

A MESSAGE FROM THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD



Dear Citizens,

Adams County has now entered the fifth year of the Open Space Sales Tax that was passed in November 1999.

The Open Space Advisory Board is pleased to report the growing list of accomplishments that have resulted from this program. Thanks to the voters of Adams County, a true legacy of parks, open space, trails and recreational facilities is being realized in all areas of the county.

As the tax matures, we have not only seen wonderful projects completed, but also cooperation and partnerships between the entities in Adams County.

The Open Space Sales Tax has funded 87 grants totaling \$17.8 million for wildlife habitat, ball fields, fishing lakes and trails, which in turn has leveraged over \$78 million from other sources for projects countywide. Leveraging funding to make the sales tax dollars go further was one of the goals of the tax and is a huge benefit. Adams County communities are now more competitive when they apply for grants from Great Outdoors Colorado

(GOCO), the Division of Wildlife's Fishing is Fun program and other organizations that provide funding.

The Open Space Sales Tax revenues are creating numerous partnership opportunities for local governments to preserve the best of Adams County and to serve the residents by enhancing their choice of parks, open space and recreational opportunities. A wonderful example of partnership is the Metzger Farm acquisition at 120th Avenue and Federal Boulevard which the city of Westminster has been working diligently to protect. With two Adams County Open Space grants totaling \$1 million, they have partnered with their neighbor, the city and county of Broomfield, as well as GOCO, to preserve this 1948 "model farm."

The city of Thornton and Adams County received Open Space funds for a series of projects between 78th Avenue and 100th Avenue on the South Platte River that show the benefits of locating projects adjacent to one another. Thornton's two new fishing lakes are linked by Adams County trails and the county's new Open Space acquisitions north of 88th Avenue. This area is now a wonderful place to experience the South Platte River.

The list of projects goes on and we

encourage you to look through this annual report to get a sense of the diversity and quality of projects funded by the Open Space Sales Tax this past year. The county website, www.co.adams.co.us, also has a full description of the Open Space program and all the projects that have been funded since the onset of the tax in 2000.

To learn more about open space projects, we invite residents to attend the Open Space Advisory Board meetings held the 4th Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the Parks Administration Building, 9755 Henderson Road. Please call 303.637.8004 for meeting information or directions.

Sincerely,

Ed Hickel
Chairman





Ann Merkel



Lance Grothe



Patricia Bisant



Steve Bernard



Lois Buckman
with daughter
Grace



Gloria Rudden

Open Space Sales Tax Accomplishments 2000-03

PROJECT	FUNDS	ACRES
Environmental Education Programs & Facilities	\$243,169	
Farmland Preservation	\$4,902,500	1,472
Open Space, Wildlife Habitat & New Parks	\$9,975,859	1,370.704
Park Renovation	\$772,059	
Planning Grants	\$10,000	
New Trail Development	\$1,830,180	140.423
Trail Renovation	\$128,100	
TOTAL	\$17,861,867	2,983.127

