances were sold, various organizations took any of the furnishings which could be used. Mid-summer they were able to do interior training exercises but dry, hot conditions did not allow them to burn the entire building. The training exercise to burn the entire building was done in January 2020.



Sheep Statue at Alvarado Open Space Park

Alvarado Open Space Recreational Pond- At Alvarado Open Space Park, a small pond is located east of the buildings and between Clear Creek and Alvarado Road. About two years ago, it was learned that the pond was not a legal water diversion. The State Water Commissioner notified the County and asked that a headgate valve be installed to ensure that water would run into the pond only when it was available. As the management of water and associated resources is very complicated, in 2018 and 2019, OSC worked with the County's Water Resources staff to complete the following:

- Inclusion of the pond in Clear Creek County's Basin-wide Water Augmentation Plan;
- Commitment to provide, on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis, Water Bank augmentation water to replace the pond's evaporative losses over time; and,
- Purchase and installation of a headgate valve to divert water from Clear Creek's main stem into the pond.

Having completed the three actions has created an important infrastructure element which helps achieve County goals for recreation and wildlife economic futures, as well as Open Space Commission and Greenway Authority initiatives. The Alvarado Open Space Recreational Pond is now a permanent asset that can be enjoyed by the citizens of Clear Creek County as well as visitors.



Measuring depth of Alvarado Open Space Park Recreational Pond

Fishing Permit Program-Aware that this stretch of Clear Creek is very desirable for fishing, over the past couple years, several OSC members have explored different approaches to controlling fishing access so that the resource is protected. The OSC looked at various programs being used to control fishing access (e.g. Park County, Granby). The program being used by the Town of Granby seems to be a good model for what is needed for this stretch of Clear Creek. Permits are available on-line and management of the fisheries is done based on the biological needs of the fish in that portion of the Creek. Granby's staff has been very cooperative and willing to share what they have done with the OSC. The program will be modified to reflect the biology of Clear Creek. The permits, web page and other aspects can probably be used with minor modifications. The initial effort will be a pilot program that only applies to Alvarado Open Space Park. Once the recent Creek restoration in the adjacent CDOT owned land has stabilized, OSC will work with CDOT staff to expand the program to the CDOT reaches of Clear Creek. It is expected to be about 3 years before the CDOT stretch will be fishable. Developing the pilot program will allow issues with implementation to be identified and addressed before the program is expanded.



Clear Creek Running Through Alvarado Open Space Park

Special Activities-Although closed to the general public, a number of activities have utilized the Alvarado Open Space Park. OSC has allowed the County's Cooperative Extension Office to use one of the small cabins for storage of equipment and other materials. Use of the cabin saves money for the Extension Office as they do not have to rent storage space. Team Evergreen's Triple Bypass bicycling event used Alvarado Open Space Park to park cars for those who chose to do the Double Bypass which rides Loveland and Vail passes. They used both sides of the Park. In 2018 and 2019, the Georgetown and Idaho Springs Burro Race contestants camped with their burros at Alvarado Open Space Park. The area on the south side of Alvarado Road where the previous owner had kept horses worked very well for both burros and owners. OSC also is working with the Boy Scouts of America-Denver Area Council to provide a place that Boy Scout troops can camp and explore Clear Creek County.



Photographer: Michael Mewes

Georgetown Race



Jay Holland Photography

Idaho Springs Race



- **Floyd Hill Open Space Park**— As reported previously, the acquisition of the Floyd Hill Open Space property by Clear Creek and Jefferson counties provides public access from the I70 corridor to a contiguous expanse of open space, over 600 acres in Clear Creek County and 12,000 acres in Jefferson County, that protect key wildlife habitat and offers diverse recreational opportunities. At the southern end of the 108 acres meadow parcel, is a trailhead that is easily accessed from I70.

