

# ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACES

## Parks



## Trail Connections



## Heritage Areas



## Partnerships



## Preservation



Your Parks. Your Trails.  
Your Community.

2015  
Community Guide  
& Report



ARAPAHOE COUNTY  
OPEN SPACES

Dear Arapahoe County Citizens,

In 2003 and again in 2011, Arapahoe County voters generously supported the Open Spaces Program – a decision that continues to positively impact and enhance the landscape of Colorado’s first county.

From the wonderful amenities available along three regional recreational corridors; to future trail connections to the parks that are in your backyard; to the preservation of agricultural heritage and prairie lands in eastern Arapahoe County – the imprint of your vision can be seen across our county.

Miles of trail and river corridors wind through numerous cities and towns – blurring the lines of jurisdictional boundaries where parks are in high demand and trails don’t know where one city ends and another begins.

No single municipality, special district or County entity could supply all the resources and management needed to keep our outdoor spaces beautifully preserved and well maintained. The success of the Arapahoe County Open Spaces program lies in the partnerships that support open space, wildlife corridors and historic areas; improve neighborhoods; preserve ranchlands; and protect lands that preserve water quality in rivers, lakes and streams.

Just take a walk outside – in your neighborhood, along a trail or in a nearby park – and chances are you’ll see examples of your tax dollars at work to *Protect, Connect and Enjoy* Colorado’s great outdoors.

Your tax dollars make neighborhoods flourish with healthy and vibrant outdoor opportunities that you, your family, friends and visitors can enjoy today and for many years to come. The next eight pages will guide you to your next outdoor adventure.

We are proud to present the 2015 Arapahoe County Open Spaces Community Guide and Report. Without your support these projects would not be possible.

Sincerely,

Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners

**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



The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners: Nancy A. Doty, District 1; Nancy N. Sharpe, District 2; Rod Bockenfeld, District 3; Nancy Jackson, District 4 and Bill L. Holen, District 5.



Open Space and Trails Advisory Board: Sharon Powers, Grider Lee, Linda Strand, Ron Weidmann and Bev Bradshaw. Not pictured: Jonathan Carrick and Harriet LaMair

## How YOU Support Parks, Trails and Open Spaces



**190**  
**Miles**  
of New and  
Improved Trails



**.25** of every penny spent  
goes toward the  
Open Space Sales and Use Tax

**150**  
**Parks**

# Investing in Community



## \$1.86 Million in Grants

The County hosts a competitive grants program through the Open Space Sales and Use Tax. Municipalities and special districts can apply for funding to support projects, such as land acquisitions, park development, master planning, trail connections and more. The following agencies received grant funding in 2014: Aurora, Cherry Hills Village, Englewood, Goodman Metropolitan District, Greenwood Village, Sheridan, South Suburban Park and Recreation District and Strasburg Metropolitan District.

## \$10.6 Million Shared with Cities

Arapahoe County has the largest Shareback program in the State of Colorado with 12 cities and towns receiving 50 percent of the total tax collected, distributed by population. Funding supports open space, parks and trail systems for all citizens to enjoy.

Aurora	\$6,259,832
Bennett	\$7,696
Centennial	\$2,173,257
Cherry Hills Village	\$129,570
Columbine Valley	\$27,293
Deer Trail	\$11,817
Englewood	\$654,749
Foxfield	\$14,992
Glendale	\$90,544
Greenwood Village	\$303,256
Littleton	\$854,992
Sheridan	\$137,666



## Parks and Preservation County Properties

The County owns and operates several properties that are (or will be) open to the public. At the **17 Mile House Farm Park** and **Arapahoe County Fairgrounds** you can get in touch with our rich heritage. Learn more about these two properties in the Celebrating our Heritage section.

**Cheyenne/Arapaho Park** - Tsistsistas-Hinono'einihi' Park is the official name but most folks find it easier to call it the Cheyenne/Arapaho Park. Enjoy a peaceful walk, play with your children or discover the natural shrubs and wildflowers that are magnificent in season.

