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Watch our progress take flight

Arapahoe County distributes \$12.4 million in sales tax revenue to local communities and special districts for key Open Space, Parks and Trails projects

On June 7, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners distributed \$9.6 million in Shareback funds, awarded \$2.8 million in Open Space, Parks and Trails grants and selected Parker Jordan Metropolitan District as the first recipient of the *Our Progress Takes Flight Stewardship* award.

The grants and awards were distributed to local cities, towns and special districts during the County's annual Open Space Shareback and Grant award ceremony attended by nearly 100 people at the Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park, 15700 E. Jamison Dr., Centennial.

Parker Jordan Metropolitan District was honored with the *Our Progress Takes Flight Stewardship* award, which recognizes an individual, local government or organization that displays leadership, cooperation and stewardship to ensure the preservation and protection of the great outdoors. Parker Jordan was recognized for their work with Arapahoe County to develop the Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park.

When it opened in 2001, the 75-acre Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park was one of the first parks of its kind in Arapahoe County that preserved the delicate riparian habitat in an area surrounded by development. Today, visitors can walk through meandering pathways to explore the lush willows, wetlands and wildflower berms. A raised boardwalk and pathways direct visitors to a floating dock and benches that overlook the park's pond and Cherry Creek.

Open Space Shareback Awards

In 2003, Arapahoe County voters approved a countywide .25 percent sales and use tax for the preservation of open space in Arapahoe County. As part of the program, participating incorporated cities and towns within Arapahoe County receive 50 percent of the total tax collected, divided by population. This year, Arapahoe County distributed \$9.6 million in Shareback funds, which was divided among the following cities and towns:

• City of Aurora	\$5.3 million	• Town of Columbine Valley	\$25,222
• Town of Bennett	\$6,615	• Town of Deer Trail	\$11,805
• City of Centennial	\$2 million	• City of Englewood	\$667,123
• City of Cherry Hills Village	\$126,217	• Town of Foxfield	\$15,940
• City of Glendale	\$98,637	• City of Sheridan	\$112,096
• City of Greenwood Village	\$270,297		
• City of Littleton	\$802,602		

Open Space, Parks and Trails Grants

Arapahoe County also awarded nearly \$2.8 million in grants for 13 open space, parks and trails projects. The projects receiving funding include:

Arapahoe Park and Recreation District, \$250,000, Piney Creek Hollow Park Pavilion, Phase 2

This grant funds the second part of a multi-phase development of Piney Creek Hollow Park. Arapahoe Park and Recreation will build a community pavilion that includes a picnic shelter with tables, trash receptacles, two restrooms, a storage room and a fence on the perimeter of the playground next to Piney Creek. Arapahoe Park and Recreation District is contributing \$147,000 in matching funds toward this \$397,000 project.

Arapahoe Park and Recreation District, \$112,000, Piney Creek Regional Trail

With this project, Arapahoe Park and Recreation District will nearly complete the Piney Creek Regional Trail extending from Cherry Creek State Park to Aurora. The paved trail will connect to Cherry Creek State Park and the future E-470 trail, and will connect neighborhoods to parks, schools and shopping. The project also includes four horse trail stream crossings and other equestrian amenities along Piney Creek. Arapahoe Park and Recreation District is contributing \$38,000 in matching funds toward this \$150,000 project.

City of Aurora, \$250,000, Red-Tailed Hawk Park

This 9-acre project allows Aurora to create a park that combines both natural open space and recreational amenities. Located at the confluence of Piney Creek and Sampson gulch between Tallyn's Reach and Creekside Eagle Bend neighborhoods, the project includes a new trail connection along Samson Gulch and Piney Creek, preserves the wildlife habitat and installs a boardwalk, sports fields and a playground. The grant is \$250,000 and Aurora's match is \$1.24 million for a total project cost of \$1.49 million.

City of Cherry Hills Village, \$240,600, Big Dry Creek Trail

This grant closes a gap in the Big Dry Creek Trail and Greenway. The proposed link is located at Broadway and Rafferty Gardens, near Wolf Camera. This project will not only provide a continuous trail within the Big Dry Creek corridor, but also will complete a 14-mile loop trail system that includes the Big Dry Creek, High Line Canal, Lee Gulch and Mary Carter trails. Cherry Hills Village's match is \$240,000 for a total project cost of \$480,600.

