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## **Healthy Lands. Healthy Communities. Healthy People** Arapahoe County Open Spaces Community Guide *in local newspapers* *and County buildings beginning June 20*

**LITTLETON, CO** --- Beginning June 20, nearly 160,000 Arapahoe County households will receive a copy of the 2013 Open Spaces Community Guide.

This guide is an annual report that describes how Arapahoe County Open Space tax dollars have been dedicated to preserving natural areas, enhancing neighborhood and regional parks, building and maintaining trail connections and protecting heritage areas. Inside the guide, residents will find a letter from the Board of County Commissioners, an overview of the Open Space sales tax and information on various open space, parks and trails projects resulting from funds shared back with Arapahoe County cities, towns and special districts. This year's guide also includes information on the Arapahoe County Fair, July 24 – 28, the newly opened Village Greens North Park in Greenwood Village, the 17 Mile House Park in Centennial, Richmil Ranch near the Town of Deer Trail and Carson Park in Aurora, to name a few.

Since the program's inception, the County's Open Space program has conserved more than 31,000 acres of open space, built more than 51 miles of new trails and created and enhanced 157 neighborhood and regional parks. In 2012, \$8.9 million in shareback funds were distributed back to participating communities, and \$2.1 million for grants were spread across 17 local projects.

In November 2011, Arapahoe County voters - with more than 62 percent approval - voted to continue the Open Space program, which extended the quarter of a penny sales and use tax to Dec. 31, 2023. Voter support of the Arapahoe County Open Space program continue to demonstrate the value residents place on open spaces and wildlife preservation, water quality protection and outdoor recreation.

Copies of the annual performance report will be available in the June 20 editions of the *Denver Post*, *Aurora Sentinel* and *Buckley Guardian*. The report also will be distributed in the *Centennial Citizen*, *Englewood Herald*, *Glendale Cherry Creek Chronicle*, *I-70 Scout*, *Littleton Independent* and *The Villager Newspaper*.

Copies of the report also are available in Arapahoe County government locations, and a pdf version of the report is available through the web site at [www.arapahoegov.com](http://www.arapahoegov.com).

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