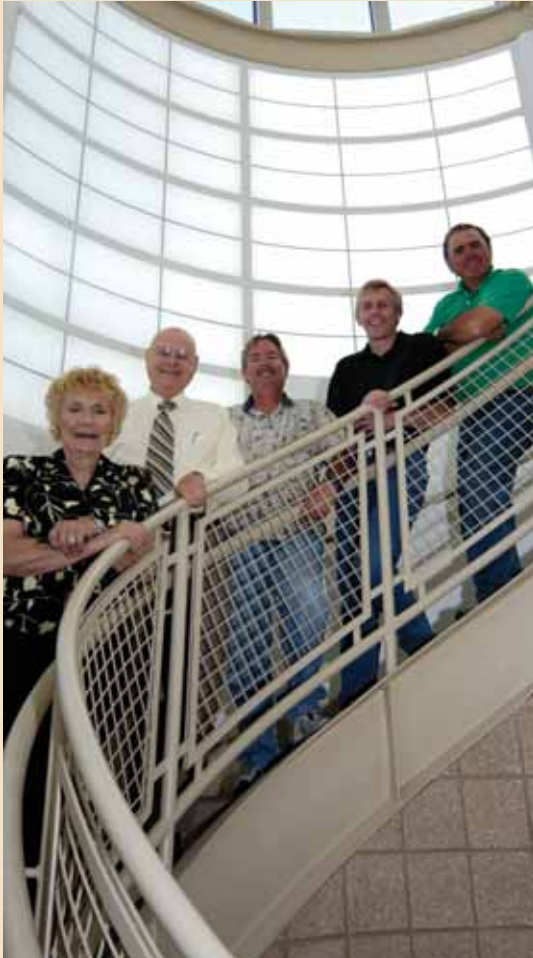




*Adams County Open Space 2007-08*

Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge

## 2008 Adams County Open Space Report to the Residents



Adams County Open Space Advisory Board (L-R): Gloria Rudden, Ed Hickel, Mike Sweeney, Chris De May and Tim Ferrell. Patricia Bisant and Norma Authier not shown.

The Adams County Open Space program has made a great deal of progress in the past year. In accordance with voter-approved ballot language authorizing the Open Space Sales Tax: 68 percent of the open space sales tax revenues continue to be distributed through grants, 30 percent is returned to the jurisdiction where the tax was collected and two percent is used for program administration.

In 2007, the open space program awarded grants to help preserve another 210 acres of open space, farmland and wildlife habitat. This brings the total amount of land that will remain undeveloped in the county to over 2,900 acres since the program began in 2000. This year, grants were awarded to help build and improve trails, parks, playgrounds and sports fields.

Behind the scenes, the Parks & Community Resources Department and the Board of County Commissioners have developed policies and procedures to ensure that all grant applicants follow the same rules and have an equal chance to receive open space grants. Parks & Community Resources Department employees have also been busy auditing past grant projects. These audits ensure that recipients of previous grants are using the money as specified in the grant proposal and following the spirit of the law for the Adams County Open Space Sales Tax. If an audit reveals

a discrepancy, the county commissioners take action to make sure the grant funds are being used appropriately. The county's commitment to the program ensures residents receive the most for their money from the open space sales tax revenues.

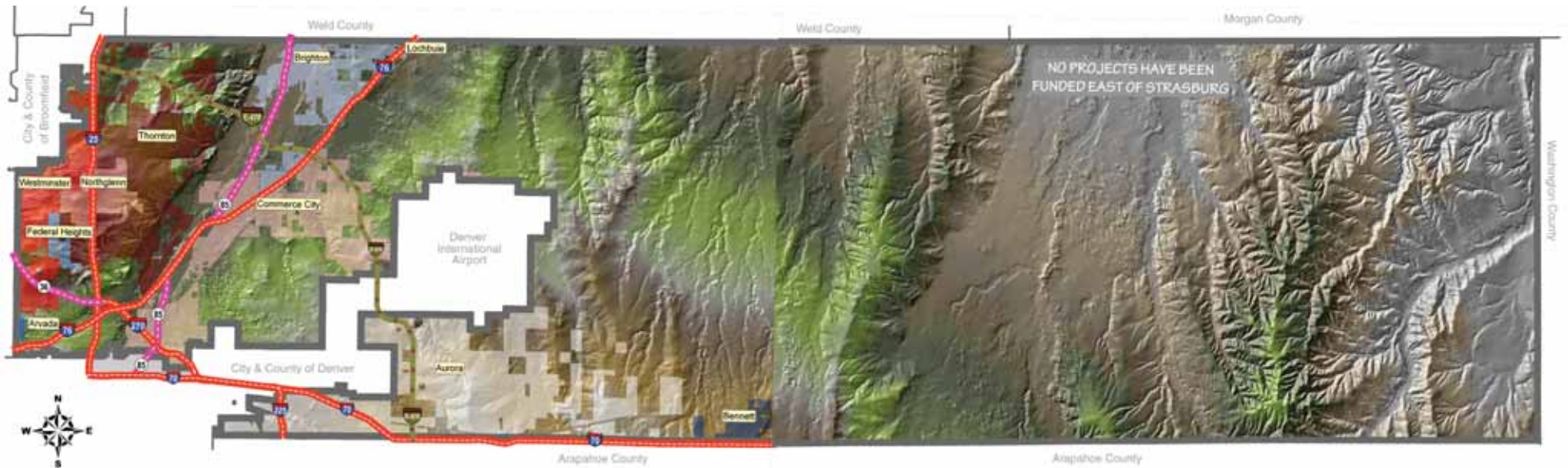
The Adams County Open Space program has helped preserve farmland, nature areas, wildlife habitat and wetlands, as well as provide recreation opportunities.

