



News Release

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Healthy Lands, Healthy Communities, Healthy People

Arapahoe County distributes \$15.5 million for open space, parks and trails projects

Littleton, CO – The Board of County Commissioners celebrated the distribution of \$15.5 million in project funding by the Arapahoe County Open Space program during a June 30 ceremony at 17 Mile House Farm Park - funding made possible by the generous voters of Arapahoe County.

Grants and awards were distributed to local cities, towns and eligible special districts during the County's Open Spaces Shareback and Grant award ceremony, which is held each June.

"The strong partnerships we have with local municipalities and special districts make it possible to build and enhance parks, connect regional trails and preserve our beautiful open spaces," said Commissioner Nancy Doty, District 1, who also serves as Board Chair. "We thank voters for their support of these efforts so we can continue to efficiently leverage funding toward additional outdoor recreation opportunities."

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 acquired or protected 33,000 acres of land for parks, trails and open space; created or enhanced more than 155 community parks and nearly 40 open space properties and built or improved more than 200 miles of community and regional trails.

Open Space Shareback Awards: Arapahoe County has one of the largest shareback programs in Colorado with 50 percent of the Open Space tax revenue returned to incorporated cities and towns, based on population, to enhance local parks, trails, recreation and open space each year. This year, Arapahoe County distributed more than \$12.5 million in Shareback funds:

Aurora	\$7.29 million	Englewood	\$776,427
Bennett	\$8,912	Foxfield	\$18,299
Centennial	\$2.55 million	Glendale	\$118,896
Cherry Hills Village	\$151,811	Greenwood Village	\$367,217
Columbine Valley	\$31,798	Littleton	\$995,256
Deer Trail	\$13,926	Sheridan	\$183,371

Arapahoe County Open Space Grants

In addition to Shareback funds, 12 percent of the annual tax revenue is set aside for competitive grants to eligible special districts and municipalities. Arapahoe County awarded nearly \$3 million in grants for 18 open space, park and trail projects in three categories. Grant recipients generated an additional \$1.8 million in matching funds.

Small Grant

City of Cherry Hills Village – High Line Canal Trail Connection | Grant: \$40,000 | Match: \$178,215

Construction of 665 feet of new trail segment connecting the trail to the new underpass at Hampden/Colorado

City of Cherry Hills Village – High Line Canal Resurfacing | Grant: \$27,000 | Match: \$3,000

Resurface a three-mile section of the trail with a new layer of granite sand and crusher fine material

City of Greenwood Village – Outdoor Exercise Equipment for Seniors | Grant: \$35,000 | Match: \$35,000

Purchase and install an outdoor exercise equipment circuit for seniors to use and enjoy at Curtis Park

Planning Grants

Town of Bennett – Kiowa Creek Trail Planning Phase II | Grant: \$56,700 | Match: \$6,300

Develop environmental, cultural and related studies to secure CDOT-FHWA Categorical exclusion clearances

Byers Park and Recreation District – Byers Community Park Renovation, Phase III

Grant: \$24,200 | Match: \$3,000

Complete the County Location and Extent process and 100% construction documents

Cherry Creek Vista Park and Rec. District – Cherry Creek Vista II Park Site Planning

Grant: \$45,000 | Match: \$5,000

Conduct community outreach and planning resulting in the design and sustainability plan for the park/playground

City of Centennial – Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Master Plan Update

Grant: \$50,000 | Match: \$50,000

Update of the 2007 Master Plan to reflect the community's vision and values related to parks and recreation

City of Sheridan – Bear Creek Trail at Lowell Blvd. Planning Grant Phase II | Grant: \$50,000 | Match: \$5,555

Production of construction documents and coordination with CDOT to obtain an easement for trail realignment and immediate safety improvements

Standard Grants

City of Aurora – Aurora Sports Park Expansion-Pedestrian and Traffic Safety

Grant: \$200,000 | Match: \$67,000

Design, purchase and installation of park wayfinding signage, traffic safety improvements and pedestrian crossings

City of Aurora – Citywide Trail Amenities and Wayfinding Improvements Phase I – Tollgate Creek

Grant: 131,252 | Match: \$61,698

Purchase and install 22 wayfinding signs, 17 benches and trash receptacles along 6 miles of Tollgate Creek Trail

Cherry Creek Vista Park and Rec. District – Windemere Park Construction

Grant: \$304,000 | Match: \$101,500

ADA play structures, shade and seating, landscaping, walking paths, signage and long-term park maintenance plan

City of Englewood – Englewood Parks Gateway Enhancements Phase II | Grant: \$90,900 | Match: \$30,300

Final phase of gateway signage replacement project includes eight park identification signs with landscaping

City of Englewood – Rotolo Park Playground Renovation | Grant: \$236,800 | Match: \$78,934

ADA accessible walkway and renovation of 25-year-old playground with modern, safe, age-appropriate equipment

City of Greenwood Village – Greenwood Gulch Trail Crossing Improvement

Grant: \$187,500 | Match: \$62,500

Replacement of existing low-flow trail crossing with a box culvert and raised trail across Greenwood Gulch

City of Littleton – Phase I River Integration at Hudson Gardens | Grant: \$400,000 | Match: \$532,238

New parking lot for trail users, new connections and access point to existing trailhead the Santa Fe entrance

City of Littleton – Runyon Elementary School Playground Renovation | Grant: \$282,029 | Match: \$95,000

School/community playground renovation with modern, safe, ADA-compliant, age-appropriate structures and court resurfacing

South Suburban Parks and Recreation District – Charlie Emley Park Improvements

Grant: \$400,000 | Match: \$266,100

Renovation and expansion of 20-year-old playground, construction of additional shelter, replacement of basketball and tennis courts

South Suburban Parks and Recreation District – Sterne Park Playground and Restoration Renovation

Grant: \$400,000 | Match: \$170,000

Planning, construction documents, renovation and expansion of 19-year-old playground and construction of new restroom building

To learn more about Arapahoe County Open Space program, visit <http://www.arapahoegov.com/openspaces>.

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To download photos please use the following link:

<ftp://ftp.arapahoegov.com/Pub/Communication%20Services/OpenSpace/Shareback%202016/>

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