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Media Advisory

Arapahoe County Open Space is *Mapping Out a Greener Future* *Open Space awards event to be held at Infinity Park in Glendale*

Thanks to the generous voters of Arapahoe County, the Board of County Commissioners and mayors, city council members and representatives from local communities will celebrate Thursday the distribution of \$10 million in Open Space sales tax revenues to further park, recreation and open space projects and operations throughout the County.

On June 10, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners will distribute \$8.6 million in Open Space Shareback funds and nearly \$1.8 million in new grants to 14 cities, towns and special districts at the annual Open Space Shareback and Awards presentation.

Where: Infinity Park at Glendale, Event Center
4800 S. Dayton, Glendale, CO 80246

When: Thursday, June 10, 2010 at 11:30 a.m.

Who: Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners, members of the County's Open Space and Trails Advisory Board, representatives from Aurora, Bennett, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, Columbine Valley, Deer Trail, Englewood, Foxfield, Glendale, Greenwood Village, Littleton, Sheridan, South Suburban Park and Recreation District, Arapahoe Park and Recreation District and Parker Jordan Metropolitan District.

In November 2003, Arapahoe County voters approved a countywide .25 percent sales and use tax for the preservation of open space in Arapahoe County. Collection of the tax began Jan. 1, 2004 and 50 percent of the annual tax revenue is returned to incorporated cities and towns based upon population, for the purpose of providing and enhancing local parks, trails, recreation and open space. More than \$57 million in Open Space Shareback Funds has been distributed to municipalities since the program's inception.

In addition, 12 percent of the annual tax revenue is set aside for competitive grants to eligible special districts and municipalities for outdoor recreation projects related to open space, parks and trails. More than \$13.3 million in grants have been awarded since 2004.

Funds generated by the Open Space tax are dedicated to preserve open space and natural areas; protect lands that preserve water; improve neighborhood parks, sports fields, picnic facilities and trails; protect wildlife habitat; preserve agriculture and ranchlands; and maintain heritage areas.

Come for the Open Space Ceremony and stay for the City of Glendale's Infinity Park Ribbon Cutting

Where: Infinity Park at Glendale – just south of the Rugby Stadium

When: Thursday, June 10, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

Infinity Park in Glendale is expanding its footprint to include an 8-acre park for its residents and the surrounding communities, thanks in part to Arapahoe County Open Space.

In September 2007, Infinity Park's first venue, the 4000-seat Stadium opened, followed in July 2008 with the Glendale Sports Center and in November 2008 with the opening of the Event Center.

Now, with the completion of the Park, Glendale has created a beautiful, green, open space for the city that offers a Sports Field, a Park Pavilion and a Fieldhouse Deck, all of which may be reserved for private or public events at www.infinityparkatglendale.com. The Park also features walking paths, public lawns and free wireless throughout. In Glendale, where there are only 3 single-family homes, the Park will be a gathering place with infinite possibilities for families and friends alike.

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