

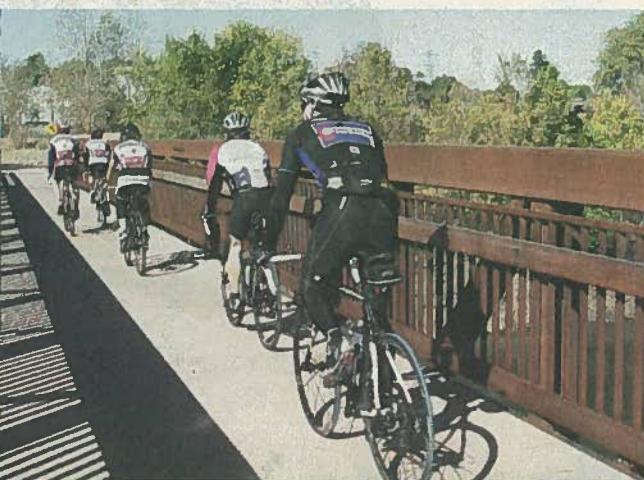
# 150

## Ways to Enjoy *Open Spaces*

2011 Arapahoe County Community Guide



**ARAPAHOE COUNTY**  
PROTECT. CONNECT. ENJOY.



# 150

## Ways to Enjoy Open Spaces

Thanks to the generous voters who approved the 2003 Arapahoe County Open Space Sales and Use Tax, tremendous strides have been made to protect the County's unique lands and natural resources and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities through parks and trails.

For every \$100 dollars spent in Arapahoe County, 25 cents is collected to:

- Preserve urban and rural open space and natural lands
- Protect land that preserves water quality
- Provide, maintain and improve parks, sports fields, picnic facilities and trails
- Protect wildlife habitat and corridors
- Protect views, vistas and ridgelines
- Preserve agricultural and ranch lands
- Enhance and maintain heritage areas

In seven years, the County has protected more than 20,000 acres of land that preserve natural habitats and wildlife corridors, protect sweeping vistas and provide outdoor recreation for residents of all ages.

Tax collection began Jan. 1, 2004 and is set to expire Dec. 31, 2013 unless citizens vote "yes" to continue the program on a future ballot question toward reauthorization.

### Grants to Cities and Recreation Districts

Last June, Arapahoe County awarded nearly \$1.9 million in grants for 10 open space, park and trail projects.

You will learn more about these projects throughout the pages of this Community Guide.

### Shareback Funds to Cities

Fifty percent of the annual tax revenue is returned to incorporated cities and towns to enhance local parks, trails, recreation and open space.

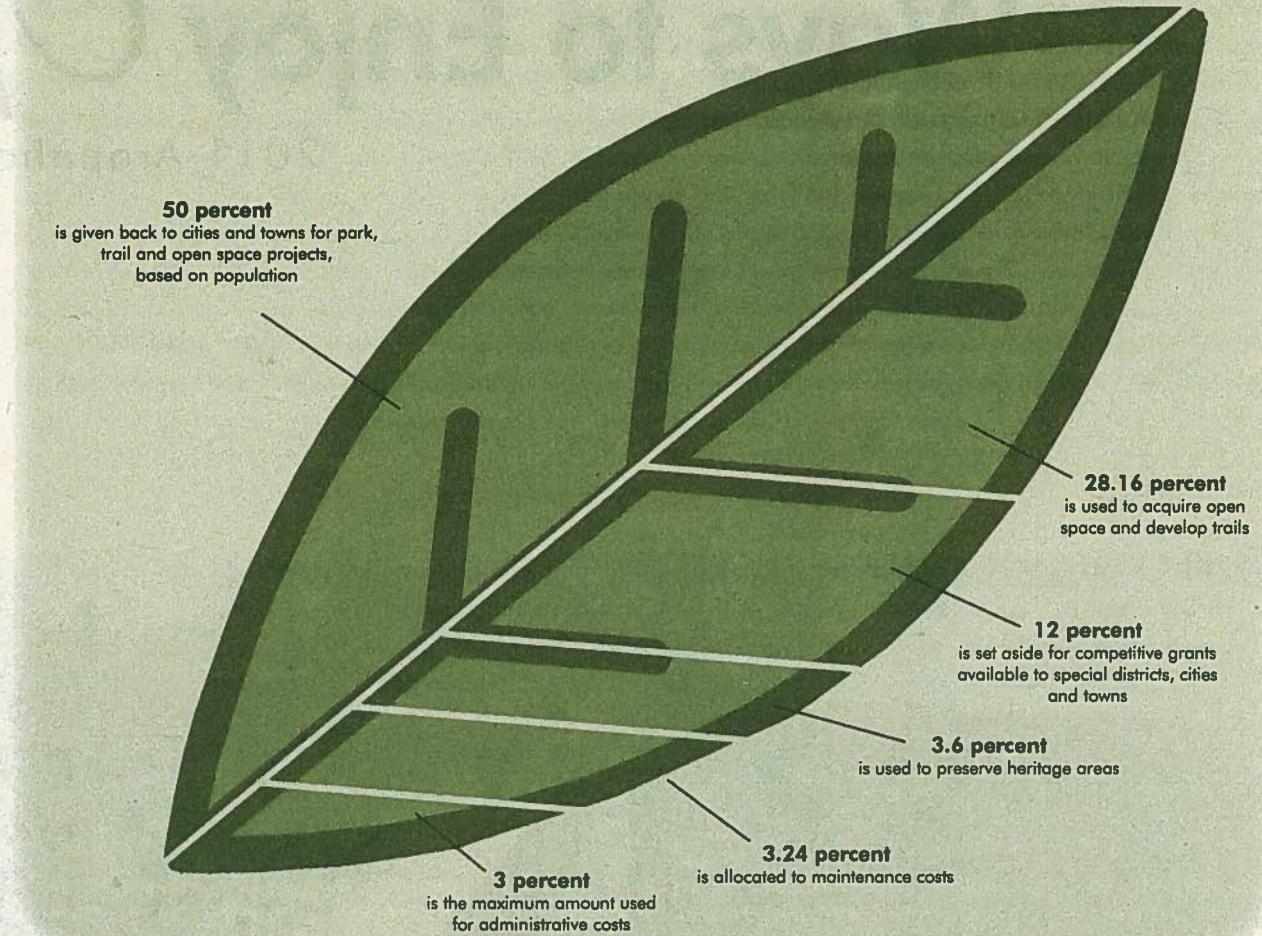
In 2010, Arapahoe County distributed nearly \$8.7 million in shareback funds, which was divided among Aurora, Bennett, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, Columbine Valley, Deer Trail, Englewood, Foxfield, Glendale, Greenwood Village, Littleton and Sheridan, based on population.

