

JEFFERSON COUNTY OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

PREPARED BY:



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ASSISTED BY:

URBAN EDGES, INC.

LEGEND

- JEFFERSON COUNTY OPEN SPACE
- LOCAL OPEN SPACE
(C - CITY, NJC - NORTH JEFFERSON COUNTY, FH - FOOTHILLS)
- DENVER LANDS
(D - DENVER MOUNTAIN PARK, DWB - DENVER WATER BOARD)
- STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS
(SP - STATE PARK, SS - STATE SCHOOL, ANF - ARAPAHOE NATIONAL FOREST, PNF - PIKE NATIONAL FOREST, RNF - ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FOREST, BLM - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT)
- EXISTING TRAILS
- PROPOSED TRAIL CORRIDORS
- * TRAILHEADS
- EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY PARKS
- PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY PARKS
- GOLF COURSES
- ⊗ RECREATION CENTERS
- ⊗ HEALTH CLUBS

EXISTING AND PROPOSED RECREATION SITES

The scheduled Public Hearings on the Master Plan have taken place and written public input was to be submitted by the end of June. A very major part of the Plan is the compilation and presentation of all different kinds of data pertinent to the understanding and selection of Open Space lands and trails. We present the title blocks of the eleven maps included in the report so that the reader can have some idea of what and how the data relates and/or shows.

Copies of the report may be studied at the Open Space office. The original maps may or may not be there as the consultant, BRW, may still be changing or completing them.

Plan Jeffco continues to press for acceptable language in regard to the order of priorities for future land purchases. PJ wants assurance that lands in the mountains or plains which preserve the unique natural characteristics of the County with potential for non-capital intensive use, which include unusual land forms, the scenic backdrop from the plains, scenic corridors and prominent sites providing scenic views or vistas, have the highest priority. PJ also does not want access to be a prerequisite to purchase, pointing out that obtaining access to property requires purchase and therefore rules out economical less-than-fee methods of acquisition.

The report outlines the methods by which distribution of money and acreages, location and types of trails and ranking of trails in proposed order of importance. The report lists other methods of revenue to be pursued other than the major source of revenue, which is the 1/2 cent sales tax. It encourages the use of volunteers and youth cores to expand personnel needs without salary expenditures. Right-of way requirements should be strengthened and/or being taken advantage of where already possible. The Master Plan should prove to be an invaluable tool in realizing our open space assets and potentials and in direction for the program based on this very broad spectrum of information.

Map 1: Develops an inventory of existing recreation and open space facilities. In combination with other maps, it portrays opportunities for trail connectors on a county-wide basis. This map indicates recreational facilities within and outside urban development areas and helps determine the extent to which the existing system meets service area and acreage standards.

Figure 1

ADMIN RECCRD

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

During the planning process for the Master Plan, key aspects affecting open space were compiled and mapped. The purpose was to consolidate technical information into a graphic format that could be easily understood by the general public and also be used for setting priorities. Each of the maps is described below. The intent is for these maps to be updated as new information becomes available.

<p>LEGEND</p> <p> RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH A DENSITY OF MORE THAN 1 D.U./AC.</p> <p> RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH A DENSITY OF LESS THAN 1 D.U./AC.</p> <p> COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>★ ACTIVITY CENTER</p> <p>• SCHOOL</p> <p>▲ LANDFILL SITE</p> <p>◆ JEFFERSON COUNTY AIRPORT</p> <p>— MOUNTAIN FRONT</p>	<p>LEGEND</p> <p> CRITICAL BIOLOGICAL HABITAT IDENTIFIED SPECIES ARE PERRINE FALCON AND GOLDEN EAGLE (NESTING), ELK AND DEER (CALVING), RED FOX AND COYOTE (DEN), MOUNTAIN LION AND ELBERT'S SQUIRREL.</p> <p> MEDIUM TO HIGH BIOLOGICAL HABITAT POTENTIAL BASED ON LATLONG STUDIES AND INDICATE THE "ROBUSTNESS" OF A HABITAT AREA TO SUPPORT A HIGH VARIETY OF ANIMAL SPECIES.</p> <p> WETLANDS OVER 10 ACRES BASED ON AVAILABILITY OF FOOD, COVER AND WATER.</p> <p>• WETLANDS OF LESS THAN 10 ACRES</p>	<p>LEGEND</p> <p> MOUNTAIN MEADOW/GRASSLAND</p> <p> RIPARIAN VEGETATION</p> <p>ⓔ RARE OR ENDANGERED VEGETATION</p> <p>— MAJOR STREAM CORRIDORS</p> <p>— STREAM TRIBUTARIES</p> <p>— CANALS AND DITCHES</p> <p> LAKES AND RESERVOIRS</p>
<p>EXISTING COUNTY DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Figure 2</p>	<p>WILDLIFE HABITAT</p> <p>Figure 3</p>	<p>VEGETATION AND SURFACE WATER</p> <p>Figure 4</p>

