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All Work, No Play... Thanks to work, it's all play

South Suburban's Puma Park gets a facelift thanks to an Arapahoe County Open Space grant and support from taxpayers

Centennial, Colo. --- Now that the work is done, it's time to play. Kids and adults alike are having a whole lot of fun thanks to \$327,500 in recent improvements at Puma Park at 7900 S. Ogden Way, in Centennial.

"From little leaguers and picnicking families to cyclists and soccer players, there's something for everyone to get excited about," said Dave Lorenz, Executive Director of South Suburban Park and Recreation District. "With the support of a \$250,000 Arapahoe County Open Space grant we were able to renovate and upgrade old and outdated facilities and equipment. It looks like a brand new park."

The renovations include new backstops serving two ball fields with team benches and a set of bleachers for spectators to watch a game. Families can beat the heat, rain and snow under a new steel shelter with four picnic tables. Additions include two new, Americans with Disabilities Act accessible drinking fountains with dog bowls and a new water-efficient sprinkler irrigation system that's keeping the grass in great shape for sport practice and games.

Trail users can breeze by on a new concrete trail, including widened portions of the Lee Gulch Trail, which makes it easier and safer for hikers, joggers and bicyclists to use.

This is one of 74 park, trail and open space projects that have received Arapahoe County Open Space grant funding since 2004. The competitive grant program has invested more than \$13 million into community projects that has been leveraged by more than \$27 million in matching funds contributed by grant recipients.

"We are excited to support South Suburban as they work to improve neighborhood parks and trails," said Commissioner Susan Beckman. "If you just look at the before and after photos you can easily see how this project with the support of Arapahoe County Open Space has made a real impact in the community, enhancing our quality of life."

This grant would not have been possible without the voters of Arapahoe County, who generously approved the Arapahoe County Open Space sales and use tax in 2003. Since then, the County has protected more than 15,500 acres of land that preserve natural habitats and wildlife corridors, connected miles of trail and enhanced parks that provide outdoor recreation for residents of all ages.

The tax collection began Jan. 1, 2004 and is set to expire Dec. 31, 2013 unless citizens vote "yes" to continue the program during a future ballot question reauthorization.

To learn more about Arapahoe County Open Space, visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us and download the 2010 Community Guide *Mapping Out a Greener Future* and/or sign up to receive the [Arapahoe County Open Space e-newsletter](#). To learn more about South Suburban's park and recreation opportunities, visit www.ssprd.org.

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To download photos click on the link:

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

PumaPark_ballfields2010: From little leaguers to adult soccer players, there's something for everyone to get excited about at Puma Park, which recently underwent renovation thanks to Arapahoe County Open Space and South Suburban Park and Rec. District.

PumaParkGroup_Oct2010: Representatives from South Suburban Park and Recreation District and Arapahoe County grab their favorite sports equipment and enjoy the recent enhancements at Puma Park.

Pictured: Back Row, left to right: Bobbie Sheffield (Arapahoe County Open Space Advisory Board), JoAnn Gould (South Suburban Manager of Recreation), David Lorenz (South Suburban Executive Director), Mike Anderson (South Suburban Board), Marc Scott (Arapahoe County Open Space Advisory Board), Jim Priddy (South Suburban Manager of Parks), Brett Collins (South Suburban Manager of Planning and Construction). Front Row: Chris Wynar (park neighbor), Dee Seghers (Arapahoe County Open Space), Sue Rosser (South Suburban Board), Pam Eller (South Suburban Board), Kay Geitner (South Suburban Board Chair), Mr. Wynar

PumaPark_before: Arapahoe County awarded South Suburban Park and Recreation District with a \$250,000 grant to renovate the ball fields at Puma Park in Centennial. This is a photo of the fields before the renovation.

PumaParkTrail_after: Trail users enjoy a smoother ride and increased safety with the new eight foot trail at Puma Park and Lee Gulch Trail thanks to an Arapahoe County Open Space grant to the South Suburban Park and Rec. District.