



Protect. Connect.
Enjoy.



Arapahoe County Open Spaces Community Guide 2012



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

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.

Bev Bradshaw, 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

Editor

Nichole Parmelly

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Open Spaces, Parks and Trails

Arapahoe County's Open Space sales and use tax dollars are dedicated to preserving natural areas, enhancing neighborhood and regional parks, building and maintaining trail connections and protecting heritage areas.

Since its inception in 2003, the program has:

- Conserved more than 18,000 acres of open space
- Built more than 30 miles of new trails
- Created and enhanced dozens of neighborhood and regional parks

Voters Pass Open Space Program Extension

With more than 62 percent approval, residents voted in Nov. 2011 to continue the Arapahoe County Open Space program and extend the 0.25 percent sales and use tax for an additional 10 years to Dec. 31, 2023.

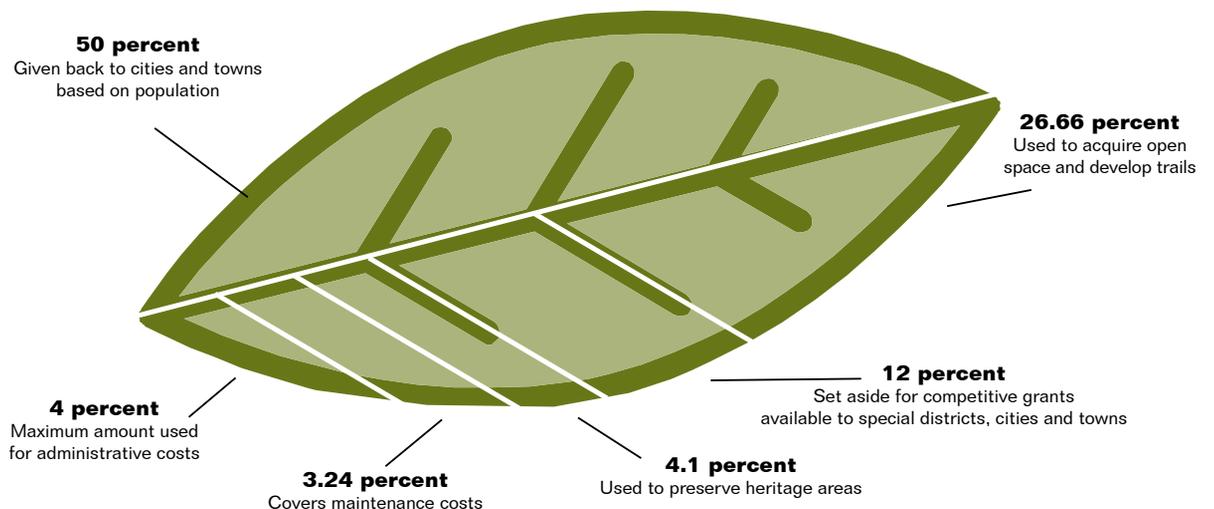
The election results continue to demonstrate the value residents place on open spaces and wildlife preservation, water quality protection and outdoor recreation.

Funding City and Town Projects

Fifty percent of the annual tax revenue goes back to incorporated cities and towns to enhance local parks, trails and open spaces.

In 2011, Arapahoe County distributed nearly \$9.1 million in shareback funds to cities and towns, and nearly \$2.5 million in grants for 16 projects that support outdoor recreation across Arapahoe County. Learn more about the projects funded June 2011 – May 2012 throughout the pages of this publication.

Arapahoe County Open Space Funds





2012 Board of County Commissioners: Susan Beckman, District 1; Bill L. Holen, District 5; Nancy Jackson, District 4; Nancy N. Sharpe, District 2 and Rod Bockenfeld, District 3.

Dear Residents

We are excited to share with you Arapahoe County's 2012 Open Spaces Community Guide. This guide serves to demonstrate your Open Space sales and use tax dollars at work, celebrate our most recent accomplishments and encourage you and your family to step outside and enjoy all of the County's incredible parks, trails and open spaces.

The biggest accomplishment of the last year would not have happened without the support of the generous voters of Arapahoe County. More than 62 percent of the voters approved extending the Open Space sales and use tax for another 10 years. As you will see throughout this guide, these tax dollars are making a positive impact in the community. From wildlife preservation and water quality enhancement to park improvements and trail connections, this funding stream is making Arapahoe County an even better place to live, work and play, and our thanks goes out to you for keeping this work a priority.

These accomplishments also would not be possible without our city, county, town and special district partners. Regional efforts that cross city and county boundaries are helping to beautify our region's most treasured trails – the South Platte, the Cherry Creek and the High Line Canal. Just look at the success of our working groups, where community leaders across the Denver metro area are collaborating on a clear vision of learning, discovery and stewardship that has resulted in lasting improvements to these areas.

Unique to Arapahoe County is the short-grass prairie found as you head to our eastern border. Home to pronghorn antelope, mule deer and a variety of native birds and plant species, Arapahoe County has made it a priority to preserve this natural landscape from urban growth and development. The area also is home to many of the state's farming and ranching families. Much of the County's open space efforts support preserving their way of life.

Arapahoe County serves to PROTECT our most treasured open spaces and CONNECT people to nature and to each other. We do all of this for our current and future residents to ENJOY now and in the future. Please enjoy it by visiting a park, exploring a trail or just watching the wildlife and plants that also call Arapahoe County home.

