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Arapahoe County to host Sept. 6 forum for 17 Mile House

Citizen input needed to guide future of 144-year-old historic property

Arapahoe County is hosting a Sept. 6 Open House to hear citizen input on a draft master plan that outlines the future of the 17 Mile House – a 144-year-old historic house and barn on Parker Road, south of Arapahoe Road.

Tours of the historic 17 Mile House will be held 1 – 4 p.m. Sept. 6 at 8181 S. Parker Road. Guided tours begin at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m and will be followed by a 6 – 8 p.m. Open House at the County's Public Works and Development Office, 10730 E. Briarwood Ave., Suite 100, Centennial. The presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.

The 17 Mile House is one of the few remaining mile houses that once followed the Smoky Hill Trail from Kansas to Denver. As the only remaining mile house in its original rural setting, the 17 Mile House provides a grand opportunity for the region to celebrate and embrace its pioneer and rural, agricultural past.

In 2001, Arapahoe County, along with Douglas County, the Town of Parker, Great Outdoors Colorado, the Gates Family Foundation, the Colorado State Historical Fund, Urban Drainage and Flood District, the City of Aurora and the Trust for Public Land, collaborated to save the property, which is surrounded by 30 acres of open space.

The 17 Mile House is just one of the several open space projects planned for the Cherry Creek corridor. The property adjoins the 75-acre Norton Farm to the south and is linked to the Cherry Creek Regional Trail and the County's Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park to the northwest.

Arapahoe County is working to restore the historic structures and worked with EDAW, Inc. to develop a draft comprehensive master plan for future development of the 17 Mile House. The draft master plan outlines the potential use of the property and a plan for the restoration of the landscape and buildings. The master plan also outlines future improvements to the property and the potential programs and activities that may be implemented.

Anyone interested in the 17 Mile House project can also call or e-mail Jeff Baker, project manager, at 303-795-4470 or jbaker@co.arapahoe.co.us. Mail written comments to Baker at 5334 S. Prince St., Littleton, CO 80166.

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