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## **Greening Arapahoe County Community Park**

*County plants 99 trees at this popular park used by 100,000+ people a year*

**ARAPAHOE COUNTY, CO.** --- Last month, Arapahoe County planted 99 young Hackberry, Cottonwood, and Oak trees in an effort to improve Arapahoe County Community Park. A dozen of these trees were donated by Branch Out, a local tree nursery.

“The Arapahoe County Community Park is used by more than 100,000 people each year,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer. “These trees will not only provide aesthetic value but will also provide shade from the summer heat and a noise buffer for park users including those who participate in the organized sports programs.”

The Arapahoe County Community Park consists of 57 developed acres near Centennial and provides nine athletic fields, two lighted ball fields, five picnic pavilions, four sand volleyball courts, a playground, a multi-use hard-surface trail loop and restrooms. The newly planted trees will not need additional irrigation. In fact, the trees will reduce the overall water budget of the park due to the accumulative effects of shade.

In 2007 and 2008, Arapahoe County purchased an additional 34 acres to extend the park to the east as well as create an open space buffer. In 2010 the County will conduct research to determine the best use of these acres and how they can help meet the future demands of the park.

Arapahoe County Community Park (locally known as Dove Valley Park) is just one of the amenities provided by Arapahoe County Parks and Open Space. The County is currently undergoing a countywide open space master plan which will serve as a guide for making strategic decisions about the program’s future. Input from residents is needed and they can provide their comments online through Jan.15 at [www.greenways.com/arapahoe](http://www.greenways.com/arapahoe).

Within the last five years, the County has protected more than 15,000 acres of land preserving natural habitats, wildlife corridors, sweeping vistas while also providing new outdoor recreation opportunities. The program also provides funding to local cities, towns, and special districts to support their parks, trails and open space projects. This would not be possible without the voters who generously approved the Arapahoe County open space sales and use tax in 2003.

For more information about the open space master plan, go to [www.greenways.com/arapahoe](http://www.greenways.com/arapahoe) or call Bob Finch with Arapahoe County Open Space at 720-874-6734.

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To download photos click on the link: [ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/OpenSpace/](http://ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/OpenSpace/)

**TreePlanting1:** County plants 99 trees to beautify the Arapahoe County Community Park in Centennial.

**TreePlanting2:** Each of the 99 trees planted by Arapahoe County at the Community Park will serve the more than 100,000 visitors to the park each year.