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Due to popular demand, Arapahoe County brings economic benefits of open space presentation to Aurora

Littleton, CO --- In case you missed it in March, Arapahoe County will once again sponsor the “Economic Benefits of Greenspace” presentation by Chuck Flink, President of Greenways Inc., 7 – 8 p.m., April 27 at the County’s CentrePoint Plaza, 14980 E. Alameda Dr, Aurora.

After conducting the presentation that explains Arapahoe County’s Open Space sales tax return on investment a month ago in Littleton, the County has received numerous requests to repeat the program in Aurora.

People understand the immediate benefits of open space – conserving land and wildlife habitat, providing a place for people to connect with nature and enjoy the great outdoors, and increasing the amount of the color green in an urbanized, concrete environment in the form of trees and grasses. But, many may not be aware that open space also brings in the “green” in the form of new sources of revenue, job creation and higher home valuations.

Flink’s presentation will answer: How does conservation influence Arapahoe County’s economy? Are parks, trails and open spaces an attraction for business and industry? What’s their economic impact on adjacent properties? Can parks, trails and open space generate new sources of revenue and create jobs?

Businesses, homeowners and residents are invited to attend this free event. Please RSVP as seating is limited. Refreshments will be provided. The event coincides with the development of the County’s *Open Space Master Plan*, which will serve as a guide for making strategic decisions about the program’s future. Residents can view the draft plan online at www.greenways.com/arapahoe.

“The County has distributed and invested almost \$60 million in open space sales taxes and already has protected more than 15,000 acres of land that preserves natural habitats and wildlife corridors, protects sweeping vistas and provides outdoor recreation for residents of all ages in just the past five years,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Frank Wedding.

“These taxes have been invested throughout Arapahoe County, from projects along the South Platte River and High Line Canal to parks and trails in Glendale, Aurora and on the grassland prairie in eastern Arapahoe County. This would not be possible without the voters who generously approved the Arapahoe County open space sales and use tax in 2003.”

For more information or to RSVP, contact Ethan Watel with Arapahoe County Open Space at 720-874-6551 or ewatel@co.arapahoe.co.us.

Flink and his national consulting company have worked with public and private sector organizations in more than 200 communities and 35 states. He also has provided consulting services to clients in Argentina, Canada, China, Japan and the Czech Republic. Flink is the lead planner and author for the Arapahoe County Open Space Master Plan.

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To download a photo click on the link: ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/OpenSpace/

Photo Captions:

AuroraTrail2010: Residents enjoy both recreational and economic benefits of the Arapahoe County Open Space sales tax. To learn more, attend the “Economic Benefits of Open Space” presentation 7 p.m., April 27.

FairgroundsRegionalPark2009: Residents enjoy both recreational and economic benefits of the Arapahoe County Open Space sales tax as seen at the County’s Fairgrounds and Regional Park. To learn more, attend the “Economic Benefits of Open Space” presentation 7 p.m., April 27.