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### **Trailhead construction begins Dec. at Richmil Ranch Open Space**

**Arapahoe County, Colo.** --- Starting early December, residents will notice trail and trailhead construction taking place at the Richmil Ranch Open Space, located two miles northwest of Deer Trail on Highway 40. With the help of American Civil Constructors, Arapahoe County will complete Phase 1 development which includes a trailhead parking area with equestrian trailer parking, three miles of soft surface trail, several picnic/rest areas and a wildlife pond.

“Assuming no major weather delays, visitors can enjoy the cottonwood forest and foothill prairie for trail riding, hiking, wildlife viewing, picnicking and more by next spring,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Chair Rod Bockenfeld.

Thanks to resident feedback on the proposed plans earlier this year, the County has added horse-trailer parking to this first phase of development. This Open Space also allows for continued agricultural and ranch use in specific areas to help preserve the County’s agricultural and ranching history.

Richmil Ranch Open Space was purchased by Arapahoe County in 2007 in an effort to preserve 352 acres of prairie, agricultural and riparian woodlands which are home to deer, wild turkey, raptors and a variety of native plant species.

This park would not be possible without the voters who generously approved the Arapahoe County Open Space sales and use tax. Since then, 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, go to [www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us) and click on *Richmil Ranch* under *What’s New* or call 720-874-6724. While on the web site, 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/Richmil/>

*RichmilRanch2010* or *Richmil\_Winter2010* – Starting early December, phase I development including trail and trailhead construction will begin at Richmil Ranch Open Space, located two miles northwest of Deer Trail on Highway 40