**“The protection of riparian zones and other natural areas, conservation of wildlife and the proposed system of trails should serve County citizens well.”**

**“Arapahoe County is to be commended for taking public input and incorporating it into the planning process for open space.”**

— Pauline R., Denver

### Arapahoe County Open Space Funds



# Protect. Connect. Enjoy. *Colorado*

Dear citizens of Arapahoe County,

Protect. Connect. Enjoy.

These three little – yet powerful – words celebrate the true nature of Arapahoe County's Open Spaces Program.

We serve to protect our most treasured natural resources and wildlife habitat. We work to protect the County's rich agricultural heritage, and we are dedicated to the protection and enhancement of your parks and trails for outdoor recreation. These open spaces offer multiple benefits for residents' health and well-being.

We are all connected... to the land and to each other. Our community parks, bike paths and trails serve as natural links as they wind their way across the County. They connect us to our neighbors and the rejuvenating effects of nature. Creating these connections – filling the gaps on trails – is top priority.

As we celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we invite you to get out and play. To get you started, we're providing 150 Ways to *Enjoy Open Spaces*. Whether it's family fun, heart-pumping games, nature connections or opportunities to get involved, you don't have to go far; it's all right here in your backyard.

In addition, this year's Community Guide highlights Arapahoe County's and our partners' open space, park and trail accomplishments from the past year.

Since the program's inception in 2004, our generous taxpayers have helped us to conserve more than 20,000 acres of open space, build 20 miles of new trails and enhance local and regional parks. To learn more about these projects, check out our *Protect. Connect. Enjoy. Map* on page 4.

In closing, we ask that you take a minute, an hour or a day to explore your wonderful open spaces and discover why we work so hard to *Protect and Connect*, so residents can *Enjoy* what makes Arapahoe County, *First in Colorado, First in Service – Your County of Choice*.

Sincerely,

Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners

Susan Beckman  
District 1

Nancy N. Sharpe  
District 2  
Chair Pro Tem

Rod Bockenfeld  
District 3  
Chairman

Nancy Jackson  
District 4

Frank Weddig  
District 5



**Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners**  
Commissioners Frank Weddig, Rod Bockenfeld, Nancy Jackson, Nancy N. Sharpe and Susan Beckman.

# Protect. Connect. Enjoy. Map.

Want to know which parks, trails and open spaces have benefited from the Arapahoe County Open Space tax?

It's easy to do thanks to the new online Protect. Connect. Enjoy. Map.

Learn about the new and improved parks, trails and open spaces in your neighborhood and across the County with this new online mapping program.

Pop-up tables provide specific project details such as the project cost, partnering agencies and links to the leading jurisdiction or recreation district for more information. Check out the 7-Acre Park project example shown on page 5.

To access the Protect. Connect. Enjoy. Map, visit the Open Spaces page on the County's web site at [www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us).

## Symbol Key



This icon represents a project that used shareback funding. These projects are led by cities and towns.



This icon represents a project that received a County Open Space grant. Jurisdictions and special districts must match the grant request with at least 25 percent of their own funding.



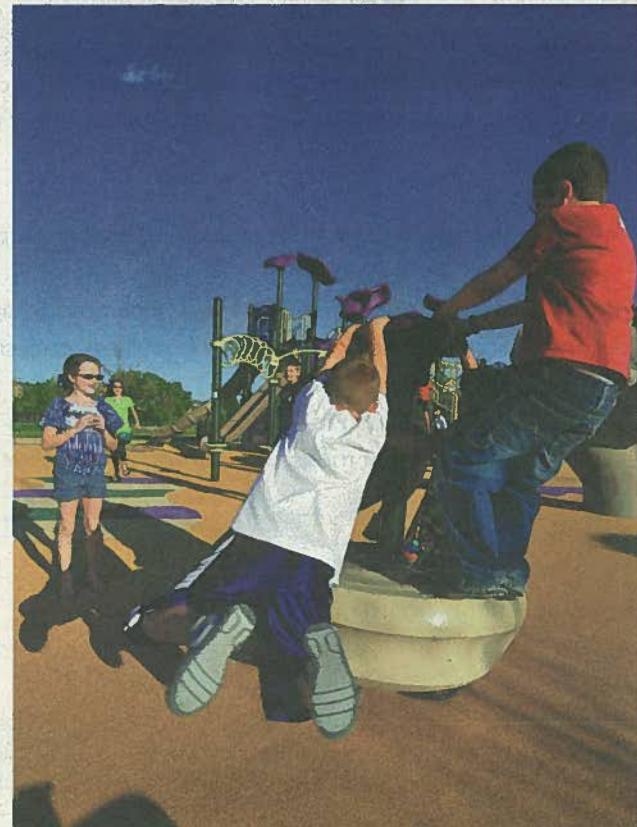
This icon represents County-owned, led or joint projects.



Click this icon and then click on a city – a table will pop up that shows how much shareback funding the city/town has received each year through the Open Space Sales Tax.



Commissioner Frank Weddig catches rugby fever at the grand opening of Infinity Park South in Glendale.



