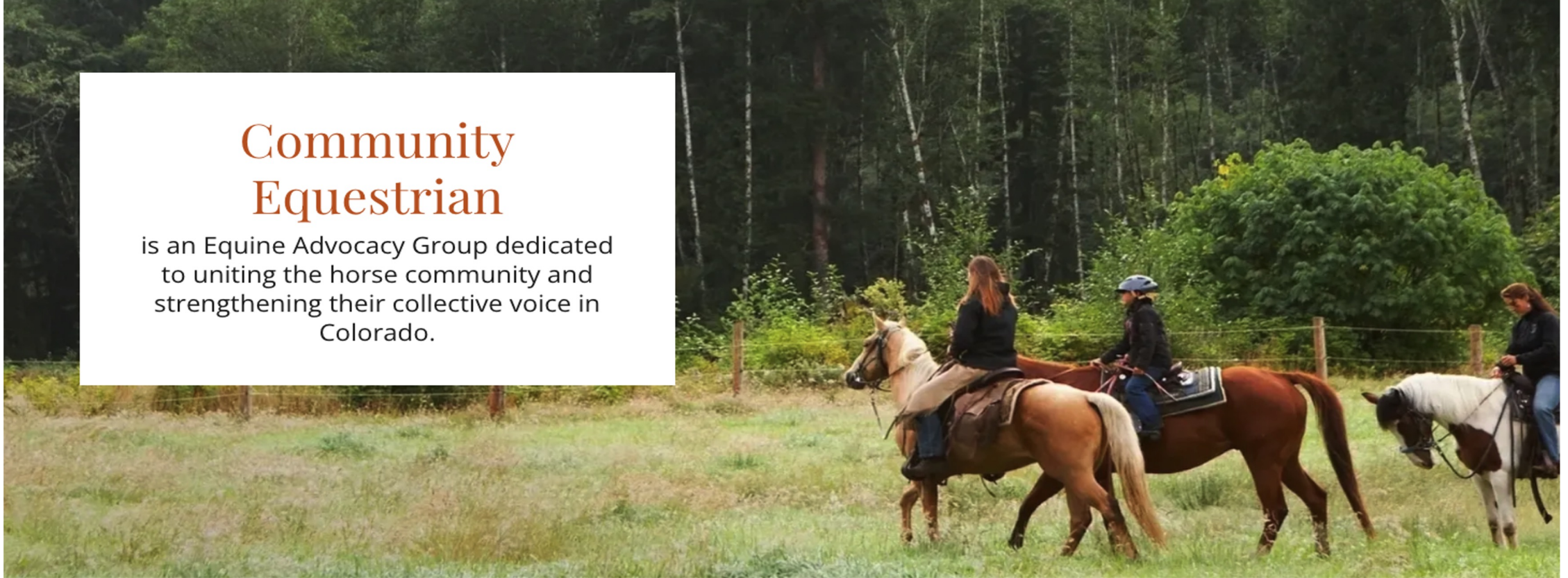


# Community Equestrian

is an Equine Advocacy Group dedicated  
to uniting the horse community and  
strengthening their collective voice in  
Colorado.



## Town Hall Meeting

November 18, 2024

[www.communityequestrian.org](http://www.communityequestrian.org)

# Welcome!

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Thank you to:

- The G&J Lazy P
- Our Sister Advocacy Groups
- Our Community Partners
- Our Attendees
- Representative Lindsey Daugherty

# Program

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## PART 1: 6-7pm PRESENTATIONS

- **Karen Hersh**, Community Equestrian: Introduction, Background
- **Scott Aschermann**, Arvada Area Horsemen's Association
- **Fran Evers**, Jefferson County Horse Council
- **Michele Hovet**, Community Equestrian: Equestrian Bill of Rights
- **Representative Lindsey Daughtery** – State of Colorado

## PART 2: 7-8pm TOWN HALL - Q&A

[www.communityequestrian.org](http://www.communityequestrian.org)

livestream and zoom links

Livestream Courtesy of Ralston Valley Coalition:

<https://youtube.com/live/VRdOymec1oM?feature=share>

Zoom Link (limited to 100) courtesy of Arvada Area Horseman's Association:

[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/8983060414?pwd=wmeDvQOES7nT2bpynAPImOjoYPtI4x.1&om](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/8983060414?pwd=wmeDvQOES7nT2bpynAPImOjoYPtI4x.1&omn=81437211437)

[n=81437211437](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/8983060414?pwd=wmeDvQOES7nT2bpynAPImOjoYPtI4x.1&omn=81437211437)

Meeting ID: 898 306 0414

Passcode: 517195





DENVERPOST.COM

Fatal Arvada horse crash sparks calls for change from Jefferson County equestrians



#justiceforgriffin



KDVR.COM

'Absolutely senseless': Horse euthanized after driver runs stop sign in Arvada



# A Year Ago



- Over 200 in person and online
- Jeffco Commissioner Kraft-Thorp
- Jeffco Planning Commission - Tim Rogers
- Rep Lindsey Daughtery
- 9 News on site
- Denver Post and Fox 31 coverage





### ECONOMIC IMPACT SUMMARY

The economic activity involved in caring for the nation's estimated **6.7 million horses**, along with the spending by horse enthusiasts in their pursuit of horse events and recreation, directly contributes over **\$74 billion** to America's Gross Domestic Product.

