

2026 OPEN SPACE GRANT AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

JULY 6, 2026





OPEN SPACE GRANT PROGRAM

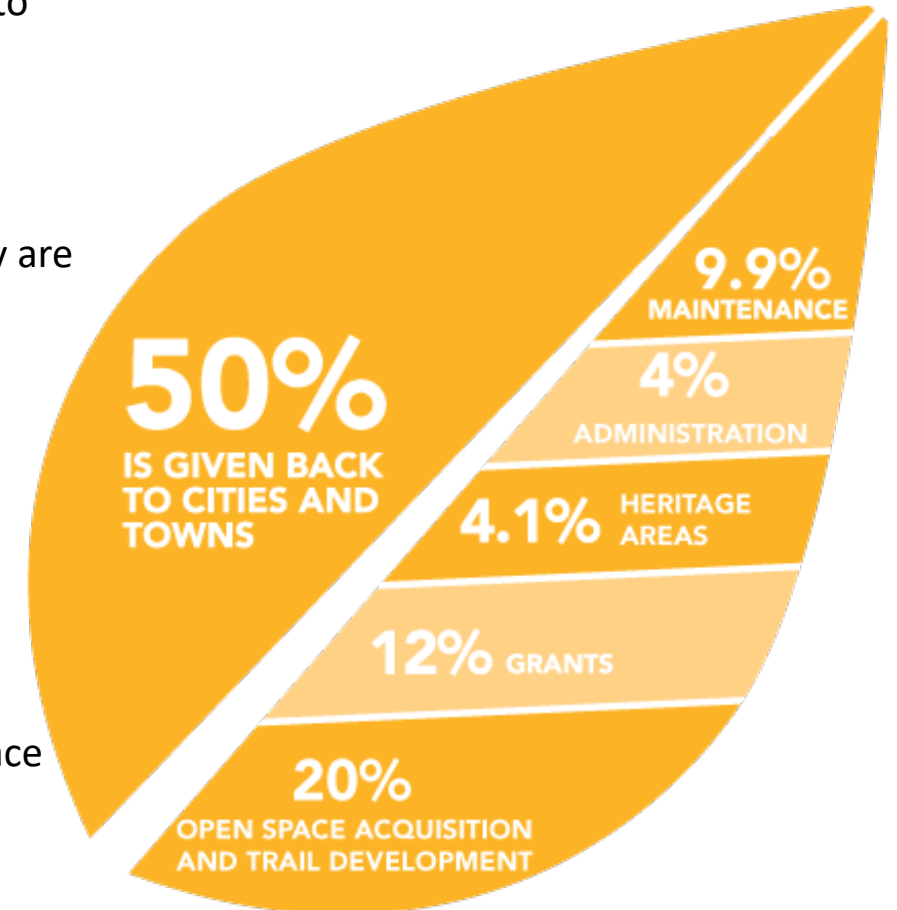
12% of revenue from the Arapahoe County Open Space Sales and Use Tax is dedicated to funding grants per the County's open space resolution

Governmental agencies in Arapahoe County are eligible to apply:

- Incorporated Municipalities
- Recreation Districts
- Special Districts authorized to provide recreational services

Since 2005, this program has invested more than \$68M in 300+ park, trail, and open space projects throughout the County

