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Creating a big backyard for the residents of Glendale

Arapahoe County Commissioners authorize agreement with Glendale committing \$3.375 million to acquire passive open space for the Infinity Park Complex

ARAPAHOE COUNTY --- With a population of 5,000 and only three single family homes, Glendale residents don't have much access to the delights and benefits of a backyard to relax, picnic and play in. But that is about to change.

Thanks to a recent intergovernmental agreement between Arapahoe County and the City of Glendale, which was approved by the Board of County Commissioners Tuesday, residents will soon have eight acres of open space that will serve as the City's new backyard playground.

"It is great to be a part of such an innovative and creative project that brings much needed open space to one of the most highly urbanized communities in the entire Denver metro area," said Board Chairman Susan Beckman. "In a heavily populated area of Arapahoe County, the opportunities to create a park, let alone a passive open space park are rare. Glendale has really created a gift for their citizens and we are excited to partner with them."

As part of the agreement, the County will commit \$3.375 million from the Arapahoe County Open Space Fund to transform a property that included old vacant apartment buildings in much need of repair toward the purchase of land for passive open space in the City of Glendale. In addition, the move approves a conservation easement that ensures the land will stay that way forever.

"This project will become a "Central Park" for Glendale residents... the backyard that no one has," said Glendale Mayor Larry Harte, adding that the purchase of the property will complete a 10-year effort to create an urban oasis in the middle of a densely populated, urban area.

One of the unique attributes of Infinity Park is the connectivity to the Cherry Creek Trail. Construction began at Infinity Park in 2007. It is now home to the first municipally owned rugby stadium in America, a recreational center, and an event center. Located on a two-block area in the south side of the City, Infinity Park serves as a natural unifying hub for many community activities in Glendale and the surrounding area.

The Infinity Park Open Space project is made possible thanks to the generous citizens of Arapahoe County through the voter-approved Open Space Sales and Use Tax. Since 2004, Arapahoe County has distributed more than \$39 million in open space sales and use tax funds to cities and towns, parks and recreation districts and special districts for parks, trails and open space projects.

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