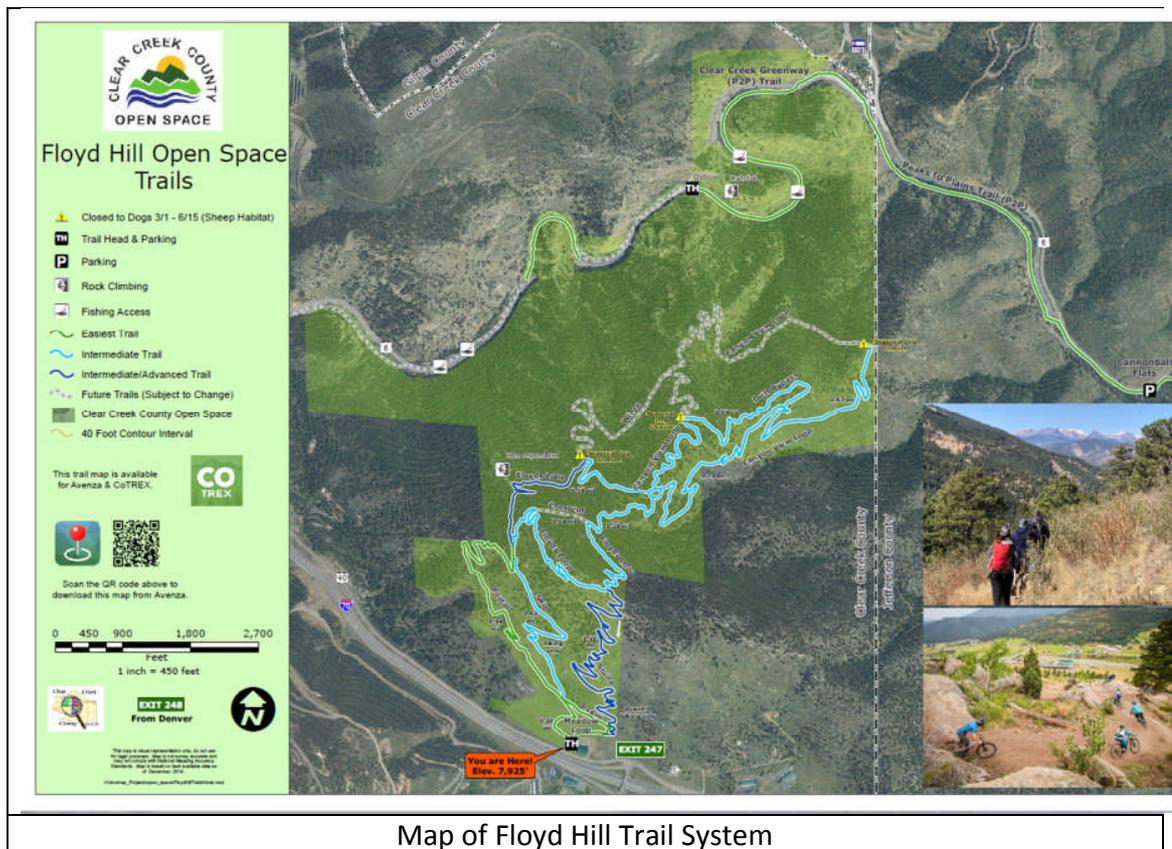


View West From the Ridge

Floyd Hill Open Space Trail System Master Plan- In 2017, with involvement from the Floyd Hill Open Space Steering Committee, OSC hired ERO and Contour Logic to develop a trail master plan for Floyd Hill Open Space Park. Developing this plan was an opportunity to start from scratch which is an option not often available in Clear Creek County. Development of the plan involved two public meetings as well as a survey to



determine what the public wanted from the area as well as their concerns. The plan was completed by late May 2018 but was not formally approved by the OSC until October 2018 as final comments were received and incorporated. It presents a trail system which includes about 15 miles of trail of differing difficulty. Although the Trail Master Plan was not officially adopted by the OSC till the end of the Summer, it guided the trail building work done in Summer 2018.