Map 2: This map indicates patterns of urban development that will impact open space planning. Key points for consideration are linking activity centers with a regional trail system, identifying valuable open space areas threatened with development, growing population areas creating demand for open space preservation, or identifying derelict land.

Map 3: The proximity of critical habitat lands to urban development, roads and other recreational resources helps determine the appropriate level and type of management necessary to protect these wildlife populations. This map will provide a point for discussion between the Open Space Dept. and appropriate wildlife agencies regarding management options. Streams: Several criteria were utilized including endangered species occurrences, threatened species, high interest species habitat and potential for habitat restoration, reclamation or utilization.

Map 4: This map locates vegetative types and surface water. Stream corridors and canals are identified as they often make suitable regional trail corridors based on favorable grades and the attractiveness of water in the landscape.

→ RARE OR ENDANGERED VEGETATION: Red Cedar - At the mouth of Turkey Creek Canyon; Englemann Spruce - West of Conifer; Limber Pine - Blue Mtn. south of the mouth of Coal Creek Canyon; Wood Lily - Kinney Creek area; Orchid - near Highway 6 in Clear Creek; Native Prairie Grass - Highway 93 at Rocky Flats access;

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Effective Date

Map 5: Hazardous areas such as land subsidence/old mines, known radiation sources, rock fall/landslides and areas where stability problems exist. Also listed are known archeological sites that could affect development. Some of these lands may be more easily acquired based on environmental limitations, which may also preclude public use of these open space areas.

Map 6: Existing road locations help identify access opportunities to potential open space areas as well as primary view points for scenic viewing. Existing roads present opportunities for trails running parallel to them and also present barriers to trails crossing perpendicular to them. Proposed roads can present an opportunity for concurrent trail development along or across them when trail planning can be coordinated with the road construction. Major interchanges were included because they present opportunities for trail crossings. Abandoned railroad right-of-ways provide an outstanding potential for trail redevelopment.

This is a limited digest of the material presented in the Master Plan publication. Much of the script has been copied out of the book. It is by no means complete and these sheets should be used only to give one a sense of the material covered.

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LEGEND

-  **SUBSIDIENCE OR OLD MINE HAZARD**
-  **KNOWN RADIATION MATERIAL**
-  **ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE**
-  **KNOWN LANDSLIDE, ROCK FALL, SLOPE FAILURE AREAS**
-  **SLOPE STABILITY CONCERNS**
-  **HISTORIC SITES**

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-  **CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAY**
-  **ARTERIAL/COLLECTOR**
-  **MAJOR INTERCHANGE**
-  **RAILROAD CORRIDOR**
-  **PROPOSED R.O.W.**
-  **UTILITY CORRIDOR**

Weatherly Selaginella - (Who knows what that is?); Diluvium Ladies Tresses, a rare orchid.
PLANT ZONES: Different kinds of flowers and trees tend to flourish at different altitudes. Plains Zone (4000' to 6000') Foothill Zone (6000' to 8000') Mountain Zone (8000' to 10,000')