**Direct Contribution to GDP: \$74 billion.**  
**Direct Employment Impact: 1.3 million Jobs.**

From those direct effects, the horse industry's contribution ripples out into other sectors of the economy. Adding these ripple effects—termed indirect and induced effects in economic jargon—results in an estimate of the total contribution of the horse industry to the U.S. economy of **\$177 billion**.

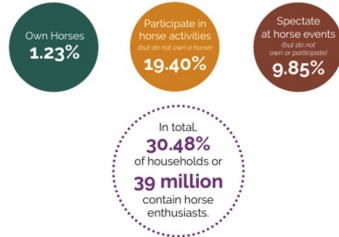
**Total Value Added to the US Economy: \$177 billion.**  
**Total Employment Impact: 2.2 million Jobs.**

The Great Recession affected the horse industry, with foal registrations reaching a low of 104 thousand foals in 2019 after averaging 280 thousand foals in the first half of the 2000s. However, registration trends have improved. Since the previous national AHC study was conducted, which was based on 2016 data, **breed registrations have increased by 7.6%**, driven largely by a jump in Quarter Horses, as well as Standardbreds and Morgans.

### HORSE ENTHUSIASTS TODAY

Only a small percentage of Americans own horses. However, for every horse-owning household there are 24 other households that contain horse enthusiasts: people who participate in horse activities or attend horse events as spectators.

Percentage of U.S. households that:



Horse Enthusiast Breakdown by Type 2022		
Type	US Households	Percent
None	89,882,036	69.52%
Owner	1,589,813	1.23%
Participant	25,077,891	19.40%
Spectator	12,731,113	9.85%
<b>Total Horse Enthusiast HH</b>	<b>9,398,817</b>	<b>30.48%</b>

Source: The Innovation Group, ESIR

Not accounted for by the household surveys are horses owned by rescues and sanctuaries, EAS operations, and academic programs. Moreover, horses owned by Amish households are not considered to have been captured in the household surveys, and an estimate for ownership was derived by third-party studies and Amish population estimates.



Source: The Innovation Group



## 2023 Economic Impact Study of the U.S. HORSE INDUSTRY







# Planning and Zoning Guide for Horse Friendly Communities

COMMUNITY  
EQUESTRIAN



RESOURCES FOR YOU

# Community Equestrian

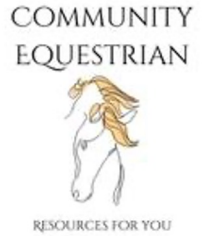
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[www.communityequestrian.org](http://www.communityequestrian.org)



# Community Equestrian Projects

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- Equestrian Bill of Rights
- TMR Donations
- Jefferson County Map Overlay
- Equestrian Legacy Corridors
- Leyden Loops Trail Project
- Arvada Indoor Arena
- Equestrian Community Public Relations Program

# HORSE COMMUNITIES AT A GLANCE

## HOUSING

### BOARDING BARNS

Training & Services for Horses & Owners

Riding Facilities

Riding Schools for public/non-owners

Sales and Leasing

### RESIDENTIAL

Backyard/DIY Horsekeeping

### HORSE RESCUES

Volunteer Opportunities

Education

Adoption

## INDUSTRY

Veterinarians

Farriers

Other Health Workers (Physical Therapy)