We hope you will continue to treasure this community, which is filled with a rich source of personal discovery, joy, renewal and health that inspires a deep sense of belonging and stewardship for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners

Susan Beckman
District 1
Chair Pro Tem

Nancy N. Sharpe
District 2
Chair

Rod Bockenfeld
District 3

Nancy Jackson
District 4

Bill L. Holen
District 5



““Out-of-staters marvel that we have such wonderful access to such a long trail system that is maintained so well.””
 – Kathy K.

Serving the South Platte

The South Platte Working Group was the County’s first open space working group. Convened in 2006 with a \$3 million pledge from the Open Space sales and use tax, the Working Group, made up of 21 local jurisdictions and agencies, racked up several accomplishments in its short existence.

It secured more than \$25 million in funding, including a \$5.25 million Legacy grant from Great Outdoors Colorado; acquired 50 acres of open space; built six new bike/pedestrian bridges, six trailheads, 3.2 miles of new trail and won the Denver Regional Council of Government’s highest honor for their collaborative work to protect the South Platte.

Each project is led by a Working Group member and funded by numerous group partners. Without this cooperative effort, Arapahoe County’s open space funds would not make such an incredible impact. For more information visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us.

Members South Platte Working Group

Arapahoe County
 Arapahoe County Open Space and Trails
 Advisory Board
 City of Centennial
 City of Cherry Hills Village
 Town of Columbine Valley
 City of Englewood
 City of Greenwood Village
 City of Littleton
 City of Sheridan
 South Metro Land Conservancy
 South Suburban Park and Recreation District
 South Suburban Park Foundation
 Trust for Public Land

Partners and Stakeholders

Colorado Water Conservation Board
 Great Outdoors Colorado
 Trout Unlimited
 Urban Drainage and Flood Control District
 US Army Corps of Engineers

Interested Parties

Colorado Parks and Wildlife
 Douglas County
 The Greenway Foundation

Youth Walk to School on New Centennial Trail Connection

October marked the completion of Centennial’s Regional Trail Link Phase I. The trail opening coincided with International Walk to School Day, and Peabody Elementary students celebrated by walking to school on the new trail.

New Trail Alleviates Congestion on Mary Carter Greenway

Beginning at Prince Street, the new East Side Trail by the South Suburban Park and Recreation District heads north to the Big Dry Creek Trail and new West Belleview Trailhead. It helps alleviate the heavy cyclist and pedestrian traffic found along the Mary Carter Greenway.



New East Side Trail alleviates congestion on the Mary Carter Greenway.



West Belleview Trailhead

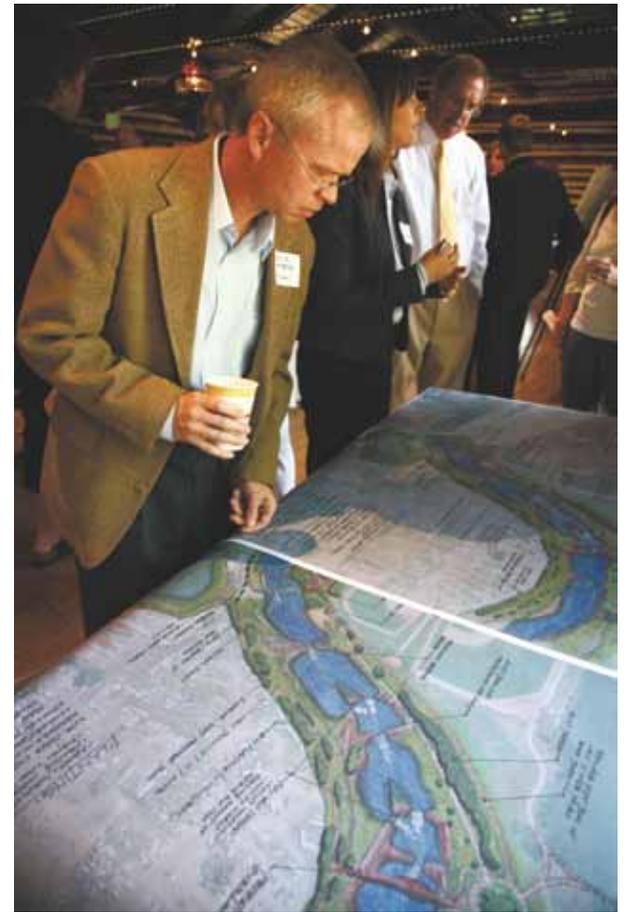
A 1-acre parcel, previously a parking and storage area (see photos above), now serves as the new West Belleview Trailhead on Belleview just west of Santa Fe. It offers a covered picnic area, bike racks, drinking stations and access to the new East Side Trail along the South Platte River.

Restore the River - South Platte Working Group II

In April, Arapahoe County proposed to reconvene the South Platte Working Group to once again work together on the next round of river improvements. Using open space tax dollars, the County pledged up to \$5 million in seed money to help leverage new funding for river restoration, recreational opportunities and environmental enhancement. The group will be working with the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District to enhance areas identified for flood control maintenance and improvements.

