

SEP
2025



WSOS *newsletter*



TOP TRAILS, GREAT NEIGHBORS • *Mark Holte*

Crafting Colorado's best private trails takes passion, expertise, and hard work.

We hope you had a great summer on the trails!

Thanks to fantastic trail building collaborators and our committed, hard-working volunteers, our trails are better than ever.

We're grateful for your passion and support in making our trails some of the best in Colorado.

Thanks also to our hard-working Board. If there are ways in which we can better serve you, please don't hesitate to share your ideas – just email your rep.

Don't miss this year's 10 Hours of Willow Springs on September 27. It's a great chance to come together, have fun, and support our trails.

For an extra treat, join us the night before, on September 26, for a bluegrass concert in Colorow Cave. (page 2 has details.)

Here's to crisp fall mornings, golden leaves, and many more miles on the trails!



CONNECT WITH US:

- **Website** <https://wsosoa.org/>
- **Private Facebook group.**
- **News:** [Join Email List](#)

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WILLOW SPRINGS OPEN SPACE



10 HOURS OF WILLOW SPRINGS, SEPTEMBER 27

Mark your calendar, The **Annual 10 Hours of Willow Springs** bike race and 5K run/hike is back on Saturday, September 27.

Whether you're a cyclist, hiker, or just love exploring the trails, the event is a great way to support our open space.

- **Register as an individual or team member at 10hows.com.**

This year's raffle prizes are sponsored by community favorites listed below. Please support the local businesses who kindly support your open space. All proceeds benefit Willow Springs Open Space, our 501(c)(3) non-profit entity.

SUPPORT our SUPPORTERS:

- Wheat Ridge Cyclery
- Feedback Sports
- Rocket Express Car Wash
- The Cow Eatery
- Beneve
- Lifespan Solutions
- Kiser Motorcycles
- Santa Cruz Bicycles
- RELiON Battery

NEW in 2025, a CONCERT!

Inviting all event participants and raffle ticket holders.

- Spaghetti Dinner & Bluegrass Concert
- on Friday, September 26
- at 5.30pm, Willowbrook Colorow Cave.

Brought to you with the generous support of **Vertex Innovations**.

With live music from **Second Gear Bluegrass**.



WILLOW SPRINGS GEOLOGY HIKE, JOIN US

You're Invited: Join geologist and WSOS Board Member Mark Germinario for a geology hike on Sunday, October 5, 12.00-1.30 pm.

Learn about 1.7 billion years of local geology on the Wild Chipmunk and Falcon Ridge trails.

Meet at noon in the cul-de-sac parking area at the west end of Sparrow Point Way (Falcon Ridge).

Sign up: Space is limited to 15, so please register: [HIKE sign-up](#)

Be Prepared: Wear hiking shoes and carpool, as parking is limited.



TOP TRAILS, THEY TAKE COLLECTIVE EFFORT

We're on a mission to offer the best private open space trails in Colorado. With each year's steady improvements, we move closer to the goal. We do it with community support and collaboration.

Summer Crew Action

AJ Anderson once again led a team of young outdoor enthusiasts who took on the hot, dusty trail work this summer. They focused on drainage, trimming grasses, and removing rocks and debris. Their hard work ensures safe, sustainable, and enjoyable trails.

Crafting Trails with Care

Mihai Moga and Matt Thompson of Momentum Trails have spent seven seasons bringing their international trail-building expertise to our open space. With safety the priority, they've improved drainage and reshaped trails for good visibility and to reduce possible conflict between bikers and hikers. Their work makes the experience smoother and safer for every user.

Community Effort

Just as important are the neighbors who show up for summer trail days. This work improves our open space and builds the sense of community that makes WSOS so special.

WSOS, where expert trail design meets beloved community.

Generous Sponsorship

Thanks to Wayne and Erica Smith for supporting WSOS for over a decade through their foundation, the We4Smith Foundation.