**Welch Park** - Formerly a vacant lot, this property is now a landscaped park with a loop walking trail and large turf play area. Enjoy scenic views of the Rocky Mountains here.

**Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park** - Step into a natural riparian area right in the middle of the urban area and learn about the native plant and wildlife species that thrive in this educational nature preserve along the banks of Cherry Creek.

**Richmil Ranch** - Three miles of soft-surface trail and picnic areas await you at Richmil Ranch Open Space, which is open for pedestrian and equestrian use.

**Dove Valley Regional Park** - From spring to fall, this park is filled with athletes young and old. The park features multi-use athletic fields, baseball diamonds, sand volleyball courts, picnic pavilions and a one-mile loop paved walking path.

**Wabash Trailhead** - At the intersection of Yale and Wabash, this trailhead has modern amenities that connect trail users and local Four Square Mile residents to the Cherry Creek Trail.

### Coming Soon

**Kiowa Creek North** - Wildflowers in full bloom, mule deer grazing or a small herd of pronghorn antelope running through short-prairie grasses, this property will feature a trailhead and connection to the future Kiowa-Bennett trail.

**Wayside Park** - Across from the High Line Canal Trail, this parcel will serve as a pocket park.

**Long's Pine Grove** - A neighborhood park and trailhead just a few steps from Eloise May Library and access point to the High Line Canal Trail.

Finally, learn about **Arapahoe Road Trailhead** and **Quebec Way Trailhead** on the next two pages.

