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## **Arapahoe County commits funding to City of Littleton, South Suburban to preserve and expand greenway buffers**

**Littleton, CO** --- Demonstrating their support for the City of Littleton's latest open space projects, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners Tuesday committed up to \$650,000 in voter-approved open space funds as a significant match toward the City of Littleton's purchase of the Ensor property. The 7.8 acre parcel will be used for open space, serving as a greenway buffer for South Platte Park in Littleton.

"I'd like to congratulate the City of Littleton and Director of Public Services Charlie Blosten who have been diligent in their commitment to protecting this property to serve as a buffer for the South Platte," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Susan Beckman. "Arapahoe County is very proud to have such a good working relationship with the City of Littleton. This is a huge success story."

Funding partners for the Ensor acquisition include Great Outdoors Colorado (\$1,168,000), the City of Littleton (\$815,200), South Suburban Park and Recreation District (\$370,000), South Metro Land Conservancy (\$15,000) and the generous citizens of Arapahoe County through the voter-approved Arapahoe County Open Space Sales and Use Tax. A conservation easement will be held by the South Metro Land Conservancy to ensure the property is used for open space and passive outdoor recreation forever.

Commissioners also approved the commitment of up to \$330,000 in open space funds as a partial match toward the South Suburban purchase of the Big Dry Creek Open Space, 2.92 acres along the Big Dry Creek regional trail in Littleton. This land will be used for open space, trail access and outdoor recreation. The property will be owned and managed by South Suburban Park and Recreation District and protected by a conservation easement to be held by the County. Funding partners for the Big Dry Creek acquisition include Great Outdoors Colorado (\$340,000) South Suburban (\$280,000) and the City of Littleton (\$50,000). The acquisition was also accomplished with the assistance and support from the Trust for Public Land.

In 2003, voters approved a quarter-cent sales and use tax to pay for the preservation of open space in Arapahoe County. The tax is used to preserve open space and natural areas; protect lands that preserve water quality; improve parks, sports fields, picnic facilities and trails; protect wildlife habitat; preserve agriculture and ranchlands; and enhance heritage areas.

The funds are a part of the \$3 million that Arapahoe County set aside for the South Platte Greenway Legacy Project, with a \$5.25 million grant from Great Outdoors Colorado. The Ensor and Big Dry Creek acquisitions are two of the 20 projects identified by the South Platte Working Group for conservation that continues to expand the urban oasis within the South Platte River corridor.

Convened by Arapahoe County in 2006 as a collaborative, consensus-based regional approach to protecting the South Platte River corridor, the South Platte Working Group continues to improve wildlife habitat and enhance connectivity to recreational trails for people in Western Arapahoe County.

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**To download photos and captions click on the following link:**

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

**EnsorProperty:** Arapahoe County commits up to \$650,000 to the City of Littleton to purchase 7.8 acres of land for open space.

**South\_Platte\_Park\_Tour:** Representatives from Arapahoe County's Open Space program hike through South Platte Park to view the City of Littleton's proposed open space purchase, prior to committing \$650,000 in funding toward the acquisition.

**BigDryCreekAcquisition:** Arapahoe County commits up to \$330,000 in open space funds to South Suburban Park and Recreation District to support the purchase of the Big Dry Creek Open Space, 2.92 acres along the Big Dry Creek regional trail in Littleton.