

MAR
2025



WSOS *newsletter*



SPRING BRINGS FRESH GROWTH • *Mark Holte*

With melting snow comes vibrant growth. We're excited for another busy season in our beautiful open space.

The WSOSOA Board will continue prioritizing trail maintenance in 2025. We've engaged Momentum Trail Concepts for more work focused on drainage and visibility.

Many thanks to last year's summer workers, and we invite more help this year. Find the details on page 3.

Please join one or more of our Community Trail Days, beginning May 17. You'll have fun while making a meaningful contribution. Signup's easy via the link on page 3.

It's my pleasure to welcome new Board member, Robert Carrera, who replaces Ed Morrell as

representative for filing 4. We thank Ed for his remarkable contributions to our open space since 2018.

Thanks also to the fire mitigation team: Todd Houghton and the Willow Springs Firewise team, and to Adrienne Houghton for securing

us a fire mitigation grant. It brought us \$21,670 to address fire risks.

A final thank you goes to all those who contributed to our '10 Hours' fundraiser in 2024.

Our community is strong!



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 page 5.

We invite you to attend our Board **MEETINGS** at Red Rocks Country Club. They're on our [Calendar](#); the next meeting is on Thu Apr 10, 6.30-8.30pm.

WILLOW SPRINGS OPEN SPACE

10 HOURS OF WILLOW SPRINGS, EVERYONE WINS

10 Hours of Willow Springs 2024: \$16,000+ raised! It was our 8th annual event, thanks to everyone who contributed to make it a winner.

Congratulations to this year's athletic race winners:

- *Allison Hofstra* – 3-mile Mt Lindo Run/Hike.
- *Blakely Copithorn* and *Kellan Rahberg* – Kids Mountain Bike Race.
- *Young Bucks* – Relay Bike Race.

And a *huge* thank you to our sponsors who generously donated to support our raffle. The event brought in \$16,750 for Friends of Willow Springs Open Space, our 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. Please support the local businesses who kindly support your open space.



SUPPORT our SUPPORTERS!

- **Wheat Ridge Cyclery**
- **SPOT Bikes**
- **Vertex Innovations**
- **Ascent Health**
- **Littleton Gynecology and Wellness**
- **Rocket Express Car Wash**
- **Treehouse Adventure Park**
- **Beneve Supplements**
- **Santa Cruz Bicycles**



Join the 2025 Team

Huge thanks to Mark Bowersox and team for our fantastic 2024 fundraiser.

Please consider joining the team planning this year's 10 Hours fundraiser. It's rewarding work for a great cause – just see the results on our trails. Contact Mark Bowersox for more details: northmaster@wsosoa.org.



The Young Bucks



Our Runners & Hikers

Our MISSION: 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.

TRAIL CARE, IT'S COMMUNITY

Without great trails there's no recreation in our open space. Enjoy them and please help us to keep them in excellent shape. Here are some ways to help.

Community Trail Days

Meet your neighbors, get a workout, help care for your trails – and have fun.

Please volunteer for one or more of our Trail Days: May 17, June 21, August 9.

[Trail Days Sign Up](#)

Trail Additions

WSOS Tags Go Yellow

We have new yellow trail tags – valid through 2027. Get yours after completing the required liability waiver: wsosoa.org/links. Once completed your Board Rep will be notified.

You need a tag when parking at a trailhead or when biking, but you don't need a tag to hike.

Sweet Hardcopy Maps

Updated maps are available for a \$10 donation to our non-profit entity. Contact your Board Rep for a copy (see page 5).

Sharp New Signs

Look for the new signs at our trail junctions. We'll continue to place the signs during our May 17 Community Trail Day. Join us!

Summer Employment

Know someone who loves the outdoors and wants to earn extra cash? We'll be hiring a Supervisor (\$25-\$30/hour) and 3-4 Trail Workers (\$15-\$20/hour) for 15 hours per week of minor maintenance and improvements over the summer.

Find the details and applications here: [General Worker](#) or [Supervisor](#).