Trail Building- Using the Floyd Hill Open Space Trail Master Plan developed by ERO and Contour Logic, through the Summer months of 2018, a number of different entities worked on trail construction including, the Clear Creek County Trail Crew joined by two crews from Teens Inc., 100's of Volunteers from Outdoors Colorado (VOC), COMBA volunteers, and several one day corporate team building efforts. Expanding on the mile of trail built in 2017, an additional 3.5 miles of trail were completed. At the end of Summer 2018, the completed 4.5 miles trail system provided a loop experience for the user. It was being used by hikers and cyclists. That Summer Teen Inc worked three weeks with two teams each week. The teens involved came from Clear Creek,



Netherland, Conifer and Denver. Funding for the Clear Creek County contribution came from the Clear Creek Economic Development Corporation. VOC ran three volunteer days with over 100 participants each day who focused on trail building on segments 2 and 3. One of the days was VOC's first Women Only Project which was designed and run entirely by women. VOC had wondered if there would be sufficient interest and was pleasantly surprised when it filled quickly and had a waiting list.

Summer 2019 saw additional trail being completed by the Clear Creek Trail Crew as well as Teens Inc., Mile High Youth Corps, and COMBA. Teens Inc. provided 2 crews of 8 people for two weeks to help with trail building. One of the crews came from Clear Creek County and the other came from Denver. Most of their work focused on the Canyon View Loop. Of the crew members, half were residents of Clear Creek County. One of the participants wrote a note stating the following about her experience:

"For the past two summers I've had the pleasure of working alongside some of my new best friends to build new hiking trails for this awesome company Teens Inc. The work was definitely a challenge but the end product is what made it all worth it. My crew was lucky enough to build a trail only 10 minutes away from our hometown- about six miles in length overlooking our high school and the surrounding meadows. It's really cool to be able to look back at all the work you've done and to use that trail long after you built it, it makes you really proud to see all your hard work pay off and to see other hikers walking your trail. Seeing what you've done actually benefiting the community makes you really proud of the fact that you were able to be a part of that project and makes you wanna do it all over again."

Also, in 2018 for use the Summer 2019, Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT) applied and received \$21,000 of in-kind labor from GOCO/Colorado Youth Corps to assist with weed management and trail building. Eight young adults and two crew leaders spent three weeks. One and a half weeks pulling thistle and mullen and one and a half weeks building trail.

In 2019, an additional 3.5 miles of trail was built for a total of 7.5 miles out of the anticipated system total of 10 miles. An additional loop along the ridge was completed and preliminary work done on 1.5 miles of trail. A significant amount of trail was constructed because COMBA provided a mini excavator as well as an operator to work with the County trail crew and COMBA volunteers. The mini excavator was able to cut the trail bed more efficiently and then the crews did the finishing work. The remaining loop will be completed in 2020.



Kiosk Sign at Trailhead

The Sluice Trail (aka Segment 4)- The downhill bicycle only trail that descends from the ridge to the meadow on the east side of the property was planned to increase the safety of all users as it would be the descent of choice for most cyclists. As a result, the number of cyclists coming down the access segment on the west side of the meadow would be reduced. (It was identified as Segment 4 in the Trail Master Plan and named “The Sluice” upon completion.) It was felt that due to the difficulty of the terrain and the desire to construct an intermediate/expert trail, the trail should be built by professional trail builders. In 2018 and 2019, COMBA spearheaded an effort to raise funds to build Segment 4. COMBA started a “go fund me” effort and Team Evergreen and others looked for donors. In addition to the other fundraising efforts, \$30,000 from the Gates Family Foundation grant obtained by MALT for development of the trailhead went towards construction of the segment as well as \$20,000 from Clear Creek County. The fundraising goal was successfully met. The five major donors: COMBA, Team Evergreen, Yeti, Gates Family Foundation, and Clear Creek County will be acknowledged



on a sign at the top of the downhill trail. In addition, the COMBA” go-fund me” campaign raised about \$29,000 from about 350 individual donors.

Late in 2018, a request for bids to build Segment 4 was advertised and two bids were received. The contract was awarded in early 2019 and construction was completed by the end of August 2019. It took a longer than anticipated due to weather delays in April and May when there were unseasonable snow storms. The trail was named The Sluice and an opening ceremony was held on August 21, 2019. About 150 people attended to celebrate the opening and experience the trail. See photos of opening as well as people riding The Sluice. One can also see many videos of riders on the The Sluice on the internet. The following link is to the informational video done by Yeti and COMBA to inform cyclists about the trail before it was open:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRpkTgXF2YU#action=share>

The goal was to provide cyclists with information about the main trail and alternative lines so riders would be able to ride the trail according to their ability. The Sluice is 1.25 miles long and has about 24 alternate lines that allow the users to change their experience and challenge themselves by riding more difficult features.

