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For release: June 25, 2015

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Arapahoe County Open Spaces Community Guide available June 25

The 2015 guide is available in Denver Post, local newspapers and County buildings throughout June and July

LITTLETON, CO --- Beginning June 25, more than 160,000 Arapahoe County households will receive a copy of the 2015 Open Spaces Community Guide in their local newspaper.

Every year, Arapahoe County produces a report to update citizens on how their tax dollars are helping to protect open space, wildlife corridors and historic areas; improve neighborhood parks and recreation amenities; preserve ranchlands; and protect lands that preserve water quality in rivers, lakes and streams.

The 2015 Community Guide, which is produced on newsprint, and offered electronically on the County's website, provides an overview of how shareback and grant dollars are distributed back to our communities. This year's report also serves as a guide to the amenities that are already in your back yard and those that are coming soon.

"Throughout our 2015 Open Spaces Community Guide, you will see how key partnerships and your support of the Open Space Sales and Use Tax enhances our diverse County landscape," said Commissioner Nancy Jackson, District 4. "Your tax dollars make neighborhoods flourish with vibrant outdoor opportunities that you, your family, friends and visitors enjoy today and well into the future."

The report provides an overview of the more than \$151 million that have been efficiently and effectively invested since the programs inception in 2003. To date, Arapahoe County's Open Spaces Program has acquired or protected 30,000 acres of land for parks, trails and open space; created or enhanced more than 100 neighborhood and regional parks and nearly 40 open space properties and built or improved more than 190 miles of community and regional trails.

Collaboration is the centerpiece of the Arapahoe County Open Spaces Program. Strategic partnerships between counties, municipalities and special districts have resulted in the fruition of dozens of parks, trails and open space amenities that residents and visitors enjoy today and well into the future. This year, and thanks to these partnerships, nearly \$14.1 million in shareback and grant funds have been distributed. Arapahoe County recently debuted a special grant cycle for this fall. Applications are being accepted through August 7, for grant request amounts of \$300,100 - \$500,000.

Copies of the guide will be available in the June 25 edition of the *Denver Post* and in the June 28 Sunday Select edition of the *Denver Post*. It also will be found in the *Aurora Sentinel* and *Buckley Guardian*,

Centennial Citizen, Englewood Herald, Glendale Cherry Creek Chronicle, I-70 Scout, Littleton Independent and The Villager Newspaper in upcoming editions.

Citizens also can find copies in Arapahoe County government locations, and a .pdf version of the report is available through our website at <http://www.arapahoegov.com/index.aspx?nid=1342>. If you would like a copy mailed to you, contact Communication Services Coordinator Caroline Hogan at 303-795-5466 or by email at chogan@arapahoegov.com

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