FACTORS AFFECTING DEVELOPMENT

Figure 5

EXISTING AND PROPOSED ROADS, RAILROADS AND UTILITY CORRIDORS

Figure 6

LEGEND

-  MOUNTAIN AND UPLAND
-  MOUNTAIN FRONT
-  HOGBACK
-  SLOPES
-  MESAS
-  TABLE MOUNTAINS
-  BOTTOM LANDS
-  SCENIC HIGHWAY CORRIDORS
-  SCENIC POINTS OF INTEREST

LAND FORMS AND VISUAL FEATURES

Figure 7

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OPEN SPACE PER 1000 PEOPLE - YEAR 2010, IN ACRES

OPEN SPACE PER 1000 PEOPLE - YEAR 2000, IN ACRES

OPEN SPACE PER 1000 PEOPLE - YEAR 1990, IN ACRES

POPULATION AND OPEN SPACE BY SUBAREA

Figure 8

Maps 8 & 9: Population and projected population growth are useful in making open space decisions. Figures relating the number of acres of park to the number of people are useful but do not take into account the quality of the open space or how that open space is used or by whom, or if it is active or passive open space. Studies show that at present the cities perceive their needs to be new or improved active recreation parks and trail development within and between parks. The present ratio of open

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-  PRIORITY iii
UNIQUE/UNUSUAL LAND FORMS
MOUNTAIN BACKDROP
WILDLIFE HABITAT
CREEK CORRIDORS
-  PRIORITY i
LAND AROUND WATER BODIES
GREENBELT BUFFERS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AREAS
HISTORIC/ARCHEOLOGIC SITES
VALLEY BEHIND THE HOGBACK

ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITIES

Figure 9

space land (large parcels managed as Regional Parks/Preserves) to population is 32.7 acres/1000 population. To maintain this level of open space, the study has projected a county population of 546,500, requiring an area of... 17,873, an increase of 3,838 acres from the existing 14,035. (Since we acquired the latter in 13 years, the 3,838 seems to be rather a low goal for the next 20 years!) Based on population figures, the majority of the growth will take place in the plains. The greatest increase will occur in the north followed by the central and then the south. In the mountains, the largest increase is in the south, then the central with the north losing population.

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The trail candidates are separated into North, Central and South County. We give an example of South County, for paved and unpaved corridors.

2c. South County: **UNPAVED**

19. Evergreen West (candidate)
20. Mt. Falcon to Lair of the Bear (candidate)
21. Lair of the Bear to O'Fallon (candidate)
22. O'Fallon to Bell Park (candidate)
23. O'Fallon to Mount Falcon (candidate)
24. Cub Creek to Alderfer (candidate)
25. Cub Creek to Arapahoe N.F. (candidate)
26. Bell Park to Meyers Ranch (candidate)
27. North Turkey Creek (Aspen Park to Arapahoe N.F.) (candidate)
28. Meyers Ranch to Newton Park (candidate)
29. Dutch Creek (candidate)
30. Mt. Falcon to Reynolds (Deer Mtn. and N. Fork Deer Creek) (candidate)
31. Newton to Reynolds Ranch (candidate)
32. Reynolds Ranch to the Colorado Trail (candidate)

1c. South County: **PAVED**

30. Bear Creek (existing and candidate)
31. Kipling (existing and candidate)
32. C-470 (candidate)
33. Weaver Gulch (candidate)
34. Bear Creek Canyon (candidate)
35. Lilley Gulch (existing and candidate)
36. Dutch Creek (existing and candidate)
37. Massey Draw (existing and candidate)
38. Deer Creek (candidate)
39. West Hogback (candidate)

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There is a list of candidate trail corridors. These were surveyed by aerial photographs, topographic maps and in the field. specific data was recorded for each corridor that was used as a basis for a numerical evaluation. Assessment criteria (favorable conditions for trail development) were given values and each candidate corridor was scored for conformance to the criteria.