Since The Sluice’s opening, the Trailhead has seen much use. The trail counters are showing about 1,300 users per week. This level of usage exceeds that seen at Grays and Torreys. Anecdotally, we are told that the parking lot is full daily after 3:00 p.m. and much of the use is by mountain bikers who are riding the 3 mile loop that includes The Sluice. On weekends, the lot is often filled and the designated overflow parking area is used.



Riders Break Banner at Opening of The Sluice



Going Off One of the Alternate Lines



Riders on The Sluice

Weed Management-A significant element of the Floyd Hill Open Space Trailhead is the large meadow visible from I70. Late in 2018, a visitor noticed Dalmatian Toadflax in the upper meadow and contacted MALT who contacted Open Space. Dalmatian Toadflax is a List B species of noxious weed according to the Colorado Department of Agriculture and requires management under the Colorado Noxious Weed Act of 1990. If found, landowners are asked to eradicate the weed. A vegetation management company was contacted and the entire meadow assessed. Through the Summer 2019, in addition to the efforts by the Mile Hi Youth Corps crew's effort, the meadow was sprayed for Dalmatian Toadflax, Diffuse Knapweed, and Cheatgrass. As weed seeds are very durable, it is anticipated that weed management will be an on-going issue. In addition, as evidenced by the thistle plants near the trailhead parking, weed seed often comes in with visitors, either on their shoes or bike tires. Addressing weeds at the trailhead will be a priority to keep them from spreading further.

Floyd Hill Open Space Steering Committee- In 2018 and 2019, the OSC continued to use the Steering Committee formed in 2016 to provide advice on the development of the trail system, help with fundraising, and address other issues as they arise. It is composed



of the two Counties that own the property and MALT who holds the conservation easement as well as others who are interested in the future uses of the area Colorado Mountain Bike Association (COMBA), Team Evergreen, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Trust for Public Lands.] One issue that was addressed by the Steering Committee is the interface between the trail system and wildlife specifically Bighorn Sheep. Using Colorado Parks and Wildlife's data on Bighorn sheep use, to reduce impacts, the back trails will have a seasonal closure to dogs during lambing season (March 1- June 15).



Hikers heading towards the ridge.

Conservation Easement Violation- Adjacent to the Floyd Hill Open Space Trailhead is a parcel owned by Monarch Casinos. In Fall 2018, they started building a new warehouse building behind the existing building. To make room for the building, they cut into the hill with the plan to build a retaining wall to hold the hillside. They planned to have the cut very near the south boundary with the Floyd Hill Open Space parcel. After the cut was made, the exposed cut slid more than anticipated and the project encroached about 12 feet onto the Open Space parcel. This constituted a violation of the Conservation Easement held by MALT. In addition, the contractor used the Open Space land immediately behind the building for access to the building while it was constructed which negatively impacted the land. Much of the vegetation was destroyed. Open



Space with help from the County Attorney’s Office and the County Engineer worked with the construction firm and Monarch Casinos to address the encroachment. Monarch agreed to pay for the impacted areas to be remediated and revegetated. In addition, they constructed a fence to prevent Open Space users and hopefully wildlife from falling off the edge created by the retaining wall. As required, MALT approved the remediation plan. The only caution raised is that the area needs to be monitored for weeds till the revegetation is successful.



Conservation Easement Violation- Sloughing Caused Encroachment

- **Management of OSC Lands** – Open Space staff and members of the OSC spend a significant amount of time on general “management” activities. Activities such as ensuring the trash is collected, toilets are cleaned and pumped, appropriate signage is installed, removing fallen trees, and other similar activities require on-going attention. With the development of more “facilities” such as the Lawson White Water Park and the Greenway in the Canyon, more time is being devoted to this part of management process. In addition, we address issues associated with right-of-way, driveway easements, investigating trespass events, illegal tree cutting, etc.