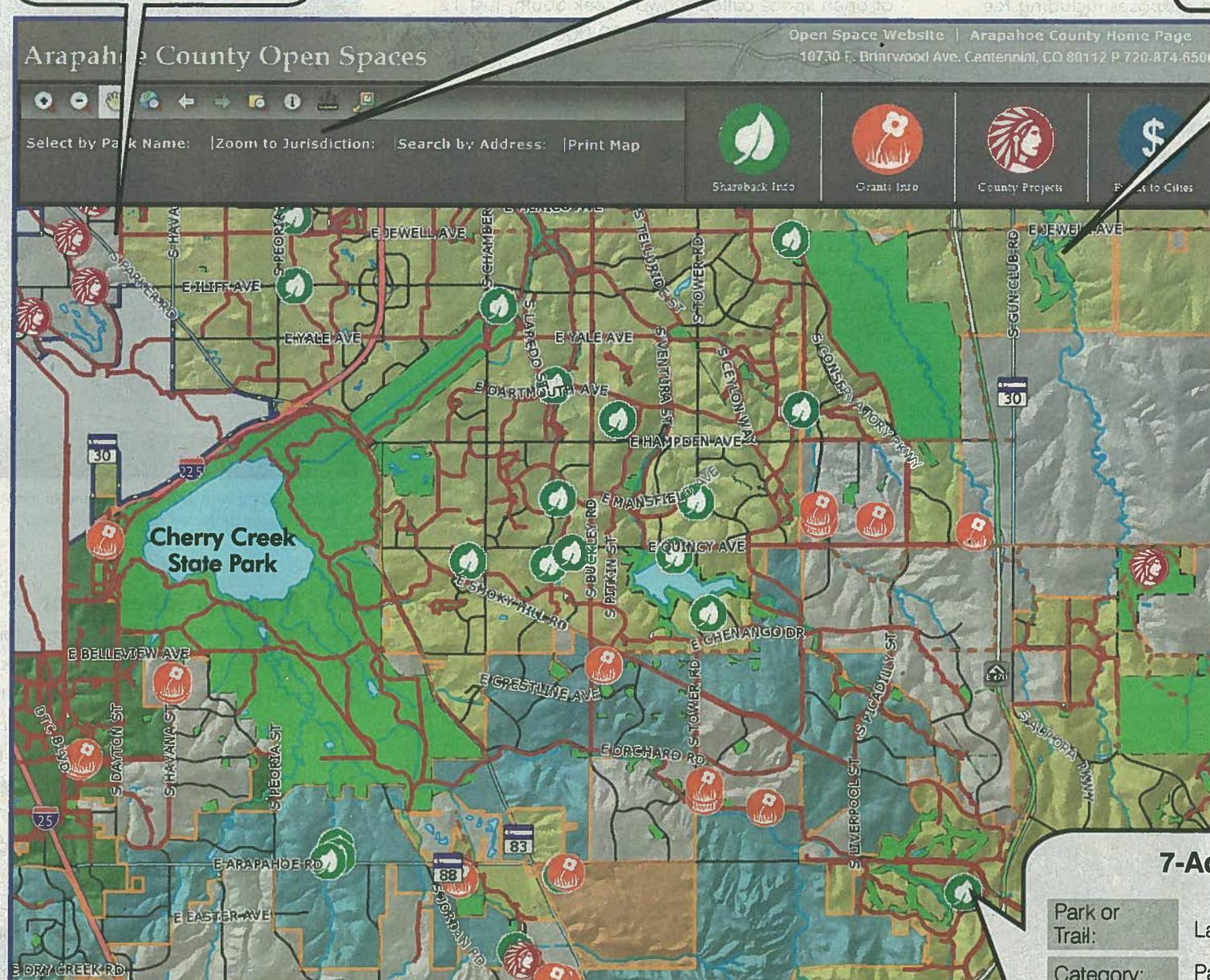
Larkspur Park - Check out the details of this park in the project table shown on page 5.

The red line identifies trails across the county.

Enter your home address, use click and zoom or select a park near you to find projects in your area.

The pockets of green identify all the parks and open spaces throughout the County.

There are a lot!



#### Color Key



Aurora



Greenwood Village



Parks



Foxfield

Centennial

# PROTECT. Open Space. Parks.

Open Spaces can be parks, trails and areas of natural habitat. Arapahoe County uses a variety of tools for conservation purposes including fee simple purchases and conservation easements.

In an effort to protect our eastern residents' rural way of life, Arapahoe County also works with interested landowners to ensure the land is never over-developed.

## Bijou Creek Conservation Easements

The 1,363-acre West Bijou Creek Conservation Easement south of Byers forever protects a family-owned working farm and ranch from development. It is adjacent to protected land north and south of the farm and the Plains Conservation Center West Bijou Site.

In addition, our Middle Bijou Creek Conservation Easement covers 12,578 acres southwest of Deer Trail. It's one of the largest conservation easements in Colorado and the largest ever funded in the United States by the Natural Resources Conservation Service through their Farm and Ranchland Protection Program.



Gorgeous colors abound at Kiowa Creek North Open Space.

## Preserving our Prairie

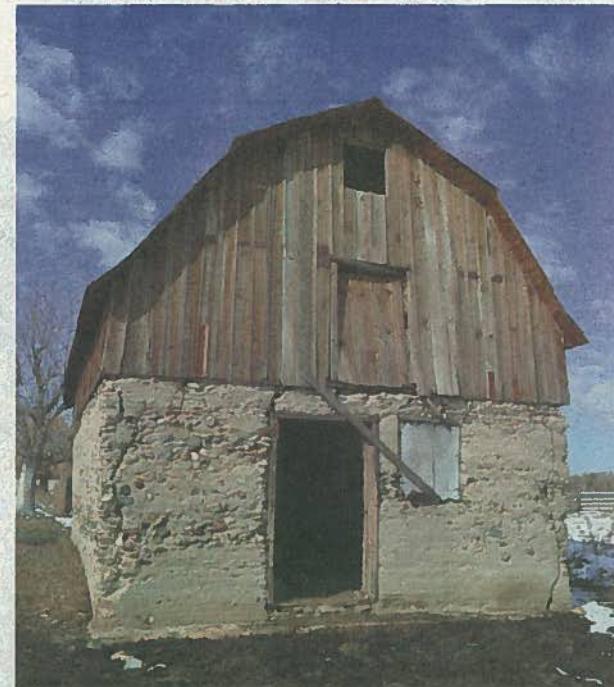
In 2010, Arapahoe County purchased 476 acres of open space called Kiowa Creek South, just 12 miles south of Bennett for \$950,000 in open space funds, to protect water quality, native vegetation, wildlife habitat and our agricultural history.

