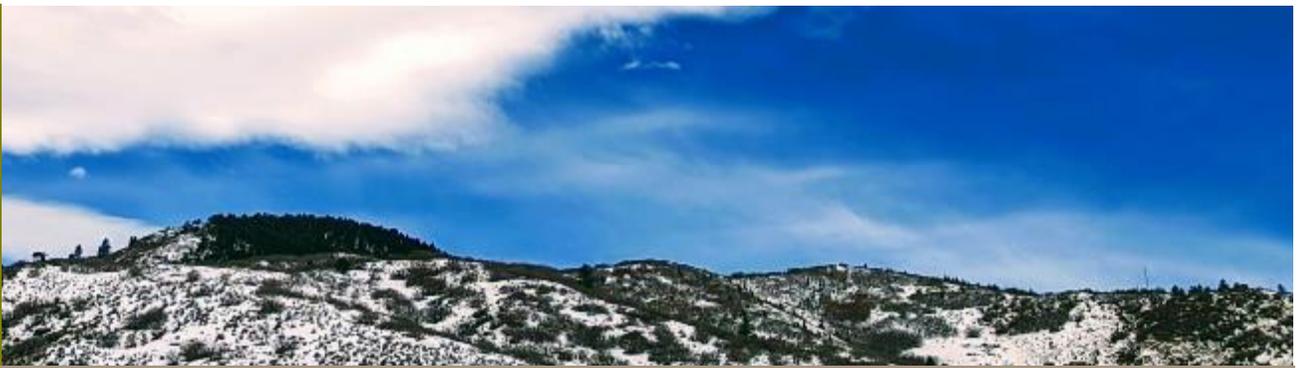


MAR
2023



WSOS *newsletter*



WE AIM TO KEEP YOU INFORMED • *Mark Holte*

Not many can claim acres of private open space on their doorstep. It's worth talking about. And it's worth visiting, by foot, by bike, with a dog or without. Committed to transparency and inclusion, we aim to keep you informed.

Welcome to this first edition of the Willow Springs Open Space newsletter! I'm Mark Holte and I serve currently as President of the WSOS Board. I'm excited to share the team's contributions to keeping you informed on happenings in the open space, including our 2023 priorities.

We also introduce our Board members, each of whom invests countless hours of work in our open space every year.

Take a read – and please get involved! We live in a community with an amazing asset of 800+ acres of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails. And it's all maintained by people in this community.

Volunteers contributed an outstanding 1,000 hours in 2022. Help us to keep up the momentum in 2023.

But, for now, grab a cup of coffee or your favorite IPA and check out what's new with WSOS.

It's your playground and your newsletter. Email Leah if you have any topics you'd like covered:
dakotapointe@wsosoa.org



Find us **ONLINE:**

- Website <https://wsosoa.org/>
- Click to request access to our private [Facebook](#) group.

SIGN UP here to receive our news: [Join Email List](#)
Questions? Email your rep; see pages 6–8.

We invite you to attend our Board **MEETINGS** at Red Rocks Country Club. They are on our [Calendar](#); the next meeting is on Thu Apr 27, 6.30–8.30pm.

WILLOW SPRINGS OPEN SPACE



2022 HIGHLIGHTS & 2023 PRIORITIES

2022 was a big, beautiful year for our open space. The passion and generosity of our volunteers and members help us move into 2023 with bold confidence.

New Trails

Ovenbird Trail was completed and opened for hikers only. You can access the trail from the top of Mt Lindo or upper Weaver Gulch trails.



Pipedream Trail is an advanced downhill trail for bikes only. The entrance is at the Tin Cup picnic table (above the Black Bear/Millennium intersection). It's 50% finished and will be completed this year.

Once Pipedream is complete, we'll have an astonishing 19 miles of trail in WSOS.

Trail Maintenance

Volunteers contributed a massive 1,000+ hours of trail maintenance in 2022. We completed Larry's Trail reroute and worked improvements across the entire trail system. Trimming, raking, repairs, water drainage work, weed whacking, pickaxing, and removing old fencing. Our space has never looked better.

