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## **Colorado Parks and Recreation Association honors Arapahoe County *Award recognizes Commissioners, Open Space Program for leadership and support***

**Littleton, Colo. ---** On Tuesday, the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association presented the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners with the Columbine Organizational Award for their leadership and support of the County Open Space Program over the last four years.

Arapahoe County was without an Open Space program until 2004. The program went from concept to reality when the Board of County Commissioners placed the measure on the ballot in 2003, which created the County's first and only sales and use tax designated for open space. In the last four years, the Board of County Commissioners has initiated innovative and encompassing conservation projects that Open Space is working on today and in the future.

Those major projects include: The South Platte Greenway Legacy Project, The Highline Canal Focus Area, Cherry Creek Corridor Enhancement Project, The Arapahoe Grasslands Conservation Area at the former Lowry Bombing Range, Eastern Plains Parks and Conservation Easements and others.

"We are honored by the recognition the program has received," said Commissioner Susan Beckman, who serves as Board Chair. "We are excited that the Arapahoe County Open Space Program is becoming a premier program in the Denver metro area."

Since the inception of the Open Space program, the Board of County Commissioners has protected nearly 15,000 acres of Arapahoe County Open Space lands.

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Photo: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Columbine%20Award/>

Arapahoe County received the 2008 Columbine Organizational Award from the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association for their Open Space Program.

Pictured: Commissioner Pat Noonan, Colorado Parks and Recreation Association Executive Director Stephanie Stephens, Commissioners Susan Beckman, Frank Weddig and Jim Dyer.