



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST

Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80120-1136
Phone: 303-795-5467 | Fax: 303-734-5470
TDD: 303-795-4644
www.arapahoegov.com

News Release

For release: June 22, 2016

Contact:

AMANDA SLATES

Communication Services Specialist II

Direct: 720-874-6545

Mobile: 720-785-0693

Email: aslates@arapahoegov.com

Arapahoe County pledges \$5 million to Parks, Trails, Open Space Working Group

Open Spaces forms new East Metro Working Group to leverage funding, prioritize projects

Aurora, Colo. – The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners is committing \$5 million to a new working group that will focus on open space, parks and trail projects in eastern metro communities.

The new East Metro Working Group, which includes elected officials and staff members from Arapahoe County and local jurisdictions, special districts, partner agencies and other key stakeholders is preceded by the South Platte Working Group, Cherry Creek Basin Working Group and High Line Canal Working Group. The Working Group concept, which was created by Arapahoe County in 2006, has a common goal to protect and preserve parks, trails and open spaces, to identify and prioritize projects to enhance local communities and to leverage funding to make these projects possible.

The \$5 million pledge is funded by the Open Space Sales and Use Tax – a quarter-of-a-penny sales tax supported by voters in 2003 and again in 2011. The tax funding is dedicated to preserve open space, enhance parks, build trail connections and protect our heritage areas.

“There is a lot of opportunity in this fast growing area of the County, and what excites me is to see how we can get out ahead of development and make some great progress,” said Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, who represents District 3, which includes portions of Centennial, Aurora and all of eastern Arapahoe County. “The East Metro Working Group will be able to identify priorities to fill the gaps, fund projects that are ready today and plan for those in the near future to ensure a strong economy and quality of life for the region.”

The East Metro area has key destinations and corridors, such as the Aurora Reservoir, Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Plains Conservation Center, Quincy Reservoir, Triple Creek Trail, E470 Trail, and Tollgate Trail to name a few. Making further connections for the community and visitors to seamlessly access these wonderful amenities will be at the core of the group’s focus in addition to identifying new opportunities to expand parks and preserve open spaces.

Learn more about Arapahoe County Open Spaces [here](#).

-more-

Connect with Arapahoe County

Stay informed and give us your input about Arapahoe County Government. Sign up for news releases, agendas and updates to our website via our *Notify Me* [Link](#) at www.arapahoegov.com. Or, connect with us via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Next Door](#) and [LinkedIn](#).