

OPEN SPACE SALES TAX REPORT TO RESIDENTS

2010 marks the 10th anniversary of the Open Space Sales Tax. Adams County voters demonstrated their dedication to parks and open space by approving the Open Space Sales Tax in 1999 and, in 2004, the approved reauthorization through 2026. With a full decade of activity to reflect upon, we can clearly see the positive impact the Open Space Sales Tax has made on Adams County citizens thus far.

Over the past 10 years, over \$77 million has been generated to fund parks and open space projects in cities and unincorporated areas of Adams County. Of this \$77 million, more than \$22.7 million has been returned to jurisdictions within the county through the shareback program, \$47.5 million has been distributed through the grant program and \$1.5 million has been used for administrative purposes. The remaining \$5.3 million is available for use in the next grant cycle, which will occur in fall 2010.

One key component of the Open Space Sales Tax Program is the Open Space Advisory Board. This citizen board is responsible for reviewing grant applications and making funding recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. The Advisory Board recommends funding for projects that align with the purpose of the program, have demonstrated financial support from other revenue sources and provide a range of benefits to the community as a whole. Recommending funding only for projects that meet these qualifications has ensured that Open Space Sales Tax funds are used in the most effective way possible. Grants awarded over the past 10 years have resulted in the protection of 3,127.34 acres of land, development of 18.795 miles of trails, construction of 13 playgrounds, implementation of eight athletic field projects, funding of 13 environmental education programs and improvements to a variety of existing parks.

Over the years, the Open Space Advisory Board has been conservative in recommending open space grants. As sales tax proceeds have decreased due to the economic downturn, this approach has proven to be valuable as adequate funds are still available to protect open space and passive/active recreational opportunities.

Looking back, I am very proud of the accomplishments made in the Open Space program over the last 10 years and encourage you to take a look around the county and experience the wonderful parks, trails and open spaces. A project funded by the

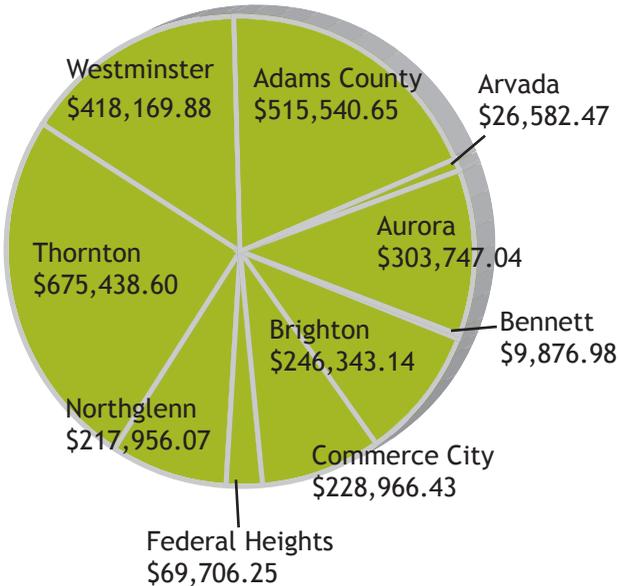
Open Space Sales Tax is probably just around the corner. If you see a sign that states, "This project funded in part with Adams County Open Space Sales Tax Funds," you are in the right place!

Gloria Rudden, Chairman
Adams County Open
Space Advisory Board



Open Space Advisory Board (l-r): Susan Worth, Edwin Hickel, Gloria Rudden, Scott Jaquith, Norma Authier and Merle Menin.

30 PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE OPEN SPACE SALES TAX IN 2009



In 1999, voters approved the creation of the Open Space Sales Tax for parks and open space projects in Adams County along with the creation of the Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB).

The sales tax is allocated three ways: 30 percent of this tax is distributed directly to the jurisdiction where it was collected, 68 percent is distributed through a competitive grant process and the remaining two percent is used for administrative costs to operate the program.

