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Arapahoe County awards \$375,000 to City of Greenwood Village for purchase of urban nature preserve

ARAPAHOE COUNTY --- On Feb. 19, the Arapahoe County of Board of County Commissioners awarded \$375,000 in Open Space funds to the City of Greenwood Village for the purchase of open space on the Highline Canal.

The funding gives Greenwood Village the matching dollars needed to acquire the four-acre Marjorie Perry Nature Preserve Inholdings and protect the scenic property that likely would have been developed. In 2006, Arapahoe County awarded Greenwood Village a \$250,000 Open Space grant to help purchase the property. Both grants, along with funds from Greenwood Village, Great Outdoors Colorado, the landowner and private donors will give the city the funding needed to complete the purchase. The Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit land conservation group, negotiated the contract to purchase the property and assisted with private fundraising efforts. They hope to close the project soon, pending final details.

“It’s truly a breathtaking property and one that Greenwood Village and Arapahoe County residents will enjoy not only today, but for years to come,” said Commissioner Jim Dyer, whose district includes Greenwood Village. “Opportunities like this don’t come along very often and it’s important that Arapahoe County act now to take the necessary steps to protect this land. Arapahoe County is happy to partner with Greenwood Village to make this project happen.”

The Marjorie Perry Nature Preserve consists of 55 acres of open space that serves as a prime wildlife habitat in Greenwood Village. The inholdings are located on the west end of the preserve and adjacent to the Highline Canal, a key open space corridor in Arapahoe County.

The \$375,000 comes from the quarter-cent Open Space Sales and Use Tax approved by voters in 2003 to help preserve open space in Arapahoe County.

Since 2003, Arapahoe County has awarded more than \$32 million in open space tax dollars to local cities, towns and parks and recreation districts to preserve urban and rural open space; protect water quality in rivers, lakes and streams; maintain and improve neighborhood parks and trails; protect wildlife habitat and corridors as well as protect views, vistas and ridgelines.

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