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## **Arapahoe County names Lynn Wodell as new Open Space Manager**

LITTLETON, CO --- Arapahoe County has named Lynn Wodell as its new Open Space Manager, effective Oct. 25.

Wodell, who has an extensive background in Open Space preservation and management, will oversee Arapahoe County's new Open Space program, which was created last year when voters approved a .25 percent sales and use tax.

As the new Open Space Manager, Wodell will guide Arapahoe County as it develops its program. The County has spent the last 10 months cultivating the framework for the Open Space program, which includes creating the new Open Space and Trails Advisory Board; scouting potential parcels for preservation; researching other county programs; developing intergovernmental agreements with incorporated cities and towns for the distribution of the tax share back; and developing criteria for the grant program.

The Open Space program is a division of the County's Public Works and Development Department, which is located at 10730 E. Briarwood, Centennial. Wodell will report to Public Works and Development Director Dave Schmit.

"Lynn's experience and success in Westminster and Jefferson County will contribute to making this a great Open Space program for all of Arapahoe County," Schmit said. "We look forward to working with Lynn as she guides us through this exciting new program."

Wodell joins Arapahoe County after serving as the Open Space Coordinator for the City of Westminster where she successfully negotiated the purchase of a 30-acre parcel along U.S. Highway 36 with a \$2 million charitable contribution from the sellers. She then persuaded Jefferson County Open Space to fund the acquisition of the property on the City's behalf with a three-year payback at a low interest rate.

Wodell also helped Westminster receive two \$500,000 grants from the Adams County Open Space Program and a \$500,000 grant from Great Outdoors Colorado for the preservation of a 160-acre farm in partnership with the City and County of Broomfield; and she successfully negotiated a 4-acre parcel in the Big Dry Creek flood plain with an agreement from Urban Drainage and Flood Control District to reimburse the city for \$220,000, or half the cost. Prior to Westminster, she was the Open Space Manager of Acquisitions for Jefferson County.

In addition to her Open Space background, Wodell has a Masters in Public Administration in Management of Natural Resources from the University of Colorado – Denver Graduate School of Public Affairs and a Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin.

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