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## **Arapahoe County voters pass Open Space sales tax extension** *0.25 percent sales tax for Open Space is extended to 2023 thanks to voters*

**Littleton, CO** --- With more than 61 percent approval, Arapahoe County voters approved a ballot question that would extend the 0.25 percent open space sales and use tax, which is dedicated to preserve natural areas, enhance neighborhood parks, build and maintain trail connections and protect heritage areas. This tax will be extended 10 years to Dec. 31, 2023.

“The election results continue to demonstrate the value our residents place on preservation of our open spaces and wildlife habitat, the protection of our water quality and the enhancement of our outdoor recreation,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Susan Beckman.

Fifty percent of the annual tax revenue is returned to incorporated cities and towns to enhance local parks, trails, recreation and open space. More than \$66 million from the Open Space Fund has been distributed to municipalities since the program’s inception. In addition to shareback funds, 12 percent of the annual 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 the County.

Since the program’s inception, the County’s Open Space program has conserved more than 18,000 acres of open space, built more than 30 miles of new trails and created and enhanced neighborhood and regional parks.

The original tax collection, which began Jan. 1, 2004, was set to expire Dec. 30, 2013 and equates to 25 cents on every \$100 purchase. To learn more about Arapahoe County Open Space, visit [www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us) and download the 2011 Community Guide *150 Ways to Enjoy Open Spaces* and/or sign up to receive the [Arapahoe County Open Spaces e-newsletter](#).

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