Trainers/Riding Schools

Tack Fitters/Suppliers

Feed Suppliers/Growers

Farm Equipment and Materials

Construction, R&M Work

Farm Jobs/Barn Crews

Waste Management

Breeding Farms

Dude Ranches/Tourism

Trail Riding Outfitters

Ranching Industry

Events/Carriage Drivers/Photographers

## CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

### COMPETITION/RECREATION/BREED ORGANIZATIONS

Colorado Stock Horse Association

Colorado Hunter Jumper Association

Rocky Mountain Dressage Society

Buffalo Bill Saddle Club

Arabian Horse Association

American Quarter Horse Association

American Paint Horse Association

### EDUCATION/THERAPY

CSU School of Veterinary Science

CSU Equine Studies

CSU Extension: 4H Program

Therapy: Physically & Mentally Challenged

Therapy: Emotionally At Risk

Therapy: Veterans PTSD

High School Lettering Program

### ADVOCACY

Community Equestrian

Jefferson County Horse Council

Arvada Area Horseman's Association

Other County Horse Councils: Boulder, Adams,  
Douglas/Elbert, Larimer

Colorado Horse Council

## RIDING VENUES

### PUBLIC

Fairgrounds

Indiana Equestrian Center - Arvada

Prospect Park Arena

Bear Creek Park Arena/Trails

Crown Hill Park and Arena

Addenbrooke Park - Lakewood

### PRIVATE

Colorado Horse Park

National Western

Denver Polo Club

Boarding Barns

### PARK/TRAIL

Van Bibber Trail

Patridge Park

Tucker Lake/Ralston Valley

Table Mountain

White Ranch

Rocky Flats

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Social Engagement

Youth Programming

Agricultural Roots/Sustainability

Open Space and Buffer Zones

Mental Health Programming

Historical Connection

Strong Economic Drivers

Small Business/Entrepreneurship

Diversity

# Stakeholding Activities 2024

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- Held separate meetings with Arvada Mayor Lauren Simpson, Arvada Acting City Manager Linda Haley, State Senator Rachel Zenzinger, and State Rep Lindsey Daugherty
- Hosted tours of the equestrian community with the republican candidates for the districts covering North West Jeffco, ongoing tours scheduled with others
- Presented, and ongoing, presentations with Jefferson County Planning and Zoning, County Commission, and city of Arvada Parks Advisory Committee and Arvada City Council
- Engaged with Together Jeffco, overhaul of their comprehensive plan, and submitted data for creation of equestrian overlay in map system
- Co-hosted a candidate forum for county commissioner, state and senate representatives for NW Jeffco with community partners
- Met with Department of Agriculture, laid foundation for working together, addressed issues with Colorado Horse Council, audit of that organization being considered
- Continually attend various board meetings and outreach with our sister horse groups and community partners
- All of this has led us to a critical junction: Lindsey Daugherty is committing to take a bill to the floor this session in support of the equestrian community.

COMMUNITY  
EQUESTRIAN



RESOURCES FOR YOU



# Arvada Area Horseman's Association

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[www.arvadaareahorsemensassn.org](http://www.arvadaareahorsemensassn.org)



# Who We Are

## AAHA

(<http://arvadaareahorsemensassn.org/>)

- Founded 1977 to promote the horse community in Arvada
- 501(c)(3)
- Stewards for the Indiana Equestrian Center

## What We Do

- Provide support services events hosted at IEC
- Maintain the IEC facility
- Support other orgs in equestrian related initiatives
- **Promote the equestrian lifestyle**



of Arvada and surrounding areas incur  
keeping and using horses.

Disappearing open natural terrain on which  
horses may be ridden combined with increasing-  
ly rapid influx of urban oriented improvements  
and populace mandate that steps be taken to  
prevent the continued emigration of horse-  
men and their way of life from the Arvada  
western perimeter. Although life styles of  
many Arvada newcomers would negate their  
owning or interest in using horses, they  
nevertheless acknowledge that the western  
openness and atmosphere and the Olde  
Towne preservation efforts attracted them.

In cooperation with the Planning Office of the  
City of Arvada the Trails Committee is  
attempting to define the urgent concerns  
of horsemen.

*A. Dale Redd*

A. Dale Redd, President

Arvada Area Horsemen's Association, Inc.

