

JUN  
2026



# WSOS newsletter

## NEW SEASON WELCOME • *Mark Holte*

### We're ready for another great year on our WSOS Trails: Better, Safer, and Ready for You.

It's wonderful to see so many of you out enjoying our shared backyard. Our recent community survey showed overwhelming appreciation for the Open Space. We'll be taking the excellent feedback to guide next steps.

While the warmer weather is welcome, this year's persistent drought brings added challenges for our landscape.

To keep our Open Space both beautiful and safe, the Board will focus on two key priorities this

season: trail maintenance and fire mitigation. Crews will begin clearing overgrown brush in June.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we prioritize the long-term health of the land and the safety of our community.

## TRAIL DAYS, IT TAKES TEAMWORK

Community volunteers do most of our trail care. Come meet your neighbors, spend a couple of hours doing light trail work, and enjoy lunch and cold beverages afterward. [Sign up here.](#)

**Join Us?** 8:00–12:30: June 20 | July 11 | August 15 |



### 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 Wed Jun 24, 6.30-8.30pm.

WILLOW SPRINGS OPEN SPACE

# 10 HOURS OF WILLOW SPRINGS, IT'S A WINNER

Riding, running, and raffles for a great cause. Come play in the Open Space and help keep our trails vibrant.

Last fall's 10 Hours event raised **\$14,915** for our Open Space, bringing the nine-year total to **\$108,000**.

Congratulations to all the winners! And thank you to everyone who participated.

A special shout-out to our wonderful sponsors — many of them neighbors — who made the event possible. Please support their businesses.

## SUPPORT our SUPPORTERS!

- Wheat Ridge Cyclery
- Vertex Innovations
- Inspire Orthodontics
- RELiON Battery
- Beneve Supplements / Britt Copithorn
- Excel Roofing
- Feedback Sports
- Glenn Smith Studios
- Kiser Motorcycles
- Lifespan Solutions / Mark Addy
- Red Rocks Country Club
- Rocket Express Car Wash
- Santa Cruz Bicycles
- Tavern 242 / The Cow An Eatery
- The Red Rocks Team at Your Castle Real Estate



## 10th Annual Fundraiser!

Join us for our 10th **10 Hours of Willow Springs** on Saturday, October 3.

Whether you're up for the team mountain bike race, 5K run/hike, kids' bike race, or raffle prizes, there's something for everyone.

Mark your calendar. Get training!



We maintain and enhance the quality and value of the Private Open Space.

Community feedback shows overwhelming support for Willow Springs Open Space, with residents finding it a valued asset in the neighborhood. Thank you.

We received hundreds of responses from our community. The majority are extremely satisfied with the trails, describing them as a “gem,” “tremendous asset,” and the “best part of our community.”

Usage is high, with most hiking or biking regularly. Members value the dedicated hiker-only (Ovenbird) and biker-only (Pipe Dream) trails.

Members are grateful for our consistent maintenance, volunteer efforts, and recent trail and signage improvements. Residents also value the balance between hikers, bikers, and (to a lesser extent) equestrians.

## Your Recommendations

Members’ recommendations will help guide our future priorities, including:

- Continued maintenance of trails rather than expansion.
- Keeping the Open Space private and limited to HOA members.
- Wildfire mitigation.
- Improved dog waste management and leash compliance.
- Clearer maps and signage.
- Protection of wildlife habitat.

Thank you for your participation!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Jun 14, 12:00pm • **Geology Hike**  
Falcon Ridge Cul-de-sac

Jun 20, 8:00am • **Community Trail Maintenance Day**

Jul 24, 6.30pm • **Board Meeting**, Red Rocks Country Club

Jul 11, 8:00am • **Community Trail Maintenance Day**

Aug 15, 8:00am • **Community Trail Maintenance Day**

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

Oct 3 • **10 Hours of Willow Springs**

Nov 12, 7:00pm • **Annual Meeting**, Red Rocks Country Club

## FIRE MITIGATION, A PRIORITY

Thank you to all who participated in the May 30 Slash Day. Between individual homeowners and our HOAs, we’ve seen great progress on wildfire mitigation across Willow Springs this year.