I encourage you to visit one of our open space or park locations. The foresight and generosity of the residents of Adams County have ensured that the scenic areas and open spaces that make Adams County unique will be preserved and protected, not only for our current residents, but also for our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We are securing a legacy in open space preservation for all to enjoy and embrace. For this, I would like to thank the entire Open Space Advisory Board and every stakeholder for their commitment and passion for the open spaces in Adams County.

Chris De May, Chairman  
Adams County Open Space Advisory Board

# Adams County Open Space Funds Received in Your Community for 2000-07



## ADAMS COUNTY JURISDICTION TOTALS

Amounts shown represent funds received from the grant portion (68%) of the Open Space Sales Tax and the 30% direct distribution which is returned to the jurisdiction where the taxes were collected.

Arvada	\$216,524	Commerce City	\$3,312,029	Westminster	\$7,950,529
Aurora	\$2,737,286	Federal Heights	\$644,155	Unincorporated	
Bennett	\$138,076	Northglenn	\$3,467,296	Adams County	\$22,554,962
Brighton	\$2,266,497	Thornton	\$8,433,949		



Star K Ranch Shelter Area

## 30% Distribution Open Space Sales Tax for 2007

(This portion is returned to the jurisdiction where it was collected.)

Unincorporated Adams County	\$623,056.70	City of Commerce City	\$268,457.99
City of Arvada	\$24,181.31	City of Federal Heights	\$74,552.38
City of Aurora	\$343,002.44	City of Northglenn	\$242,010.98
Town of Bennett	\$8,896.16	City of Thornton	\$718,098.75
City of Brighton	\$252,991.40	City of Westminster	\$396,846.48
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,952,094.59</b>

# 2007 Grant Projects



Future location of the South Platte River Pedestrian Bridge at 136th Avenue

Listed below are the projects that received grant funding in 2007. Sixty-eight percent of the Open Space Sales Tax funds collected are available to qualified jurisdictions through the open space grant program.

## ADAMS COUNTY

### **BIG DRY CREEK FLOODPLAIN BUFFER – \$270,060**

This grant is for the purchase of 35 acres located on the northeast corner of 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Washington Street. The property is adjacent to Big Dry Creek and is home to a large prairie dog colony. This land will be preserved as open space.

### **ELAINE T. VALENTE OPEN SPACE EXPANSION – \$851,565**

Funds will be used to purchase 18.263 acres of land adjacent to the Elaine T. Valente (ETV) Open Space and the Lower Clear Creek water rights. The land and improvements will be purchased and become part of the ETV Open Space.

### **SOUTH PLATTE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AT 136TH AVENUE – \$500,000**

This project is for the construction of a 290-foot pedestrian bridge over the South Platte River and approximately one mile of concrete trail near the 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue alignment.

### **RIVERDALE ROAD AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS – \$1,735,655**

This project will preserve 330 acres of irrigated farmland along Riverdale Road via conservation easements.

## CITY OF AURORA

### **Sand Creek and Chambers Road Acquisition – \$140,000**

The land represents three parcels totaling 3.06 acres of well-vegetated open space adjacent to the existing Sand Creek Regional Greenway Corridor and Star K Ranch.

### **STAR K RANCH SHELTER – \$33,500**

This project includes the design and construction of a shelter at Star K Ranch.