# Arvada Area Horsemen's Association

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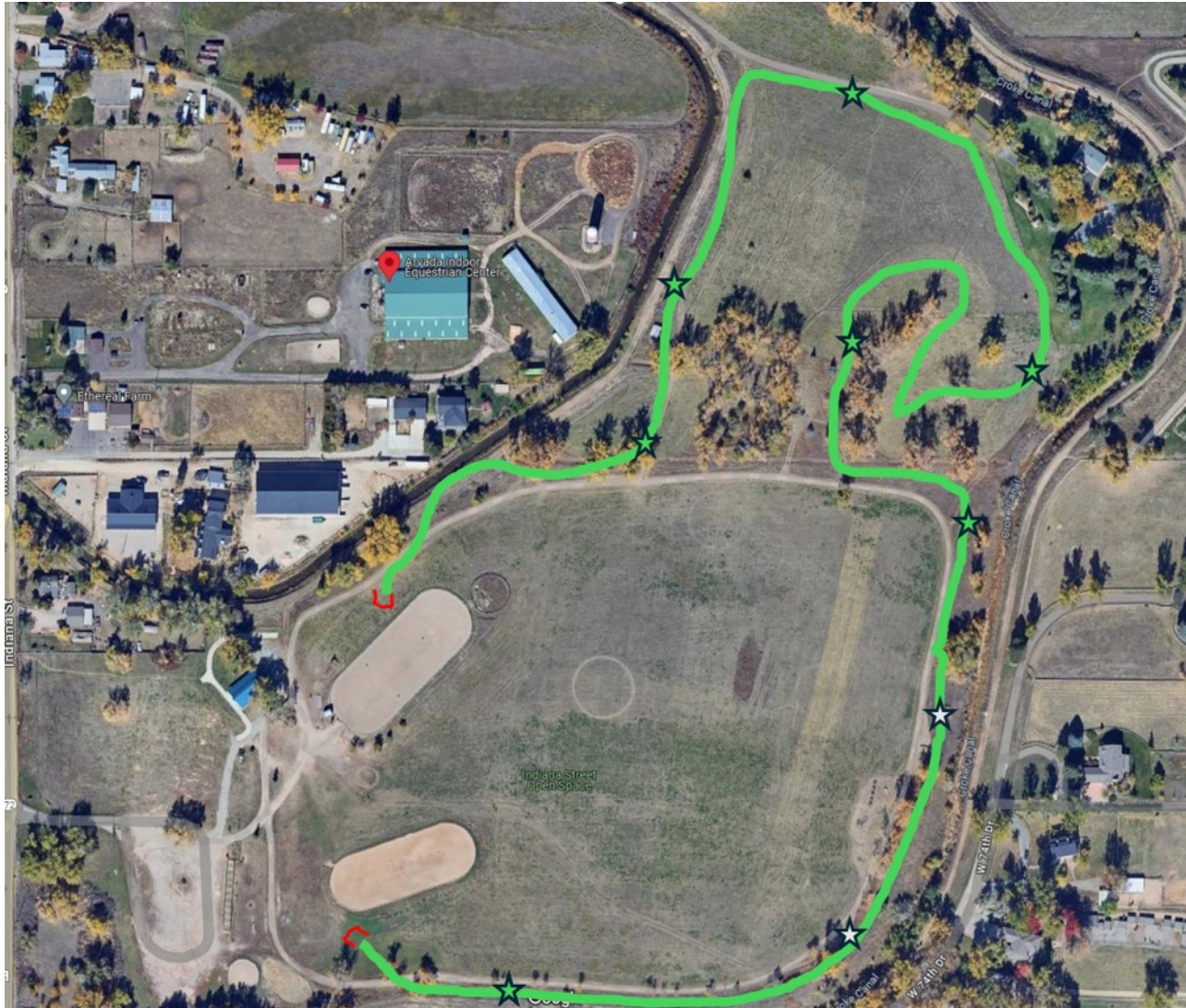
## Year in Review

- Refresh of AAHA
  - New website with active calendar and electronic payment
  - Remote access to monthly meetings
  - Centralized electronic storage for AAHA (Google)
- Indiana Equestrian Center
  - Replaced aging parts within facility
  - Removed over 10 loads of debris and limbs
  - Painted South Arena Rails
  - ***Hosted 33 events at IEC!***
- Community Engagements
  - 'Together Jeffco' master planning
  - Lyden Rock trail system petition support
  - Collaborated with Community Equestrian on 'The Equine Bill of Rights'



# Cross Country Course - Phase 1

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# Arvada Area Horsemen's Association

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## 2025 – What's coming?

- Indiana Equestrian Center
  - New opportunities for equestrians
    - Cross-country course Phase 2 & 3
    - Add'l obstacles
    - Add'l events
    - TMR donations (Thank you Community Equestrian!!)
- Community Engagements
- AAHA has representation on Jeffco County Commission for Equine and Agricultural Heritage
- Further collaboration with other equine groups
- 'The Equine Bill of Rights'



# Potential Add'l Improvements

- Cross-Country Course Phase 2 & 3
- Covered Arena
- Dressage Arena
- AAHA Owner Equipment
  - Tractor
  - Implements
  - Jumps for jumping events
  - New obstacles
  - New Cross-Country jumps

**THANK YOU TMR LADIES  
AND COMMUNITY  
EQUESTRIAN!!**





# Jefferson County Horse Council

[www.jeffcohorse.com](http://www.jeffcohorse.com)



# Jefferson County Horse Council



501(C)(3) Corporation  
Established in 1967



**Our Mission is to promote and to protect equine welfare and equine activities in Jefferson County Colorado**

- To promote education concerning equines to members, youth and the general public
- To promote equine welfare, including assistance with large animal evacuations during disasters
- To stimulate and encourage the use of equines including preservation and support for trails, open spaces, neighborhood arenas and equine habit
- To promote diverse equine groups and activities
- To preserve the role of equines in the county's Western heritage
- To serve as an umbrella organization for equine activities in Jefferson County
- To act as a collective voice that promotes and sustains these values for the interests of our members.
- [www.jeffcohorse.com](http://www.jeffcohorse.com)

# Jefferson County Horse Council



JCHC Land Use Committee Focus

Moved from being reactive to proactive

## Reactive

- Voicing opposition after a property entered Jefferson County's development process.