To continue these efforts, the board has contracted ForestWerx for strategic fuel reduction in high-priority areas of our Open Space, starting mid-June. The areas were originally identified in our Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) Stewardship Plan and re-verified this spring with the CSFS, Jefferson County Wildfire Commission, and West Metro Fire & Rescue.

**Questions or concerns?** Please contact board member Todd Houghton: [filing3@wssoa.org](mailto:filing3@wssoa.org).

## WSOS HIKE, GEOLOGIST GUIDED

See Willow Springs through a geologist's eyes and discover the deep history beneath our feet.

Ever wanted to time travel? Willow Springs offers a unique window into deep geologic history, connecting our landscape, vegetation, and habitats to processes spanning hundreds of millions of years.

Join Mark Germinario — geologist and board member — for a guided geology hike.

### The Details:

- **When:** Sunday, June 14, 12:00–1:30.
- **Meet:** Cul-de-sac parking area at the uphill (west) end of Sparrow Point Way in Falcon Ridge.
- **Bring:** Appropriate hiking footwear and clothing; water, if needed.
- **Parking:** Limited; please carpool if possible. If the cul-de-sac is full, use the small three-car pullout along Sparrow Point Way. Do not park on the street.
- **Sign up:** Limited to 15 — register early! [Sign up here.](#)

Thanks to Stroll magazine for their detailed description of the geology hike experience.

### WEEDS, a Challenge

Houndstongue and thistle are already appearing along the trails, with other noxious weeds close behind. Now is a great time to bring a bag and pull weeds during your walks.

Weed Wranglers will once again target larger influxes, using wildlife-safe treatments. We'll post application dates in advance.

### Get Involved

Thanks to our weed control leads, Steve Roe and Kathleen Knowlton. Contact them to learn more or to join the effort.

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## FORMER TIDRICK PROPERTY, UPDATE

Curious about the open land at the end of Belleview? Developer Bill Swalling has submitted a third proposal for 'Mountain Villages,' a community of 143 single-level homes and several quad-duplexes.

While the current C-1 zoning is highly permissive and out of character for Willow Springs, this scaled-down proposal aims for a better fit. Reduced from an original 320 homes, the new plan preserves nearly 50% of the land as open space, integrates into the trail system, and emphasizes fire mitigation and water conservation.



# 15 YEARS ON, REFLECTIONS • *Tom Weeks*



Over my 15 years on the Willows Springs Open Space Board, I've seen the organization mature into an integral part of the Hogback Valley community. When I joined, we neither held regular meetings nor maintained organized records.

Chris Whittenbrink was instrumental in bringing the Board into the 21st century and into compliance with Colorado HOA requirements. Increased funding has since let us move beyond basic maintenance to make meaningful improvements to our trail system, expanding access to this incredible shared asset.

I've particularly valued participating in volunteer efforts and building some of my closest friendships in the valley. The willingness of neighbors to give back is remarkable. I'm always impressed by the many hours contributed.

The Open Space provides a unique connection across Hogback Valley. With 11 HOAs in our membership, it lets us bridge fence lines between 'hoods'. Together we can enjoy the landscape much as it presented to the Native Americans who had lived here for over 1,000 years.

Let's all continue to do our part to preserve it for future generations.

**We thank Tom Weeks for 15 years of service to the Open Space! His dedication has helped shape and strengthen this treasured community asset.**

## Kate Hammond, Welcome

Kate Hammond joined the board in January 2026 as the Willowbrook representative. She and her husband, along with their two teenage children, have lived in Willowbrook since 2017, drawn by the Open Space.

Kate enjoys views of the Open Space from her home and is a regular hiker, mountain biker, jogger, and dog walker. She values the natural ecosystems it protects.

Kate recently retired after a 32-year career with the National Park Service, where she lived in seven states and most recently served as Intermountain Regional Director, overseeing 82 national parks and 5,000 employees. She's a strong advocate for both preserving and enjoying our Open Space.

## Your Board Reps

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