- **OSC Involvement in County Efforts** – Open Space staff and members of the OSC regularly participate in County efforts where Open Space manages lands are involved or nearby and/or our expertise in land management and recreation is relevant. These efforts include:
 - BOCC’s effort to define the County’s recreation goal;
 - CDOT Floyd Hill Technical Team which is considering the redesign of I70 from Floyd Hill to Hidden Valley;
 - Clear Creek County Shooting Range Project which is looking at the development of a shooting and archery range in Dumont.
 - County Rafting Program as a number of the put ins or take out points are on Open Space land.; and,
 - Providing input on proposed regulations being developed by the Planning Department (e.g. camping regulations)

ACQUISITIONS

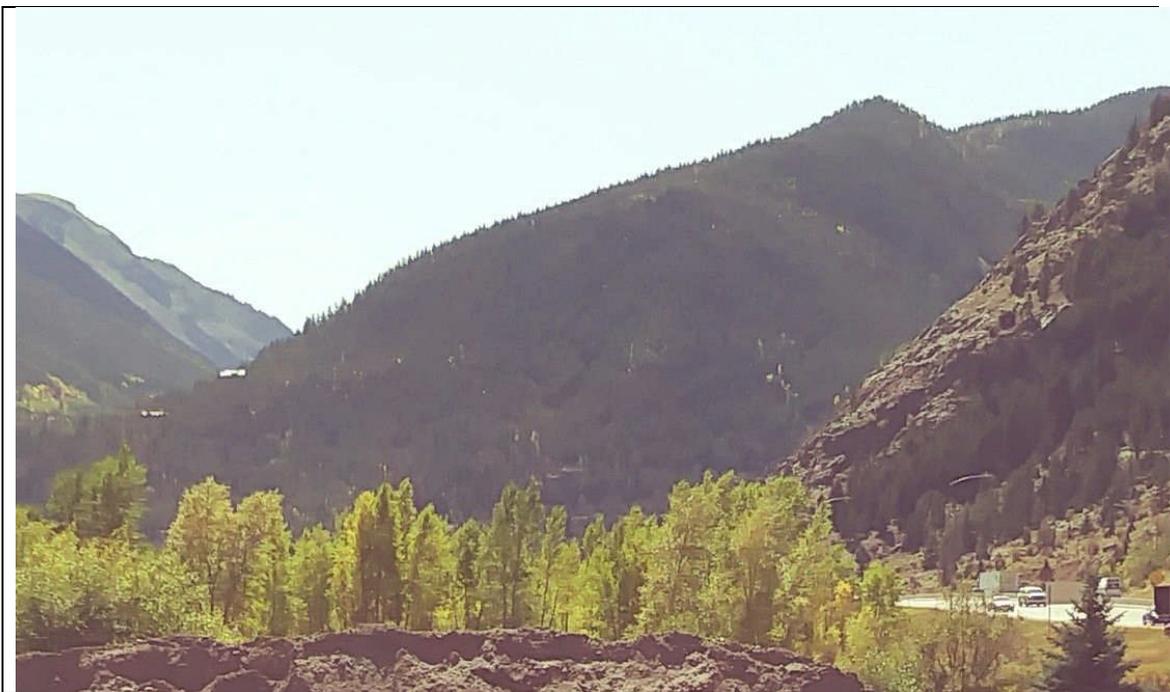
OSC continues to acquire unique land parcels that advance Open Space goals.

- **Saw Mill Gulch Open Space** – In 2018, OSC purchased 132 acres which are located just west of the Floyd Hill Bridges and on both sides of I70. It is adjacent to the 134 acres of Open Space lands just east of the Hidden Valley interchange. On the south side of Clear Creek, the Scott Lancaster Trail (a portion of the Peaks to Plains Trail- Clear Creek Greenway) crosses this parcel. Acquisition of this parcel ensures that the Greenway will remain non-motorized as it will not be used by someone to access the parcel. As mentioned elsewhere in this Report, combined with Open Space managed parcels from the Game Check Station Trailhead east, these parcels are being managed as a single unit, the Hidden Valley Open Space Park.
- **Leavenworth Mountain Parcels South of Georgetown**—In December 2019, Open Space purchased portion of 6 mining claims, 15.68 acres, on the hillside of Leavenworth Mountain, at south end of Georgetown. OSC purchased these claims because they are a critical part of the Georgetown heritage viewshed as well as providing public recreation for the citizens of Clear Creek as well as visitors. These claims are located within the National Historic Landmark District and are surrounded by open lands owned by the Town of Georgetown and History Colorado. This heritage viewshed is a backdrop for those who ride the Loop Railroad which runs through one of the claims. The importance of this viewshed has been recognized for a long time.