## Newest Open Space Jewel: Bijou Basin

The word "Bijou" is French for "jewel" or "gem," and that's exactly what Arapahoe County protected with its acquisition of 2,800 acres near Byers for \$2.69 million in open space funds. Long-term plans include building a trailhead and multi-use trails for public enjoyment.

## Kiowa Creek North Open Space Park

In 2012, the County will begin work to open this incredible open space to visitors. The 265 acres along Kiowa Creek near the Town of Bennett offers excellent views, wildlife habitat and reminders of the County's heritage.



This barn, along with 476 acres of land at Kiowa Creek South Open Space, is protected from development.

## Our Progress Takes Flight

Congratulations to the City of Aurora for winning Arapahoe County's 2010 'Our Progress Takes Flight' Stewardship Award. Aurora displays outstanding leadership, serving as a role model for putting Arapahoe County Open Space funds to work. The city has completed numerous projects, from preserving the County's only forest of Ponderosa Pine to building new parks, renovating others and connecting various trails.



The 2010 'Our Progress Takes Flight' Stewardship Award was presented to the City of Aurora.

# CONNECT. Open Space. Trails.

Trails are natural corridors that link communities and people to each other and to nature. From neighborhood parks and bike paths to trails that wind their way across the county, creating a system of interconnected open spaces and trails is one of our biggest priorities.

As seen in our Open Space Master Plan, we are working to "close the gaps" in the existing open space, parks and trails system. With our partner communities, we are connecting trails and preserving the treasured landscapes of our neighborhoods.

## **Unnamed Creek Trail Extension – 2010 grant recipient**

The City of Aurora will use its \$100,000 grant to complete the Unnamed Creek Trail with two creek crossings connecting southern Aurora, eastern Centennial and parts of unincorporated Arapahoe County to the metro-wide regional trail system. Construction will begin later this year.

## **Centennial Regional Trail Link Phase I – 2010 grant recipient**

The City of Centennial will work with South Suburban Parks and Recreation to create 1.25 miles of multi-use community trail connecting to both the High Line Canal and more than 100 miles of an interconnected regional trail system, thanks to a \$250,000 grant.



Bikers enjoy hundreds of miles of trail throughout Arapahoe County.



A future trail will invite residents to enjoy Slaughterhouse Gulch in Littleton.

## **Slaughterhouse Gulch Trail Phase I – 2010 grant recipient**

The City of Littleton will build a trail with its \$233,000 grant to showcase a hidden open space gem that includes the historic 1860s City Ditch and flume, the oldest operating aqueduct and irrigation ditch in Metro Denver.

## **Underpass to increase pedestrian and cyclist safety**

Currently, pedestrians and cyclists on the High Line Canal must cross four lanes of traffic on Iliff Avenue. Arapahoe County and the Colorado Department of Transportation are working to create a trail underpass that will provide a much safer crossing and also minimize impact to vehicle traffic. Construction is estimated to begin as early as this fall.

## **Cherry Creek Crossing and Trail – 2010 grant recipient**

This \$250,000 grant to the Parker Jordan Metropolitan District will support the design and construction of a low-water crossing across Cherry Creek and trail connection south of Arapahoe Road and west of the Cornerstar development.

## **Open Space Brings in the Green**

To demonstrate the not-so-obvious benefits of open space in 2010, Arapahoe County hosted presentations on the Economic Benefits of Greenspace, demonstrating that open space also brings in the "green" in the form of new sources of revenue, job creation and higher home valuations.

## **Arapahoe Road Trailhead at Cherry Creek**

Plans are underway to provide a new trailhead with access to the Cherry Creek Trail at the County's recently purchased 13 acres of open space on Arapahoe Road in Centennial.

## **South Bennett Trail Plan – 2010 grant recipient**

The Town of Bennett used its \$12,000 grant to develop a regional trail plan that identified key trail corridors for southern Bennett and possible connections to the County's open space. The plan is a combined effort involving the Town and Adams and Arapahoe Counties to increase residents' access to recreational amenities.

# 150

## Ways to Enjoy Open Spaces

We encourage you to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. You don't have to go far; it's all right here in Arapahoe County.

### ✓ Family Fun

- Go down a slide
- Play on the swings
- Play on the playground
- Paint outside
- Play music in the park
- Draw a ladybug
- Create a family memory
- Plan an outdoor date
- Identify local wildlife or birds
- Reminisce about a childhood play area
- Make a leaf pressing
- Take a family photo
- Lift a rock and check out the bugs
- Go on a photo safari
- Train your family dog
- Create a map of where you've been
- Watch a movie or concert in the park
- Hold a neighborhood barbecue
- Blow bubbles
- Make sand castles
- Create and play nature bingo
- Find animals in the clouds
- Make a snowman
- Check out snowflakes
- Jump in puddles
- Sing in the rain
- Fly a kite
- Look for cocoons
- Play hide and seek
- Follow your dog's nose
- Make chalk drawings

# ENJOY. Family Fun.

Whether you're a family of five, a group of friends or a lone adventurer, there's a ton of fun to be shared at our County parks, trails and open spaces. In fact, we know there's at least 150 ways to enjoy these open spaces. How many you chose to do is up to you.

#### ■ Hunt for Treasure with Geocaching

With Geocaching, modern-day pirates go on a high-tech treasure hunt at our County's open spaces. Instead of using a parchment map, you enter coordinates into a global positioning satellite (GPS) unit and follow the trail to find the hidden cache (treasure). Inside each County cache is a logbook and possibly a selection of free small gifts. Sign your name to prove you've found the cache. Learn more at [www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us).