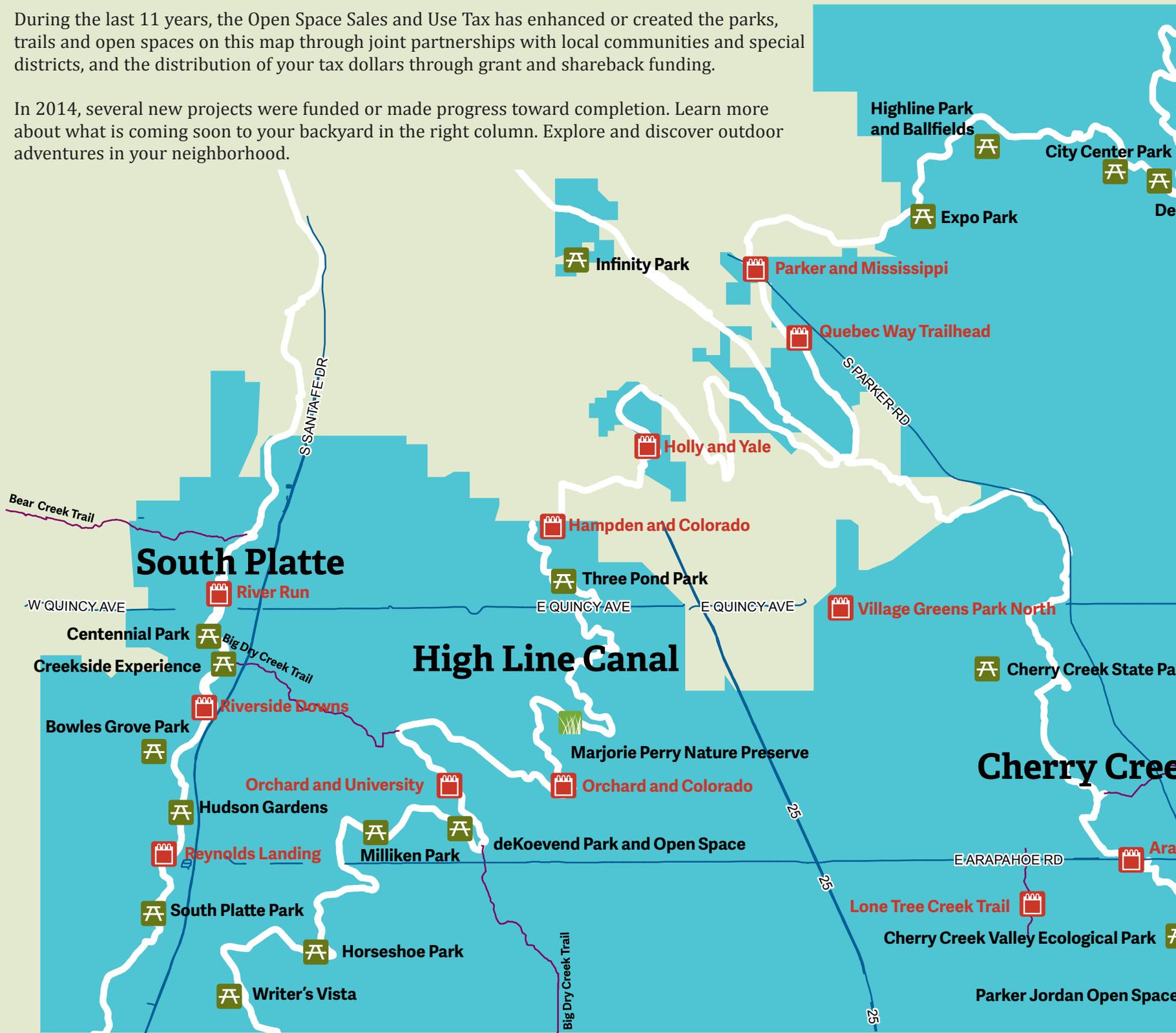
## Recreational Corridor Enhancements

# Where will you GO Arapahoe?

Arapahoe County is fortunate to have a diverse landscape that includes natural prairie and agricultural lands to the east and three major recreational corridors: the South Platte River, High Line Canal and Cherry Creek to the west.

During the last 11 years, the Open Space Sales and Use Tax has enhanced or created the parks, trails and open spaces on this map through joint partnerships with local communities and special districts, and the distribution of your tax dollars through grant and shareback funding.

In 2014, several new projects were funded or made progress toward completion. Learn more about what is coming soon to your backyard in the right column. Explore and discover outdoor adventures in your neighborhood.





Trailhead



Open Space



Parks



Coming Soon



Triple Creek Trailhead and Connections

laney Farm

Detail of Area Shown

Arapahoe County

EQUINCY AVE

Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and Park



Piney Creek Trail Improvements

Arapahoe Road Trailhead

Piney Creek Trail

Broncos Parkway Trailhead

17 Mile House Farm and Park

# Coming soon to your backyard

**River Run** stretches from Oxford to Union avenues along the South Platte. River Run will feature a new trailhead, riparian enhancements and a whitewater standing wave.

**Riverside Downs** is a unique public-private partnership that will provide South Platte river and trail access, bocce ball courts and a small concert space just steps away from bike and coffee shops.

**Reynolds Landing** will be a premier destination to connect with trails, in-river recreation along the South Platte and the new Breckenridge Brewery.

**High Line Canal Crossings** feasibility study was conducted to understand infrastructure and identify crossings that were difficult or unsafe for trail users. The following are soon to be enhanced for your safety and ease of access: Hampden/Colorado, Holly/Yale, Parker/Mississippi, Orchard/Colorado and Orchard/University.

**Enhance the High Line Canal Projects** will provide modern upgrades to dated infrastructure with five pedestrian bridges, a new restroom facility and a trail connection. Projects will occur along the trail from County Line Road to Orchard Road.

**High Line Canal and Triple Creek Trail Connection** includes construction of more than three miles of trail to connect the High Line Canal, Sand Creek and Triple Creek Trails. This connection will fill a gap between two regional trail systems by connecting seven existing recreational facilities within a one-mile radius.

**Quebec Way Trailhead** offers additional parking and a new trailhead will enhance public access to the High Line Canal.

**Lone Tree Creek Trail** will complete a critical gap in access extending two miles from Broncos Parkway to Cherry Creek State Park.

**Piney Creek Trail Improvements** will relocate two segments of the frequently flooded trail beneath Tower Road and mitigates future flood impact in The Farm subdivision.

**Village Greens Park North** will enhance the park entrance by adding a restroom, picnic shelter, single-track mountain bike and 18-hole disc golf courses, as well as access to the Cherry Creek Trail for visitors to enjoy.

