

ADAMS COUNTY OPEN SPACE 2008-09





Open Space Report to Residents

Like many of our residents, the open space program is feeling the effects of the recession and, as a result, less money is available to fund open space projects throughout the county. Nonetheless, it has been a good year for the Open Space Program. In 2008, Open Space Sales Tax revenues provided \$940,000 in funding to help preserve another 53.5 acres of farmland and natural areas, along with more than \$1.6 million for parks, recreation centers and sports fields and \$1.4 million for trail projects.

Since its inception, the open space program has been a partner with the residents of Adams County, parks and recreation departments and other organizations. These partnerships have allowed us to fund projects that would have been either too large or costly for a single group to accomplish on its own. One example of a project we were able to help complete is the South Platte River Corridor Preservation Project. Without the cooperation of private landowners, cities and Adams County, along with companies along the South Platte River, this preservation project would not have occurred. With the preservation of the South Platte River Corridor through Adams County, we have been able to protect a hidden jewel from development. The South Platte River Corridor is an amazing and beautiful place that is home to a variety of animals. It is possible to see everything from wild turkeys to bald eagles along the South Platte River. The South Platte River Corridor bike path will eventually become part of the Colorado Front Range Trail which will run through Colorado from Wyoming to New Mexico and will allow our residents to enjoy the beauty of the South Platte River as it runs through Adams County.

Partnerships will continue to be a part of the Adams County Open Space Program. Parks and open spaces are important to the residents of Adams County and, by working together, we will continue to be able to fund projects that all residents can use and enjoy. Please take the time to visit one of the nature areas, recreation facilities or parks that the open space program has helped fund. As residents of Adams County, we can all be proud of the foresight that has allowed us to preserve open spaces and fund projects that make Adams County a great place to call home.

My term as a member of the Adams County Open Space Advisory Board will end in December. I'd like to thank the other members of the board, along with the open space staff, for their commitment and hard work. I'm very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with such a great group of dedicated people.

Chris De May, Chairman
Adams County Open Space Advisory Board



Chris De May



Norma Authier



Patt Bisant



Tim Ferrell



Ed Hickel



Gloria Rudden



Mike Sweeney



How the Economy Affects the Open Space Sales Tax Program

Parks and open spaces are an important part of every community. In these uncertain economic times, the importance of parks and open spaces is even more evident. These wonderful places provide activities that are affordable and fun for individuals and families. People can enjoy themselves by taking a bike ride on a trail, going for a nature walk, fishing or even playing sports at the local park without having to make sacrifices elsewhere.

The Open Space Grant Program will be facing many challenges in the near future. The program is seeing a dramatic increase in grant requests, while revenues from the Open Space Sales Tax are projected to decrease. As a result, the Open Space Advisory Board and staff are working diligently to find ways to continue fulfilling the mission of the program in these challenging times.

In March 2009, the program held the 7th Annual Open Space Forum. The theme of this year's forum was partnerships. Partnerships are an essential part of any successful project and the goal of the forum was to provide the citizens of Adams County, as well as parks and recreation professionals, with information on how to use creative partnerships to complete projects in this economy.

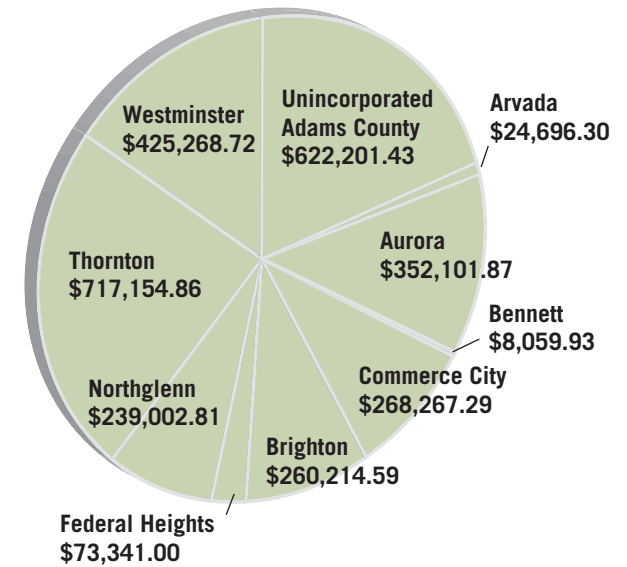
One of the highlights of the forum was the premiere of the "Creative Partnerships—Great Opportunities" video. This video focuses on the county's preservation efforts along the South Platte River corridor over the last 10 years. The video demonstrates how a large-scale preservation effort can become a reality by utilizing creative partnerships. To see the video, please visit the open space section of the Adams County website at www.co.adams.co.us.

