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## Media Advisory

### What Progress Has Preserved

#### *Open Space awards event to be held at the Cherry Creek State Park*

Thanks to the generous voters of Arapahoe County, the Board of County Commissioners and mayors, city council members and representatives from local communities will celebrate Thursday 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 4, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners will distribute \$10.2 million in Open Space Share Back funds and nearly \$2.25 million in new grants to 14 cities, towns and special districts at the annual Open Space Shareback and Awards presentation.

**Where:** Cherry Creek State Park Marina  
4800 S. Dayton, Greenwood Village, CO 80111

**When:** Thursday, June 4, 2009 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, and Arapahoe Park and Recreation 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 \$39 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 \$9.3 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.

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