Englewood's Riverside Park Planning – 2011 Grant Recipient

A \$50,000 grant will be used to complete a development plan for Riverside Park along the South Platte River next to the Broken Tee Golf Course. Concepts include a park pavilion, playground, American with Disabilities Act access to the river, a kayak exit point and trailhead.



During the Restore the River event, attendees reviewed some of the proposed river and recreational enhancements for the South Platte River corridor.



Arapahoe County Commissioners present the 2011 Stewardship Award to the South Suburban Park and Recreation District and South Suburban Park Foundation.

Stewardship Award Recipients

The South Suburban Park and Recreation District and South Suburban Park Foundation earned Arapahoe County's 2011 *Our Progress Takes Flight Stewardship Award*, which recognizes an individual, local government or organization that displays outstanding leadership, cooperation and stewardship to ensure the conservation and protection of the great outdoors.

The District and Foundation have been outstanding partners and leaders in efforts to preserve and enhance our regional trails and waterways while serving on various working groups from the South Platte River to the High Line Canal, and continue to provide residents with award-winning programs and services.



“Thank you so much for the great [Iloff Project] updates! I live down Dayton Way, so I have been dealing with this since day one. I think you did a really GREAT job considering it is such a busy road. As a cyclist and a runner, I am ecstatic that we now have a safe way to cross Iliff.

Again, thanks for everything and making this run as smoothly as it did!”

– Kristen

Caring for Cherry Creek

From Confluence Park in Denver to Castlewood Canyon in Douglas County, residents enjoy 42 miles of this Front Range Trail. The Cherry Creek Trail serves as a cyclist’s daily commute, a couple’s leisurely afternoon stroll, and a child’s secret place of adventure and discovery. It serves as an outdoor recreation playground – where citizens participate in a wide variety of fun fitness activities from running and biking to skateboarding and more.

It showcases miles of scenic Colorado leading to and from Cherry Creek State Park – and yet there are still sections missing. Trail users are sent on high-traffic roads to make connections – creating safety concerns.

The 15 agencies of the Cherry Creek Basin Working Group continue their pledge to beautify and enhance the Cherry Creek Trail, one of the metro area’s most treasured trails. The Group is dedicated to connecting its remaining gaps.

Cherry Creek Basin Working Group

Arapahoe County
 Arapahoe County Open Space and Trails
 Advisory Board
 City of Aurora
 City of Centennial
 Cherry Creek State Park
 Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners
 Cherry Hills Village

City and County of Denver
 Douglas County
 Douglas County Open Space Advisory
 Committee
 City of Glendale
 City of Greenwood Village
 Parker Jordan Metro District
 South Metro Land Conservancy
 Town of Parker



New grade-separated Cherry Creek Trail increases user safety

Wabash Bridge and Trailhead Complete

2011 marked the completion of the new Yale-Wabash Bridge. The project included a new trailhead and grade-separated Cherry Creek Trail to increase user safety.

This \$2.5 million project would not have been possible without our partners: Denver Jewish Day School, Cherry Creek Valley Water and Sanitation District, and the Southeast Metropolitan Storm Water Authority, with support from the City and County of Denver and Cunningham Fire Protection District.

Mile Markers and Consistent Signage for Trail

Over the past year, the Cherry Creek Basin Working Group worked to complete a trail-wide signage plan. The plan recommends adding mile and half-mile markers along the entire trail as well as street underpass signage and uniform trail maps. The Group was awarded a \$70,000 Colorado State Trails Grant to install Phase I of the new signage, making it easier for trail users to know where they are on the trail and allow for quick emergency response.

Mountain Bike Course – Coming Soon

Greenwood Village received \$230,000 in Open Space funds for a joint project to help build a cutting-edge, urban trail mountain bike course. The bike course is part of Phase II development of Village Green North Park and is designed to be a skills-challenge course extending almost three miles. Bikers will climb, jump, traverse, switchback, loop round and cross a number of natural obstacles such as logs, boulders, water bars, steps and choke points.

New Bridge Connects Residents to the Trail

A joint project with the City of Glendale will place a new pedestrian/cyclist bridge at the junction of Kentucky Avenue and Cherry Creek Drive South. This new bridge will allow nearby residents to access the Regional Trail and nearby historic Four Mile Park. Glendale received \$194,000 in Arapahoe County Open Space funds to support the project. Partners include the Tri-County Health Department, Greenway Foundation, Great Outdoors Colorado and the City and County of Denver.



In the next 12 months, it's anticipated that jurisdictions along the Cherry Creek Trail will install these new mileage markers to help trail-users mark the distance they've traveled and enhance response time in the case of an emergency. Mile marker 0 starts at Confluence Park.

Stream Stabilization Efforts along Cherry Creek

Urbanization and the resulting increase in storm runoff have taken a toll on Cherry Creek's natural systems, leading to stream erosion, loss of vegetation and infrastructure damage.

To help address the issue, Arapahoe County pledged \$643,000 to the Parker Jordan Metro District to complete stream stabilization and open space restoration efforts in the Parker Jordan Centennial Open Space. The County also pledged \$800,000 and partnered with Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority, Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District to reclaim the unstable streambed corridor and expand recreational and educational amenities in beautiful Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park.



New pedestrian/cyclist bridge to connect Glendale residents to Cherry Creek Trail.