#### ■ Go Down a Super Slide

Youth in Littleton now have easy access to the highest slide in all of the South Suburban Park and Recreation District, thanks to the completion of the East Elementary Park playground grant project.

#### ■ Have a Picnic

Grab a picnic lunch and enjoy \$1 million in open space enhancements along the Mary Carter Greenway, including the addition of a dual trail, energy efficiency upgrades to the Carson Nature Center, additional restrooms, picnic shelters and a paved entrance road and parking area.

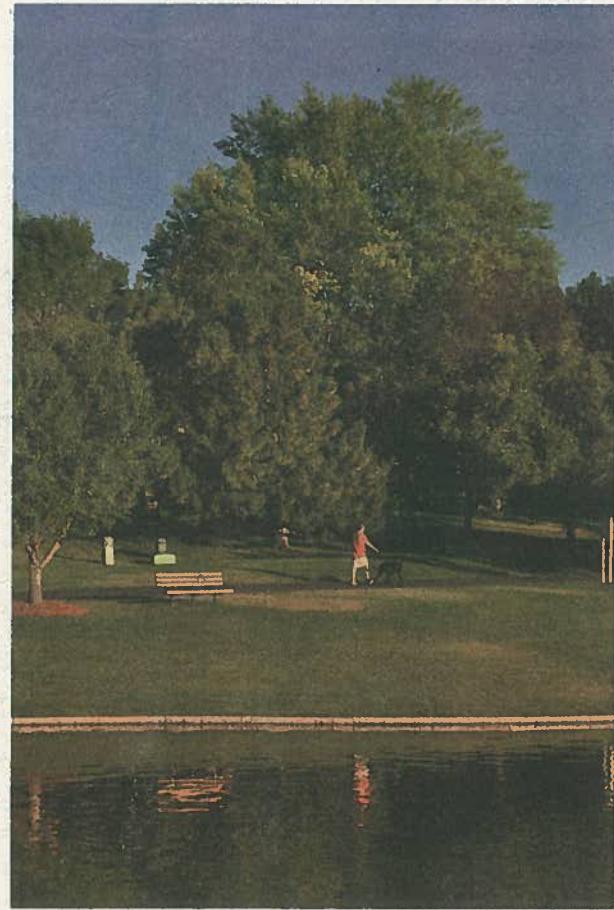
A handicap fishing pier and handicap river access project will be completed this spring. Project partners include South Suburban Parks and Recreation, Great Outdoors Colorado, Littleton, Arapahoe County Open Spaces and a Colorado Division of Wildlife Fishing is Fun Grant.

#### ■ Use Your Senses

Residents in Aurora can now touch, taste, feel, smell and see their way through the new Larkspur Park. This 7-acre neighborhood park invites children and adults to experience the outdoors using all five senses.



Use your senses at the new Larkspur Park in Aurora.

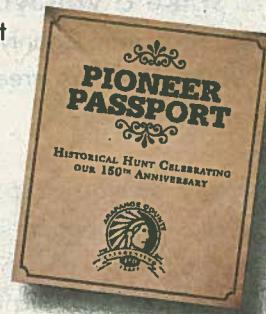


Enjoy trails at Tommy Davis Park in Greenwood Village.

#### ■ Go on a Scavenger Hunt

Our Historical Hunt invites residents to grab a Pioneer Passport for a tour through history. They'll visit some of the County's most beautiful, historic and intriguing treasured landmarks to answer fun trivia questions.

The first 150 people to submit a completed passport will receive a 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Coin. In addition, all participants who turn in a completed passport by Oct. 1 will be entered to win prizes, including a \$150 VISA gift card. For details, visit [www.co.aparaho.co.us](http://www.co.aparaho.co.us).



#### ■ Chase a Rainbow

Chasing rainbows has never been easier thanks to the improved pedestrian safety for residents in Greenwood Village. A new undercrossing and trail connecting Tommy Davis Park to Orchard Hills Park eliminates at-grade crossings on Orchard Road.

#### ■ Play Disc Golf – 2010 grant recipient

Arapahoe Park and Recreation District will use its \$250,000 grant to support first-phase development of the 9.4-acre Tallgrass Park with wildlife-friendly natural areas and multi-use trails, a basketball court, playfield, picnic shelter, playground and disc golf course. Construction begins later this year.

#### ■ Make Some Time for Family

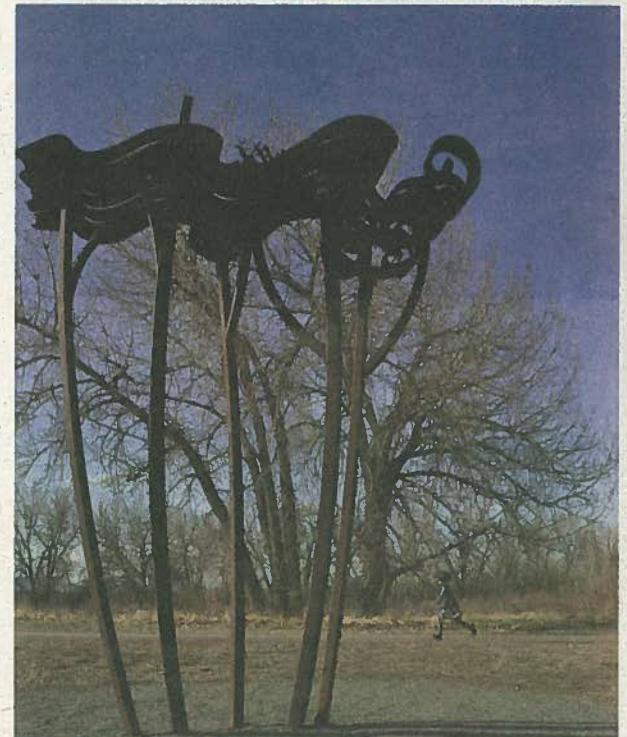
In 2010, dads celebrated some extra special family time during the Hills at Cherry Creek Park grand re-opening on Father's Day. The enhanced park boasts a new playground, basketball half-court, putting green and more.



