Open-space panel discussion focuses on obstacles to a coordinated effort

Community officials talk about protecting open areas between growing communities

Get your outdoors lover the perfect holiday present

Open Space and Trail Park, Mountain Open Space

Do you have a boat, tent, or RV you'd like to use or give as a holiday gift? Consider the trails and open spaces in Larimer County as your purchase of a Larimer County Parks and Open Space permit will allow you to use or give access to the land and water. For more information, contact Larimer County Parks and Open Space at 970-224-4555, or visit their website at larimerco.gov/parks.

Community officials talk about protecting open areas between growing communities

Communication among local communities is crucial to protect open spaces and maintain a sense of place. Fort Collins, Loveland, and Windsor are working together to ensure that everyone's needs are met. Fort Collins has a strategic plan to protect open space and maintain a strong community. Loveland and Windsor are working together to create a unified plan for the future of open space in the area.

At the end of the night, the audience was left with the realization that there are many obstacles to protecting open space in Larimer County. However, with the help of community officials and local organizations, it is possible to overcome these obstacles and maintain a healthy balance of open space and development.

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Thankful for outdoor recreation

Mark Coughlan

with a little extra attention, you won't miss a moment

Debra Wyborn

Go polygon

a moment

10-11-08

very good, and will be enjoyed with

the best outside, attention.
What goes into the making of a trail:
Over the river, through the woods.

Megan Fenkelen

Grant awarded to Red Mountain, Soapstone Trails

North Forty News — November 2008 — 19
Dangerous Yellow Stallion Involving Area Park Board

It's time to take advantage of winter's out of the ordinary...
Enjoy some solitude at Ramsay-Shockey

BY MILES BLUMHARDT
www.coloradodon.com

When choosing where to go for my outdoor trips, the two most important factors are timing and solitude. Each of the five times I went to different locations and other times were less obvious and other times were more obvious. That's not that I don't like people, I do eat, shower, and Christmas parties. But I do love sitting in solitude, what I call the experience of being in the nature. The experience is about being in the nature and watching for something, I think, almost stop when I want to listen or to make an image, and sit. I think it's the key, I see it as the key. It's a key to the experience.
Larimer County volunteer naturalist Carl Sorrentino, center, talks with Dave Moccaf, Olivia Hutton, Gary Warner and Trish Warner during an eagle walk at Fossil Creek Open Space on Dec. 18.

Eagle watchers brave weather to glimpse, learn about raptors

BY PAMELA DICKMAN
REPORTER-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Olivia Hutton looked up to the sky as a bald eagle soared over Fossil Creek Reservoir.

Its wingspan, typically 6 feet (or as wide as Nicolas Cage is tall), seemed majestic as it glided toward the cottonwood tree in which it would roost.

"It's cool," said Hutton, a Fort Collins resident.

"I just wish it was warmer." She was one of four residents who braved subzero temperatures on a recent Thursday evening to watch eagles with Larimer County volunteer naturalist Carl Sorrentino.

Trish Warner of Loveland watches bald eagles as her husband, Gary, listens to volunteer naturalist Carl Sorrentino talk about the birds' behavior.
The temperatures do not feel as cold for the bald eagles who winter here from Saskatchewan, Canada, said Sorrentino of Windsor.

"This is the Riviera for them," he said.

He and other volunteer naturalists offer a look at and information about eagles Thursdays at the open space between Loveland and Fort Collins.

Some Thursdays are warmer than others, so make sure to check the forecast and dress for the weather. Three eagle-watchers fled to their warm cars on Dec. 18 after about 15 minutes, because they didn't have insulated boots and coats.

The walk portion of Larimer County's Eagle Watch is short, to the end of a paved sidewalk.

The information on eagles, however, is much more extensive, from what they eat (fish and small mammals) to their place in history (as the American symbol as well as the symbol of other much older cultures), according to Sorrentino.

Eagles can be very precise hunters, but they only hunt if they have to. These raptors would much rather steal a fresh kill from coyote or cat animals they find dead, Sorrentino said.

"The eagle is an opportunist," he described.

This is one reason Founding Father Benjamin Franklin wrote to his daughter saying he would rather have the turkey — an honest, hard worker — as the national symbol over the eagle.

Eagles return to the same nest, year after year. In the spring to hatch eaglets, or to a nest abandoned by another pair of raptors. The largest nest ever recorded, Sorrentino said, weighed 2 tons after decades of birds expending their homes.

This year, Sorrentino has seen as many as 22 eagles at Fossil Creek Reservoir. Last winter, naturalists counted 32.

Sorrentino loves to watch them through field glasses and with the bare eye as they soar over Larimer County. And he loves to share his expertise about eagles.

"I'm fascinated by the way they live, the way they fly," said Sorrentino. "The eagle has been a symbol, for our nation and clear back to the Assyrians, of strength and agility.

"It's just a super bird."