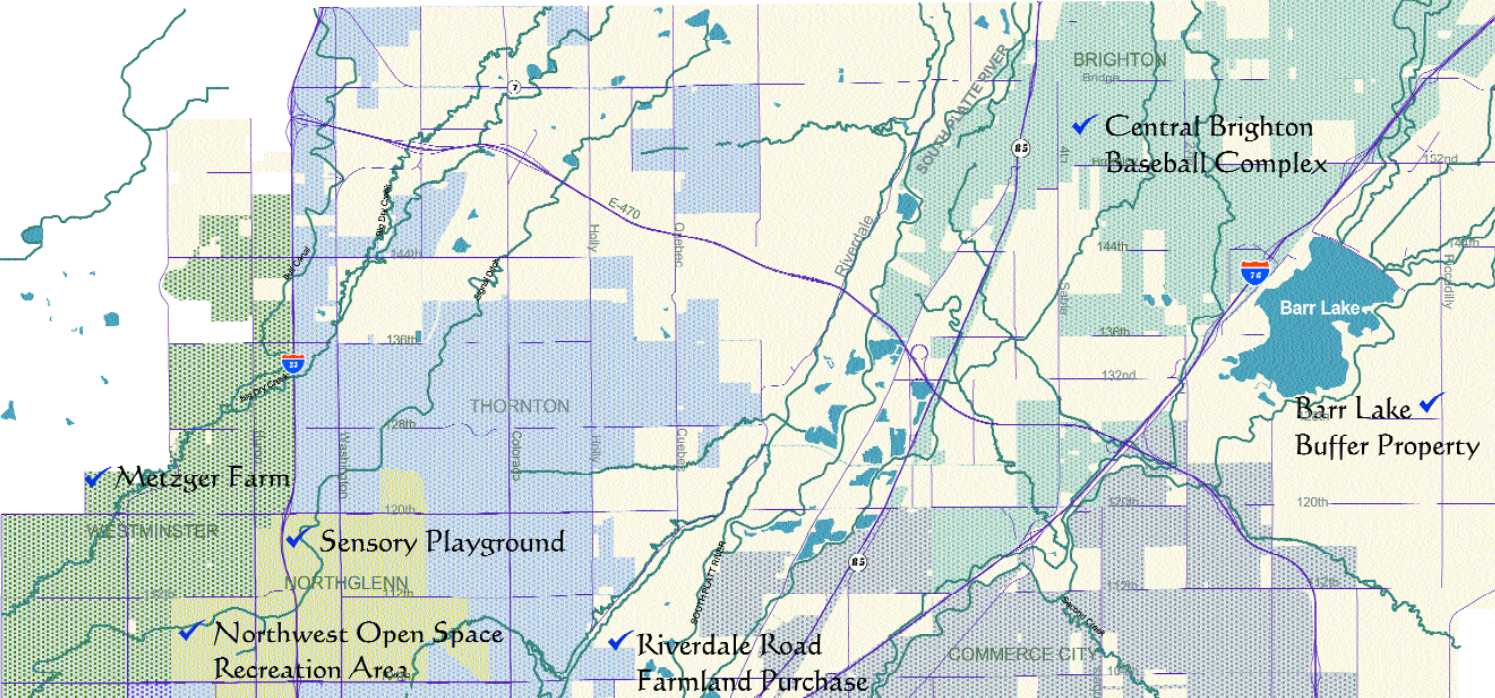
Adams County Open Space Sales Tax Facts

- ▶ Tax passed November 2, 1999
- ▶ 1/5th of one cent on each dollar with food and other items excluded
- ▶ Length of tax is seven years to expire on Dec. 31, 2006
- ▶ 2003 revenues totaled \$6,609,828.78
- ▶ 68 percent of the tax goes into a fund for grants
- ▶ 30 percent is returned to the local jurisdiction in which it was collected
- ▶ Two percent for administration
- ▶ A seven-member Open Space Advisory Board reviews grants and recommends funding
- ▶ Three members come from cities and four members from unincorporated portions of the county
- ▶ Uses include land preservation for open space, habitat, rivers and creeks, trails, conservation easements for farmland, parks, ball fields, recreation and environmental education projects



This sign is displayed on project locations where Adams County Open Space Sales Tax funds are used.

Open Space Projects Funded in Northwestern Adams County



CITY OF NORTHGLENN

Northwest Open Space Recreation Area Improvements - \$87,500

Recreation improvements include permanent vault restrooms, covered picnic areas, playground, tot lot, basketball court and picnic facilities.

CITY OF BRIGHTON
Central Brighton Baseball Complex
\$98,000

This project includes the development of two baseball fields, a t-ball field and an improved soccer field.



CITY OF WESTMINSTER
Metzger Farm - \$1,002,500
Preservation of a 160-acre historic farm,
two irrigation ponds, wetlands, future trails
and historic and environmental
education facility.