Neighbors learn about the stream stabilization project at Arapahoe County's Cherry Creek Valley Eco Park during an April 18 Open House. Project improvements will not only stabilize the channel but also restore the corridor's natural qualities, improve wildlife habitat and enhance water quality.





“Walking the treadmill at the health club will never bring the peace and joy I get from the High Line Canal.”

– John M.

Helping the High Line Canal

The High Line Canal and trail is a primary recreation thoroughfare tucked away in the Denver metro area. Renowned for its spectacular mountain vistas and appreciated for a refreshing tree canopy that brings cool shade on warm summer days, families, runners, cyclists and nature lovers relish in the unique recreation experience only found along the High Line.

More than 300,000 residents of Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, and Adams counties live within a mile of the High Line Canal, and many use it regularly as a way to reconnect with nature while jogging, biking, walking, riding horses and viewing wildlife.

The 21 agencies of the High Line Canal Working Group that serve the 70 miles of trail along the Canal continue their collaborative effort to secure funding for – and implement – projects that enhance and protect the Canal’s unique recreational experience.

Members

Arapahoe County
 City of Aurora
 City of Centennial
 City of Cherry Hills Village
 City and County of Denver
 Douglas County
 City of Greenwood Village
 Highlands Ranch Metropolitan District
 City of Littleton
 South Suburban Park and Recreation District

Participating Entities

Adams County
 Arapahoe County Open Space and Trails Advisory Board
 Cherry Hills Land Preserve
 Colorado Parks and Wildlife
 Denver Parks and Recreation
 Denver Water
 High Line Canal Preservation Association
 Sand Creek Regional Greenway
 South Metro Land Conservancy
 South Suburban Park Foundation
 The Trust for Public Land

Projects Planned – Requesting \$5 Million Grant

In 2011, the High Line Canal Working Group submitted a concept paper competing with 62 potential projects applying for grant funds through the Great Outdoors Colorado’s River Corridors Initiative. The group’s project, a combination of open space acquisitions, trail links and park enhancements, was one of 17 to be invited to submit a full application and grant request of \$5 million.

Dozens of residents sent letters of support for the protection and improvement of the Canal, trail system and its ecology. Virtually all letters expressed the same idea: “We love the High Line Canal... it’s a treasure for all generations... please do everything possible to preserve and enhance it.”

In all, almost 30 acres are proposed for acquisition, along with numerous new connections that will fill in gaps in the trail system and improve safety for trail users. Results of the grant request are expected in June.



Preservation and Enhancement Study Underway

The century old Cottonwood trees along the High Line Canal are nearing their lifetimes' end, and plans must be made to replace the valued canopy. Aurora recently presented the results of their Corridor Study to the members of the Working Group. Impressed by the depth and breadth of the information collected, the Working Group decided to conduct a similar study on a nearly 20 mile section of the canal from County Line Road to Hampden Avenue to understand the recreational and vegetative resources and make recommendations regarding possible enhancements and preservation.

Trail Now Goes Under Iliff Avenue

We'd like to thank the neighbors and commuters on Iliff Avenue near Parker Road for their patience and understanding during the construction of the Iliff Underpass this past winter.

High Line Canal trail users are no longer required to cross the four lanes of traffic on Iliff. The result: less traffic congestion and much safer conditions for the entire community. Partners include Colorado Department of Transportation, Denver Water and the City and County of Denver.



Construction goes through the night to install a box culvert trail that takes pedestrians and cyclists under Iliff Avenue.



Cherry Hills Village received a planning grant to complete a resource assessment on this donated property adjacent to the High Line Canal.

Quincy Farm Resource Assessment – 2011 Grant Recipient

In 2008, Catherine Anderson made a generous life estate donation of her property along the High Line Canal to Cherry Hills Village with a conservation easement conveyed to Colorado Open Lands. This \$46,000 planning grant allows the City to complete a resource assessment that will become the basis for a future management plan of the property.

Denver Water Offers Updated Trail Guide

Denver Water recently updated their Guide to the High Line Canal Trail, a full-color pocket-sized companion that suggests what to look for, what to avoid, where to find the best scenery and where to park.

The guide offers mile-by-mile descriptions of the canal's tranquil scenery, as well as geographical and historical facts about this urban treasure. The 2012 edition also includes a separate pull-out trail map — as requested by many trail enthusiasts. Residents can purchase it at local bookstores or their online sites. Visit www.denverwater.org for details.



Photo at left: In April, Centennial officially cut the ribbon to their new 11-acre Centennial Center Park that includes an amphitheater, climbing walls, children's water play area, playgrounds, large shelter with fireplace, two-story plaza overlook shelter with benches, picnic tables, grills and more.

Centennial received a \$250,000 grant from Arapahoe County for this first phase of development in 2010.

Giving Grants

Each year, 12 percent of the Open Space tax revenue is set aside for competitive grants to eligible special districts and municipalities with almost \$16 million in grants awarded since 2004 for 90 projects throughout Arapahoe County.

In 2011, Arapahoe County awarded nearly \$2.5 million in grants for 16 open space, park and trail projects. Recipients are required to contribute their own matching funds, and 2011 marked the introduction of three grant categories: standard, small and planning grants. Planning grants emphasize the importance of project planning, helping agencies prepare construction projects to be "shovel ready." Offering three categories also allows for similar projects to be evaluated against each other. This has encouraged smaller agencies with smaller budgets to apply.