Shoot hoops at the Hills at Cherry Creek Park.



Fun to come at the future home of Tallgrass Park in Aurora.



1965 commemorative flood sculpture at South Platte Park in Littleton.

**“It is great to see a government entity encouraging caching in its parks.”**

– Digital58  
at Cheyenne/Arapaho Park

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## Ways to Enjoy Open Spaces

We encourage you to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. You don't have to go far; it's all right here in Arapahoe County.

### ✓ Get Active

- Bike the trail
- Go for a trail run
- Throw a Frisbee
- Hike
- Skateboard
- Have a snowball fight
- Rollerblade
- Join a pick-up game
- Kayak or canoe
- Float down the South Platte
- Play soccer
- Go swimming
- Skip through the grass
- Throw a football
- Play kickball
- Play tennis
- Play catch
- Jump rope
- Do some calisthenics
- Hula hoop
- Play badminton
- Sled down a hill
- Snowshoe
- Cross-country ski
- Dance
- Play cricket
- Play capture the flag
- Play croquet
- Play miniature golf

# ENJOY. Get Active.

Tired of heading to the gym to get your daily workout? Change up your routine with these fun outdoor exercises. In addition to getting your heart pumping, a 2010 study by the University of Essex revealed that just five minutes of easy outdoor exercise lifts your mood and boosts your spirit.

#### ■ Ride Your Scooter

By July, residents can park at the new Wabash Trailhead for immediate access to the Cherry Creek Trail. This project was made possible by Arapahoe County, Cherry Creek Valley Water and Sanitation District, Cunningham Fire District, City and County of Denver, Denver Jewish Day School and Southeast Metro Storm Water Authority.

#### ■ Compete in a Race

In 2010, more than 440 adults and youth raced their way through the 2010 Wheels of Thunder Classic bicycle race, hosted at the Arapahoe County Community Park.



A day of competition during the Wheels of Thunder Race at Arapahoe County Community Park.



Trail users and their furry friends love a shared walk in the park.

#### ■ Jog with your Dog

Last fall, bikers, hikers and dog walkers attained access to the Cherry Creek Trail at the new Broncos Parkway Trailhead – 16400 E. Broncos Parkway in Centennial.

Project partners included: Arapahoe County, Parker Jordan Metropolitan District, Centennial, Tagawa Gardens and Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority.

#### ■ Play Tag at Welch Park

Grab the kids and enjoy the grass play area, Americans with Disabilities-accessible playground, picnic pavilion and loop walking trail at this 3.66-acre neighborhood park at 9015 E. Jewell Circle, Denver – in the Four Square Mile Area of unincorporated Arapahoe County.

#### ■ Spike a Volleyball

Visit Arapahoe County Community Park at 7900 S. Potomac Street and join athletes young and old.

This 78-acre active sports park provides recreational opportunities for baseball, volleyball, soccer, football and more with athletic fields, lighted ballfields, picnic pavilions, sand volleyball courts, playground, restrooms and a trail.

## ■ Ride a Horse

Come Fall, residents can ride their horse at Richmil Ranch Open Space Park. The County is finalizing trail and trailhead plans after receiving public input for the first phase of development.

Amenities will include multi-use trails for horses and pedestrians, a trailhead, restrooms, picnic areas and more. The plan also includes continued farm and ranch use for specific areas of the property to help preserve the County's agricultural history.

These 352 acres north of the Town of Deer Trail were purchased by Arapahoe County in 2007 to preserve short-grass prairie, farmland and riparian woodlands that are home to deer, wild turkey, raptors and a variety of native plant species.

## ■ Walk Along a Trail – 2010 grant recipient

The Town of Deer Trail used its \$27,100 grant to replace the damaged multi-use trail through Spirit of the Prairie Park to increase safety, accessibility and user-enjoyment.



Kids enjoy soccer practice at Puma Park in Centennial.



Peaceful views can be found at Richmil Ranch Open Space Park, which is scheduled to open to the public before the end of 2011.

## ■ Play Ball

Kids and adults alike are having a lot of fun thanks to recent improvements at South Suburban's Puma Park in Centennial. From little leaguers and picnicking families to cyclists and soccer players, there's something for everyone to get excited about.

## ■ Hike the Mary Carter Greenway

For the past four years, Arapahoe County and a coalition of 24 cities, towns and local organizations have been enhancing the South Platte River corridor.

They've improved the greenway with new trail connections and more than 45 new acres of open space. Their efforts, as part of the South Platte Working Group, earned them the 2010 Blue Gramma Award for Outstanding Achievement by the Colorado Open Space Alliance.



Residents enjoy numerous trail and open space enhancements along the Mary Carter Greenway, thanks to the efforts of the South Platte Working Group.

# 150

## Ways to Enjoy Open Spaces

We encourage you to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. You don't have to go far; it's all right here in Arapahoe County.

### ✓ Be with Nature

- Smell the flowers
- Take a nap
- Make up new names for flowers
- Laze in the sun
- Walk barefoot in the green grass
- Smell the fresh air
- Bird watch
- Look for fish
- Go fishing
- Find your favorite leaf
- Write poetry – use nature for motivation
- Skip rocks
- Hike with the moon as your guide
- Find star constellations
- Try Tai Chi or Qui Gong
- Draw in your sketch book
- Stretch
- Read under a tree
- Write in a journal
- Watch the stars
- Watch a sunrise
- Watch the sunset
- Find fall colors
- Take photos of the seasons
- Follow tracks through the snow
- Let the wind blow through your hair
- Jump in a pile of leaves
- Look for baby animals in spring
- Make a snow angel
- Whittle a piece of wood
- Try bird calling

# ENJOY. Be with Nature.

From the rich farmlands and historic landscapes of Arapahoe County to our rivers and prairies, there is a deep emotional connection between people and nature.