Want to help in 2023? We'd appreciate it – see page 5.

Informational Signs

Thanks to the Smith Family Foundation for funding the educational signs found in our open space. We added two new signs in 2022, on the hot topics *Water* and *Fire*.

Find the signs here:

- **1978 Murphy Gulch Fire:** East of the intersection of the Upper Willow Walk and Golden Spike trails.
- **Water Rights:** Intersection of Lower Willow Walk, Rattlesnake Run, and Whale Watch Mesa trails.

Our **Trail Map** is up to date, with the new trails shown. Download it from our website: [WSOS Map](#).

It's in the Name

The Ovenbird is a warbler found in our open space. It's so named for its nest, a domed structure with the entrance on the side, like an old-fashioned oven.

Pipedream gives a nod to the nearby steep Pipeline trail that has a utility pipe running beneath it. Oh, and it's a dream to ride WSOS's bike-only trail.

Kudos, Friends!

A special call-out to John Stewart who contributed 54 hours to working in our open space in 2022. Bill Blazek was close behind with 45 hours.

Many others also gave plenty of time. We see you. We thank you.



WILLOW SPRINGS OPEN SPACE



Fire Mitigation

We've held six fire mitigation days over the past few years. In December we met with the Colorado State Forest Service and got advice on where to set our focus going forward. See page 5 for more on our plans.

2023 Priorities, it's all about Maintenance and Mitigation

- ✓ **Fire Mitigation** is a priority, with a focus on optimizing our efforts under the guidance of experts, alongside community education.
- ✓ **Trail Maintenance** is the name of the game for 2023. No trail builds are planned, apart from completing Pipedream.
- ✓ 2023 **Event Planning** is underway. We hope to bring you some guided nature walks, so watch this space and be sure to sign up for our [Email Alerts](#).
- ✓ We're considering **Picnic Table Improvements**. More on that later.

Annual Fundraiser

It's become quite the tradition and in 2022 it was bigger than ever. The **6th Annual WSOS Fundraiser** raised over \$18,000 last year.

This brings us to \$62,276 raised in 6 years.

Adults, children, walkers, hikers, there's something for everyone.

Thanks to the athletes who worked hard to make magic, and to all those who cheered from the sidelines.



Call to ACTION

We're looking for a volunteer to lead the Annual WSOS Fundraiser event in 2023. Contact Mark Holte (or your Board rep) if you're that person, or if you would at least like to join the planning committee.



We begin 2023 in good financial standing, with an approved budget focused on open space maintenance work and fire mitigation.

Closing Out 2022

The WSOS Board is tasked with managing and maintaining the WSOS, while staying within the operating budget.

At the close of 2022 we had a cash reserve of just over \$38,000. This is approximately 50% of our annual budget, giving a solid cash position.

Neighborhood Contributions

Every lot in the qualifying neighborhoods of WSOS contributes \$60 a year to be a member of the open space. Red Rocks Country Club members are given the option to participate and, if they opt in, are charged accordingly.

2023 Expenses

For 2023 we anticipate our primary expenses will be trail maintenance and fire mitigation. The WSOS

expenditures are, to a large degree, determined by volunteers who contribute excellent project ideas that they are willing to spearhead. As a volunteer organization we need volunteers – seriously! If you have a specific proposal that you’d be willing to run with, contact Mark Holte or your Board representative.

We Are All Friends!

WSOS has a non-profit partner organization: The Friends of Willow Springs Open Space. This 501(c)(3) was founded in 2012. Its mission is to provide resources to support education in sustainable resource management.

The Friends of WSOS runs the Annual WSOS Fundraiser and accepts donations throughout the year. The funds are used for education in sustainable trail maintenance. This year they will contribute to completing the Pipedream trail.

WSOS Members

- Filing 1 & 2
- Filing 3
- Filing 4
- Sundance
- Falcon Ridge
- Dakotah at Willow Springs
- Dakotah Pointe
- North Master
- Willowbrook
- Tidrick Property

North Master includes the properties north and west of the Dakotahs.