The 2011 projects are below and can be found throughout the pages of this publication.

Carson Park Playground and Shelter

This \$200,000 grant helped Aurora build a playground and picnic shelter at Carson Park located near the intersection of Smoky Hill Road and Quincy Avenue.



Aurora used a \$200,000 Arapahoe County Open Space grant to build a new playground and picnic shelter at Carson Park.

Centennial Regional Trail Link Phase II

Centennial will use this \$200,600 grant to complete the new east/west trail by extending the planned Centennial Regional Trail Link for an additional 1.3 miles from Colorado Boulevard to Holly Street along the Caley/Arapahoe Road corridor.



A grant to the Arapahoe Park and Recreation District will help fill in the missing link, connecting Spring Creek Park Trail to Unnamed Creek Trail.

Spring Creek Nature Trail

The Arapahoe Park and Recreation District will use a \$210,000 grant to build a trail with boardwalks connecting Spring Creek Park Trail to Aurora's Unnamed Creek Trail, completing a vital missing link to the regional trail system.



These images are a snapshot of the current conditions of these parks and trails. Once grant work is complete, these enhanced parks and trails will be available for residents to enjoy.

Piney Creek Trail Improvements

A \$250,000 grant was awarded to Centennial to complete a key section of trail and a water crossing to close the last remaining gap along the Piney Creek Trail system.

Plans for Cottonwood Trail Bridge Replacement

This \$50,000 planning grant will allow the Cherry Creek Vista Park and Recreation District to complete the plans and engineering study to replace two “tear-away” pedestrian bridges that cross Cottonwood Creek west of Peoria and north of Caley Avenue.



Englewood will begin renovation work on the Centennial Park Trail Loop this summer.

Cornerstone Park Ball Field Improvement

This \$250,000 grant will be used by the South Suburban Park and Recreation District to renovate dugouts and backstops, increase American with Disabilities Act-accessibility, build a covered playground, shelter and more.

Centennial Park Trail Loop Renovation

With this \$237,100 grant, Englewood will complete improvements including: replacing and widening the concrete trail around Centennial Lake, replacing a bridge for greater American with Disabilities Act-accessibility and more.

Trail Ridge Open Space Plan

As a first-time grant recipient, the East Smoky Hill Metro District will use \$49,800 to complete a plan that will identify park and trail improvements and connections that will provide students safe access to school.

Littleton Community Trail Phase II

Littleton will build 1.2 miles of trail to increase access to valuable open space in the heart of Littleton, including the historic City Ditch and wooded riparian areas with this \$250,000 grant.

Sheridan Community Park Field Renovation

The South Suburban Park and Recreation District will use this \$250,000 grant to enhance player safety by replacing ballfield lighting and irrigation, installing enclosed dugouts, pitching/batting cages and much more.



Students from Peabody Elementary now walk to school on the new Centennial Regional Trail Link, thanks in part to an Arapahoe County Open Space grant.



“Most open space projects simply provide preservation of the land but fail to recognize the need to preserve the historic structures that provide the link to the past.

It’s always a tough decision to make because of cost but glad you decided to keep the structures and rebuild the replica windmills. Can’t wait to hike the open space!”

– Rick A.

Honoring our Heritage

A portion of the Arapahoe County Open Space sales and use tax is set aside for the preservation and enhancement of heritage areas. The County currently has two designated heritage areas: the 17 Mile House Farm Park and the Fairgrounds and Regional Park. For more than 100 years, 17 Mile House was home to a series of hardworking, self-reliant families, whose lives were rooted in the land and followed the booms and busts of Colorado and the nation.

The Fairgrounds and Regional Park served as the historic grazing range of prairie bison and later became fenced pastures for cattle ranches.

Both sites tell the stories of “extraordinary” farming and ranching families and offer a glimpse into life on the Colorado plains.

Windmills Stand Tall at 17 Mile House Farm Park

Authentic replicas of the two windmills that stood at the 17 Mile House Farm Park more than 100 years ago have returned. As best as we can tell from historic photos, both of the restored windmills, an Eclipse and a Dempster, stand on their historic locations.

The windmills are decorative in purpose and currently do not pump water. The olive green Eclipse windmill at the house stands 42 feet tall in the exact location as the original windmill of the late 1800s. The water most likely served household needs such as cooking, washing, bathing, drinking and to irrigate the backyard garden.

The Dempster windmill in the barnyard is red and white standing 36 feet tall. The original was likely installed at this location in the very early 1900s and used to fill a livestock tank.