### ■ Read Under a Tree

The 19 agencies of the High Line Canal Working Group that serve the 66 miles of terrain continue their collaborative effort to secure funding for – and implement – projects that enhance and protect the Canal's unique recreational experience.



Runners enjoy the views along the High Line Canal.



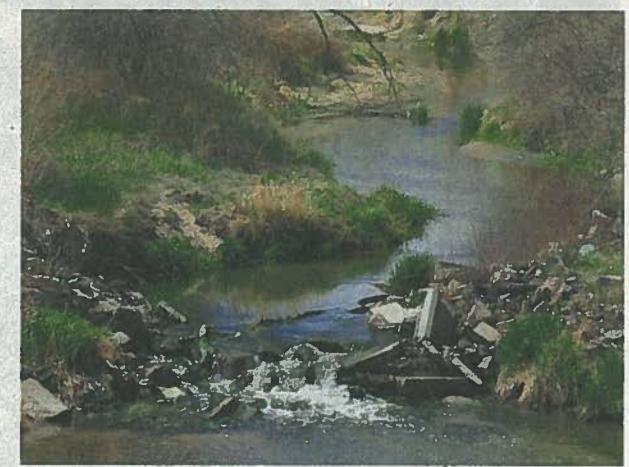
Butterflies are part of the natural surroundings at Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park in Centennial.

### ■ Follow a Butterfly

Step into a natural riparian area right in the middle of town and learn about the native plant and wildlife species that thrive at the Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park at 7500 Jasper Ct., Centennial. This 75-acre educational nature preserve along the Cherry Creek Regional Trail provides American with Disabilities Act-accessible trails, a covered picnic gazebo and restrooms.

### ■ Follow Animal Tracks Along Cherry Creek

Working together to beautify and enhance the Cherry Creek Trail, one of the metro area's most treasured trails, is the goal of the 20 agencies of the Cherry Creek Basin Working Group. One of their highest priorities includes completing the last missing sections of the trail.



Cherry Creek is one of the metro area's most treasured waterways.

# Land Your Open Space



The beauty of Arapahoe County's only pine forest is preserved by the City of Aurora with the help of County Open Space grant funds.

## Watch the Wind Blow through the Grass – 2010 grant recipient

With a \$250,000 Arapahoe County Open Space grant, \$756,000 Great Outdoors Colorado grant and \$83,000 in District funds, the Arapahoe Park and Recreation District purchased 175 acres of open space at Quincy and E-470 to protect one mile of Tollgate Creek. Future plans include a regional park with sports fields, swimming and picnic facilities and regional trail connections.

## Do Yoga in the Park

Visit Tsistsistas-Hinono'einiihi' Park at 9200 E. Iowa Ave. in Denver (Four Square Mile Area of unincorporated Arapahoe County). Otherwise known as Cheyenne/Arapaho Park, this five-acre park honors the Plains Native American tribes with a Cheyenne/Arapaho inspired sculpture, council gathering ring, grass play area and loop/walking trails with park benches.

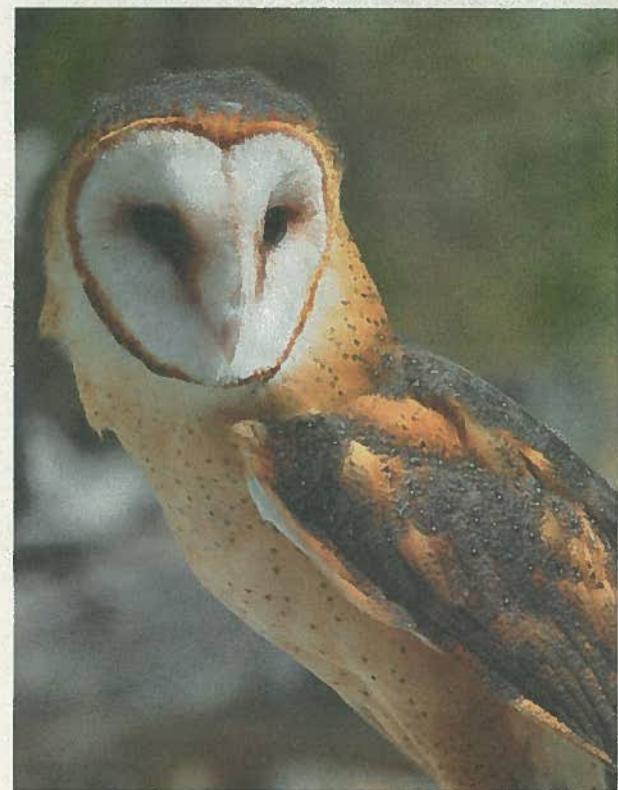
## Smell a Pine Forest – 2010 grant recipient

A \$250,000 grant supported the City of Aurora's purchase of 25+ acres of open space, preserving the far north end of the Black Forest and protecting sweeping vistas of the Front Range, Ponderosa Pine, native grasses, shrubs and wildflowers that provide a unique environment for diverse wildlife.

## Look for Birds' Nests

In April, Arapahoe County, Centennial, Parker Jordan Metropolitan District and Tagawa Gardens celebrated the completion of the Broncos Parkway Trailhead and Parker Jordan Centennial Open Space.

Connecting a key section of the Cherry Creek Trail, the 107 acres of open space is open to the public for the first time since the 1800s.



This barn owl joined the festivities during the Parker Jordan Centennial Open Space grand opening.

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## Ways to Enjoy Open Spaces

We encourage you to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. You don't have to go far; it's all right here in Arapahoe County.

