

**Contacts:**

Jim Siedlecki, Director of Public Information

O: (720) 523-6793 M: (402) 203-5498

[jsiedlecki@adcogov.org](mailto:jsiedlecki@adcogov.org)

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**Adams County News and Information**  
**Two Programs Honored by National Association of Counties**

The National Association of Counties (NACo) presented Adams County with two Achievement Awards earlier this week in two separate categories. The county's Graffiti and Open Space Sales Tax Programs were recognized by the organization for excellence and effectiveness.

The Graffiti Program, housed in the county's Neighborhood Services division, was awarded in the Public Safety category. The program was launched internally in 2015 and offers free graffiti removal services to residents and business owners in unincorporated Adams County.

"By taking this program over from an external vendor we have increased our abatements from 250 each year to more than 800," said Director of Community and Economic Development Norman Wright. "The program now uses recycled paint from a county business helping the county reduce the cost of this cleanup from \$279 per case to \$68 per case."

Approved in 1999 and becoming effective in January of 2000, the Open Space Sales Tax Program has awarded more than \$149 million in open space grants and projects around the county. This program was honored with NACo's Achievement Award in the Parks and Recreation category.

"Our residents are the true winners here," said Open Space Manager Shannon McDowell. "Not only did they vote for this important program, but they also see the incredible difference it continues to have around the county."

NACo works with 3,069 county governments across the United States, advocating for a collective voice on national policies and ideas. For more information about NACo, visit [NACo.org](http://NACo.org).

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