**Arapahoe Road Trailhead** is the last major barrier between the County line and Cherry Creek State Park. Once completed, this vital connection will allow continuous trail access along Cherry Creek.

*Project partners include: Littleton, Sheridan, Englewood, South Suburban Park and Recreation District, Greenwood Village, Aurora, Denver, Goodman Metropolitan District, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, Denver, Colorado Water Conservation Board, CDOT, DRCOG, Dove Valley Metropolitan District, SEMSWA and Urban Drainage and Flood Control District.*

## Making Progress

# Fairgrounds and Park

What happens at the Fairgrounds besides the County Fair? A lot! With year-round fairs and festivals, Quinceñeras, trade and animal shows, athletic events, 4-H programs and more, there is a heavy demand on having a robust and capable facility. This is why Arapahoe County is expanding the Fairgrounds to include a new outdoor covered arena, a west wing expansion of the exhibit hall and a new park.

The outdoor covered arena is a prime space for rodeos, drop-in riding, horse shows and a variety of agricultural events and shows. The exhibit hall expansion will draw trade shows, regional athletic events, festivals and animal-related shows. It also can serve as a training or conference facility.

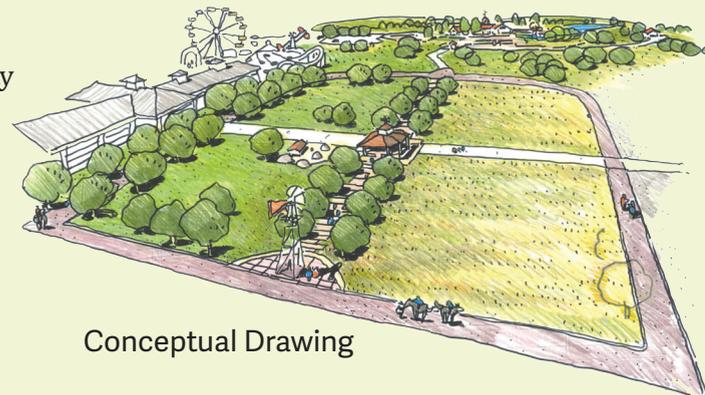
The 110-acre park will feature scenic overlooks, shaded picnic structures, historic

West Wing Expansion



windmills and a trail and stream system with unique natural play areas nestled into prairie canyons.

The Fairgrounds also serves the community during emergencies. Local emergency service agencies train for preparedness and the facility can temporarily house animals in the event of a disaster. With both indoor and outdoor amenities, the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds is a premier regional event location.



Conceptual Drawing

## Celebrating our Heritage

### Arapahoe County Fair



The 2014 Arapahoe County Fair was a great success with more than 20,000 people in attendance. Fairgoers enjoyed unlimited carnival rides, rodeos, a petting farm, demolition derby, and concerts on the main stage, games, fireworks and much more.

*Come Rustle Up Some Fun* at the 2015 Arapahoe County Fair, July 23 - 26. Tickets are on sale at [www.arapahoecountyfair.com](http://www.arapahoecountyfair.com).

### Fall Festival



Festival attendees of all ages get in touch with Colorado history and the old western ways of life at the annual Fall Festival. Hosted at the historic 17 Mile House and Farm Park, the community can pan for gold, learn the art of blacksmithing and see how bees work in their hives. Enjoy food truck fare, live bluegrass music, hayrides, tours of the farmhouse, a petting farm and a chance to pick out a prized pumpkin for Halloween.

Save the date for the 2015 Fall Festival, October 17.

### 17 Mile House Tours



The 17 Mile House and Farm Park has a storied and significant history. As the Gold Rush of the mid-1800s lured civilization to the west, a series of inns emerged along the Cherry Creek to accommodate weary travelers. Today, the property is restored to its known condition in the early 1900s. Complimentary tours are provided one Saturday each month. School tours also are available by appointment. Last year, more than 30,000 people visited this historical site.

From history to nature, fitness and exploration, make 17 Mile House your next weekend adventure.