The new communities of Lyon’s Ridge and Montane are not qualifying members.



Behind each achievement are many hours of hard work, collaboration, and contribution. And laughter; it’s always a good time with WSOS.



The mission of the WSOSOA shall be to maintain and enhance the quality and value of the Private Open Space area by providing and regulating community recreation, education and other permitted uses in a manner that reflects sound management and preservation of wildlife and wilderness assets.



COME, ACCESS YOUR OPEN SPACE

Please use your open space – and volunteer if you can. We need member’s help to keep it just so, always beautiful.

WSOS Tags

Visit our website to request a tag: [2023 Open Space Tag Request](#).

Or you can email your rep with your request (see pages 6–8).

You need a tag for parking at a trailhead or for riding a bike in Willow Spring’s open space. They don’t give access to Ken Caryl trails.

Be sure to leave a tag visible in your car if you park at a trailhead.

The current tags are white with a dashing checkerboard pattern.

Ken Caryl Tags

There’s high demand for the reciprocal tags to access Ken Caryl open space. We get more requests than we have tags available.

In 2023, eligibility for the tags increases from 8 to 10 hours volunteer work. Or you may donate \$500 for a tag.

Volunteering

We depend on volunteers to help maintain our open space. Keep an eye out for emails announcing our 2023 Volunteer Days. You’ll meet like-minded neighbors, and we kick back and enjoy refreshments after the work. It’s fun, promise.

You can volunteer for ongoing projects any time through this link: [Trail Maintenance Projects](#).

Remember to **Report the Hours you Work** on the WSOS website.

Use the ‘Time Reporting’ tab: [Open Space Volunteer Reporting](#).



Private Online Forum

All can access the WSOS website, but only members may enter the private forum where we share and collect information. Find it here: <https://wsosoa.org/links/> (don’t share the link with non-members, please).

Todd Houghton is in the final steps of certification as a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist.



FIRE MITIGATION FORWARD • Todd Houghton

For 2023, the Board will focus on how best to ramp up the excellent work done over previous years. We will prioritize *optimizing* our volunteer wildfire mitigation efforts in the open space.

Our thinking has evolved after recent meetings with experts. These included the Supervisory Forester with the Colorado State Forest Service, as well as members of neighboring communities that have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on wildfire mitigation. We’ve been advised to focus significant efforts on the first 5 to 100 feet from every house in our community – and then to work our way out.

60–90% of home loss from wildfire is due to embers flying up to a mile (or two, in high winds) from the fire front. Our community would benefit from creating and maintaining defensible spaces around our houses. We must harden our properties by replacing the most combustible construction components where possible. Expect useful, actionable advice on how best to protect your home, coming up soon in 2023.



WHO'S WHO – YOUR WSOS BOARD

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

Mark Holte • President

email: rrcc@wsosoa.org

I've been on the WSOS Board for seven years, representing Red Rocks Country Club. I assumed the role of President two years ago, and believe we have the greatest 'hidden gem' in the Denver front range area. I work in Higher Education sales for Workday, having been with them for the past ten years.

My wife, Josie, two kids and I built our home in Lyons Ridge eight years ago because we absolutely love this area. I'm an avid mountain biker and you may see me on the trails biking, with my white German Shepherd, Lily, running alongside. Our family loves hiking and exploring in the open space.



Tom Weeks • Treasurer

email: willowbrook@wsosoa.org

I've lived in Willowbrook with my wife, Maureen, and three daughters since 1994. We just LOVE the area. We raised our kids here and the open space has been an integral part of their experience. We still do an annual hike on Baldy for Christmas.

I've represented Willowbrook on the WSOS Board for at least the past eight years, and currently serve as Treasurer. I tend to focus on the financial and fire mitigation aspects of our work. On the professional side, I own and operate apartments and single-family rental units, primarily in the southeast.



Doug Hiebert • Secretary

email: filing1-2@wsosoa.org

I've lived in Willow Springs since 2014. I represent Filing 1 & 2 on the Board. I moved here from Green Mountain for the open space and trails after hearing about it from a good friend who lives here.

