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Joint Press Release from City of Centennial, Parker Jordan Metropolitan District and Arapahoe County.

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April 30 event celebrates new section of Cherry Creek Trail Broncos Parkway Trailhead and Cherry Creek Regional Trail Link Complete

Centennial, Colo. --- The City of Centennial, Arapahoe County and the Parker Jordan Metropolitan District invite residents to celebrate the new Broncos Parkway Trailhead and completion of one of the last missing trail links along the Cherry Creek Regional Trail during a special event 10 a.m. to noon, April 30, at the Broncos Parkway Trailhead, 16400 E. Broncos Parkway, Centennial. A ribbon cutting ceremony along with fun family activities will take place along the trail, including horse-drawn wagons, prairie games and much more (rain or shine). Overflow parking will be available at Red Hawk Ridge Elementary School and the Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park.

Last fall, hikers, cyclists and other outdoor enthusiasts gained access to the 107 acres of Parker Jordan Centennial Open Space by using the new Broncos Parkway Trailhead, which provides much needed access to the more than 40 mile stretch of the Cherry Creek Trail and local parks and open space in the area.

The Trailhead provides 30 parking spaces, picnic shelters, restroom, bike racks and drinking fountain. Trail users can rest in the shade of the living green roof shaded pavilion – a demonstration project that uses plants as "living shingles" to increase water quality and decrease rainfall run off.

A Xeriscape demonstration garden, created by Tagawa Gardens, showcases water tolerant and low-maintenance plants perfect for Colorado weather. The garden displays 31 labeled varieties of native trees, shrubs, perennials and ornamental grasses.

“Completing the Cherry Creek Trail from Confluence Park in Denver down to Castlewood Canyon in Douglas County is a key priority of the Cherry Creek Basin Working Group,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Sharpe. “I commend Centennial and the Parker Jordan Metropolitan District for their commitment to preserving this incredible open space.”

The City of Centennial and the Parker Jordan Metropolitan District partnered to complete one of the last remaining links along the Cherry Creek Trail from the Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park and to 17 Mile House Farm Park. The new 10-foot-wide concrete trail connects Denver, Aurora, Centennial, Parker and Franktown and is a part of the

Colorado Front Range Trail. Users may view cottonwoods, willows and grasslands and enjoy diverse wildlife throughout this open space.

“I am happy to celebrate the completion of these two projects. The trail link and trailhead will allow our residents to take full advantage of this recreational area. This is a positive milestone for the south metro area and it would not have been completed without the successful partnerships with Parker Jordan Metro District and Arapahoe County,” said Centennial Mayor Cathy Noon.

Centennial granted the nearly \$360,000 from Great Outdoors Colorado to PJMD for construction of the missing trail link and enhancements to the area such as signage, rest stops, etc. Arapahoe County Open Space awarded Parker Jordan Metropolitan District more than \$360,000 in open space grant and trail development funds, which was leveraged with \$408,000 additional funds from project partners including an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Centennial allowing for new road access off Broncos Parkway.

“We are very proud of this project and pleased to preserve a natural and historical area that’s now accessible to the south metro Denver area. This project would not have been possible without the Arapahoe County Open Space funds and the efforts of Centennial,” said Norman Sheldon, Parker Jordan Metropolitan District president.

This is one of the many projects supported by the Cherry Creek Basin Working Group. In 2009, the 20 jurisdictional and conservation members pledged to work together to beautify and enhance the regional trail corridor by adding open space buffers and closing gaps in the trail.

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To download a photo click on the link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/Celebration/>

Photo Captions:

PJCentOS_winter: On April 30 outdoor enthusiasts will celebrate the new 107-acre Parker Jordan Centennial Open Space.

BroncosPkwayTrailheadAFTER: Cherry Creek Trail users are invited to park at the new Broncos Parkway Trailhead at 16400 E. Broncos Parkway, to access the 107-acre Parker Jordan Centennial Open Space.

BroncosPkwayTrailheadUsers: Hikers, cyclists and other outdoor enthusiasts have a new place to access to the Cherry Creek Trail at the Broncos Parkway Trailhead.