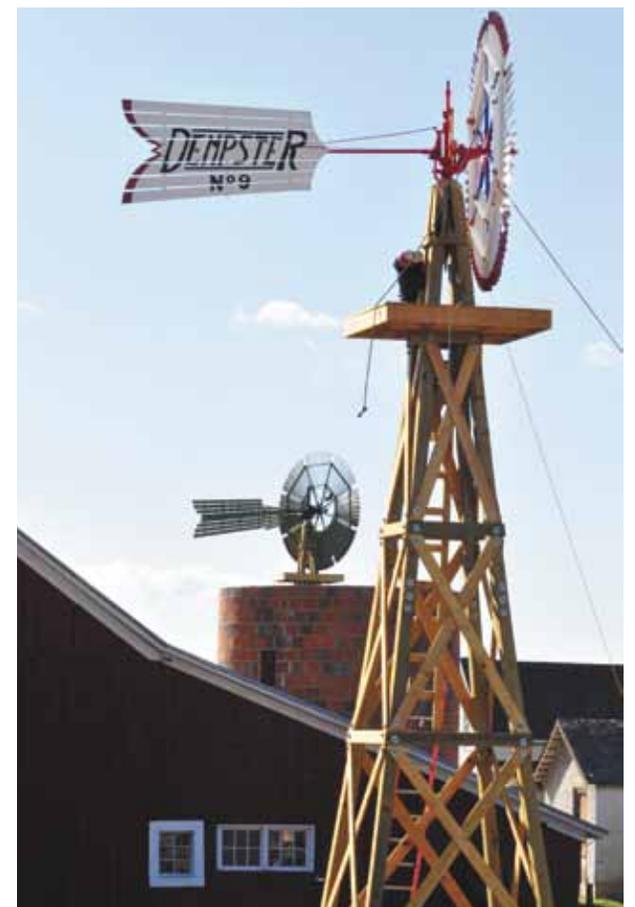


Photo at top: A 36 foot Dempster windmill is about to go up at 17 Mile House Farm Park.

Photo above: The two new replica windmills stand tall in their historic locations at the Park.

Historic House and Site Improvements Continue

The windmill project is just part of the current restoration work that is underway at 17 Mile House Farm Park, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition, Arapahoe County is working to rehabilitate the interior of the house as well as create external site improvements such as expanded parking, a restroom and connections to Cherry Creek Trail and the Town of Parker's Preservation Park in preparation for opening the Farm Park to the public in late 2012.

Regional Park Trailhead – 2011 Grant Recipient

With this \$246,000 grant, the Arapahoe Park and Recreation District will build a trailhead at the northwest corner of E-470 and East Quincy Avenue. Currently, Arapahoe County is looking into an opportunity to build a regional trail that connects the Fairgrounds and Regional Park to open spaces further east and west to this future regional park.

Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and Regional Park

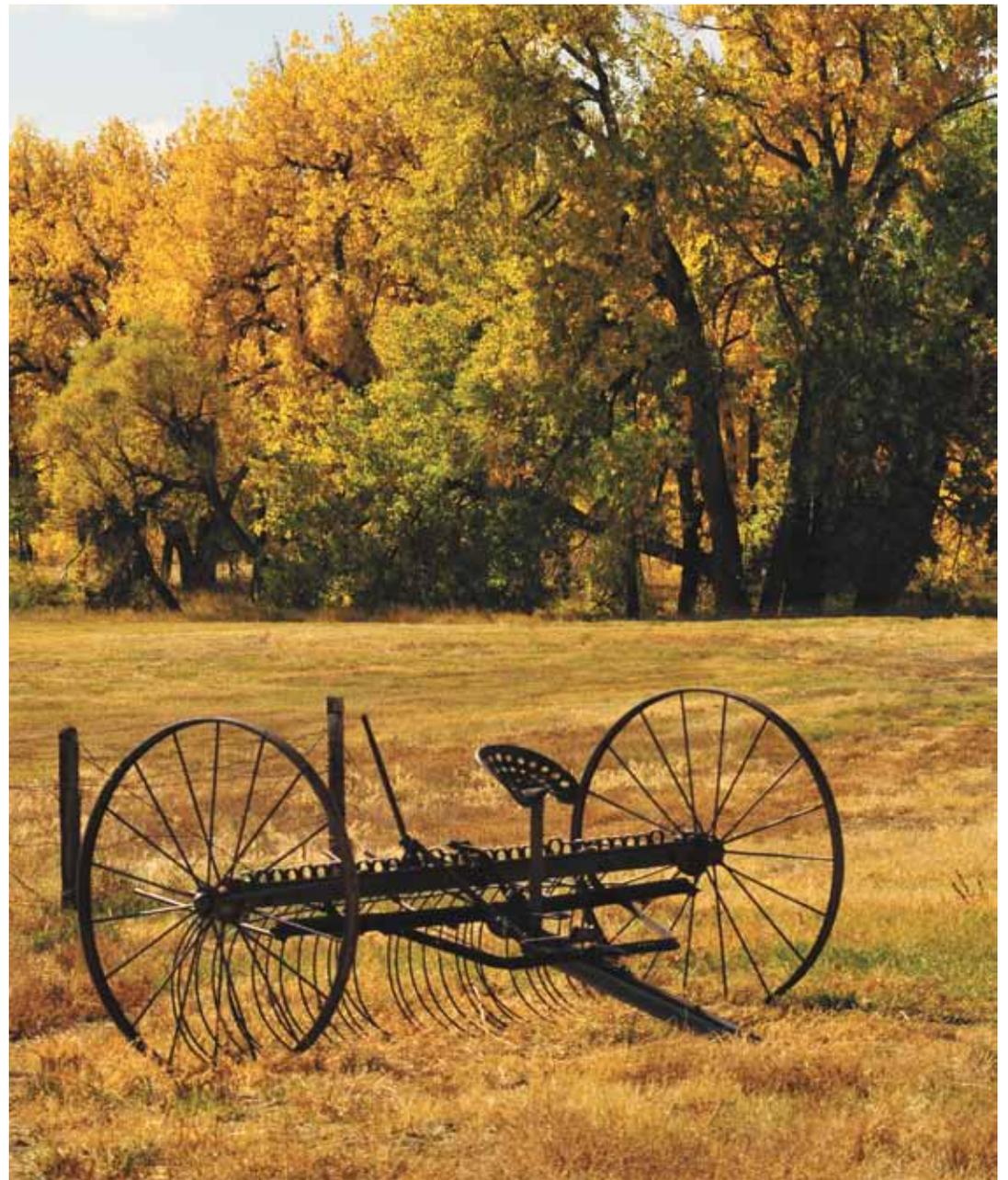
Throughout the year, Arapahoe County's Fairgrounds and Regional Park offers a wide variety of community activities and events. From Aurora's Punkin Chunkin Colorado in the fall to the more recent Repticon Denver (reptile show), there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Plans are underway to increase the size of the event center with the addition of a 37,000 square foot indoor multipurpose area with concession stand. The first phase of the Regional Park's development also is in the planning stages and includes multi-purpose trails and a historical trail walk that showcases varied windmills throughout Arapahoe County's history.