City of Englewood, \$137,300, Belleview Park Picnic Shelter Improvements

This grant redesigns and replaces a 40-year-old picnic shelter at Belleview Park – Englewood's crown jewel community park. The project replaces Shelter #1 with a state-of-the-art ADA accessible shelter and picnic amenities to include new recycled plastic picnic tables, heavy-duty barbecue grills and trash cans. These upgrades allow more users access to the park due to the new shelter configuration to enjoy its amenities for years to come. Englewood's match is \$90,700 for a total project cost of \$228,000.

City of Englewood, \$250,000, Duncan Park Acquisition

This grant allows Englewood to purchase a 3.3-acre site, which has been leased and operated as a park by the City since 1978. The site is currently owned by Englewood Schools, which recently announced its intention of selling the site. Although a significant portion of the property is used as a park, the park is not dedicated and a developer could remove the existing improvements and construct single-family homes. It is the only park located in the southeast part of Englewood, and the city has identified the acquisition and continued use of the site as a public park as a high priority. Englewood will match the grant with \$1.1 million for a total project cost of \$1.35 million.

Town of Foxfield, \$250,000, McDanal Open Space Acquisition

This \$250,000 grant will assist Foxfield with the acquisition of the undeveloped McDanal Open Space. The purchase of this 2.5 acres will provide an additional open space buffer that will allow the town to protect the existing natural habitat and provide a crucial link to the Cherry Creek trail system. Foxfield is providing a \$70,900 match for a total project cost of \$325,900.

City of Greenwood Village, \$152,000, Marjorie Perry Nature Preserve Corridor Master Plan

This \$152,000 grant will be used to develop a master plan and natural resource management plan to protect and preserve 94 acres of open space, including the Marjorie Perry Nature Preserve, Buchler Open Space, Greenwood Gulch and Prentice Gulch drainageways. Greenwood Village is providing a match of \$500 for this \$152,500 project.

City of Greenwood Village, \$250,000, Tommy Davis Park Phase I: Construction

This grant will improve the pond in the 12.5-acre park, located south of Orchard Road between Yosemite and Dayton streets. The funds will help to improve water quality, provide detention facilities for flood control and irrigation storage,

and enhance the quality of the park for Greenwood Village residents, visitors and wildlife. Greenwood Village will match this grant at \$194,164 for a total project cost of \$444,164.

City of Sheridan, \$170,000, Bear Creek Trail Bridge

This grant funds the construction of a 75-foot bridge to connect the park to the Bear Creek Trail and the South Platte Trail, which ultimately connects pedestrians and bicyclists to Englewood, Sheridan, Littleton, Lakewood and Denver. Sheridan is providing a \$56,800 match for a total project cost of \$227,000.

Parker Jordan Metropolitan District, \$250,000, Broncos Parkway Trailhead and Cherry Creek Regional Trail Expansion

The Broncos Parkway Trailhead and Cherry Creek Trail expansion will provide a connection to the existing Cherry Creek Regional Trail, new habitat for wildlife and educational opportunities for visitors. This grant funds a 2-acre trailhead and 1,200 feet of new trail immediately south of Broncos Parkway, directly west of Parker Road near Tagawa Garden Center. The project connects the Cherry Creek Regional Trail to nearby developments, including Southgate, River Run, Courtney Downs, the future Vermillion Creek and Corner Star.

South Suburban Parks and Recreation District, \$250,000, Mary Carter Greenway: Superchi Property Improvements

This \$250,000 grant will restore 10 acres of the Superchi Property, which is located west of Santa Fe Drive behind a mobile home park and tree nursery, and immediately adjacent to the South Platte River, the Mary Carter Greenway and South Platte Park. The property will provide a key trail connection for recreational users of the Mary Carter Greenway and Platte River recreational users. The project restores native grasses, constructs a trail connection and parking lot for public access to South Platte Park. The project also includes additional boat chutes, a water detention system and a new teaching site for the Carson Nature Center. South Suburban will provide a \$157,000 match for a total project cost of \$407,000.

South Suburban Parks and Recreation District, \$250,000, Wynetka Ponds, Phase II: Outdoor Recreation Features

This grant will help create an accessible park through the addition of a parking lot and crusher fine trails system. An off-leash dog park also is planned. The proposed ADA-accessible trail system will open up the park and the vistas to the public. South Suburban will provide a match of \$62,500 toward this \$312,500 project.

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Arapahoe County Open Space, Parks and Trails

Serving the citizens of Arapahoe County to preserve and enhance open space, parks, trails, outdoor recreation opportunities and natural resources through community partnerships.