## Proactive

- Raising the awareness and value of equines/equestrians in Jefferson County to public officials
- Educating public officials on the economic value of equines to Jefferson County
- Educating public officials on the quality-of-life value of equines to Jefferson County
- Influencing Jeffco Master Plan
- Understanding Jeffco's various regulatory documents
- Providing input on Jeffco's regulatory documents and other guidance documents
- Working toward being a consulting resource to Jeffco for the equestrian community

**ARVADA & JEFFCO  
CANDIDATE FORUM**

**SEPTEMBER 18TH - 6-9PM  
APEX COMMUNITY CENTER  
6842 WADSWORTH BLVD.**

**Q & A Topics for 2024  
Jefferson County Commissioner  
State Senate & House Candidates**

- Housing / High Density Development / Growth
- Traffic / Public Transportation / Trails
- Protecting Water / Natural Resources
- Property Taxes / Inflation
- Immigration / Homelessness / Crime
- Preserving Rural Communities / Open Space
- Land Use / Compatible Development

An opportunity to listen and speak with several candidates regarding issues affecting you. Email [ralstonvalleycoalition@gmail.com](mailto:ralstonvalleycoalition@gmail.com) by 9/10/24 to submit topics and questions you would like to hear. Livestream link will be posted at [RalstonValleyCoalition.org](http://RalstonValleyCoalition.org)

**RalstonValleyCoalition.org**

**RVC**  
Ralston Valley Coalition

**Colorado Community Media**

# Jefferson County Horse Council



[Home](#) [Process Background](#) [Plans and Regulations](#) [Get Involved](#)

[Sign in](#) [Register](#)

[Advisory Committees](#)



Welcome to the Together Jeffco Plans and Regulations Update!

## JCHC Land Use Committee Focus Jefferson County Updates

### Recap of 2024 Activities

- Together Jeffco
- Planning Commission
- Planning Department
- Testimony/Position Statements on Specific Cases
  - Table Mountain Ranch
  - Protect the Hogback
  - McIntyre Logistics Distribution Center

# Jefferson County Horse Council



JCHC Land Use Committee Focus  
Additional Updates

## Recap of 2024 Activities

- Met with Jefferson County Historical Commission
- Met with Department of Agriculture
- Equestrian Promotional Table at a 'Meet the Candidates' Forum in Arvada
- Input on the future of Bear Creek Lake Park
- Attended Open House and Commented on Wheat Ridge Master Plan
- Collaborated with Community Equestrian on 'The Equestrian Bill of Rights'



# Introducing an Equestrian Bill of Rights

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## ***Preamble:***

- *Equestrians have a right to travel safely on roads and to recreation on public trails free of fear of dangerous interactions with other road and trail users.*
- *Equestrians have a right to access our public trails and roadways, especially in growing urban areas.*
- *Equestrians have the right to the full support of educated state and municipal government and law enforcement.*
- *Equestrians are seeking safe passages and recognition similar to other road and trail users (pedestrians and bicycles).*