## BARR LAKE STATE PARK

### **BARR LAKE VOLUNTEER CLEANUP – \$2,553**

The purpose of this event is to bring public awareness to water quality and issues facing our lakes and waterways in the future. We will also take this opportunity to stress the importance of keeping our natural areas free of debris and dangerous obstacles.

### **GAZEBO SCOPE – \$1,410**

This is for the purchase of a new ADA accessible telescope to view wildlife at Barr Lake.

## TOWN OF BENNETT

### **COMMUNITY TRAIL – \$109,103**

This project consists of acquiring a trail easement from local landowners and constructing a 3,765-foot asphalt trail that will connect Brothers Four Park on the north end and the new Recreation Center and business district to the south.

## BENNETT PARKS

### **& RECREATION DISTRICT REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITY – \$1,500,000**

This project will incorporate an indoor swimming and aqua therapy area, along with additional activity and classroom space, into the existing recreation center site.

## CITY OF BRIGHTON

### BENEDICT PARK DISC GOLF COURSE – \$5,000

This grant is for the construction of a nine-hole disc golf course at an existing park (Benedict Park).

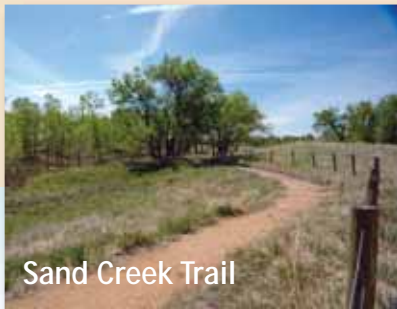
### CAMPBELL PARK

#### ACQUISITION – \$200,000

This property is located adjacent to and east of the Adams County Administration Building and south of Southern Street. The Campbell Park acquisition will be developed as a park in the future.

### KEN MITCHELL LAKES FISHING PIER AND BOARDWALK – \$131,640

The Ken Mitchell Lakes Fishing Pier and Boardwalk project includes the construction of a fishing pier, seawall, fish habitat structures, boardwalk pedestrian fencing, trees, shrubs, benches and shelters with tables and signage.



Sand Creek Trail

## CITY OF COMMERCE CITY

### GOTO LAND ACQUISITION – \$45,000

This project involves purchasing a private residence located at 6019 Forest Drive immediately adjacent to City Park and the Commerce City Recreation Center. The lot borders the city's Recreation Center and will be added to the park area.

### LEYDEN PARK IMPROVEMENTS – \$9,890

Funds will be used to bring Leyden Park into compliance with current safety guidelines, including the replacement of the outdated playground, adding landscaping, trees and shrubs, replacing the irrigation system and installing a shelter and benches.

### NORTH-SOUTH TRAIL – \$504,800

This trail project will connect the north and south portions of Commerce City.

## CITY OF NORTHGLENN

### Croke Reservoir Nature Center improvements – \$772,391

Croke Reservoir is maintained and managed as an urban fishery and waterfowl/wildlife nature area. The eastern shoreline will be stabilized and extended 40 feet from the

existing shoreline. Additional amenities include construction of a perimeter trail on the eastern shore with linkage to the existing loop trail, landscaping and construction of an overlook and fishing node that will provide increased access for angling and greater handicapped accessibility.

### SENSORY PLAYGROUND COMPLETION PROJECT – \$65,000

The Sensory Playground is designed for disabled and able-bodied children to interact and play together. The grant will complete the playground features, including landscaping, two shelters and the installation of two climbing boulders to finish the teen/adolescent activity areas.

## CITY OF THORNTON

### RECREATION CENTER SITE POND – \$932,821

This Recreation Center Site Pond Project is for the construction of four bridges and a multi-purpose trail associated with the new 9.6-acre pond construction on the undeveloped portion of the 100-acre, community-level park.

