

Regional Leader

The County is leading the way – bringing together multiple agencies, to create working groups – to bridge jurisdictional boundaries to protect and enhance regional assets such as the South Platte River, Cherry Creek and the High Line Canal for future generations to enjoy.



Convened in 2006, the South Platte Working Group secured more than \$25 million in funding, including a \$5 million Legacy grant from Great Outdoors Colorado to complete 20 projects that expand the urban oasis of the South Platte River, improve wildlife habitat and enhance connectivity to recreation trails for people in Western Arapahoe County.

Convened in 2008, the Cherry Creek Basin Working Group's goal is to conserve and protect our Cherry Creek Basin Watershed's remarkable places by completing trails, preserving open space, and enhancing parks and recreation for public enjoyment.

Convened in 2010, the High Line Canal Working Group is a collaborative effort to secure funding for – and implement – projects that help ensure and protect the unique recreation experience along the High Line Trail.

With each Working Group, Arapahoe County pledged \$3 million in open space funds to match with local governments.



Thank You

Without your support, investments into parks and open spaces in our communities and the ability to leverage additional dollars to fund them, would not be possible. In fact, these projects would not be happening. Thank you for making Open Spaces a priority in Arapahoe County.

2012 Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners



*Susan Beckman
District 1*



*Nancy N. Sharpe
District 2*



*Rod Bockenfeld
District 3*



*Nancy Jackson
District 4*



*Bill L. Holen
District 5*

To enjoy an Arapahoe County managed park, trail or open space near you, visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us or call 720-874-6540.



Open Spaces
6934 S. Lima Street, Unit A
Centennial, CO 80112
720-874-6540
www.co.arapahoe.co.us



Arapahoe County Open Spaces

Thanks to the citizens who generously approved the Arapahoe County Open Space quarter-of-a-penny sales and use tax, our program is making a real impact in your city, town and neighborhood, providing funding for projects that are preserving, protecting and making great progress in our vision to make *Arapahoe County – Your County of Choice*.

Enjoy additional trail connections that wind through cities and towns, picnic facilities and parks that give families a place to come together and miles and miles of open space, protected forever.

Mission: Protect Arapahoe County’s treasured parks, trails and open space for residents to enjoy today and forever.

Vision: Healthy Lands; Healthy Communities; Healthy People

Purpose

For every \$1 spent in Arapahoe County, a quarter-of-a-penny is used to:

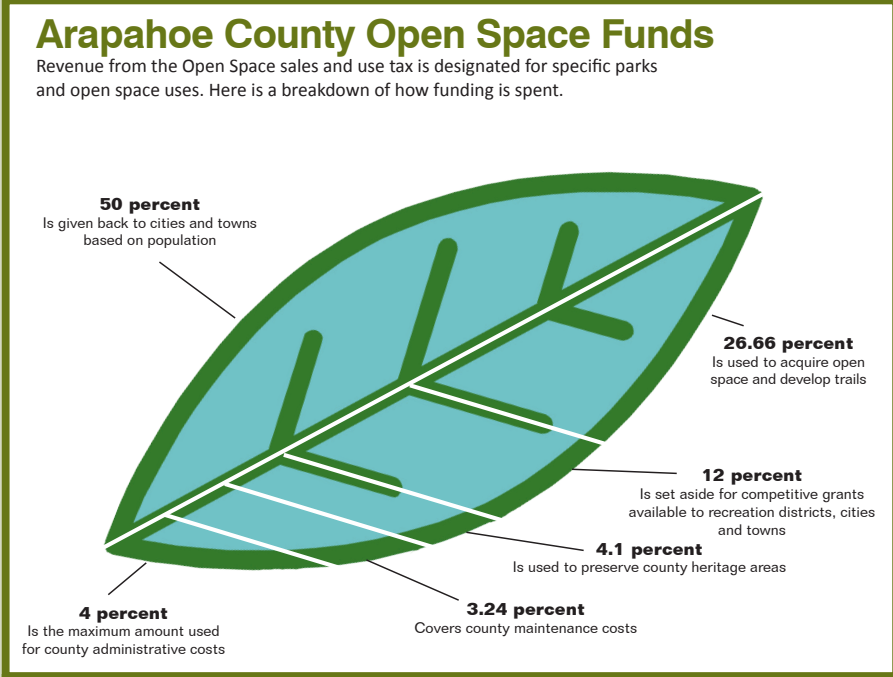
- Preserve urban and rural open space and natural areas;
- Protect lands that preserve water quality;
- Improve neighborhood parks, sports fields, picnic facilities and trails;
- Protect views, vistas and ridgelines;
- Protect wildlife habitat and corridors;
- Preserve agriculture and ranchlands; and
- Enhance and maintain designated heritage areas.



Accomplishments

The Open Space program is enabling Arapahoe County, local communities and parks and recreation districts to partner on projects that improve the quality of life in Arapahoe County and make this county a great place to live.

- Protected 18,000+ acres of open space
- Built or enhanced 100+ parks
- Created the largest conservation easement in Arapahoe and Elbert counties that protects a working farm and ranch from development
- Connected and built miles of trail
- Lead the way in regional conservation efforts along the South Platte River, Cherry Creek and High Line Canal



Funding

Arapahoe County Open Space sales and use tax collection began Jan. 1, 2004 and is set to expire Dec. 31, 2023.

Quick Facts

- Youngest open space program in Colorado
- Overseen by the seven member citizen Open Space & Trails Advisory Board
- Manages 11 parks, trails and open spaces in unincorporated Arapahoe County, including Arapahoe County Community Park, Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park, Welch Park and more.
- Preserves heritage areas – 17 Mile House Farm Park and Fairgrounds & Regional Park
- Protects open space through conservation easements and fee simple purchases including Richmil Ranch, Kiowa Creek, Bijou Basin and more.