# We are proposing 3 areas in the Bill of Rights

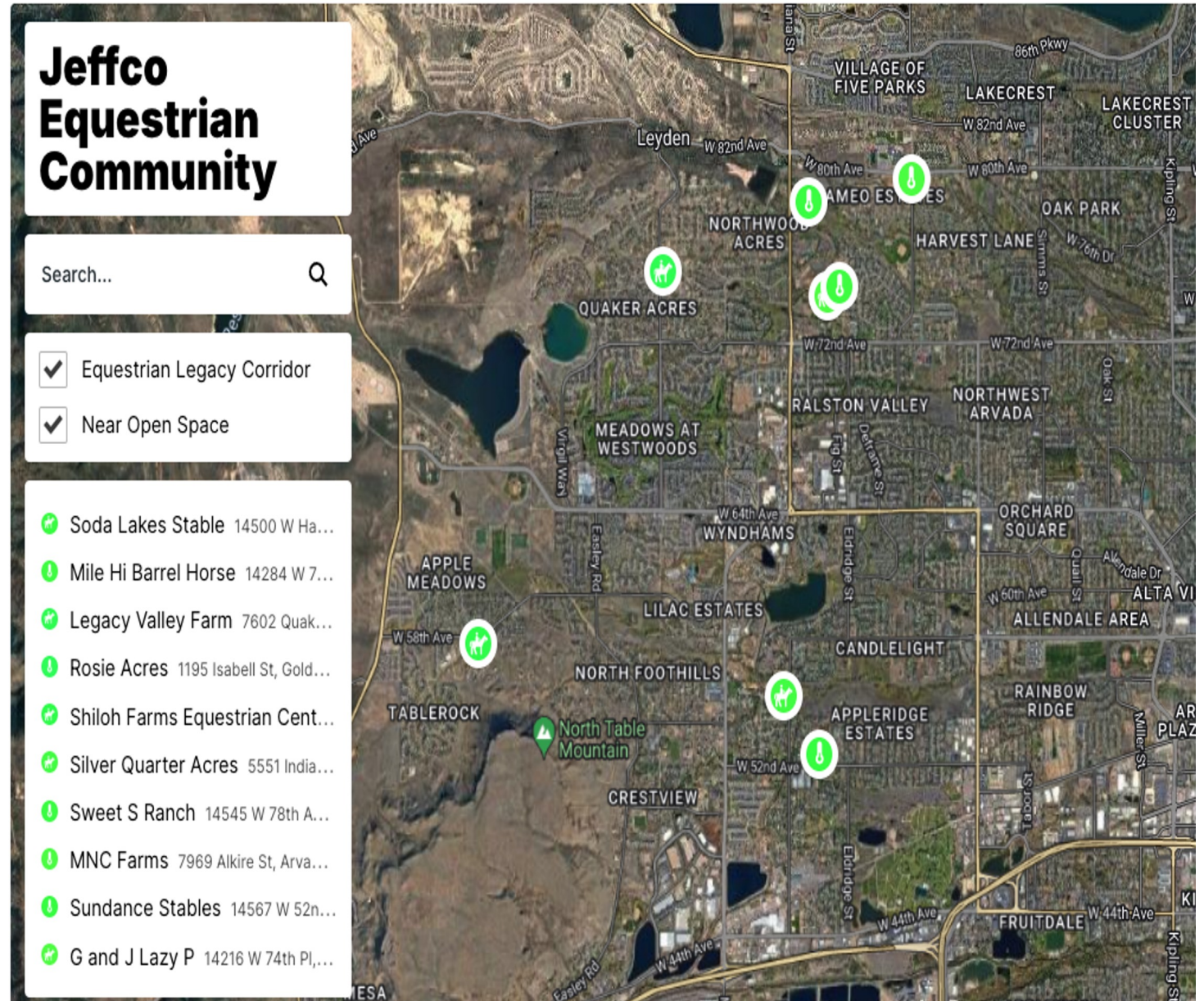
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1. **Identification and Recognition of Equestrian Zones** and Inclusion in Comprehensive Master Plans: seeks to recognize and incorporate the Equestrian Community into public planning.
2. **Access to and Maintenance of Safe Infrastructure:** seeks to improve physical infrastructure to improve safety.
3. **Adopt the "Pass Wide and Slow" doctrine:** seeks to establish rules and best practices and promote awareness and education.

