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Open Space Trailhead connects residents, visitors to Cherry Creek Trail *Arapahoe Road project provides needed amenities, safe crossing for users*

LITTLETON, CO --- During a Nov. 17 celebration, Arapahoe County Commissioners celebrated the newest Open Spaces trailhead at 15200 E. Arapahoe Road. This momentous occasion marks the culmination of a six-year project to fill a strategic gap in the County's trail network, provide safe crossing under Arapahoe Road and offer much-needed amenities.

In early 2016, CDOT completed construction of a bridge over the trail and access from the eastbound lane of Arapahoe Road. With a \$1.3 million investment from Arapahoe County Open Spaces, trailhead construction began shortly after and offers parking, restrooms, two covered picnic shelters, bicycle racks, a children's natural play area, landscaping and enhanced trail connections.

"Completing the connectivity gap near Arapahoe Road has long been a goal of our Open Spaces department and I couldn't be more thrilled to celebrate not only the trail continuity but the outstanding amenities that the trailhead offers to residents and visitors to the region," said Commissioner Nancy Sharpe, District 2.

In 2010, the County purchased the 13 acre parcel for \$735,000. This location was identified as a high priority by the Cherry Creek Basin Working Group – an assembly of 20 agencies who work in partnership to beautify and enhance the regional trail corridor by leveraging funds to make projects like this a reality.

The Cherry Creek trail is a treasured asset and vital component to making Arapahoe County a vibrant place to live. It is one of the most popular trails in the metro area serving pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians. It is the centerpiece of the watershed, providing transportation, recreation and connections to nature and open spaces.

"It was a strategic goal of the Open Spaces program to provide a safe route to Cherry Creek State Park and to round out the trailhead amenities at every major intersection along the trail including 17 Mile House, Broncos Parkway and finally Arapahoe Road," said Shannon Carter, Director of Open Spaces and Intergovernmental Relations.

PHOTOS: Event photos can be found [here](#).

Arapahoe County Open Spaces thanks the many partners who supported this project including City of Aurora, City of Centennial, Parker Jordan Metropolitan District, CDOT, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority, Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority and the Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority. Additional thanks go to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Valley Country Club.

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