The Smiths have been active trail users since 2006. Erica, a hiker, used the trails as a classroom in homeschooling their two daughters and to prepare for hikes like Hadrian's Wall and Machu Picchu. Wayne is an avid biker and longtime supporter of the 10 Hours event.

This year, his company, Vertex Innovations, is sponsoring the event dinner.

Ovenbird Trail for Hikers

Hikers, don't forget this gem of a trail built just for you – no bikes allowed.

The trail begins near the top of the Mt. Lindo trail and flows through lovely terrain to connect with Weaver Gulch

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sep 26, 27 • **10 hours ride/hike event & concert**

Oct 5 • **Geology Hike** 12.00pm
Falcon Ridge Trailhead

Oct 9 • **Board Meeting** 6.30pm
Red Rocks Country Club

Nov 11 • **Annual Meeting**
7.00pm, Red Rocks Country Club



WILLOW SPRINGS OPEN SPACE

YOUR ENJOYMENT, A PRIORITY

New Outdoor Furniture

We have three new picnic tables and a bench waiting for you.

- Find the picnic tables at Four Corners, the top of Mount Baldy, and the top of Falcon Ridge.
- The new bench is near the Falcon Ridge trail, just above the intersection with Larry's Trail.

Big thanks to those involved!

- Brian Desterac, Ros Ferrin, Curt Gwilliam, Todd Houghton, and Rob Carrera for the heavy work installing the picnic tables.
- Jeff and Karla Gori for installing the new bench.

Because of their efforts, we get to relax and enjoy the views.

New Trail Signs

After nearly two years and over 200 new signs installed, the trail sign project is complete! Thank you to all volunteers who helped.

Wondering about the old wooden signs? They'll be available for purchase at the annual meeting.

And don't get lost: grab an updated map from your Board representative or at the annual meeting for a \$10 donation.



Fire Mitigation Matters

Thanks to those who participated in our May 17 Slash Day. Special thanks to Todd and Adrienne Houghton for organizing the event and to Dino Catozzo and his son for the delicious pasta lunch for volunteers.

A state grant helped cover the costs. Going forward, donations earmarked for fire mitigation will help us continue these events.

Visit our Firewise website to learn more:

[Willow Springs FIREWISE](https://www.firewise.org)



Hey, GO SLOW ...

- Please slow down and drive carefully on Sparrow Point Way (Falcon Ridge).

Residents have reported speeding vehicles and bikes.

Be kind, look out for the safety of our neighbors, children, pets, and wildlife.



WILLOW SPRINGS OPEN SPACE



WE HATE TO NAG BUT ... DOG WASTE!

Most neighbors do, but a few don't and it's mighty unpleasant: please pick up after your dog.

Dog waste on our open space trails isn't just unpleasant – it's a problem for the local ecosystem.

The waste is different from wildlife waste because it contains concentrated nutrients from processed dog food, along with harmful bacteria and parasites.

Leaving it behind can lead to:

- Unbalanced soil conditions and invasive plant growth.
- Water pollution and algae blooms.
- Illness for both wildlife and humans.

So, please grab a bag from a dispenser at the trailhead, pick up after your dog, and dispose of it in the bins provided.

Let's keep our open spaces clean and healthy for everyone.



Court Rules in Favor of Willow Springs Open Space

The 'Norton vs. Willow Springs Open Space Lawsuit' was filed in Jefferson County District Court, with Norton seeking to claim a portion of our open space through Adverse Possession. The trial occurred in April.

In good news, the court ruled in favor of Willow Springs Open Space. The court affirmed that the Nortons can continue their historical use of the land as long as they own it. However, the land remains a protected part of the open space, and any structures or improvements on it must be removed if the property is ever sold.

The Board will conduct boundary surveys at appropriate intervals to prevent encroachments into the open space.

Thank you to all who worked so hard to defend our open space!



WILLOW SPRINGS OPEN SPACE