The Parks & Community Resources Department recently purchased the Colorado Grants Guide 2009-2010. If you are interested in using the guide to research funding opportunities, please feel free to call for an appointment at 303.637.8004 or email Kathy Spinella at kspinella@co.adams.co.us.



30 Percent Distribution of the Open Space Sales Tax in 2008

Adams County has a one-fourth of one percent sales tax that is used to fund parks and open space projects located within Adams County.



Breakdown of the Open Space Sales Tax Revenue

Thirty percent of this tax is distributed directly to the jurisdiction where it was collected, 68 percent of the tax is distributed through a competitive grant process and the remaining two percent is used for administrative costs to operate the program.



68 Percent Distribution of Sales Tax Funded through Grant Projects in 2008



Passive Grants

Adams County: "Lost 40" Open Space Acquisition – \$400,000

Adams County will use this grant award to purchase a 47-acre parcel of land adjacent to the Elaine T. Valente Open Space. This project will help preserve important wildlife habitat and natural resources found in the South Platte River Corridor. Contact: Marc Pedrucci, 303.637.8014

Adams County: South Platte Pedestrian Bridge, 104th Avenue – \$500,000

Adams County will use this grant award to design and construct a pedestrian bridge across the South Platte River near 104th Ave. This is part of an ongoing effort by the county to make important trail connections along the South Platte River trail system. Contact: Marc Pedrucci, 303.637.8014

Town of Bennett: North Trail Extension – \$75,248

This grant will be used to construct a new segment of the town's community trail, which will provide a link between the neighborhoods that are currently divided by Hwy. 36. This trail will start at the Brothers Four Park and extend across the railroad tracks to the new library site on 7th St. Contact: Matt Reay, 303.644.4612

City of Brighton: Colorado Front Range Trail from E-470 to Brighton – \$300,000

Brighton will use this grant award to design and construct 2.05 miles of concrete trail between Hwy. 7 and 136th Ave. This project will complete a missing section of the Colorado Front Range Trail and will extend from E. Bromley Ln. to E-470 (approximately the 136th Ave. alignment). Contact: Mark Heidt, 303.655.2170

City of Commerce City: Second Creek Trail, Phase 2 – \$541,000

Commerce City will use this grant award to construct 3.5 miles of trail in and adjacent to Second Creek. The trail will extend from Landmark Dr. south to Southlawn Pkwy. Contact: Traci Ferguson, 303.227.8788

City of Federal Heights: Huron-Inca Trail Link – \$40,500

Federal Heights will use this grant award to construct a concrete trail between Inca Ct. and Huron St. This trail will provide safe access from the Inca Ct. trailhead in the Northmoor Subdivision and connect on the east to the Thornton Niver Creek Trail. Contact: Jeri Freiberger, 303.412.3540

City of Westminster: DePalma Open Space Acquisition – \$540,000

Westminster will use this grant award to purchase the 6.6-acre DePalma property, which will provide a buffer for Little Dry Creek. This property is located between 73rd and 75th avenues on Sheridan Blvd. in Westminster. Contact: Heather Cronenberg, 303.658.2142