Celebrating our Agricultural Heritage

Attending the Arapahoe County Fair is a tradition more than 100 years old. It celebrates our County's heritage and agricultural history, and would not be possible without our sponsors and hundreds of volunteers.

Nancy J. from Loveland attended last year's fair and said, "Thanks for putting on such a great family fun affair for the whole family. We look forward to coming to the fair for many years to come."



Get your Game on at the Fair, July 25-29, 2012.

Volunteer, compete in our open class competition, or bring your family for a whole lot of fun. Visit us on Facebook or at www.arapahoecountyfair.com.



“There is a serene, peaceful quality about Richmil Ranch. It’s as if time stood still and you don’t have a care in the world, except to relax and take it all in. Looking forward to its opening later this year.”

– Mary

Enhancing the Eastern Plains

Did you know that Arapahoe County is an urban and rural county? As you head east on I-70, you’ll pass the unique towns of Bennett, Byers, Strasburg and Deer Trail. Many of these eastern neighbors are the very farmers and ranchers who produce our local supply of meats and cereal grains. Between these towns, visitors can find thousands of acres of short-grass prairie and riparian habitats that are home to pronghorn antelope, mule deer, native birds and diverse plant species.

The stewardship of our eastern open spaces is paramount to the protection of our short-grass prairie and agricultural heritage. Arapahoe County uses a variety of tools, from conservation easements to agricultural leasing, to preserve this way of life. We also have purchased several open space areas that will eventually be opened to the public for hiking, horseback riding and wildlife viewing.



Richmil Ranch Open Space Grand Opening

Come fall 2012, Arapahoe County will celebrate the grand opening of Richmil Ranch Open Space. This first phase of development includes multi-use trails for equestrians and pedestrians, a trailhead, restrooms, picnic areas and more.

The Open Space also allows for continued farm and ranch use on specific areas of the property to help preserve the County’s agricultural history. Visitors can catch a glimpse of crop fields irrigated by pivot sprinklers to better understand one aspect of traditional farming practices.





Cattle at Kiowa Creek South

These cattle currently call Arapahoe County's Kiowa Creek South Open Space home. A local rancher leases the property for winter grazing and calving. Staff recently partnered with the rancher to rebuild the corral and enhance the chutes and horse pen. The improvements make it easier for veterinary work, calving operations and moving cattle to and from trailers. The revenue from our agricultural leases helps pay for the management and maintenance costs of our open space. Cattle grazing is used to sustain the health of a variety of range grasses and help limit the spread of noxious weeds. It's a win-win for everyone.

Antelope Hills Park Plan – 2011 Grant Recipient

This \$5,000 planning grant will be used by the Town of Bennett to design a 2.5 acre park with input from the local community.

Kiowa Bennett Trail Link – 2011 Grant Recipient

Last year Bennett received a grant to develop a regional trail plan for their community. With a completed plan in hand, the Town will use this \$168,000 grant to design and build 1.6 miles of trail along Kiowa Bennett Road to connect the Antelope Hills community to Arapahoe County's Kiowa Creek North Open Space.

Byers Park and Recreation Master Plan – 2011 Grant Recipient

As a first-time grant recipient, the Byers Park and Recreation District will use this \$15,000 planning grant to produce a master plan with extensive community input. The District will evaluate existing recreational resources, identify the community's future needs and prioritize recommendations for future actions.



Get Involved - **Volunteer**

Thousands of residents visit Arapahoe County parks and trails throughout the year. In an effort to keep them looking their best, the County is delighted to work with individuals and groups who share our passion for preservation and enhancement of our parks and natural lands.

Outdoor Enthusiasts Volunteered More Than 1,100 Hours of Service to Arapahoe County's Open Spaces in 2011

From Girl Scout and Eagle Scout groups to AmeriCorps members, volunteers planted willow whips in cooperation with the Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners, transplanted trees, and cleared and widened natural surface trails, among other general maintenance projects.

To find out how you can volunteer, call 303-738-7938 or visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us and click on *Volunteer Opportunities* from the *Services* drop down menu.



Get Involved - **Participate**

Go Geocaching

With geocaching, modern-day pirates go on a high-tech treasure hunt at many of our County's open spaces.

