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Users enjoy new trailhead along Cherry Creek Trail

Arapahoe County and Parker Jordan Metropolitan District partner to create much needed trailhead access to the Cherry Creek Trail and Open Space

Centennial, Colo. --- Hikers, cyclists and other outdoors enthusiasts have a new place to access to the Cherry Creek Trail.

Visitors are invited to park at the new Broncos Parkway Trailhead at 16400 E. Broncos Parkway, just west of Tagawa Gardens. The Trailhead 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.

"Trail access and trail connections, especially along the Cherry Creek Regional Trail, are of incredible importance to the County and our residents," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer.

As part of the project, Arapahoe County awarded the 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.

The Trailhead provides 30 parking spaces, picnic shelters, restroom, bike racks and drinking fountain for trail users and their furry friends. Trail users can rest in the shade of the living green roof shaded pavilion. The green roof is a demonstration project that uses succulent plants, mostly sedums, as "living shingles" that increase water quality, decrease rainfall run-off and have great insulating properties.

In addition, a Xeriscaping demonstration garden created by Tagawa Gardens showcases water tolerant and low maintenance plants perfect for Colorado's weather. The garden displays 31 labeled varieties of native trees, shrubs, perennials and ornamental grasses.

The Trailhead gives users immediate access to the Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park, a nature preserve along the Cherry Creek Regional Trail that gives visitors the chance to step into a natural riparian area right in the middle of town and learn about native plant and wildlife species.

Trail users also will find easy access to 107 acres of Parker Jordan Centennial Open Space that includes a one-mile section of the Cherry Creek Regional Trail. This represents one of the last missing

pieces of a permanent regional trail in the 40-mile stretch from Castlewood Canyon State Park in Douglas County to Confluence Park in downtown Denver.

“We are very pleased to preserve a natural and historical area which has been inaccessible to the public, and to offer it to Denver metro area residents for a host of new outdoor experiences,” said Norman Sheldon, District president. “We were delighted to be chosen by Arapahoe County to construct the Broncos Parkway Trailhead.”

Project partners include: Arapahoe County, Parker Jordan Metropolitan District, City of Centennial, Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority, Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority, Tagawa Garden Center. The general contractor was L&M Enterprises, Inc., construction manager Grant Street Ventures, LLC, civil engineers AECOM and Mulhern MRE and landscape architect Valerian, LLC.

A formal grand opening celebration will take place early next year. Daily trailhead hours are from dawn to dusk. For more information, call 720-874-6500 or visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us where you can sign up to receive the Arapahoe County Open Space e-mail newsletter.

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To download photos click on the link:

<ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/BroncosParkwayTrailhead/>

BroncosPkwayTrailheadAFTER: Visitors are invited to park at the new Broncos Parkway Trailhead at 16400 E. Broncos Parkway, just west of Tagawa Gardens.

BroncosPkwayTrailheadBEFORE: Arapahoe County awarded the 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 to build the new Broncos Parkway Trailhead.

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

BroncosPkwayTrailheadGreenroof: Broncos Parkway trailhead features a living green roof shaded pavilion where trail users can stop and rest in the shade.