

**OPEN SPACE SALES TAX REPORT 2012**



Dear Citizens,

The Open Space Advisory Board is proud to announce another successful year of funding open space, parks and trails projects. Since the last Report to the Public in the summer of 2012, the Open Space program has distributed an additional \$3.3 million in collected sales tax directly back to Adams County jurisdictions for use in their parks and open space departments. The rest of the collected funds—nearly \$7.4 million—were distributed through our grant program.

During the fall 2012 and spring 2013 grant cycles, the Open Space program received 32 grant applications. The Open Space Advisory Board recommended full funding of 31 of the projects to the Adams County Board of Commissioners, for a total additional investment in open space, parks, and trails of just under \$7.4 million. Projects included 26 acres of passive land purchases (land that is not designated to become a recreational park) and purchases of almost 128 acres of land for future parks, including 102 acres for a large community park in northern Commerce City. These grant-funded projects included playground and park renovations in Strasburg, Northglenn, Brighton, Thornton and unincorporated Adams County; trail development in Westminster and Aurora; planning projects in Aurora and Bennett; and environmental education opportunities at Barr Lake State Park.

For the last year, the Open Space Advisory Board and Open Space staff have been working to revise the policies and procedures that govern the entire Open Space program. The current policies and procedures are approximately five years old and, while they still provide valuable guidance for the program, there were some issues that needed to be addressed. The entire process has been guided by the principles of transparency and consensus building. We have adhered to these principals by including all of our stakeholders (jurisdictions and organizations that receive funding from the program) in the discussions of how to improve the policies and procedures. This has included staff discussions with all of these organizations individually, a survey of issues sent to all stakeholders, including the Open Space Advisory Board members, and sub-committees formed to address particularly controversial or complex issues. The new policies and procedures document when adopted, will provide additional guidance and clarification to make the program even better.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every citizen of Adams County for their continued support of the Open Space program. By continuing to shop and spend in Adams County, you support all the wonderful projects throughout the county. Thanks to the citizens of Adams County, 2012 was a spectacular year, bringing in almost \$11 million for open space, parks and trails.

With summer in full swing, we encourage you to explore your local parks and open spaces. Please look for our Open Space sign that designates project funding. Hopefully, I'll see you out there!

Gloria Rudden, Chair  
Adams County Open Space Advisory Board



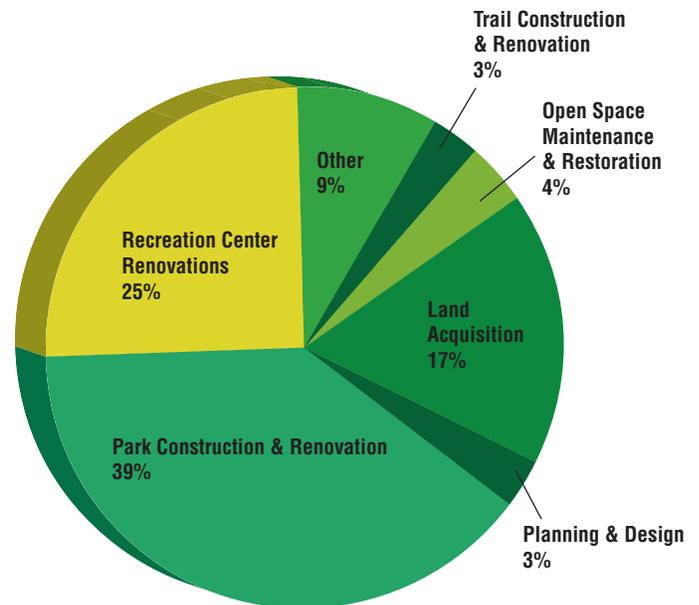
## Open Space Advisory Board



Front: Merle Menin (Representing City of Arvada), Edwin Hickel (Unincorporated), Chair Gloria Rudden (Unincorporated), Susan Worth (Unincorporated), John Strider (City of Brighton), Vice Chair Christy Dowling (Unincorporated). Back: Scott Jaquith (City of Commerce City).

