For release: May 9, 2011

Joint Press Release from City of Centennial, Parker Jordan Metropolitan District and Arapahoe County.

Contact:

NICHOLE PARMELLY
Arapahoe County Government
Communication Services Specialist II
Direct: 720-874-6669
nparmelly@co.arapahoe.co.us

ALLISON WITTERN
City of Centennial
Communications Director
Direct: 303-754-3443
awittern@centennialcolorado.com

NORMAN SHELDON
Parker Jordan Metro District
President
Direct: 303-882-9609
nasheldon@gmail.com

Hundreds enjoy festivities at new Cherry Creek Trail Celebration
Citizens braved the cold to enjoy the grand opening of the Broncos Parkway Trailhead and Cherry Creek Regional Trail Link

Centennial, Colo. --- Recently, more than 200 residents joined the City of Centennial, Arapahoe County, the Parker Jordan Metropolitan District and Tagawa Gardens to celebrate the new Broncos Parkway Trailhead and completion of one of the last missing trail links along the Cherry Creek Regional Trail.

Citizens could walk or hitch a ride on one of the horse-drawn wagons to reach fun activities along the new portion of the trail. There were prairie games, skins and skulls for open space education, HawkQuest and representatives from the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society and ERO Resources to share some of the corridor’s rich history and native habitat.

The Trailhead, located at 16400 E. Broncos Parkway in Centennial, provides 30 parking spaces, picnic shelters, restroom, bike racks and drinking fountain. Trail users can rest in the shade of the living green roof shaded pavilion and learn from the Xeriscape demonstration garden, created by Tagawa Gardens.

The 107-acre Parker Jordan Centennial Open Space provided by the City of Centennial and the Parker Jordan Metropolitan District completes one of the last remaining links along the Cherry Creek Trail. Parker Jordan purchased the first 80 acres in 2009 for $2.18 million and the remaining 27 acres in 2010. In October 2010, the City of Centennial partnered with the District for one-half ownership of the property. Much of this land is now open to the public for the first time since 1864. Users may view cottonwoods, willows and grasslands and enjoy diverse wildlife throughout this open space.

Centennial granted the nearly $360,000 from Great Outdoors Colorado to Parker Jordan for construction of the missing trail link and enhancements to the area such as signage, rest stops, etc. Arapahoe County Open Space awarded Parker Jordan more than $360,000 in open space grant and trail development funds, which was leveraged with $408,000 additional funds from project partners including an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Centennial allowing for new road access off Broncos Parkway.
This is one of the many projects supported by the Cherry Creek Basin Working Group. In 2009, the 20 jurisdictional and conservation members pledged to work together to beautify and enhance the regional trail corridor by adding open space buffers and closing gaps in the trail.

* * *

To download a photo click on the link: ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/Celebration/

Photo Captions:

*RibbonCutting:* Project supporters celebrate the grand opening of the Broncos Parkway Trailhead and Parker Jordan Centennial Open Space. Pictured left to right: Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, Centennial Council Member is Patrick Anderson, Centennial Mayor Cathy Noon, Parker Jordan Metropolitan District President Norman Sheldon, Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Sharpe, Jim Tagawa Owner of Tagawa Gardens, Centennial Council Member Ron Weidmann, and Denver Council Member Peggy Lehmann.

*CherryCreek or CherryCreekTrail:* Hikers, cyclists and other outdoor enthusiasts can park at the new Broncos Parkway Trailhead to access the 107-acre Parker Jordan Centennial Open Space.

*PrairieGames:* Residents enjoyed lots of fun activities during the trail grand opening including prairie games, such as the hoop and stick, horse-drawn wagons, HawkQuest and more.