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For release: March 17, 2011

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Horse Trailer Parking added to Richmil Ranch Open Space Plan *Arapahoe County incorporates residents' feedback on park development plans*

Arapahoe County, CO --- In February, Arapahoe County invited the public to attend an informational meeting on the development plans for the Richmil Ranch Open Space Park. After meeting with residents and learning more about their needs for open space, the County is making some improvements to the first phase of development.

"We'd like to thank residents for attending the open house and sharing their thoughts with us," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Chair Rod Bockenfeld. "We've taken your input very seriously and are already making enhancements to the plans to meet your needs."

Original plans included horse trailer parking in Phase II of development. But after hearing from residents about their immediate needs for equestrian use, the County has added horse trailer parking to the trailhead in Phase I, Bockenfeld added.

In addition, the County plans to work closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to make sure that future trail use preserves farm and ranching capacities on site.

Richmil Ranch Open Space Park (located just one mile north of Deer Trail on Hwy 40) was purchased by Arapahoe County in 2007 in an effort to preserve 352 acres of prairie, farm and riparian woodlands which are home to deer, wild turkey, raptors and a variety of native plant species.

In partnership with the Architerra Group, Arapahoe County is working to complete plans that will lead to public access of this incredible open space by the end of 2011. Plans support a visitor experience that balances outdoor recreation with the protection of natural resources.

Amenities include multi-use trails for horses and pedestrians, a trailhead, restrooms, picnic shelters and more, through a phased approach. The Plan also includes continued agricultural and ranch use for specific areas of the property – to help preserve the County's agricultural history.

This park would not be possible without the voters who generously approved the Arapahoe County Open Space sales and use tax in 2003. 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.

The tax collection began January 2004 and is set to expire December 2013 unless citizens vote "yes" to continue the program during a future ballot question concerning reauthorization.

For more information, go to www.co.arapahoe.co.us and click on *Richmil Ranch* under *What's New* on the home page 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/>

RichmilOpenHouse2011– Residents share their thoughts on the development plans for Richmil Ranch Open Space Park at a February open house.

Development_Plan_Updated – Arapahoe County adds horse-trailer parking to the first phase of trail development for Richmil Ranch Open Space Park.

Richmil_FallColors2010 or Winter2010 or ViewFall – Richmil Ranch Open Space Park near Deer Trail preserves 352 acres of prairie, farm and riparian woodlands which are home to deer, wild turkey, raptors and a variety of native plant species.