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**For release: March 25, 2011**

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## **Enhancing the quality of life along the South Platte River** *Arapahoe County, Littleton and South Suburban partner in regional effort to improve South Platte River corridor*

**Littleton, CO** --- Hikers, cyclists and disabled fishing/trail enthusiasts can now enjoy \$1 million in open space enhancements along the Mary Carter Greenway thanks to the South Platte Working Group, and more specifically the South Suburban Park and Recreation District, Great Outdoors Colorado, Littleton, Arapahoe County Open Space and a Colorado Division of Wildlife Fishing is Fun Grant.

Recently, the group celebrated the completion of several enhancements to South Platte Park in Littleton including the addition of a dual trail, energy efficiency upgrades to the Carson Nature Center, additional restrooms, picnic shelters and paving of the entrance road and parking area. A handicap fishing pier and handicap river access project will be completed this spring.

In addition, the Park now showcases a 1965 flood commemorative sculpture. By standing in front of this stunning 14-foot-tall piece of art, one becomes acutely aware of the true height of the floodwaters and the devastation it caused.

These new amenities are just one of the 20 conservation projects of the South Platte Working Group that demonstrate the extraordinary results of people working together. More than 20 government agencies and special districts have partnered to expand the urban oasis along the South Platte River, improve wildlife habitat and enhance connectivity to recreation and trails for people in Western Arapahoe County.

Convened by Arapahoe County in 2006 with a \$3 million pledge in Open Space funds, the Group has racked up many accomplishments in its short existence – securing more than \$25 million, including a \$5.25 million grant from Great Outdoors Colorado to acquire several open space areas and build trail connections – while earning the Denver Regional Council of Government’s highest honor for their collaborative work.

Much of these accomplishments would not be possible without the support of voters who approved the Arapahoe County Open Space sales and use tax in 2003. In seven years, the County has protected more than 20,000 acres of land that preserve natural habitats and wildlife corridors, protect sweeping vistas and provide outdoor recreation for residents of all ages.

To learn more, sign up for the Arapahoe County open space e-newsletter at [www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us).

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

*Photo Captions*

*SPlattePark\_Sculpture*: South Platte Park recently underwent \$1 million in enhancements thanks to the South Platte Working Group. The Park now showcases a 1965 flood commemorative sculpture. By standing in front of this stunning 14-foot-tall piece of art, one becomes acutely aware of the true height of the floodwaters and the devastation it caused.

*SPlattePark\_Group*: Representatives from Arapahoe County, Littleton and South Suburban Park and Recreation District celebrate the recent enhancements at South Platte Park. Left to right: Ellen Belef, Arapahoe County Open Space and Trails Advisory Board; SSPR Board Member Sue Rosser; Marc Scott, Arapahoe County Open Space & Trails Advisory Board; SSPR Board Members Pam Eller and John Ostermiller, Mayor Doug Clark, SSPR Board Member Kay Geitner, Mayor Pro Tem Debbie Brinkman, Arapahoe County Commissioner Susan Beckman and Council Member Peggy Cole.