



Communication Services  
5334 South Prince Street  
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001  
Phone: 303-795-4284  
Fax: 303-738-7894  
[www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us)

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Contact:

**ANDREA RASIZER**

Communication Services Director

Direct: 303-795-4284

Mobile: 303-882-1909

E-mail: [arasizer@co.arapahoe.co.us](mailto:arasizer@co.arapahoe.co.us)

## Media Advisory

### **Going Places, Saving Spaces, Preserving the Place we Call Home Awards event to be held at the Carson Nature Center, South Platte Park**

Arapahoe County and local communities to celebrate the distribution of \$12.5 million in Open Space sales tax revenues to further park, recreation and open space projects and operations throughout the County.

On June 12, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners will celebrate the distribution of \$10.2 million in Open Space Share Back funds and nearly \$2.25 million in new grants to 17 cities, towns and special districts at an awards presentation at the Carson Nature Center, South Platte Park in Littleton.

**Where:** Carson Nature Center South Platte Park  
3000 W. Carson Drive, Littleton, CO 80120

**When:** Thursday, June 12, 2008 at 11:30 a.m.

**Who:** Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners, members of the County's Open Space and Trails Advisory Board, partners of the South Platte Working Group, and representatives from Aurora, Bennett, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, Columbine Valley, Deer Trail, Englewood, Foxfield, Glendale, Greenwood Village, Littleton, Sheridan, South Suburban Park and Recreation District, Arapahoe Park and Recreation District, Parker Jordan Metro District, Smoky Hill Metro District, and the Hills at Cherry Creek Metro District.

In November 2003, Arapahoe County voters approved a countywide .25 percent sales and use tax for the preservation of open space in Arapahoe County. Collection of the tax began Jan. 1, 2004 and 50 percent of the annual tax revenue is returned to incorporated cities and towns based upon population, for the purpose of providing and enhancing local parks, trails, recreation and open space. More than \$38.7 million from the Open Space Fund has been distributed to municipalities since the program's inception.

In addition, 12 percent of the annual tax revenue a pool of money is set aside for competitive grants to eligible special districts and municipalities for outdoor recreation projects related to open space, parks and trails. More than \$9.2 million in grants have been awarded since 2004.

Funds generated by the Open Space tax are dedicated to preserve open space and natural areas; protect lands that preserve water quality in rivers, lake and streams; provide, maintain and improve neighborhood parks, open space, sports fields, picnic facilities and multi-use trails; protect wildlife habitat and corridors; preserve agriculture and ranchlands; and enhance and maintain designated heritage areas.