Over the past 40 plus years, efforts have been underway to ensure that the southern hillside of Georgetown remains undeveloped as part of the Historic Landmark District's heritage landscape. In the 1970's the Town of Georgetown and Historic Georgetown bought out a potential developer of house lots on the lower hillside in pursuit of this goal. This purchase was critical to the reconstruction of the Loop Railroad. With the BLM land transfer in 1994, other significant portions of the hillside were transferred to the Town of Georgetown and History Colorado. Acquisition of these 6 mining claims will continue to consolidate the public and non-profit ownership and management of this important viewshed.

Access to these claims is from Guanella Pass Road. A much loved trail, The Notch Trail, which goes from Silver Plume to Georgetown runs through the claims. The most important acquisition was the Frank Blair Mining Claim which straddles the actual "notch." In recent years, the Trail has not been open to the public because it crossed private land. With this purchase, the public can now explore the Trail and its surroundings. This coming Summer, OSC will begin the process of improving the Trail to facilitate usage by the public.



Views of the Leavenworth Parcels from Georgetown



- **Donations of Mining Claims** – Possible donations of land to Open Space are evaluated as to their location and open space values before the OSC recommends to the BOCC that the County accept the donations. During the past two years, Open Space received donation of a mining claim located just outside the Georgetown town limit.

PLANS FOR 2020

2020 is the 20th Anniversary of the creation of the Open Space Commission. The citizens of Clear Creek passed the ballot initiative in November 1999 and the BOCC established the Open Space Commission in April 2000. (The Ballot Initiative resolution, R99-104, is in Appendix A. The original members were appointed by a letter.) The OSC plans to undertake a number of activities to celebrate the 20th Anniversary.

As we look ahead to 2020 in terms of projects and workload, the fast pace of activity is expected to continue. The following large projects will be the focus of our efforts involving construction, fundraising, and on-the-ground management:

- Peaks to Plains Trail: Clear Creek Canyon Phase 2
- Floyd Hill Open Space Trail System
- Upper Silver Dale Management



- Alvarado Open Space Park
- Hidden Valley Open Space Park

Other on-going activities will continue. In addition, we will explore ways to invite the public to explore Clear Creek County's Open Space. As always, we will respond to Open Space opportunities as they arise.

POSTSCRIPT

Having been around for almost 20 years, those who helped create and establish the Clear Creek County Open Space Commission are getting on in years. Most have left the OSC and are involved in other activities. Their legacy continues as the current OSC members build upon the earlier efforts. Current members are grateful to the 23 or so folks who have served on the OSC over the years and helped to establish an organization that is fulfilling its mission.

In 2019, Fran Enright, one of the founding members died. She will be remembered for her efforts to protect the Geneva Basin Iron Fens as well as other Open Space efforts. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Geneva Basin Irons Fen as a Colorado Natural Area. She oversaw an effort by the Wildland Restoration Volunteers to eliminate unnecessary roads through the Fens using native seed collected on site and methodologies that work with the natural ecosystem. Now, 11 years after the project, the old road beds are no longer visible.