### 2012 Open Space Sales Tax Funds Distribution (30 percent of funds)

Arvada	\$	40,989.29
Aurora		460,649.29
Bennett		16,138.26
Brighton		302,988.83
Commerce City		312,686.52
Federal Heights		78,005.42
Northglenn		261,989.78
Thornton		814,781.95
Westminster		451,915.79
Uninc. Adams County		642,614.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,382,759.86</b>



The Open Space Sales Tax was approved by Adams County voters in 1999. The sales tax is ¼ of one percent, or 25 cents on every \$100 purchase and is authorized through 2026. Proceeds from the sales tax benefit parks, recreation and open space projects countywide. Funds are distributed in three ways:

- Two percent is allocated to administration costs
- 30 percent is distributed back to the jurisdiction where the tax was generated
- 68 percent is awarded through a competitive grant program

The Open Space Advisory Board, a seven-member board appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, reviews all grant applications and makes recommendations for funding to the commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners makes the final decision on all grant applications. To date, the Open Space Sales Tax has generated over \$108 million for parks, recreation and open space projects throughout Adams County.

The Open Space Advisory Board meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Adams County Regional Park and Fairgrounds.

**For more information, please visit our website at [www.adcogov.org](http://www.adcogov.org) or call 303.637.8039.**

## 2012 OPEN SPACE SALES TAX GRANT DISTRIBUTION (68 percent of funds)

From fall 2012 to spring 2013, the Open Space Sales Tax program allocated \$7,392,359.79 to the following projects:

### ADAMS COUNTY

#### 88th Avenue Open Space Restoration and Recreation Development

Marc Pedrucci, 303.637.8014

Project Summary: Adams County plans to restore and enhance habitat areas and develop recreational amenities on this 220-acre property located at 9500 Riverdale Rd. (near 88th Ave. and Colorado Blvd.). A trailhead parking lot, restroom, picnic shelters, fishing access improvements, trails and educational and interpretive signage will be constructed on site.  
Grant Award: \$700,000

#### Rotella Park Master Plan Improvements

Marc Pedrucci, 303.637.8014

Project Summary: Adams County plans to improve Rotella Park, located near York Street and Coronado Parkway South. This project includes a new parking lot with lighting, drainage and irrigation improvements, picnic shelters, a restroom enclosure on the west side of the park, playground equipment, landscaping, signage and site furnishings.  
Grant Award: \$600,000

#### Big Dry Creek Greenway Acquisition

Marc Pedrucci, 303.637.8014

Project Summary: Adams County purchased a 13-acre property along Big Dry Creek just south of 144th Ave. at Washington St. The county is seeking reimbursement for a portion of this purchase which preserves natural resource habitat, floodplain and scenic views, and provides a trail corridor for the future Big Dry Creek Trail.  
Grant Award: \$110,000

### AURORA

#### Star K Ranch Trailhead Education

Mary Ann Bonnell, 303.859.8911

Project Summary: The city of Aurora will create a kiosk to educate and orient visitors and users of the Star K Ranch, Sand Creek Regional Greenway and the High Line Canal Trail. Star K Ranch is located at 16002 E. Smith Rd.  
Grant Award: \$5,000

#### Star K Connection

Tracy Young, 303.739.7166

Project Summary: The city of Aurora will construct a soft surface trail and colored concrete low water crossing to connect the High Line Canal Trail (a regional trail) to the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Trail (south of the Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch, located at 16002 E. Smith Rd.).  
Grant Award: \$160,000

#### Sand Creek Improvements

Tracy Young, 303.739.7166

Project Summary: The city of Aurora will make improvements to the ponds at Sand Creek Park, located at 2700 North Peoria St., just north of the Fitzsimons campus. Enhancements include providing a liner so the ponds will hold water, providing edge plantings, and installing an improved circulation system.  
Grant Award: \$425,000

#### Star K Ranch Buffer Site Restoration

Pat Schuler, 303.326.8947

Project Summary: The city of Aurora will re-seed and restore the recently purchased 34.162-acre buffer property adjacent to the Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch, located at 16002 E. Smith Rd.  
Grant Award: \$83,795

#### Montview Park Renovation Planning & Design

Tracy Young, 303.739.7166

Project Summary: The city of Aurora will complete the planning and redesign of Montview Park, located at 1901 N. Chester St. A concurrent project, the Westerly Creek Flood Mitigation Project, will enlarge the creek channel and have significant impact on the recreational amenities at the park.  
Grant Award: \$45,000

### BARR LAKE STATE PARK

#### Rookery Trail

##### (Sponsored by Adams County)

Michelle Seubert, 303.655.1495

Project Summary: Barr Lake State Park, located at 13401 Piccadilly Rd., plans to finish the final section of its Rookery Trail, located in the wildlife refuge area of the park. Six hundred feet of trail will be reconstructed, and the riparian shrub and tree community around the trail will be restored.  
Grant Award: \$6,600



