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Arapahoe County Commissioners to decide Aug. 30 if Open Space Sales Tax extension will be placed on the 2011 election ballot

Littleton, CO --- During the 9:30 a.m., Aug. 30 public hearing, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners will consider a proposal to place a question extending the Open Space Sales and Use Tax on the Nov. 1, 2011 coordinated election ballot. The hearing takes place at 5334 S. Prince Street, Littleton, and is open to the public.

The extension proposes no changes to the amount of the sales tax (0.025 percent, which is equal to 25 cents on every \$100 purchase) and minor changes in the distribution of funds allowing a small increase for maintenance and administration purposes.

The countywide open space sales and use tax is dedicated to preserve natural areas, enhance neighborhood parks, build and maintain trail connections and protect heritage areas. It was created in November 2003 with 60 percent approval by Arapahoe County voters. Tax collection began Jan. 1, 2004 and is set to expire in December 30, 2013.

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.

To learn more about Arapahoe County Open Space, visit 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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