ADAMS COUNTY
Riverdale Farmland Purchase
\$800,000
Purchase of 70 acres of irrigated farmland.



ADAMS COUNTY
Barr Lake Buffer Property - \$600,000
Farmland preservation of 153 acres located
in the Barr Lake Buffer Zone.



CITY OF NORTHGLENN
Sensory Playground at E.B. Rains, Jr. Memorial Park - \$45,000
Additions to this park include an interactive play sculpture, a large cable structure
for the "teen area," fabric shade canopies, a water play area and landscaping.

Open Space Projects Funded in Southwestern Adams County



HYLAND HILLS PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

Clear Creek Valley Park - \$300,000

Acquisition of an additional 34 acres will add to the existing 54-acre regional park development in southwest Adams County. This regional park will include wildlife habitat, several lakes, trails, restrooms, picnic facilities, open space, environmental education, sports fields and support facilities.



ADAMS COUNTY

Aggregate Industries Open Space Purchase - \$500,000

This 45-acre purchase and dedication completes the acquisition phase of the 144.3-acre 88th Avenue Open Space Project. This future park site will include fishing, horseback riding, hiking, picnic areas, benches and links to the regional South Platte River Trail system.

CITY OF FEDERAL HEIGHTS

Ruston Park Enhancements - \$43,691

Enhancements to Ruston Park will include a nature trail and education station, health trail, picnic area, horseshoe pit, restrooms, BBQ grills, bike rack and a game table.



CITY OF FEDERAL HEIGHTS

Messina Park Project - \$32,517

Improvements to Messina Park will include a gazebo, lighting, picnic tables, benches, BBQ grills, trash containers, a brick pathway and a bronze plaque commemorating Officer Messina.

CITY OF COMMERCE CITY

Weaver Electric Open Space - \$235,000

Acquisition of this 20.88-acre parcel will provide the city an opportunity to turn a piece of heavy industrial use land into a riparian habitat and open space adjacent to the Sand Creek Regional Greenway at I-270.



CITY OF COMMERCE CITY

Center Athletic Fields, Landscaping - \$100,000

This landscaping is part of a three-year project and will surround the playing fields, picnic areas, playground and a loop trail around the perimeter of the property.

CITY OF COMMERCE CITY

Prairie Gateway Land Acquisition \$500,000

570 acres located on the western edge of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal include two parks totaling 128 acres with playing fields, picnic areas, an outdoor classroom and scenic views. The remaining 442 acres will be dedicated open space with a remnant short grass prairie unique to the area. The entire complex will be connected by trails leading to regional trail connections.



Open Space Projects Funded in Eastern Adams County



TOWN OF BENNETT
Brothers Four Park - \$94,831

This park will include a playground, picnic area, restrooms and a trail that will link to Bennett's future trail system.



**STRASBURG METRO PARKS
& RECREATION DISTRICT**

Diamonds in the Rough, Phase II - \$130,000

Phase II of this baseball/softball facility will include turf grass, an irrigation system, lighting, bleachers, restrooms and a concession facility.

Mini Grants

CITY OF AURORA

Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership, Inc., Signage for Sand Creek Regional Greenway - \$4,500

Funding to make and install signage for the Sand Creek Regional Greenway at the Star K Ranch and replace the signage at Sable Road, Chambers Road and Airport Boulevard.

CITY OF BRIGHTON

Tree Beautification of Bromley Park - \$4,925

The purchase of 34 trees to act as a visual buffer, adding beauty and shade to Bromley Community Park.

CITY OF BRIGHTON

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory Barr Lake Education and Banding Station - \$4,996

This grant will cover the cost of materials to expand the platform and purchase a spotting scope and LCD projector for indoor programs. Last year, the bird banding station provided a learning experience for 1,118 students and park visitors through banding demonstrations.

30% Open Space Sales Tax Distribution

