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Residents to comment on Richmil Ranch Open Space Trail Plans *Arapahoe County hosts open house on Richmil Ranch Open Space Park development plans*

Arapahoe County, CO --- Arapahoe County is hosting an open house for residents to comment on the development plans for Richmil Ranch Open Space Park. The meeting is Feb. 24 at the Deer Trail Fire House, 488 1st Ave., in Deer Trail. Residents are invited to stop by any time between 5 – 7 p.m.

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.

“County staff, in partnership with the Architerra Group, are excited to begin work that will lead to public access of this incredible open space by the end of 2011,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Chair Rod Bockenfeld. “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 and ranching 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 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/>

Richmil_FallColors2010 – Residents are invited to attend an open house on the development plans for Richmil Ranch Open Space Park – Feb. 24 at the Deer Trail Fire House.

Richmil_ViewFall2010 – Plans for the Richmil Ranch Open Space Park include multi-use trails, picnic shelters, a trailhead and more.