\$5.5 million allocated for grants in 2026



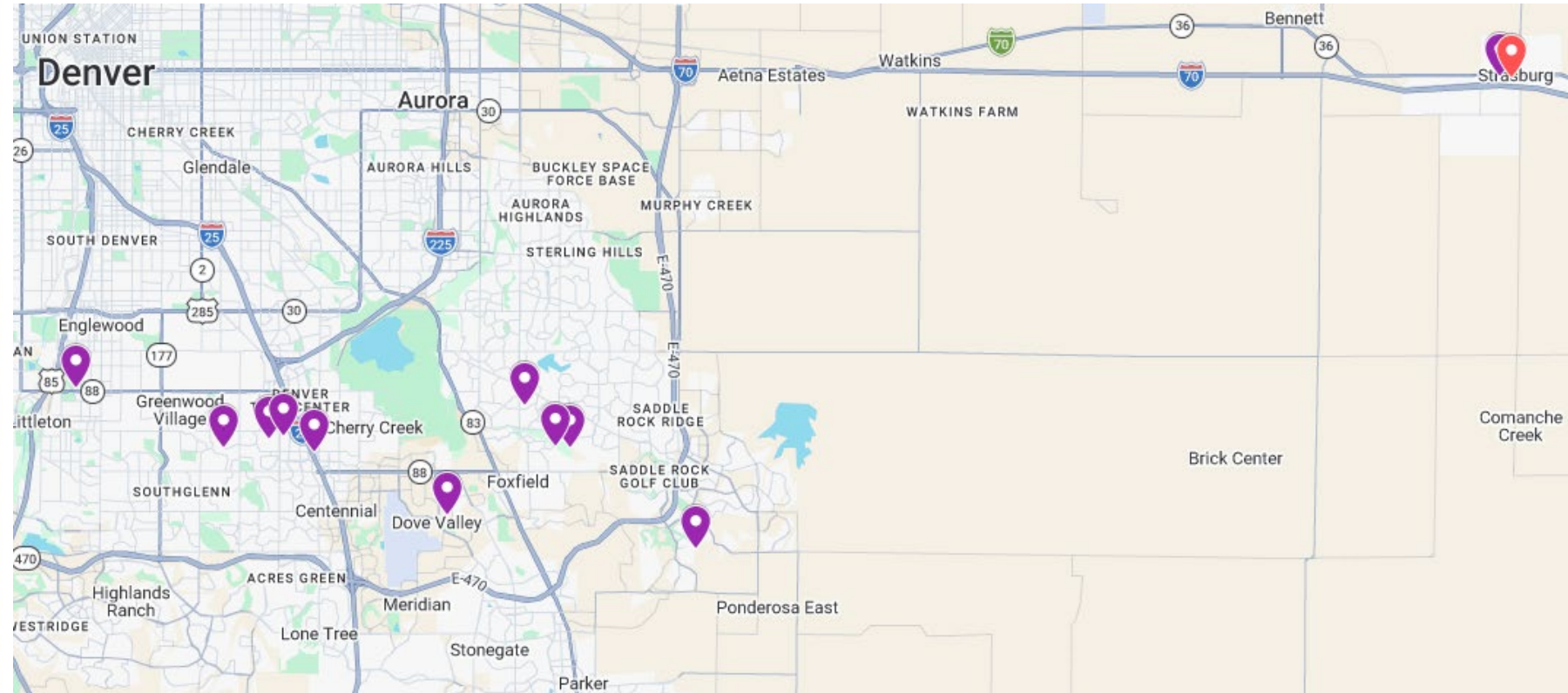


GRANT CYCLE OVERVIEW

\$5,500,000	allocated for 2026 grants
\$4,510,919	grant funding requested
12	applications received & evaluated
9	agencies applied
12	awards recommended
9	standard grants
2	small grants
1	planning grant
\$4,510,919	total funding recommended
\$5,017,445	matching funds committed
53%	matching fund percentage (portion of total project cost)



GRANT PROJECT DISTRIBUTION



STANDARD GRANTS

Final Ranking	Applicant	Grant Request	Cash Match	Total Project Cost	Project Name
	Standard Grants				
1	Goodman Metropolitan District	\$600,000	\$250,916	\$850,916	Piney Creek Regional Trail Connection
2	City of Englewood	\$600,000	\$848,432	\$1,448,432	Bellevue Park Playground
3*	City of Greenwood Village	\$600,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,850,000	Arapahoe Station Pickleball Courts
3*	Trails Park and Recreation District	\$325,000	\$406,250	\$731,250	Piney Creek Trail Connection Project
5	South Suburban Park and Recreation District	\$437,500	\$812,500	\$1,250,000	Heritage Village Park Improvements
6	City of Aurora	\$250,000	\$110,800	\$360,800	Inspiration Trail Connection
7	South Suburban Park and Recreation District	\$600,000	\$316,500	\$916,500	Sunset Park Improvements
8	City of Greenwood Village	\$600,000	\$400,000	\$1,000,000	Carson Park Pavilion Construction
9	Dove Valley Metropolitan District	\$300,000	\$600,000	\$900,000	East Broncos Parkway Trail



SMALL & PLANNING GRANTS

Final Ranking	Applicant	Grant Request	Cash Match	Total Project Cost	Project Name
	Small Grants				
1	Strasburg Metropolitan Park & Recreation District	\$22,500	\$2,500	\$25,000	Museum Site Amenities
2	Smoky Hill Metropolitan District	\$134,978	\$14,997	\$149,975	Crestline Park Reflection Garden
	Planning Grants				
1	Strasburg Metropolitan Park & Recreation District	\$40,941	\$4,550	\$45,491	Strategic Plan Update



