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Arapahoe County hosts Open Space information meeting Sept. 23 *Residents invited to learn about current and future parks, trails and open spaces in eastern Arapahoe County*

Byers, CO --- Residents are invited to learn about current and future park, trail and open space plans for eastern Arapahoe County at an informational meeting, 5:30 – 7 p.m., Sept. 23, at May Farms, 63645 E. Highway 36, Byers CO. Refreshments will be provided. Topics include:

- Overview of the Arapahoe County Open Space program and how it has impacted eastern Arapahoe County.
- How the area receives funding for local parks, trail and open space projects.
- Goals for open space in unincorporated Arapahoe County as it relates to the County's Open Space Master Plan.
- Entities eligible to apply for Arapahoe County Open Space grant funding will learn about changes to the application process and tips for creating a strong application.

The Open Space Master Plan was completed and adopted earlier this year thanks to the feedback from thousands of residents. Key recommendations include creating an interconnected system of parks, open space and trails countywide and protecting water quality and wildlife habitats of key riparian corridors across the county through varied conservation efforts.

In just six years, the County has protected more than 15,500 acres of land that preserve natural habitats and wildlife corridors, protect sweeping vistas and provide outdoor recreation for residents of all ages, thanks to the voters who generously approved the Arapahoe County open space sales and use tax in 2003.

For every \$1 spent in Arapahoe County, a quarter-of-a-penny is used to preserve open space; protect lands that preserve water quality; improve parks, sports fields, picnic facilities and trails; protect wildlife habitat; preserve ranchlands; and enhance heritage areas.

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.

RSVP by Sept. 21 to Christina at 303-822-5800 or send an email to tinal@mayfarms.com. For more information, about Arapahoe County Open Space call 720-874-6500 or visit the county's web site at www.co.arapahoe.co.us.

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