The corridor identification criteria are characteristics which help identify all possible candidate trail routes. Criteria was developed for paved and unpaved multiple use trails as well as bicycle touring routes. Some of the criteria included: linkage to desired destination points, access to scenic areas, while others targeted corridors that had been recommended in previous trail plans as well as canals, highways and utility corridors which have the potential for shared use as trail routes.

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- * **TRAILHEAD**
-  **TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES**
-  **HIGHWAY CONSTRAINTS**
-  **INTRACOUNTY SHARED TRAIL OPPORTUNITY**
-  **HIGHWAY CROSSING OPPORTUNITY**
-  **TRAIL SLOPE CONSTRAINT**

TRAIL CORRIDOR OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

Figure 10

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-  **EXISTING TRAILS**
-  **- PAVED MULTIPLE USE**
-  **- UNPAVED MULTIPLE USE**
-  **- BICYCLE TOURING**
-  **CANDIDATE TRAIL CORRIDORS**
-  **- PAVED MULTIPLE USE**
-  **- UNPAVED MULTIPLE USE**
-  **- BICYCLE TOURING**
- * **TRAILHEAD**

EXISTING AND CANDIDATE TRAIL CORRIDORS

Figure 11



LWV - COMMENTS ON MASTER PLAN

The Jefferson County League of Women Voters presented an excellent letter to OSAC in regard to the Open Space Master Plan. We quote a few of the pithy paragraphs:

"The League has followed Open Space planning for many years and our comments are based on positions adopted by our membership through study and discussion. Instead of listing specifics and suggesting changes here and there, we wish to share with you the basic, underlying way we look at Jefferson County land use. To use a well-used analogy, we try to look at the big picture. Picture is an apt metaphor here because we try to imagine what we want to see if we look out a picture window in the Year 2000, or 2010 or 2020. What we hope to see and what we want to see are the unique foothills vistas, the mountain backdrops, the beautiful land forms, the scenic views that define Jefferson County. These elements are what make this county different than Denver or Arapahoe or Weld County; they are what contribute greatly to the decisions made by many to move here. Quality of life, viewed visually and aesthetically is not a grandiose, vague, ill-defined or unimportant part of our lives. On the contrary, it provided compelling reasons for continuing our social and educational lives here. It enhances our community life and it contributes substantially to the sense of well-being, belonging and loyalty we have to this county."

The format as presented in this plan, with specific wording and restrictive priorities, tends to have us looking at trees and not seeing as we should, the forest.

Such tight language leads to divisiveness, to structured approaches instead of the creative thinking we need in the successful pursuit of this extraordinary, remarkable undertaking that we all too modestly call our Open Space Plan.

We have since its inception made many fine purchases that brought into our lives opportunities for recreation; we have managed to consider creatively and fairly demands from our cities; we have used good statistical approaches to land acquisition, population to park standards, good administrative guidelines and serious planning for the future maintenance of all this. We need to continue this but we also need to keep faith with the original dream which was, quite simply, to preserve the special and unique land in Jefferson County that makes this county the place we want to live."
Purnee McCourt,
President

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The Plan Jeffco Update is prepared by Marilyn Mueller and Bev Lipman

