



Director of Open Space & Natural Resources

This key position is the leader of the Douglas County Open Space and Natural Resources Department, which protects over 63,000 acres of open space land in the County.

The ideal candidate for this role is an individual with expansive knowledge of natural resource management, a collaborative approach to leadership, and a desire to enhance the quality of life for Douglas County residents.

The Director reports directly to the County Manager for administrative purposes. This position supervises a staff of ten employees working in the capacity of rangers, natural and environmental resource specialists, and historic restoration specialists.

Generally, the hiring range for this position is \$105,000 - \$135,000. Qualifications, education and experience as it relates to the position will be taken into consideration when determining hiring salary.

Please visit <https://www.douglas.co.us/government/departments/humanresources/> to review a full job description and to apply.

Open Space & Natural Resources

Mission Statement

Douglas County Department of Open Space and Natural Resources seeks to enhance the quality of life for residents by protecting wildlife habitat, natural resources, historic sites, scenic views and Douglas County's rural heritage while providing a wide range of compatible outdoor recreation and educational opportunities.

Priorities

- Preserve, protect and enhance conservation values of County-owned open space
- Maintain historic residences and outbuildings on open space properties
- Management of trails and trailhead facilities
- Provide education, interpretive programs, guided hikes, and patrol of open space
- Foster cooperative partnerships with other County departments and the community
- Effectively balance the use of internal and external resources to maximize efficiency
- Protect land with high conservation values through easements or fee acquisition



The Director of Open Space and Natural Resources plans, organizes, manages, and oversees all functions and activities of the Open Space and Natural Resources Department, including:

- Preparation of natural resource studies & feasibility studies for new sites or repair of facilities.
- Preparation of site, local, and regional plans for natural resources management.
- Development of natural resources management policies and programs.
- Compliance with regulatory agency requirements.
- Cultivation of collaborative working relationships among department staff, other departments, elected officials, outside agencies, and the public.
- Negotiation with landowners on potential Open Space acquisitions & conservation easements.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree from accredited college or university in Natural Resource Management, Wildlife Biology, Agriculture, or related field required. Master's degree strongly preferred.
- Five years of increasingly responsible experience in personnel and resource management functions including: administrative principles and practices, goal setting, program development, implementation, and evaluation, integrated resource management techniques, sustainability, rangeland and forestry, noxious weeds, trails, and volunteer programs.
- Minimum of five years supervisory experience required.

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Why Work For Douglas County?



About Douglas County

The beauty of the mountains, foothills, and plains, is gloriously evident in Douglas County. In 1861, the Colorado Territorial Session Laws created Douglas County, named after Stephen A. Douglas. Today, the County's strength, as the centerpiece of the Denver/Colorado Springs development corridor, is a perfect blend of quality lifestyle and business environment.

The County is approximately 843 square miles, of which **more than 63,000 acres are permanently protected land through the Open Space Program**. Five incorporated municipalities are located within the boundaries of Douglas County: Castle Pines, Castle Rock, Larkspur, Lone Tree and Parker.

Douglas County is recognized for being one of the most family-friendly communities in Colorado, offering a quality of life unmatched elsewhere in the state. **In 2021 Douglas County was named the 2nd healthiest county in America**, according to the 2021 Healthy Communities rankings by U.S. News and World Report, released in collaboration with the Aetna Foundation.

Douglas County also ranks high in the household income, homeownership rate, and educational attainment categories. Combined with our **great location, excellent schools, wonderful weather and outstanding recreational and cultural opportunities** is why more than 350,000 citizens call Douglas County their home.

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