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Arapahoe County pledges \$3 million to preserve High Line Corridor *New working group to enhance conservation and recreation along High Line Canal*

Littleton, CO --- On April 9, Arapahoe County invited 19 municipalities and agencies that serve the 70 miles of terrain along the High Line Canal to establish the High Line Corridor Working Group.

“The County’s proposal invites entities to work together to make future improvements, such as adding open space buffers and enhancing trails in an effort to beautify and enhance the High Line Corridor,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer. “By working together we can create a legacy for the High Line and change the face of this regionally significant corridor forever.”

Using Open Space tax dollars generously approved by voters in 2003, Arapahoe County pledged up to \$3 million in seed money, which will be used to help leverage new dollars for conservation along the Canal. The timing is supported by the current economic situation, which offers an opportunity for communities to secure open space along the Canal and preserve its character for future generations.

“I can’t believe how many people tell me they have great childhood memories playing along the High Line Canal,” said Commissioner Susan Beckman. “We have an opportunity to improve and protect what is one of the most treasured trails in Arapahoe County.”

Arapahoe County is hoping to capture the same enthusiasm and success of the South Platte Working Group, a coalition of 19 cities, towns and local organizations working to conserve and restore open space and improve connections to the South Platte River.

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 has racked up several accomplishments in its short existence. The group has secured more than \$25 million in funding, including a \$5.25 million Legacy grant from Great Outdoors Colorado; acquired several parcels; built trail connections and won the Denver Regional Council of Government’s highest honor for their collaborative work to protect the South Platte.

In September 2008, Arapahoe County also launched the Cherry Creek Working Group, a multi-jurisdiction effort, which includes Douglas and Denver counties, along with 20 cities and organizations, to create a legacy for one of the most recognizable and treasured natural assets in the south metro Denver area – the Cherry Creek Basin.

The Cherry Creek Basin Working Group is working to build off the past success in the Cherry Creek Basin to make future improvements, such as adding open space buffers and connecting trails in an effort to beautify and enhance Cherry Creek.

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To download photos click on the link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/OpenSpace/>

HLCWG_Dyer\$bag: Commissioner Jim Dyer urges agencies to join the High Line Corridor Working Group and demonstrates Arapahoe County's pledge of up to \$3 million dollars toward open space and trails projects.

HLCWG_MoneyBag: Arapahoe County symbolically places \$3 million dollars on the table in an effort to build a working group that will enhance open space and trail connections along the High Line Canal.