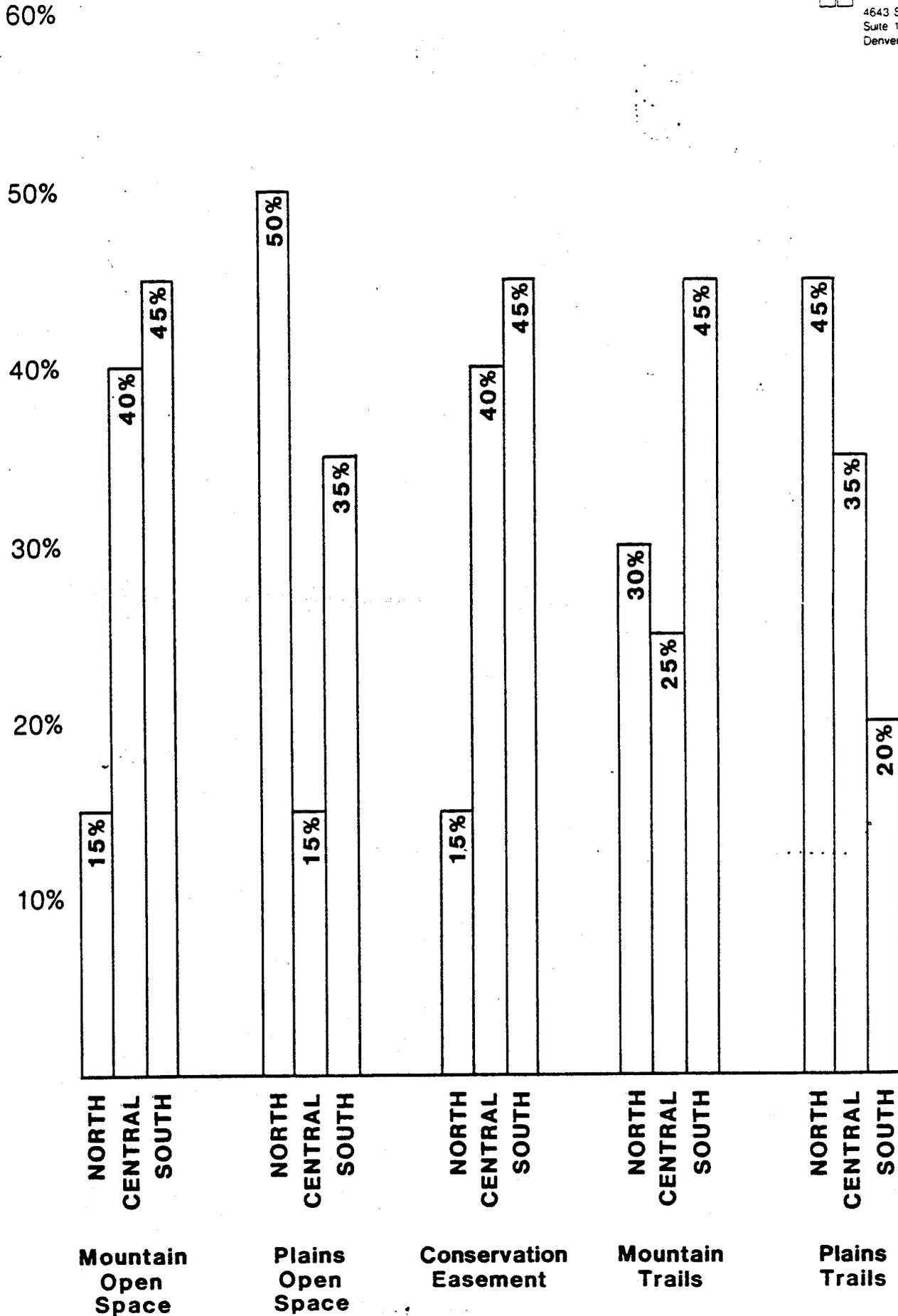
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DISTRIBUTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

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1. Paved Multiple-Use County-wide Trail Corridors