## CITY OF WESTMINSTER

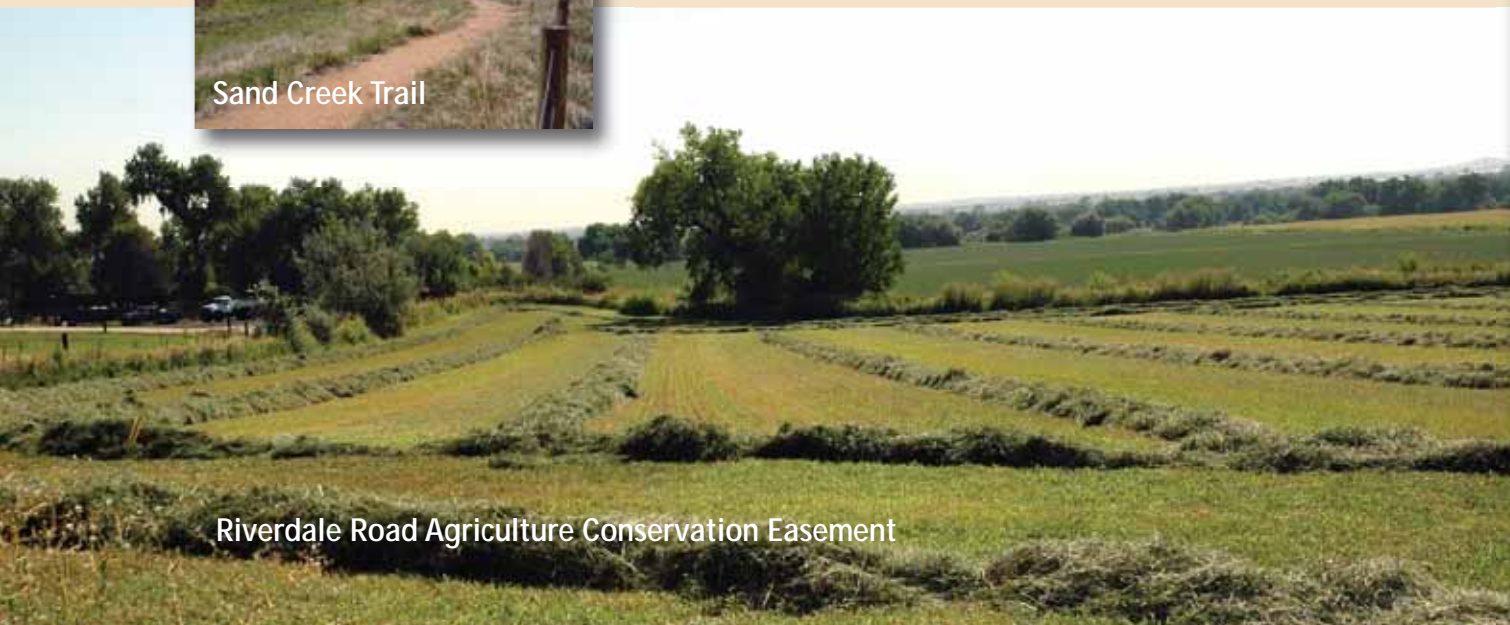
### DOULOS MINISTRIES ACQUISITION – \$950,000

This 36-acre property, located along the Big Dry Creek near 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Federal Parkway, will be preserved as open space.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIRD OBSERVATORY

### WONDERS OF WILDLIFE CAMP 2008 – \$4,460

Wonders of Wildlife Camp is a four-week summer day camp offered in June and July to children ages 7-13. Children learn about birds, the natural world and conservation.



Riverdale Road Agriculture Conservation Easement



Northglenn Sensory Park Project

## Elaine T. Valente Open Space Dedication



On May 31, 2007, a 125-acre open space property, located on the north side of 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue just east of McKay Road, was dedicated in honor of former Adams County Commissioner Elaine T. Valente.

The Elaine T. Valente Open Space property was acquired by Adams County in August 2002 as part of the preservation effort along the South Platte River Corridor. The property includes three lakes and borders other open space property the county has acquired.

Valente was born and raised in Adams County. She was the first female to be elected as an Adams County commissioner and was the only female commissioner in the first 100 years of Adams County's history. She served in this capacity for 16 years from January 1989 to January 2005. Commissioner Valente was an active supporter of open space preservation and worked diligently to get the Open Space Sales Tax approved in the county. It first passed on Nov. 2, 1999, and was reauthorized on Nov. 2, 2004.

"I am not a hero, but I am determined," said Valente. "I love Adams County and have worked hard to fight for issues important to the county."

Since the inception of the Adams County Open Space Sales Tax, more than \$57 million has been collected and used to fund farmland preservation, hiking trails and open space acquisitions for wildlife habitat, scenic views and recreation. The Elaine T. Valente Open Space property was one of the first purchases Adams County made with these funds. The property was purchased for \$1.95 million.

Obtaining the funds needed to purchase this property was made possible by the generous contributions of Great Outdoors Colorado's Legacy Grant, which supplied \$600,000, and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, which contributed \$580,000. The remaining \$770,000 was paid for with an Adams County Open Space Grant, the Conservation Trust Fund and the 30 percent distribution from the Open Space Sales Tax.

The Elaine T. Valente Open Space is open to the public for fishing, hiking and other recreational activities. A developed trail system will be completed over the next five years.



Dino, Gina, Larry and Elaine T. Valente