RECOMMENDED STANDARD GRANT

Piney Creek Regional Trail Connection

Goodman Metropolitan District

Grant: \$600,000

Total Project: \$850,916

Construction of a new pedestrian bridge and trail connections on the Piney Creek Trail at Piney Creek Hollow Park

Coordinating with TPRD's Piney Creek Trail Connection project (also recommended for a grant)





RECOMMENDED STANDARD GRANT

Bellevue Park Playground

City of Englewood

Grant: \$600,000

Total Project: \$1,448,432

Replacement of an outdated playground at Bellevue Park, including:

- New play equipment and safety surfacing
- Accessible paths to improve connectivity between park amenities and Big Dry Creek Trail
- Seating, landscaping, and lighting





RECOMMENDED STANDARD GRANT

Arapahoe Station Pickleball Courts

City of Greenwood Village

Grant: \$600,000

Total Project: \$1,850,000

Conversion of a city-owned parking lot adjacent to the RTD light rail station into a new park with:

- Four pickleball courts
- Shaded seating, landscaping, and native grass revegetation
- Parking, including ADA parking for light rail users

Received additional funding from the Southeast Public Improvement Metro District





RECOMMENDED STANDARD GRANT

Piney Creek Trail Connection

Trails Park & Recreation District

Grant: \$325,000

Total Project: \$731,250

Construction of concrete trail connections that formalize heavily used social trails in Piney Creek Hollow Park

Coordinating with Goodman's Piney Creek Regional Trail Connection project (also recommended for a grant)





RECOMMENDED STANDARD GRANT

Heritage Village Park Improvements

South Suburban Park & Recreation District

Grant: \$437,500

Total Project: \$1,250,000

Partnership with the City of Centennial

Renovation of a 4.6-acre park located along the Little Dry Creek Trail, including:

- New play equipment, swings, and safety surfacing
- Larger shade pavilion, seating, site furnishings, and accessible paths
- Native, water-wise landscaping and interpretive signage to be installed in collaboration with Lois Lenski Elementary's Green Team





RECOMMENDED STANDARD GRANT

Inspiration Trail Connection

City of Aurora

Grant: \$250,000

Total Project: \$360,800

Construction of a 10-foot wide, concrete trail connection in south Aurora, which will provide a safe, accessible route between the Piney Creek Regional Trail and the Inspiration Trail network





RECOMMENDED STANDARD GRANT

Sunset Park Improvements

South Suburban Park & Recreation District

Grant: \$600,000

Total Project: \$916,500

Renovation of a 1.8-acre neighborhood park, including:

- Updated playground equipment and surfacing
- A new, larger shade pavilion and picnic tables
- Relocated basketball court
- New accessible walkways, trees, and site furnishings





RECOMMENDED STANDARD GRANT

Carson Park Pavilion Construction

City of Greenwood Village

Grant: \$600,000

Total Project: \$1,000,000

Construction of a large shaded pavilion with seating for drop-in use, rentals, and occasional city-sponsored community events





RECOMMENDED STANDARD GRANT

East Broncos Parkway Trail

Dove Valley Metropolitan District

Grant: \$300,000

Total Project: \$900,000

Construction of a 1/3-mile, 10-foot-wide multiuse trail segment along the north side of Broncos Parkway between Blackhawk and Potomac Streets





RECOMMENDED SMALL GRANT

Museum Site Amenities

Strasburg Metropolitan Park & Recreation District

Grant: \$22,500

Total Project: \$25,000

Purchase and installation of outdoor amenities at the Comanche Crossing Museum, including benches, trash receptacles, planters, and a flagpole

Goal is to improve accessibility, visitor comfort, and provide a welcoming environment





RECOMMENDED SMALL GRANT

Crestline Park Reflection Garden

Smoky Hill Metropolitan District

Grant: \$134,978

Total Project: \$149,975

Construction of a quiet reflection garden in an existing park, including:

- Plants (trees, shrubs, perennials)
- Hardscape (concrete path, stepping stones, benches, seating wall)





RECOMMENDED PLANNING GRANT

Strategic Plan Update

Strasburg Metropolitan Park & Recreation District

Grant: \$40,941

Total Project: \$45,491

The District will update its 2014 strategic plan, including community engagement, conceptual planning for specific recreation facilities, and implementation strategies