### ✓ Get Involved

- Attend the Arapahoe County Fair, July 20 - 24
  - Enter your handmade or homegrown treasures in the Open Class Contest
  - Try your hand at the Pony Express Back Seat Driver Contest
  - Have a bucking good time at the Rodeo
  - Experience thrills on the Carnival Rides
  - Smash and crash your way to fun at the Demolition Derby
- Share your thoughts
- Explore the Protect. Connect. Enjoy. Map
- Visit our web site
- Follow us on Twitter
- Join a club
- Buy local; buy Arapahoe County
- Get involved with your city and/or recreation district
- Keep parks clean (pick up litter)
- Tell your friends about Open Spaces
- Take a photo and send it to us
- Encourage others to protect natural resources
- Pick up after your pet
- Recycle
- Adopt a trail
- Conserve water
- Protect waterways by properly disposing of hazardous waste/prescription drugs
- Stay on the trail
- Keep our waterways clean

# ENJOY. Get Involved.

The Open Spaces Program would not be making the impact it is without the support of you – our residents. From voting to approve the quarter-of-a-penny sales and use tax in 2003, to volunteering your time to plant trees and pick up trash, our citizens help shape parks, trails and open spaces. There's so many ways to get involved. Here's just a few to choose from.

#### Learn about the Bigger Plan

Arapahoe County completed its Open Space Master Plan in 2010 thanks to feedback from thousands of residents. The plan outlines a 100-year vision, 25-year master plan and 5-year action plan to acquire, conserve, protect and steward natural resources for public benefit.

Key recommendations include creating an interconnected countywide system of trails and protecting natural resources that include water quality and wildlife habitats of key riparian corridors through varied conservation efforts.

#### Watch it come to life – 2010 grant recipient

This \$250,000 grant along with a \$198,000 Great Outdoors Colorado grant and almost \$1.5 million in matching funds will help Centennial build the first phase of the new 11-acre Civic Center Park with playground, water play, shelters, trails, open space meadow near the creek and more. Construction is underway.



Residents share their thoughts on the development plans for Richmil Ranch Open Space Park at a February open house. Arapahoe County adds horse-trailer parking to the first phase of trail development.

#### Become a Friend of 17 Mile House

Plans for opening the historic 17 Mile House Farm Park are underway as the County works on the interior and interpretive plans. This 70-acre County designated heritage area includes an 1860s mile house, silo and barn along the historic Cherokee Trail stage coach route to Denver.

The parking lot, picnic area and trail to Cherry Creek should be complete and available to the public by the end of the year.

#### Be in the Know

Don't miss out on the latest accomplishments, events and excitement of the Arapahoe County Open Spaces Program. To learn more, sign up for the e-newsletter at [www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us).



The City of Centennial's Civic Center Park groundbreaking took place earlier this year.

### ■ Observe a Board Meeting

The seven citizen members of the Open Space & Trails Advisory Board meet once a month to review proposed projects and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the distribution of revenue collected from the open space sales tax. The public is welcome to attend.

### ■ Attend an Event

Residents and businesses rent the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and Regional Park at 25690 E. Quincy Ave, Aurora, for a wide variety of events such as meetings, animal shows and competitions, craft fairs, auto shows and conferences.

More than 76,000 residents visited this designated heritage area in 2010.



Hundreds of youth raced to place in the State Cross Country Championship that was held at the County's Fairgrounds and Regional Park for the first time in 2010.



Mark your calendar for family fun from mutton bustin' and rodeos to demolition derby and carnival rides at the Arapahoe County Fair, July 20 - 24.

### ■ Volunteer

Residents donated almost 6,600 hours for open space, park and trail improvements in 2010, saving the County more than \$141,500. Projects included planting trees, removing trash, managing noxious weeds and more.

To become a volunteer call Val Purser, Arapahoe County Volunteer Connections, at 303-738-7938.

### ■ Protect our Waterways

In 2010, volunteers planted cottonwood trees and cut and planted willow whips along the Cherry Creek at the 17 Mile House Farm Park to decrease erosion and beautify the trail.

### ■ Serve on a Committee

The Fairgrounds and Regional Park Steering Committee is made up of seven local citizens appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to provide input on the usage of the facility and park to meet community needs.

The committee meets monthly to review ongoing activities and events and plan for the future.

### ■ Cheer on Mutton Bustin' at the Fair

Attend the 2011 Arapahoe County Fair, July 20-24. It's fun for the entire family with rodeos, demolition derby, farm animals, concerts, carnival and more. The fair attracted more than 23,000 visitors in 2010. Visit [arapahoecountyfair.com](http://arapahoecountyfair.com) to learn more.

### ■ Plant a Tree

This spring volunteers planted trees at some of the County's neighborhood parks. A total of 16 trees were planted after the County received a grant from the Mile High Million Tree Initiative.



Volunteers helped plant 16 trees in Arapahoe County.



#### Board of County Commissioners

Susan Beckman, District 1  
Nancy N. Sharpe, District 2, Chair Pro Tem  
Rod Bockenfeld, District 3, Chairman  
Nancy Jackson, District 4  
Frank Weddig, District 5

#### Open Space and Trails Advisory Board

The seven-member Open Space and Trails Advisory Board is responsible for reviewing proposed projects and making recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on the distribution of Open Space funds. Members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and serve three-year terms.

Brian Bertsch, District 1  
Marc Scott, District 2  
Larry Sargent, District 3  
Linda Strand, District 4  
Ellen Belef, District 5  
Bobbie Sheffield, At Large  
Jack Cooper, At Large

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Tony Gallagher  
Nichole Parmelly  
Cherry Hills Village

**Open Spaces Mission:** Protect Arapahoe County's treasured parks, trails and open space for residents to enjoy today and forever.

#### Vision:

Healthy Lands  
Healthy Communities  
Healthy People

**Healthy Lands** – diverse, highly-valued natural and heritage landscapes are protected and maintained.

**Healthy Communities** – these lands and trails support a vibrant economy, improve the County's distinctive quality of life, property values and ensures that Arapahoe County remains "Your County of Choice" for businesses, families and retirees.

**Healthy People** – residents have high quality and safe access to land, trails and waters for recreation that promotes healthy lifestyles and a sense of place.



ARAPAHOE COUNTY  
OPEN SPACES

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#### Efficiency in Government

This annual report to our citizens was printed and distributed for just 15 cents a copy – that's cheaper than a postage stamp and just another innovative way Arapahoe County keeps you informed of the accomplishments of your Open Spaces program, and how we are doing more for less.