# Enjoy Your Neighborhood

Parks, Trails and Open Spaces

## Aurora

**Aurora Reservoir**

- Catch a fish
- Scuba dive
- Bike the trail
- Take a swim
- Learn at AWQUA Lounge



## Bennett

**Bennett Regional Park and Open Space**

- See raptors
- View wildlife
- Explore photography
- Run or walk the trails



## Centennial

**Centennial Center Park**

- Take in a concert
- Play at the water park
- Rock climb
- Eat at a food truck
- Plan a playdate



## Cherry Hills Village

**Three Pond Park**

- Enjoy 9.5 acres
- Ride your horse
- Paint a picture




Family Fun

## Columbine Valley

- Fish in Dutch Creek
- Dip your toes in the South Platte River



## Deer Trail

**Rodeo Grounds**

- Experience the "Birthplace of Rodeo"
- See livestock
- Meet a cowboy



## Englewood

**Duncan Park**

- Have a picnic
- Play horseshoes
- Let your dog off-leash
- Play basketball
- Swim, climb and slide



## Foxfield

**Norton Open Space**

- Enjoy 3.5 acres
- Stroll along the trail
- Access shopping and regional trails




Get Active

## Glendale

**Creekside Park**

- Access Cherry Creek
- Play sand volleyball
- Take a walk or jog



## Greenwood Village

**Village Greens North**

- Play Disc Golf
- Mountain bike
- See ducks on the pond
- Link to the Light Rail



## Littleton

**Littleton Community Trail**

- Learn Littleton's history
- Access downtown shops
- Commute to the Light Rail



## Sheridan

**Sheridan Community Park**

- Play soccer
- Enjoy a barbecue
- Swing, climb and slide




Be with Nature



Get Involved

## Special Districts

**Dove Valley Metropolitan District**

**Happy Canyon Trail and Bridge**

- Connect to Cherry Creek
- Play at Dove Valley Park
- Explore Parker Jordan Open Space



**Cherry Creek Vista Park and Recreation District**

**Cottonwood Trail**

- Cross-country ski
- Ride horseback
- Bird watch



**South Suburban Park and Recreation District**

**Cornerstone Park**

- Skateboard
- Play mini golf
- Catch a baseball game
- Spend time with grandparents



**Parker Jordan Metropolitan District**

**Parker Jordan Centennial Open Space**

- Learn history at the kiosk
- Enjoy 107 acres
- Get into nature
- Walk along Cherry Creek