Active Grants

City of Aurora: City Park Renovation – \$200,000

Aurora will use this grant award to renovate City Park. Improvements will include trails, a playground, in-line skateboard plaza, entrance plaza, basketball court, an open field area and picnic areas. City Park is located at 9701 E. 16th Ave. in Aurora. Contact: Tracy Young, 303.739.7166

Barr Lake State Park: Barr Lake Play Area – \$26,000

Barr Lake State Park, sponsored by Adams County, will use this grant award to install playground equipment near the boat ramp. Barr Lake State Park is located at 13401 Picadilly Rd. in Brighton. Contact: Michelle Seubert, 303.655.1495

Bennett Parks and Recreation District: Regional Aquatics Facility – \$795,317

Bennett Parks and Recreation District, sponsored by Bennett, will use this grant award to improve the Regional Aquatics Facility by building both a tot and therapy pool. The Regional Aquatics Facility is located at 455 S. First St. in Bennett. Contact: Jeff Ratajczak, 303.644.5040





City of Brighton: Castle Gate Climbing Playground with Education Signage – \$25,000

Brighton will use this grant award to install a 14-foot tall climbing playground shaped like the 750-year-old castle entrance that still stands in Ziebitze, Poland (left)—Brighton's sister city. The Sister Cities Park is located at 3469 Rock St. in Brighton.

Contact: Mark Heidt, 303.655.2170

City of Thornton: Community and Woodglen Parks In-line Hockey Rinks Replacement – \$62,500

Thornton will use this grant award to replace the badly damaged surfaces of the in-line skating rinks located in Community Park and Woodglen Park. Community Park is located at 2141 E. 95th Ave. and Woodglen Park is located at 11551 Madison St. in Thornton.

Contact: Diane Van Fossen, 303.255.7843

City of Westminster: Westminster Center Park – \$543,592

Westminster will use this grant award to help fund construction of the Westminster Center Park.

Plans for the park include picnic areas, water features, a plaza and walking paths. Westminster Center Park will be located on the north side of 92nd Ave. across from the Westminster City Hall.

Contact: Kathy Piper, 303.658.2227



Mini Grants

Aurora's Morrison Nature Center: Predator Coexistence Education – \$3,500

The Morrison Nature Center, sponsored by Aurora, will use this grant to make improvements to the award-winning predaTOUR education display. This is a mobile exhibit used for educational programs throughout the county to teach adults and children how to coexist with predators.

Contact: Mary Ann Bonnell, 303.859.8911

Barr Lake State Park: 2009 Barr Lake Volunteer Cleanup – \$4,016

Barr Lake State Park, sponsored by Adams County, will use this grant to help pay for the Lake Appreciation event. Every year, hundreds of volunteers gather to clean up Barr Lake and learn about the importance of keeping our natural areas free of debris. Barr Lake State Park is located at 13401 Picadilly Rd. in Brighton.

Contact: Michelle Seubert, 303.655.1495

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory: Bird Camp – \$5,000

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, sponsored by Brighton, will use this grant award to help fund "Bird Camp," a five-week summer day camp. This camp offers an outdoor learning experience for children ages 7-13.

Contact: Kacie Ehrenberger, 303.659.4348

Croke Reservoir

Northglenn's Croke Reservoir Project

Northglenn celebrated the opening of the Croke Reservoir Nature Area with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 20, 2008. Croke Reservoir is located west of Huron St., just north of 104th Ave. and Naiad Dr. Croke Reservoir was emptied in late 2007 as part of an intense renovation project to improve fishery and wildlife habitat. Sediment was removed from the bottom of the lake and the shoreline was stabilized and extended 40 feet to the west. A fishing plaza was created to provide greater access for angling as well as handicapped accessibility. The trails surrounding the reservoir link to the city's 28-mile Greenway Trail System. Northglenn worked with many partners to accomplish this \$3.3 million project. The Croke Reservoir Project received two grants totaling \$1,242,891 from the Adams County Open Space Program.