# 1. Recognition of Equestrian Zones

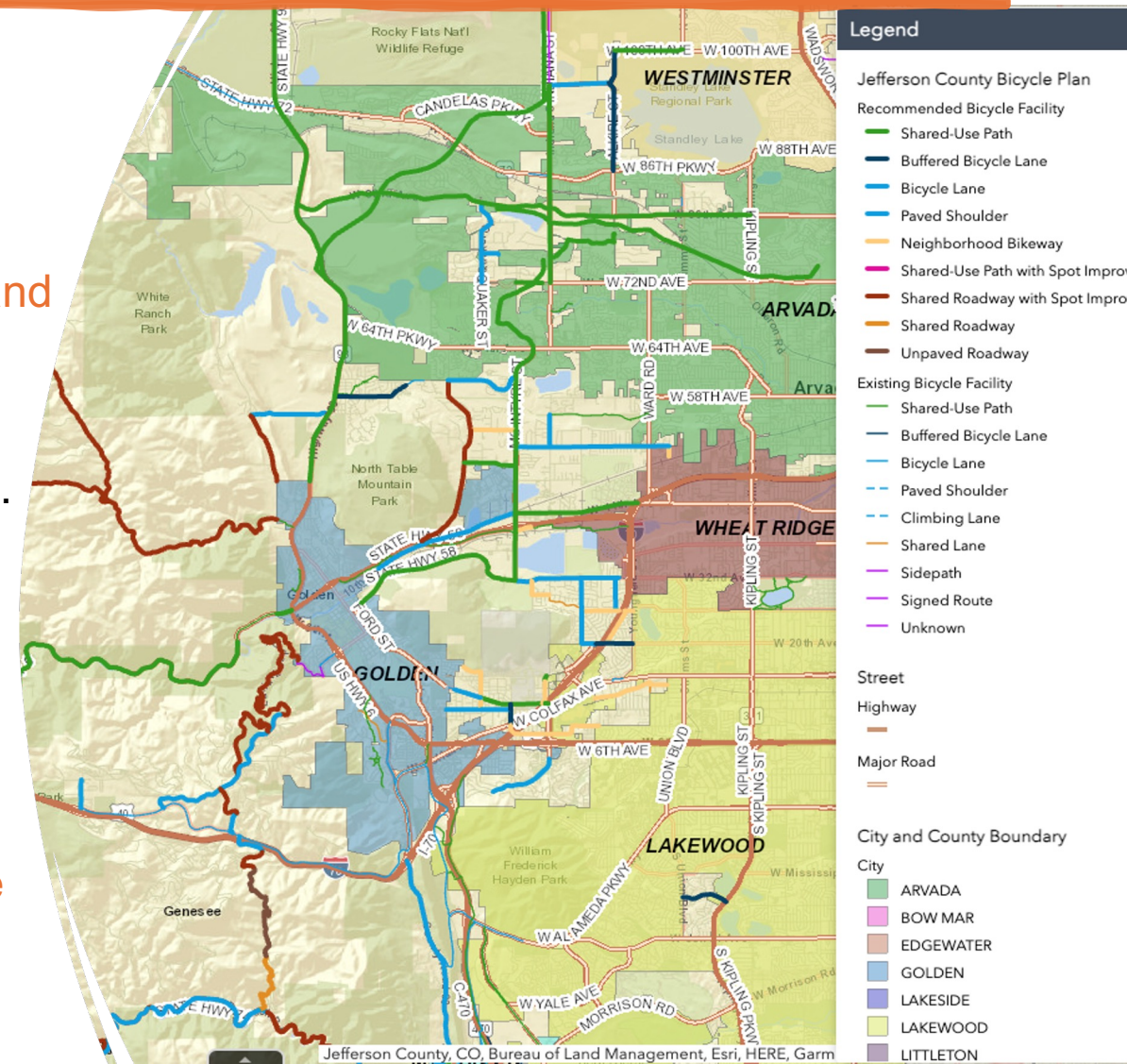
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1. Identify critical equestrian zones and facilities in comprehensive plans statewide.
2. Require municipalities (cities and counties) to maintain maps identifying and designating critical equestrian infrastructure and zones and incorporate them into their comprehensive master plans



# Goals - Comprehensive Master Plans are the guiding doctrines for local planning and governance.

1. In Arvada and Jefferson County, we see bicycles and pedestrians well represented in the master plans. There are separate and dedicated maps for bike routes, parks and trails. **Equestrians need separate and distinct maps** showing the location of their infrastructure (venues, trails, riding schools) and equestrian zones (areas of high horse concentration).
2. **Transportation maps** need to identify areas where designated equestrian street crossings need to be established, adopting the design necessary to accommodate equestrians, and installing the equipment necessary.
3. Finally, **municipalities need to adopt a more complete signage program** to identify equestrian zones and infrastructure in their districts.



## 2. Safe Infrastructure - Together

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1. Equestrians, pedestrians and cyclists need similar road safety and laws – bicycles get 3 ft – horses can spook sideways 6 ft into traffic.
2. Traffic crossings should include all 3 symbols on signs