Sand Creek

### **8th Annual Lake Appreciation Day (Sponsored by Adams County)**

Michelle Seubert, 303.655.1495

Project Summary: Barr Lake State Park, located at 13401 Piccadilly Rd., will hold its 8th Annual Barr Lake Appreciation Day on July 13, 2013. This event engages volunteers to learn about the park and water quality issues while cleaning shorelines, eradicating noxious weeds and completing other projects throughout the park. Volunteers are rewarded with lunch and an afternoon full of fun activities.  
Grant Award: \$2,239.75

### **Nature Center Scope (Sponsored by the City of Brighton)**

Michelle Seubert, 303.655.1495

Project Summary: Barr Lake State Park, located at 13401 Piccadilly Rd., will purchase a scope and mount it near the nature center. The scope will be a memorial to long-time volunteer Lee Rowe, who recently passed away.  
Grant Award: \$1,390.63

## **BENNETT**

### **Centennial Park Planning**

Trish Stiles, 303.644.3249

Project Summary: Centennial Park, located at Madison Way and Hancock Court in Bennett, is over 20 years old and in need of a complete redesign to address safety issues and ADA compliance. The town of Bennett was awarded funds for the design of the new park.  
Grant Award: \$5,000

### **Kiowa Creek Trail Engineering**

Trish Stiles, 303.644.3249

Project Summary: The town of Bennett plans to engineer and design the Kiowa Creek Trail connection from King Soopers to an existing trail in Arapahoe County at Kiowa Bennett Rd. and C.R. 6. Funds requested for this project are for the trail sections in Adams County.  
Grant Award: \$36,000

## **BRIGHTON**

### **Benedict Park Phase 1 Renovation**

Gary Wardle, 303.655.2135

Project Summary: The city of Brighton will renovate Benedict Park, a 22-acre community level park located at 1701 Skeel St. Renovations include removing the existing pool and skatepark and installing a splash pad, sand volleyball court, skateboard area, trail, plaza, shelter, restroom, site furnishings and landscaping.  
Grant Award: \$511,800

### **Benedict Park Renovation Phase 1, Part 2**

Gary Wardle, 303.655.2135

Project Summary: The city of Brighton will renovate Benedict Park, located at 1701 Skeel St. Renovations include a sand volleyball pit, splash pad, skate spot, park shelter, the addition of a prefabricated restroom and the renovation of an existing restroom, expansion of the parking lot, security lighting and cameras, site furnishings and site work (grading, utilities, irrigation, etc.).  
Grant Award: \$137,378

## **COMMERCE CITY**

### **Future Second Creek Community Park Acquisition**

Traci Ferguson, 303.227.8788

Project Summary: Commerce City plans to acquire a 102-acre parcel near the intersection of 112th Ave. and Potomac St. for a future community-level park. This site, along with 35 acres of land Commerce City owns to the north, could in the future include such amenities as an athletic complex, playground, court game area, swimming pool, walking paths and preserved natural areas.  
Grant Award: \$440,000

### **Pioneer Park Improvements**

Traci Ferguson, 303.227.8788

Project Summary: Commerce City plans to remove the rarely used BMX track on the east side of Pioneer Park and replace it with multi-use fields. They also plan to add a restroom enclosure to this side of the park and install shade structures at the sprayground. Pioneer Park is located at 5950 Holly St.  
Grant Award: \$50,000

## **NORTHGLENN**

### **Danahy Park Renovation**

Amanda Peterson, 303.450.8950

Project Summary: The city of Northglenn will renovate the existing tennis courts and playground surfacing at Danahy Park, located near Roseanna Dr. and Livingston Dr. These components will be completed in conjunction with an overall renovation of this park that was partially funded by the Open Space Sales Tax in the February 2012 grant cycle.  
Grant Award: \$62,122

### **Pedestrian Underpass at Washington St. on Grange Hall Creek**

Pam Acre, 303.450.8792

Project Summary: The city of Northglenn will construct the Grange Hall Creek Regional Trail pedestrian underpass at Washington St. north of 104th Ave. in cooperation with a larger urban drainage project.  
Grant Award: \$100,000

### **Recreation Center Locker Room Renovation**

Amanda Peterson, 303.450.8950

Project Summary: The city of Northglenn will renovate the locker rooms at the Northglenn Recreation Center, located at 11701 Community Center Drive. The current communal showering areas will be renovated to create private showering areas and family changing areas and to allow men and women direct access to the swimming pool.  
Grant Award: \$200,000

## STRASBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### Strasburg Elementary Playground Renovation (Phase 1) (Sponsored by Adams County)

