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Windmills stand tall at Arapahoe County's 17 Mile House Farm Park *House and site improvements continue at historic property*

Centennial, Colo. --- Authentic replicas of the two windmills that stood at the 17 Mile House Farm Park more than 100 years ago have returned. As best staff at Arapahoe County can ascertain from historic photos, the two new windmills stand in their historic locations.

The windmills are decorative in purpose and do not pump water to the surface. The windmill next to the house is a 12 foot diameter Eclipse in green and burgundy. The tower stands 42 feet tall in the same location where the original windmill stood in the late 1800s. Historically, this mill would have pumped water from a hand dug well located directly below the tower. The water most likely served household needs such as cooking, washing, bathing, drinking and to irrigate the garden near the house. It was not used for irrigating crops or watering livestock.

The windmill in the barnyard is a 10 foot diameter red and white Dempster that sits 36 feet tall. The original was likely installed in this location in the very early 1900s and was used to fill a tank or water trough for livestock.

The windmill project is just part of the current rehabilitation 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 adding a parking lot, restroom and picnic facilities in preparation for opening of the park to the public in 2012.

This park would not be possible without the voters who generously approved the Arapahoe County Open Space sales and use tax. To date, the County has protected more than 18,000 acres of land that preserve natural habitat and wildlife corridors, connected miles of trail and enhanced parks that provide outdoor recreation for residents of all ages.

For more information about Arapahoe County Open Spaces, visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us and sign up to receive the Open Space newsletter.

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To download photos click on the link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/17MileHouse/>

Windmills: Authentic replicas of the two windmills that stood at the 17 Mile House Farm Park more than 100 years ago have returned.

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