The OSAB is a seven-member citizen board appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The OSAB reviews grant applications submitted to the Open Space Sales Tax Grant Program and makes recommendations for funding to the Board of County Commissioners.

In 2004, voters approved an increase to the tax, raising it to one-fourth of one percent, or 25 cents for a \$100 purchase.

Open Space Advisory Board meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Adams County Regional Park. For more information, please visit our website at www.co.adams.co.us, or call 303.637.8039.

PROJECTS FUNDED IN FALL 2009 AND SPRING 2010

PASSIVE PROJECTS

Adams County: Mann Lake Pit Irrigation and Landscaping,
9600 Henderson Rd., Brighton
Award: \$498,000

Contact: Kurt Carlson, 303.637.8013
Almost 23 acres of trail and roadway landscaping and irrigation will be completed along the South Platte Trail Corridor between 124th and 120th Aves.

Adams County: E-470 Open Space Acquisition
Award: \$193,020
Contact: Roger Harvey,
303.637.8005

Adams County will use this grant to purchase 17.8 acres of undeveloped land on the east bank of the South Platte River directly south of E-470 to provide an important link along the South Platte River Trail north from 136th Ave. to Brighton. It will also preserve floodplain, riparian woodland and wetland habitat.

City of Aurora: High Line Canal Management Plan
Award: \$30,000
Contact: Chris Ricciardiello,
303.739.7154

Aurora will use this grant to develop a comprehensive management plan for the 4.8 miles of the Highline Canal that run through Adams County to improve recreational opportunities and restore ecological resources along the canal.

Barr Lake State Park: Lake Appreciation Day
Barr Lake State Park, 13401 Piccadilly Rd., Brighton
Award: \$3,120
Contact: Michelle Seubert,
303.655.1495

Barr Lake State Park, sponsored by Adams County, will use this grant award to support the annual cleanup event. This event will help bring public awareness to water quality and other issues facing our lakes and waterways.



Town of Bennett:
Bennett Regional Trail Plan
Award: \$12,000
Contact: Stuart McArthur,
303.644.3249

Bennett will use this grant award to create a regional trail plan to determine the best trail corridors to connect the northern and southern areas of Bennett, potentially along Kiowa Creek.

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory:
Environmental Education
14500 Lark Bunting Ln., Brighton
Award: \$25,000
Contact: Kacie Ehrenberger,
303.659.4348

This grant will help fund the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's Environmental Education Program. Thousands of students will be introduced to and engaged in the natural world within their local communities through the program.

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory:
Environmental Learning Center
at Barr Lake State Park
14500 Lark Bunting Ln., Brighton
Award: \$163,708
Contact: Tammy VerCauteren,
303.659.4348

The Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, sponsored by Adams County, will use this grant award for site improvements, including the creation of an outdoor classroom, development of a trailhead and implementation of interpretive signage.

Sand Creek Regional
Greenway Partnership
Award: \$25,000
Contact: Kate Kramer,
303.468.3263

Funding awarded for this project will support the development of a comprehensive plan for the Northeast Greenway Corridor to restore habitat, improve water quality and encourage wildlife recovery along the Northeast Greenway Corridor which includes the South Platte River. Projects will be located within unincorporated Adams County, Aurora, Brighton, Commerce City, Denver and Thornton.

City of Thornton: Eastlake Heritage
Trail - Lee Lateral Ditch
Between York St. and Colorado
Bldv., Just North of 128th Ave.
Award: \$177,030
Contact: Diane Van Fossen,
303.255.7843

Thornton will use this grant award to realign the existing Lee Lateral Ditch Trail and construct Eastlake Heritage Trail amenities to create a sense of place and honor its agricultural and railroad history. This is the first phase of implementation of the Heritage Trail concept identified in Thornton's Comprehensive Plan.