# Drivers Ed Quiz - its all about the shape



# Let's add horses too!



# Sign Options in equestrian zones



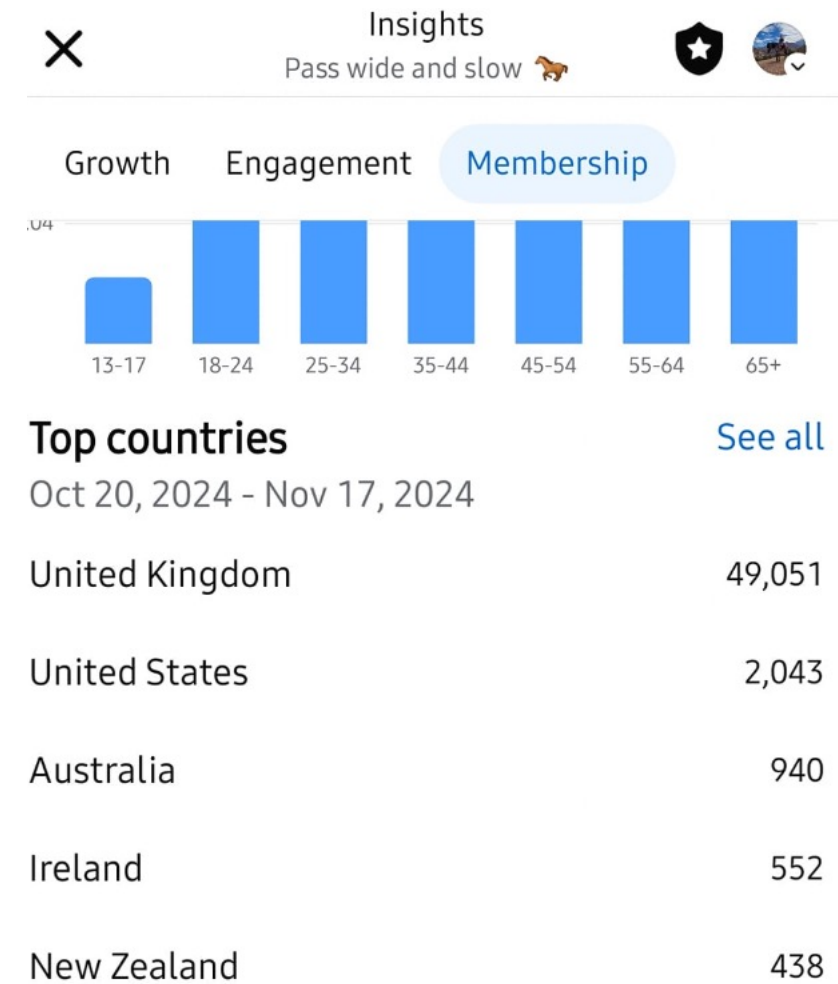
# Goals - Access to and Maintenance of Safe Infrastructure

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- a. Require *municipalities to establish access to safe and well-maintained trails, road crossings, road access and parking for horse trailers.*
- b. Require municipalities to *identify locations where designated equestrian road crossings are needed.* Designated equestrian road crossings must incorporate signage, road markings, and flashing light systems with activation buttons in reach of mounted equestrians to warn motorists of active crossings in progress.
- c. Require *municipalities to install signage to identify and educate the public of designated equestrian infrastructure: trail parking/access, trail use, roadway use and presence, road crossings, and equestrian zones.*

# 3. Pass Wide and Slow

1. Adopt the Pass Wide And Slow doctrine.
2. Adopt guidelines for road and trail safety around equestrians, and support programs to promote public awareness.
3. Establish law requiring vehicles to slow to 10mph and maintain 6 ft distance when passing equestrians on roads and trails.





# Roadways AND Trails

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# Awareness and Education

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**PASS WIDE & SLOW AWARENESS RIDE/DRIVES**  
**14TH SEPTEMBER 2025**

**85%**

of road accidents involving horses occur due to vehicles passing too closely or quickly\*

\*data from accidents reported to the BHS in 2023

**The Liphook Equine Hospital**  
16h · 🌐

**Road safety week 2024**

This year Road Safety Week runs from the 17th – 23rd November, and is raising awareness of the devastating impacts of road accidents. In 2023 there were 3,383 incidents involving horses on UK roads, with 85% occurring due to vehicles passing too closely or too quickly. Follow along this week as we give you our tips for drivers and horse riders to help keep everyone safe.



## *Goals - Adopt the “Pass Wide and Slow” doctrine for Horse Riders, Horse Drawn Vehicles, and Horses being led by hand on roadways and trails, to include public awareness and education:*

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1. We want to see similar changes made to our law here in Colorado as occurred in the UK. We want to see Pass Wide and Slow, reduce speed to 10 mph and create a minimum of 6 feet to pass when safe to do so, made into law.
2. We want driving schools to cover motor/equestrian rules and best practices in their curriculum.
3. We want Pass Wide and Slow promoted and enforced on trails, incorporating signage at trailheads to educate the public. We want the support of municipalities and law enforcement to partner with the horse community to organize an annual Pass Wide and Slow ride to promote awareness and education.
4. The final problem with equestrian rights is law enforcement. Very often, law enforcement lacks clarity with regard to equestrian incidents. Horses are often viewed as personal property in the way a bicycle would be. But of course, a horse is not a bicycle. They are very much a partner to their rider, represent tremendous emotional and economic value, and are living beings with rights and protections under animal welfare law. The penalties for causing these kinds of accidents seem insufficient



Representative  
Lindsey Daugherty

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Next Steps- Draft  
Equestrian Bill of  
Rights for January  
Session



# Open Question and Answer



# Appendix

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# COMMUNITY EQUESTRIAN



RESOURCES FOR YOU

## Stakeholders

- Colorado Counties
- Colorado Mountain Bike Association
- Department of Agriculture
- CSU
- Citizen Groups
- Jefferson County
- City of Arvada
- Equine Professionals
- Barn owners / operators
- Horse Organizations
- Elected officials
  - State Legislators
  - County Commissioners
  - City Council Members