Marc Tayler, 303.622.9215

Project Summary: The Strasburg Elementary School, 56729 E. Colorado Ave., plans to remove the existing play equipment and surfacing and install new, age-appropriate equipment and new poured-in-place safety surfacing. This project also includes design for the next phase of the playground renovation.  
Grant Award: \$100,065

## STRASBURG METRO PARKS and RECREATION DISTRICT

### Facility Signage (Sponsored by Adams County) Angela Graf, 303.622.4260

Project Summary: The Strasburg Metro Parks and Recreation District plans to install signage at each of their parks located in Adams County. The signs will be placed at 1932 Burton St., 1852 Wagner St., 56423 Westview Ave. and 56401 Sunset Ave.  
Grant Award: \$5,000

### North Baseball Field Renovation (Sponsored by Adams County)

Angela Graf, 303.622.4260

Project Summary: The Strasburg Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District plans to improve their North Baseball Field, located at 56305 Sunset Ave. The project includes infield renovation, shade structures over the spectator area, landscaping and site furnishings.  
Grant Award: \$43,500



Common Grackle

## THORNTON

### 98th Avenue & Riverdale Road Park Land Extension

Diane Van Fossen, 303.255.7843

Project Summary: The city of Thornton plans to purchase a 14.1-acre parcel of land near 98th Ave. and Riverdale Rd. that will expand a future community-level park. The site is adjacent to 50 acres of land currently owned by the City of Thornton. In the future, both sites will be developed into a park that will serve a variety of needs, including play fields.  
Grant Award: \$256,343

### Thornton Sports Complex Expansion

Diane Van Fossen, 303.255.7843

Project Summary: The city of Thornton plans to purchase 11.5 acres of future park land located at 104th Ave. and McKay Rd. (adjacent to the Thornton Sports Complex). This purchase will include 7.5 water shares from the Colorado Agricultural Ditch Company which will be used to irrigate the site.  
Grant Award: \$497,520

### Northaven Park and Greenway Rehabilitation

Diane Van Fossen, 303.255.7843

Project Summary: The city of Thornton will rehabilitate the 14.5-acre Northaven Park and Greenway, located at 4485 Northaven Circle. This project includes replacing the existing irrigation system, the addition of sod to increase the size of the multi-purpose play area and the addition of a playground for the neighborhood.  
Grant Award: \$565,302

## VILLAGES AT BUFFALO RUN PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION

### Bison Neighborhood Park (Sponsored by Commerce City)

Kevin Holdren, 720.974.4130

Project Summary: The Villages at Buffalo Run Property Owner's Association plans to construct a neighborhood park at 117th Ave. and Jasper St. The park will include playground equipment for toddlers to pre-teens, a BMX bike pump track, volleyball court, horseshoes, picnic area and

enhancement of the existing landscaping and fencing.

Grant Award: \$75,399

## WESTMINSTER

### Little Dry Creek Park and Open Space

John Burke, 303.658.2126

Project Summary: The Little Dry Creek Park and Open Space will be a 35-acre multi-use facility uniquely located just south of the proposed RTD FasTracks South Westminster Station near 70th Ave. and Federal Blvd. The first phase of this project will relocate and stabilize Little Dry Creek, making it accessible to the public. A fishing pond will be constructed and a unique open space area created.  
Grant Award: \$901,005

### Bushnell Open Space Acquisition

John Carpenter, 303.658.2121

Project Summary: The city of Westminster plans to purchase a 2.83-acre property north of 122nd Ave. and east of Zuni St. The property is near the Big Dry Creek and directly adjacent to land owned by the City of Westminster for open space. The land will expand the buffer around the Big Dry Creek and preserve upland habitat for wildlife.  
Grant Award: \$225,000

### Tanglewood Creek Regional Trail

Sarah Washburn, 303.658.2226

Project Summary: The city of Westminster plans to construct a segment of trail along Tanglewood Creek (part of the I-25 Regional Trail). The city also plans to make some creek and wetland improvements to prevent further erosion of the creek channel. Tanglewood Creek is located near Delaware St. between 120th Ave. and 128th Ave.  
Grant Award: \$434,000

### Big Dry Creek Open Space Buffer

Heather Cronenberg, 303.658.2142

Project Summary: The city of Westminster plans to purchase a 9.91-acre buffer property near Big Dry Creek at 112th Ave. and Sheridan Blvd. This property is a priority one acquisition for the City's Open Space Advisory Board as it will expand the buffer around Big Dry Creek, preserve floodplain, and preserve upland habitat for wildlife.  
Grant Award: \$607,899