I'm a passionate bicyclist and hiker, and I also love to cross country ski and snowboard. My wife, Kelly, and I have a yellow lab, Mr Jones, who equally loves the open space. To enable this lavish lifestyle, I am an Environmental Health Engineer at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden.



Craig Bakken

email: northmaster@wsosoa.org

I've served on the WSOS Board since last summer, representing North Master HOA residents. I work for a large international CPG label converter, responsible for NA sales of Specialty Products, Promotional and Security Labels.

My wife, Karen, and I have lived in Willow Springs for 18 years. We live at the Two Fawn trailhead, at the top of Snowcreek Lane. Karen and our dog, George, can be found hiking on Rattlesnake Run almost every day of the year. Our communities' private open space and trails are unsurpassed on the Front Range, an asset worth improving and defending.



Mark Germinario

email: falconridge@wsosoa.org

My wife, Annette, and I moved to Falcon Ridge in 2017. We moved from Wash Park after returning to Colorado in 2007. I'm a newer WSOS Board member, having served since the Spring of 2022. As a geologist, I find my back deck view – over the hogback valley towards Red Rocks Amphitheatre and beyond – a spiritual experience. I enjoy hiking in our open space in all seasons, especially up in the high forests.

I authored the WSOS geologic information signs, and I've presented on the local geology for several community organizations. I've also led small group geology hikes for area residents. Keep an eye out for information on future geology hikes.



Steve Hoppe

email: dakotah@wsosoa.org

I serve as the WSOS Board representative for the townhome community of Dakotah at Willow Springs. I retired two years ago after a career in the oil and gas industry, where I worked as a petroleum engineer.

My wife, Lynn, and I have lived in Willow Springs for 11 years. We enjoy skiing, camping, swimming, climbing, biking, pickleball, and hiking all over the US. We especially love hiking our WSOS trails. I'm honored to be Dakotah's representative.



Todd Houghton

email: filing3@wsosoa.org

My wife, Adrienne, and I have lived in Willow Springs Filing 3 for almost 20 years. It's where we raised our two awesome kids, Grayson and Olivia.

Our family loves hiking and biking the trails, and our kids have explored the red rock formations since they could walk. Olivia spent a couple of summers maintaining and building trails. We all appreciate this treasure we share with this community.

I complete my first year on the Board in April. My primary focus is fire mitigation.

My wife and I own a business in New Orleans, and I am a full-time real estate broker, specializing in Morrison and the surrounding foothills communities.



Ed Morrell

email: filing4@wsosoa.org

I've served as a WSOS board member representing Willow Springs Filing 4 (Chimney rock area) for four years.

My wife, Karen, and I have been residents of Willow Springs for eight years and we thoroughly enjoy the open space and trails we all have access to. I'm a consulting engineer designing equipment for various industries.



Steve Spielman

email: sundance@wsosoa.org

I've lived in Willow Springs since 2008, and I have served on the WSOS Board since 2017. My wife, two kids and I all enjoy an active Colorado lifestyle. On any given day you will find me hiking or biking with friends and family in the open space.

My passion on the WSOS Board is trail maintenance and development. Professionally, I'm a Sales Enterprise Architect for SAP."



Leah Wicks

email: dakotahpointe@wsosoa.org

I've been a WSOS Board member for two years, representing the patio home community of Dakota Pointe. I'm retired from the Jefferson County Probation Department and I'm currently co-owner of Pearl Events, a wedding planning service.

My husband Dave and I have loved living in Willow Springs for the past 17 years. We spend a lot of time hiking the trails in our open space, such an amazing amenity for our community. I look forward to continued service on the WSOS Board, working to maintain and protect our open space.



Other Board Directors

- **John Winger:** John serves as our Volunteer Accountant (accountant@wsosoa.org).
- **Rick Tidrick** was a founding Board member but is now retiring his position. We thank him for his many years of excellent service to WSOS.

Thanks also to **Valerie Southgate** of Sundance for volunteering her time as Newsletter Editor.