	<u>Score</u>	<u>Rank Within Sector</u>	<u>Rank Overall</u>
1a. North County:			
1. Walnut Creek/Dry Creek Valley Ditch	26.5	12/14	34/39
2. Bid Dry Creek	32	9/14	26/39
3. Farmers Highline Canal	38	3/14	6/39
4. Croke Canal	36.5	5/14	13/39
5. Little Dry Creek	37.5	4/14	7/39
6. Church Ditch	26	14/14	35/39
7. Standley Lake Loop	33.5	8/14	23/39
8. Leyden Creek	36	7/14	15/39
9. Ralston Creek	40.5	1/14	3/39
10. Van Bibber Creek	39.5	2/14	4/39
11. Boulder/Clear Creek Diversion Canal.	36.5	5/14	13/39
12. Denver and Rio Grande Railroad	28	11/14	32/39
13. Wadsworth North	24	13/14	36/39
14. W-470	30	10/14	29/39
1b. Central County:			
15. Clear Creek	37.5	2/15	7/39
16. Rocky Mountain Ditch	28.5	11/15	31/39
17. Welch Ditch	28	12/15	32/39
18. D.N.R.G. Railroad Grade	41	1/15	2/39
19. Lakewood Gulch	31.5	9/15	27/39
20. Golden Road	19.5	15/15	39/39
21. Alameda Parkway	36	3/15	15/39
22. Weir Gulch	22	13/15	37/39
23. Sanderson Gulch	34.5	5/15	20/39
24. I-70 (Foothills)	34	6/15	21/39
25. Highway 74 (Evergreen)	30.5	10/15	28/39
26. Foothills (6th Ave.)	33	7/15	24/39
27. Wadsworth Central	20.5	14/15	38/39
28. C-470/W-470	33	7/15	24/39
29. Kipling/Garrison/Independence	36	3/15	15/39
1c. South County:			
30. Bear Creek	43	1/10	1/39
31. Kipling	39.5	2/10	4/39
32. C-470 South	37	4/10	10/39
33. Weaver Gulch	35	7/10	18/39
34. Bear Creek Canyon	29	10/10	30/39
35. Lilley Gulch	37.5	3/10	7/39
36. Dutch Creek (plains)	37	4/10	10/39
37. Massey Draw	37	4/10	10/39
38. Deer Creek (plains)	34	9/10	21/39
39. Columbine (existing)	-	-	-
40. West Hogback	35	7/10	18/39

2. Unpaved Multiple-Use Trail Corridors

	<u>Score</u>	<u>Rank Within Sector</u>	<u>Rank Overall</u>
2a. North:			
1. Golden Gate S.P. to Eldorado S.P.	24	2/5	9/30
2. White Ranch to Golden Gate S.P.	23.5	3/5	11/30
3. Ralston Creek to White Ranch	24.75	1/5	7/30
4. Van Bibber Creek to White Ranch	22.75	5/5	15/30
5. Golden Gate to Beaver Brook	23.5	3/5	11/30
2b. Central:			
6. Chimney Gulch	22.75	6/11	15/30
7. Beaver Brook (existing)	--	--	--
8. Beaver Brook to Clear Creek Co.	22.75	6/11	15/30
9. Cold Springs Gulch	22.75	8/11	18/30
10. Apex Gulch (existing)	--	--	--
11. Windy Saddle to Apex	27	4/11	5/30
12. Apex to Matthews/Winters	29	1/11	2/30
13. Matthews/Winters to Mt. Falcon	27.75	2/11	3/30
14. Mount Vernon Creek	27.25	3/11	4/30
15. Elk Meadow to Alderfer	21.75	9/11	21/30
16. Elk Meadow to Genessee	21.5	10/11	22/30
17. Elk Meadow to Squaw Pass	18.75	11/11	29/30
18. Troublesome Gulch	23.5	5/11	11/30
2c. South:			
19. Evergreen West	19.25	13/14	28/30
20. Mt. Falcon to Lair of the Bear	23.75	4/14	10/30
21. Lair of the Bear to O'Fallon	22	6/14	19/30
22. O'Fallon to Bell Park	20.75	11/14	26/30
23. O'Fallon to Mt. Falcon	21.5	8/14	22/30
24. Cub Creek to Alderfer	30	1/14	1/30
25. Cub Creek to Arapahoe N.F.	21.25	9/14	24/30
26. Bell Park to Meyers Ranch	23	5/14	14/30
27. North Turkey Creek (Aspen Park-Arapahoe N.F.)	22	6/14	19/30
28. Meyers Ranch to Newton Park	21	10/14	25/30
29. Dutch Creek	17	14/14	30/30
30. Mt. Falcon to Reynolds Ranch	19.75	12/14	2/30
31. Newton Park to Reynolds Ranch	25	2/14	6/30
32. Reynolds Ranch to Colorado Trail	24.75	3/14	7/30

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