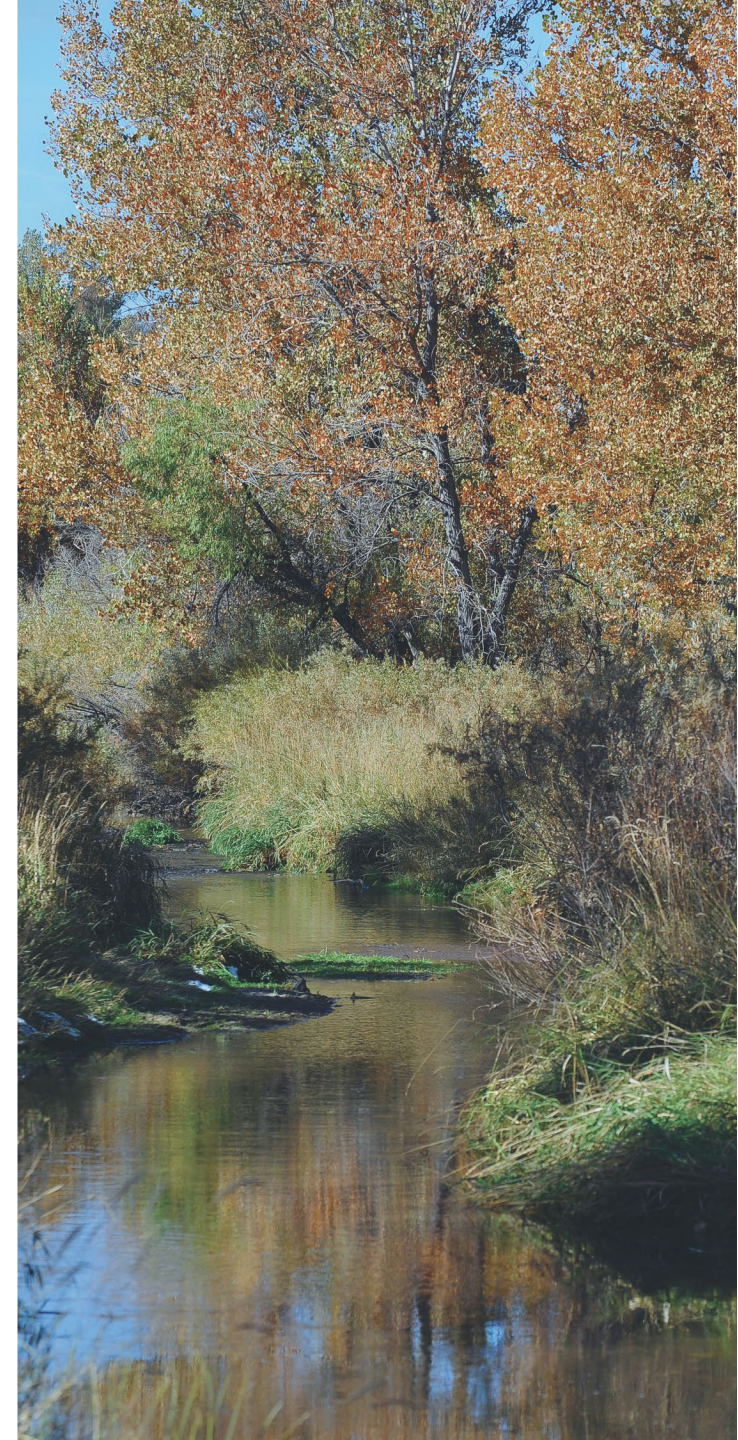
Population growth, changing demographics, and new property acquisitions necessitate updates to the District's existing plan

The district will request additional funds from Adams County Open Space for the project



2026 GRANT CYCLE OUTCOMES

\$4,510,919	total funding recommended
\$5,017,445	matching funds committed
12	projects supported
3	renovated playgrounds
1	parking lot to park conversion
3	new or improved trail connections
5	new or improved sports courts
1	collaboration with an elementary school green team
1	planning project
3	projects have a water conservation component
11	projects make recreation more accessible
9	Arapahoe County communities served



JOINT RECOMMENDATION

At the June 22, 2026, OSTAB meeting, OSTAB and Open Spaces staff recommended to the BOCC approval of funding for nine standard grants, two small grants, and one planning grant, totaling \$4,510,919, as presented on the 2026 Open Space Grants ranking sheet.

THANK YOU