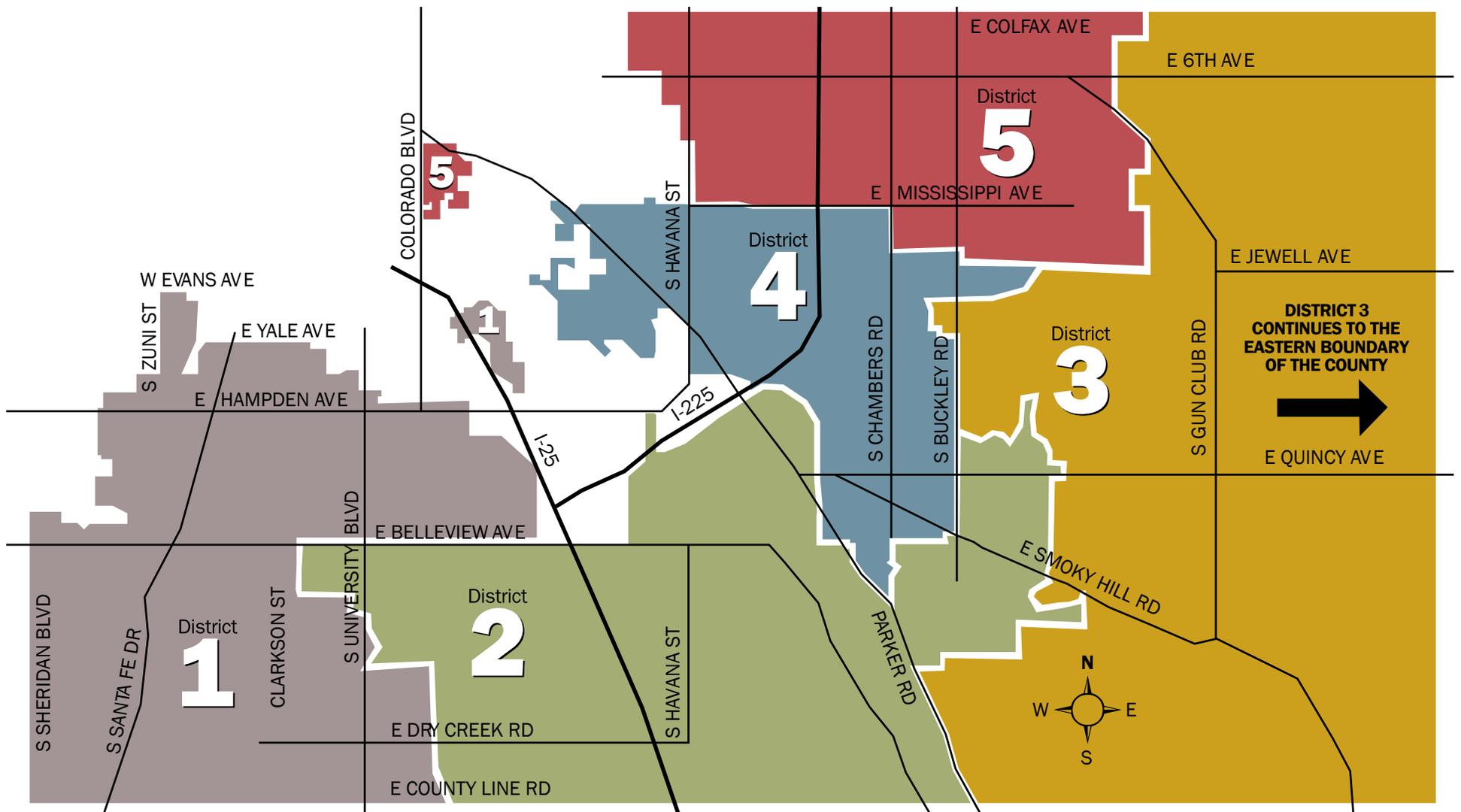
Instead of using a parchment map, you enter coordinates into a global positioning system (GPS) unit and follow the trail to find the hidden cache (treasure). Inside each County cache is a logbook and possibly a selection of free small gifts. Sign your name to prove you've found the cache. Learn more at www.co.arapahoe.co.us.

Be in the Know

Want to be kept up to date on the improvements taking place at your parks, trails and open spaces throughout Arapahoe County?

Sign up to receive the e-newsletter at www.co.arapahoe.co.us and click on *Open Spaces* under the *Departments* drop down menu.

Commissioner Districts



Susan Beckman, District 1



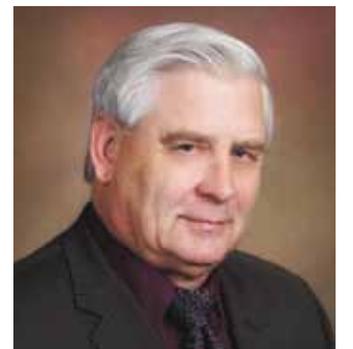
Nancy N. Sharpe, District 2



Rod Bockenfeld, District 3



Nancy Jackson, District 4



Bill L. Holen, District 5



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
OPEN SPACES

Arapahoe County Open Spaces
6934 S. Lima Street Unit A | Centennial, CO 80112-3853
720-874-6540 | www.co.arapahoe.co.us

Efficiency in Government

This annual report to our citizens was printed and distributed for just 22 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.