Recreationalists to cheer as South Platte River corridor gets second round of enhancement

Arapahoe County pledges $5 million to continue river and recreational enhancements to the South Platte River corridor

Littleton, CO --- In April, Arapahoe County invited a coalition of 18 cities and local organizations that serve the South Platte River corridor to not only celebrate the achievements of the South Platte Working Group but also ask them to take part in a new phase – Restoring the River.

Arapahoe County proposed to reconvene the South Platte Working Group and invite these entities to once again work together to make the next round of improvements to the river. Using Open Space tax dollars generously approved by voters, Arapahoe County pledged up to $5 million in seed money to help leverage new dollars for river restoration, recreational opportunities and environmental enhancement. More specifically, the group will be working with the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District to enhance the areas identified for flood control maintenance and improvement projects.

Arapahoe County is hoping to build upon the same success of the original Working Group, a coalition of 19 cities and agencies. Convened by the County in 2006 with a $3 million pledge from the Open Space sales and use tax, the Working Group racked up several accomplishments in its short existence. It secured more than $25 million in funding, including a $5.25 million Legacy grant from Great Outdoors Colorado; acquired 40 acres of open space; built multiple bike/pedestrian bridges and trail connections and won the Denver Regional Council of Government’s highest honor for their collaborative work to protect the South Platte.

To learn more about Arapahoe County Open Spaces and the accomplishments of their working groups, visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us and sign up to receive the Open Spaces Newsletter.

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To download photos click on the link: ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/SPWG/

SPWGRiverPlan: Attendees review some of the proposed river and recreational enhancements for the South Platte River corridor.