



News Release

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Contact:

AMANDA SLATES

Communication Services Specialist II

Direct: 720-874-6545

Mobile: 720-785-0693

Email: aslates@arapahoegov.com

Arapahoe County grants \$1 million for trails and recreation *Aurora and Englewood to enhance community with Open Space funding*

Littleton, CO – The Board of County Commissioners awarded grant funding to the City of Aurora and the City of Englewood during a Dec. 9 public meeting. Both cities will receive \$500,000 each for trail projects thanks to a new fall grant cycle offered by Open Spaces in 2015 to support the need to complete larger projects.

“We are delighted to work with our cities and special districts and value their continued partnership in developing and preserving our beautiful parks, trails and open spaces,” said Commissioner Nancy Jackson, District 4. “With more than \$2.7 million in matching funds from Aurora and Englewood, I’m excited to see these projects come to fruition for our citizens to enjoy.”

The [City of Aurora](#) will use \$500,000 to extend the Toll Gate Creek Trail. This long-planned project will soon provide an important connection of Toll Gate Creek Trail from the High Line Trail north to the Sand Creek Greenway Trail. With 22,000 residents living within one-half a mile, this trail linkage gives new connections to the Metro area’s regional trail systems.

“The Toll Gate trail project is a critical component of not only the City of Aurora trail system, but an integral connection to the greater regional trail systems within the metro area,” said Tom Barrett, Director, Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space. “It is a vital piece of the city wide, multi-modal transportation system and we are honored to have received this grant from the county and continue to be greatly appreciative of the wonderful partnership.”

The [City of Englewood](#) will leverage its \$500,000 to complete another phase of the RiverRun Trailhead, which is located on the east bank of the South Platte River at west Oxford Avenue. Trailhead amenities play and gathering spaces are just one element to this developing eight-acre riverfront destination that is set to include whitewater features for in-river fun and much more for nearly 100,000 people who live, work and play along the Mary Carter Greenway.

“Thanks to this funding, we are taking a long-neglected reach of the South Platte River and turning it into a regional destination that will positively impact Englewood, Sheridan and Littleton communities,” said Dorothy Hargrove, City of Englewood, Director of Parks, Recreation and Library Services. “The RiverRun Trailhead will provide a place for people to connect, explore nature and enjoy a variety of water sports. Arapahoe County’s support has laid a foundation for greater outdoor opportunities that will enrich the well-being for our community, residents and visitors.”

During the past 10 years, the Open Space grant program has awarded more than \$25 million to 24 local cities and special districts totaling 154 projects throughout the County. Earlier in 2015, more than \$2 million was granted to 17 projects during a spring grant cycle.

Arapahoe County citizens first had the vision to approve the Open Space Sales and Use Tax in 2003 and again in 2011. The quarter-of-a-penny sales and use tax is dedicated to preserve open space, enhance parks, build trail connections and protect our heritage areas.

Since its inception, the [Open Space](#) program has invested more than \$150 million to protect water quality, preserve urban and rural open space, protect wildlife corridors and preserve the rich agricultural heritage of Colorado's First County.

Click [here](#) for images and maps of these projects.

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