City of Thornton: Grandview Open
Space Extension Acquisition
Award: \$262,500
Contact: Diane Van Fossen,
303.255.7843

Funding for this project will go toward the purchase of 4.979 acres adjacent to the existing Grandview Ponds Open Space and Prairie Dog Habitat near Riverdale Rd. and 104th Ave. Purchase of this property will expand the open space of Grandview Ponds, protect the scenic value west of Riverdale Rd. and provide public access from Riverdale to Grandview Ponds.

City of Thornton: Pedestrian
Underpass - 104th Ave., Grange
Hall Creek Regional Trail to
Grandview Ponds
Award: \$198,138
Contact: Diane Van Fossen,
303.255.7843

Thornton will use this grant award to construct a pedestrian underpass along the Grange Hall Creek Regional Trail at 104th Ave. between Birch St. and Riverdale Rd., to connect the Riverdale Open Space with the Grandview Ponds Open Space. This project will help resolve trail user safety issues and improve wildlife corridor connectivity.



Metzger Farm

City of Westminster: Hawn-Hewit Open Space Acquisition

Award: \$1,085,000

Contact: Heather Cronenberg, 303.658.2142

Funding awarded for this project will be used for the acquisition of the 6.34-acre Hawn-Hewit property located at the northeast corner of 104th Ave. and Sheridan Blvd. Purchase of this property will protect wildlife habitat and preserve scenic value east of Sheridan Blvd. Unique to this property is the presence of a rare, white red-tailed hawk that has nested in a group of cottonwood trees on the northern boundary of the property for several years.

City of Westminster: Savory Farms Estates Open Space Acquisition

Award: \$550,000

Contact: Heather Cronenberg, 303.658.2142

This project includes the acquisition of the 8.1-acre Savory Farms Estates property located at 10900 Federal Blvd. The property is part of the old Savory Mushroom Farm. Purchase of this property will help buffer the Mushroom Pond Open Space which is a haven for wildlife including black-tailed prairie dogs, coyotes, fox and raptors, and will provide open space for the enjoyment of the community.

City of Westminster: Metzger Farm Master Plan Implementation

Lowell Blvd. in Westminster

Award: \$345,900

Contact: Heather Cronenberg, 303.658.2142

Westminster will use this grant award to implement the Metzger Farm Master Plan so the property can be opened for public use. Planned improvements include trails and a trailhead, interpretive signage, scenic overlooks, a fishing dock, a picnic area and portable restroom.

City of Westminster: Park Centre Open Space Acquisition

122nd Ave. and Park Centre Dr.

Award: \$790,000

Contact: Heather Cronenberg, 303.658.2142

Westminster will use this grant award to acquire the 14.52-acre Park Centre property. The property will expand upon the existing Big Dry Creek open space corridor, provide additional upland wildlife habitat and increase recreational opportunities.



ACTIVE PROJECTS

City of Brighton: Brighton Outdoor Family Aquatic Park - Phase I

1852 E. Bromley Ln.

Award: \$300,000

Contact: Gary Wardle, 303.655.2135

Brighton will use this grant award to help fund construction of a new Aquatic Park that addresses Brighton's need for outdoor swimming facilities. The new ADA accessible Aquatic Park will include water slides, a spray park, lazy river, landscaping and more.

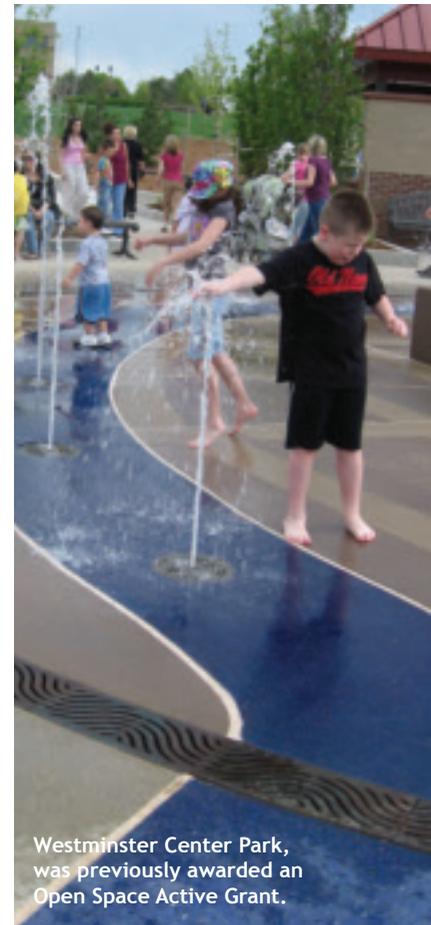
City of Commerce City: Foxton Village Playground