Clear Creek County Open Space Lands

Revised 5/20/20 by Martha Tableman

PROPERTY NAME	AKA (Also Known As)	LOCATION	ACRES	YEAR ACQUIRED	COST (\$)			
					FUNDING SOURCE	OPEN SPACE	GOCO	TOTAL
Alpi Mountain	Blackwood Claim	Idaho Springs	5.0	2007	OS	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Alpi Mountain		Idaho Springs	340.0	2003	BLM-3		NC	NC
Alvarado Open Space Park	Shadows Ranch	Georgetown	60.0	2015	OS	\$ 600,000		\$ 600,000
Anna Claim		Silverdale	5.0	2005	OS	\$ 6,800	\$ -	\$ 6,800
Beaver Brook	Saddleback	Evergreen	530.8	2005	OS/GOCO	\$ 343,570	\$ 5,357,030	\$ 5,700,600
Blue Hill		Dumont	14.4	2007	OS/GOCO	\$ 87,800	\$ 87,200	\$ 175,000
Buckley Claims	Frank Blair Lode	Georgetown	5.2	2019	OS	\$ 38,500		
Buckley Claims		Georgetown	10.5	2019	OS	\$ 80,500		
Capital Prize	Arctic, Americ, Cosmos	Georgetown	9.3	2015	OS	\$ 18,520	\$ -	\$ 18,520
Capital Prize	Sterret	Georgetown & Silverdale	100.0	2012	OS	\$ 182,000	\$ -	\$ 182,000
Douglas Mountain	(Created division 8/29/19)	Empire Junction	14.1	2012	BLM-3		NC	NC
Floyd Hill Open Space	Canyon Gates	Clear Creek Canyon	49.0	2014	OS	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 400,000
Floyd Hill Open Space	Elingreen Homestead	Floyd Hill	110.0	2003	OS/GOCO	\$ 78,750	\$ 86,750	\$ 165,500
Floyd Hill Open Space	PH-CCanyon	Floyd Hill	300.0	2012	BLM-3		NC	NC
Floyd Hill Open Space	Frei Okbow Access Parcel	Clear Creek Canyon	7.5	2014	OS	\$ 17,255		\$ 17,255
Floyd Hill Open Space	Frei Parcels	Clear Creek Canyon	54.0	2012	OS	\$ 185,320	\$ -	\$ 185,320
Floyd Hill Open Space	North Floyd Hill	Floyd Hill	109.0	2017	OS/GOCO/JeHCO	\$ 300,000	\$ 545,000	\$ 845,000
Floyd Hill Open Space	Outbow	Clear Creek Canyon	76.0	2009	OS/GOCO	\$ 230,500	\$ 869,500	\$ 1,100,000
Geneva Iron Fens		Guanelia Pass	110.0	2003	County Donation		NC	\$ -
Hidden Valley Open Space Park	Bear Pen Ranch	Idaho Springs	15.0	2013	OS	\$ 230,000		\$ 230
Hidden Valley Open Space Park	Masonville	Hidden Valley	119.0	2011	OS	\$ 230,000	\$ -	\$ 230,000
Hidden Valley Open Space Park	PK Jordan	Hidden Valley	126.0	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Hidden Valley Open Space Park	Game Check Station	Idaho Springs	5.0	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Hidden Valley Open Space Park	Saw Mill Gulch	Hidden Valley	132.0	2018	OS	\$ 264,198	\$ -	\$ 264,198
Idaho Springs Greenway	Jack Hardwood	Idaho Springs	3.4	2013	Donation		NC	\$ -
Idaho Springs Greenway	Venwood	Idaho Springs	5.3	2013	Donation		NC	NC
Lawson Whitewater Park	Lawson		9.8	2005	BLM-3		NC	NC
Maggie/Morningstar		Idaho Springs	10.4	2007	OS/Donation	\$ 10,300	\$ -	\$ 10,300
Main Street Georgetown	Paint of Rocks	Georgetown	0.3		Donation			
Mill Creek Meadow	Mill Creek Aravista	Dumont	27.0	2004	BLM-3		NC	NC
Oakley Recreation Area		Waldorf	127.0	2002	County Donation		NC	\$ -
Ohio Gulch	Jackson Parcels	Dumont	2.7	2015	OS	\$ 78,500		\$ 78,500
Ohio Gulch	LDS Open Space Parcels	Dumont	6.3	2017	OS	\$ 93,000		\$ 93,000
Philadelphia Mill Site		Dumont	2.5	2007	OS	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ 40,000
Saxon Mountain	Baltic No. 2, Porto Rico	Georgetown	9.3	2016	Donation		NC	NC
Saxon Mountain	Paris, World Wonder	Georgetown	5.5	2016	Donation		NC	NC
Saxon Mountain	Private Major Anderson	Georgetown	3.4	2018	Donation		NC	\$ -
Saxon Mountain	Scott Claims	Georgetown	4.2					
Saxon Mountain	Underwriter	Georgetown	4.6	2016	Donation		NC	NC
Saxon Mountain		Georgetown	601.9	2003	BLM-2		NC	NC
Sheep Keep	Autocrat/King George	Dumont	14.3	2009	Donation		NC	NC
Sheep Keep	Highland Laddie	Dumont	4.4	2016	Donation		NC	NC
Sheep Keep	Kaufman Claims	Dumont	21.3	2012	Donation		NC	NC
Sheep Keep	Noblit/Shannon	Dumont	20.0	2012	Donation		NC	NC
Sheep Keep	North America Claim	Georgetown	5.2	2012	Donation		NC	NC
Sheep Keep	Rovetta Claims	Dumont	20.0	2010	Donation		NC	NC
Sheep Keep	Scott Claims	Georgetown	3.6					
Sheep Keep	Sheep Habitat	Dumont	1600.0	2005	BLM-3		NC	NC
Silver Creek	(Created division 8/29/19)	Empire Junction	37.0	2012	BLM-3		NC	NC
Snyder Mountain		Evergreen	40.0	2002	BLM-3		NC	NC
Stanley Road	(Created division 8/29/19)	Dumont	147.6	2012	BLM-3		NC	NC
Upper Silverdale	Oakley Mining Claims	Silverdale	73.9	2012	OS	\$ 52,000	\$ -	\$ 52,000
Upper Silverdale		Silverdale	22.0	2012	BLM-3		NC	NC
Waldorf Inholdings	Inholdings	Waldorf	25.0	2004	OS		NC	NC
Waldorf Inholdings	Illa B	Waldorf	4.8	2002	County Donation		NC	\$ -
Waldorf Inholdings	Scott Claims	Waldorf	5.2	2006	OS	\$ 5,052	\$ -	\$ 5,052
			5,175			\$ 3,598,565	\$ 6,945,480	\$ 10,194,275