# Credits and Acknowledgments

## Communication Services

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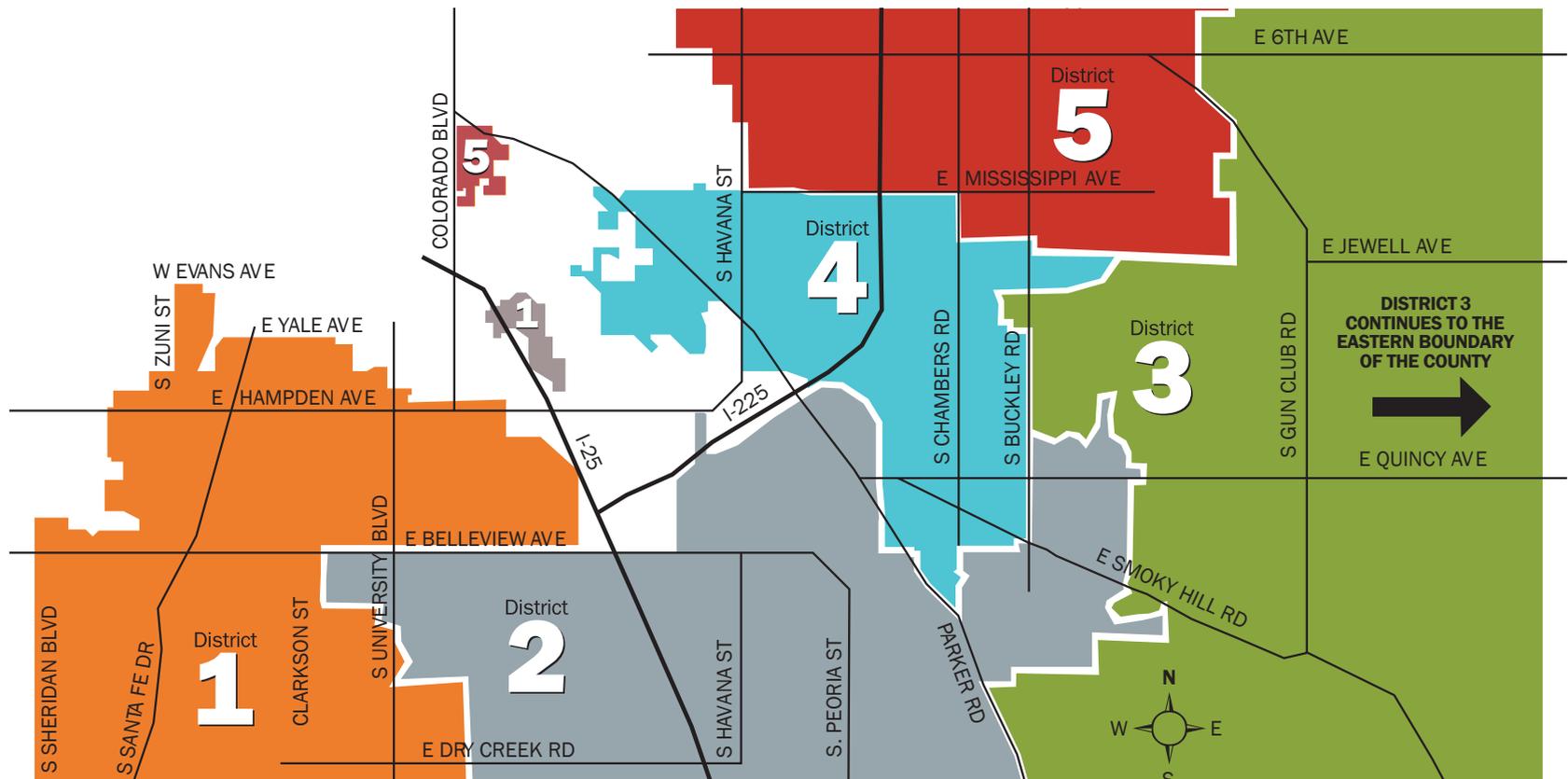
## Photography

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Connect with Arapahoe County



For more information about Arapahoe County's Open Spaces Program, visit [www.arapahoegov.com](http://www.arapahoegov.com) or scan this QR code which will take you directly to our Open Spaces Program website.



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Commissioner District 1



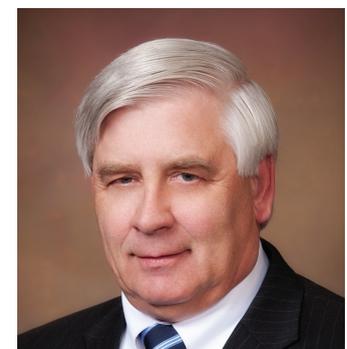
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Commissioner District 3



Nancy Jackson  
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Commissioner District 5

## South Platte Park

*"Enjoy the heart of the Mary Carter Greenway in this 848-acre park. Enhancements protect the ecology of the river and improve riparian habitats. Keep your eye out for the amazing wildlife."*

## Terrace Tower

*"Preserving this beautiful parcel, which sits between two high-rise offices, improves trail access to the Orchard Light Rail Station and serves as a prime gathering space for thousands of nearby residents and employees."*

## Fairgrounds

*"The fairgrounds provide a perfect venue for the County's urban and rural character and cultures to blend, not only during the County Fair, but throughout the year."*

## Four Square Mile

*"The Recreational Needs and Opportunities Assessment offered residents of Four Square Mile the chance to envision their neighborhood's future, which generated fantastic suggestions for enhancements."*

## Triple Creek Greenway

*"The acquisitions protect areas otherwise prime for development and one day will allow trail users to travel an uninterrupted 27-mile route from the Aurora Reservoir to the South Platte River."*