E. 102nd Pl. and Sable Blvd.

Award: \$35,000

Contact: Traci Ferguson, 303.227.8788

Commerce City will use this grant award to purchase and install playground equipment in the Foxton Village subdivision, providing a much-needed play area.



Westminster Center Park, was previously awarded an Open Space Active Grant.



Benedict Park, Brighton

City of Federal Heights: Ruston Park Playground Enhancements Phase II South of West 100th Ave. on Zuni St.
Award: \$88,000
Contact: Jeri Freiburger,
303.412.3540

Federal Heights will use this grant award to make improvements to Ruston Park, the main recreation area for residents in the central and northern ends of town.

City of Northglenn: Northglenn Skate Park, 11701 Community Center Dr.
Award: \$550,000
Contact: Amanda Peterson,
303.450.8950

This project involves the development of a 15,000 square foot concrete skate park at the E.B. Rains, Jr. Memorial Park for skateboards, bikes and roller blades.

City of Northglenn: Northglenn Ballfield Improvements Pecos St. and Roseanna Dr.
Award: \$70,000
Contact: Amanda Peterson,
303.450.8950
 Northglenn will use this grant award to renovate existing ballfields at North West Open Space and Rotary Park. The improvements slated to be made through this project include improved dugouts, new backstops, new fencing material and infield mix.

City of Thornton: Signal Ditch Park & Open Space Colorado Blvd. and E-470
Award: \$2,031,752
Contact: Diane Van Fossen,
303.255.7843

Thornton will use this grant award to acquire 60 acres of land along Signal Ditch. Forty-eight acres of the property will serve as active recreation areas and 12 acres will be specifically dedicated to passive recreation, including a future regional trail connection along Signal Ditch.

City of Westminster: Little Dry Creek Dog Park 69th Pl. and Lowell Blvd.
Award: \$70,000
Contact: Kathy Piper,
303.658.2227

Westminster will use this grant award to develop a 1.75-acre dog park. The park will be divided into a .75-acre area for small dogs and a 1-acre area for large dogs.

MINI GRANTS

Aurora's Morrison Nature Center: Prairie Rattlesnake Awareness and Education Initiative
Award: \$2,170
Contact: Mary Ann Bonnell,
303.859.8911

The Morrison Nature Center, sponsored by Aurora, will use this grant to enhance public outreach, education and awareness of prairie rattlesnakes.

Town of Bennett: Field of Dreams Washington and 8th St.
Award: \$5,000
Contact: Stuart McArthur,
303.644.3249

Bennett will use these grant funds to topdress and seed the town of Bennett's Field of Dreams baseball field. This project will support much-needed improvements to Bennett's only baseball field.

Town of Bennett: Trupp Park Plan Palmer and 1st St.
Award: \$5,000
Contact: Stuart McArthur,
303.644.3249

Bennett will use this grant to design landscaping and plan for amenities at Trupp Park, the town's largest park.

Bennett Parks and Recreation District: Continuation of Exterior Building and Landscaping Plan 455 1st St.
Award: \$5,000
Contact: Jeff Ratajczak,
303.644.5040

The Bennett Parks and Recreation District, sponsored by the town of Bennett, will use these grant funds to complete a mountain stucco treatment on the exterior of the Bennett Recreation Center and complete landscaping on the east side of the facility. Work on this project will be done by the Jr. Class at Bennett High School as their community service project.



Mann-Nyholt Lake