Apply by May 31 to Steve Spielman: spielman.sh@gmail.com.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 10, 6.30pm • **Board Meeting**, Red Rocks Country Club

May 3, 9:00am • **Fire Mitigation Information Day**, Kingfisher Lake

May 17, 8:00am • **Community Trail Maintenance Day**

June 21, 8:00am • **Community Trail Maintenance Day**

July 10, 6.30pm • **Board Meeting**, Red Rocks Country Club

August 9, 8:00am • **Community Trail Maintenance Day**

October 9, 6.30pm • **Board Meeting**, Red Rocks Country Club

November 11, 7:00pm • **Annual Meeting**, Red Rocks Country Club

SAFE FROM FIRE, EVER AWARE

Our Community is Firewise!

We're proud to have several of our filings achieve Firewise status – well done to all. See this link for more information:

[Willow Springs Firewise.](#)

Wildfire safety is universal: no home is immune. Protect yours by focusing on the Home Ignition Zone: [Preparing Homes for Wildfire.](#) Take action now to reduce risk and safeguard your property – and your neighbor's.

Mark your calendars for the next Fire Mitigation Information Day: Saturday May 3 at Kingfisher Lake.

Slash Day Success & Upcoming Event

A massive thank you to Todd and Adrienne Houghton for organizing the successful October 2024 Slash Day. Community volunteers worked hard chipping landscape debris. Thank you, friends.



What is FIREWISE?

Firewise USA is administered by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). It recognizes communities that have met specific criteria for wildfire risk mitigation.

The program aims to motivate neighborhoods to undertake wildfire mitigation in their community, while also being prepared for wildfire.

Another Slash Day is planned for May (date TBD).

- Keep an eye on [Willow Springs Firewise](#) for more information.

DOG WASTE: A MATTER OF RESPECT & RESPONSIBILITY

Please remember to pick up, bag, and dispose of your dog's waste. This is essential for the health of our shared environment and respects your neighbors. Dog waste does not biodegrade naturally, contains harmful bacteria and parasites, and pollutes our water. County ordinances require cleanup.

We love that you and your dogs love our open space.
But please adhere to this mandatory requirement.





BOARD REPRESENTATION, THANK YOU

Our Board's commitment drives our results. As a working board, we value direct involvement and thank all members who contribute their time and passion.

Ed Morrell, We Appreciate You

Thanks to Ed Morrell for his active involvement with our Board since 2018. His commitment and dedication to our trails and the open space community helped us achieve our aims. We're further grateful that he's promised to continue to support trail initiatives.

Robert Carrera, Welcome

We welcome Robert Carrera as Ed Morrell's replacement, representing Filing 4.

"My wife Susan and I moved to Colorado 35 years ago and raised our three children in Lakewood. We moved to Willow Springs for the open space trails. I recently ended the latest phase of my 35+ year career in healthcare and healthcare management. I enjoy cycling (all kinds), lake kayaking, Nordic skiing, and snowboarding. You'll often see Susan and me walking our dogs in the neighborhood and on the trails. I've been active in trail maintenance since we moved in, and I'm happy to join the Board and give back to our great community."

Your Board Reps

Mark Holte • President
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Tom Weeks • Treasurer
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Bill Blazek • Secretary
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Todd Houghton
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Robert Carrera
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Steve Spielman
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Bill Swalling
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Leah Wicks
dakotahpointe@wsosoa.org

John Winger serves as our volunteer accountant, and Valerie Southgate and Leah Wicks as co- editors for our newsletter.



WEED CONTROL, SPRING WORK

By mid-April, noxious weeds will begin appearing in our open space. These non-native plants harm our environment and Colorado law requires their control.

Steve Roe and Kathleen Knowlton are hosting a training in April to teach weed identification and removal. Participants will receive Board-sponsored pictorial guides. Contact Kathleen to sign up: tknow6136@aol.com, 303-582-4020.

Even without attending the training, you can help by clipping and removing weeds during your walks. Spring is the time to do it.

Weed Wranglers will spray in mid-April to control Hoary Cress before flowers emerge.