ABBREVIATIONS

BLM-1	Property deeded to US Forest Service
BLM-2	Property transferred to Silver Plume, Georgetown, State of CO, and CCC for specific purposes.
BLM-3	Land transferred to County for sale or dedication to specific recreation and public purpose uses.
CCC	Clear Creek County
GOCO	Great Outdoors Colorado
MALT	Mountain Area Land Trust
MRO	Mineral Rights Only
OS	Open Space
RPP	Recreation and Public Purpose
SRO	Surface Rights Only
T&T	Toilet & Trash

NOTES

The AKA column reflects the prior owner to CCC, mining claim name, or former OS listing (included for historical and cross-reference purposes)
 Slightly duplicate rows are intentionally separate in order to track all purchase units (i.e. management units) due to logical grouping of adjoining/similar properties
 Each "Property Name" is an Open Space management unit, sometimes comprised of properties purchased at different times with different finance and deed terms
 Property costs listed are only for the property itself; costs do not include appraisal, environmental assessment cost, and other closing-related expenditures
 In cases of "split rights" (SRO/MRO), CCC Assessor records show multiple entries with same PIN but different RA numbers
 Martha started 2006 - generally records before that are in paper format, and electronic starting in 2006 (on CCC network drive)
 GOCO open-space-grant funded properties require a Conservation Easement
 All properties with funding source "BLM" have RPP restriction
 PIN format: First 4 digits = township, next 2 digits = section, last 3 digits show if exempt (9x) or private undeveloped (600)

LAND DESCRIPTIONS

Referenced by Township, then Range, then Section
 Township - 6 miles square, measures North/South
 Range - From set meridians, measures East/West
 Section - 36 per township, 1 square mile each

GIS To Import - Columns E-H details

OS will import this data to new fields in the existing OSC map layer
 Rights (or similar) - MRO, SRO, MRO

Use (or similar) - RPP, etc.

Easements - Includes 2 basic types: 1. Utility (Power, Water, Gas, etc.) 2. Misc. (road, well, etc.)

Conservation Easements - MALT, Historic Georgetown, Clear Creek Land Conservancy