



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Proclamation

A PROCLAMATION RECONIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACES PROGRAM

WHEREAS, 2024 marks the 20th anniversary of the Arapahoe County Open Spaces program, which works to preserve natural and heritage areas, enhance neighborhood and regional parks, and maintain trails across Arapahoe County. The program began in November 2003 when residents voted to fund the program through a quarter-cent Open Space Sales and Use Tax. The tax was renewed in 2011 and permanently reauthorized in 2021 with more than 76% of the vote, ensuring that generations of residents can take advantage of the County's vast parks, trails and open spaces in perpetuity.

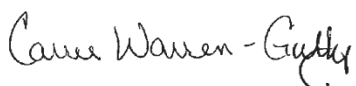
WHEREAS, since its inception, the Open Spaces program has built or improved more than 78 miles of trails, supported more than 190 park and trailhead projects, and protected more than 32,000 acres of open space. More than \$234 million has been distributed directly back to cities and towns via the Shareback program, contributing to the quality of life and overall health of County residents via trail, playground and park improvement projects. An additional \$98 million has been distributed for grants and joint projects.

WHEREAS, the Open Spaces program practices good governance, providing exemplary service and building trust with local governments and other community partners. The program has led to strong collaboration among local agencies and organizations, including the creation of five interagency working groups—strengthening our collective impact and resulting in immense benefit to our residents from safer trail crossings to accessible parks to the protection of critical wildlife habitat, stream corridors and heritage sites.

WHEREAS, the Open Spaces program celebrates the County's diverse communities through engaging events and educational programs that honor our region's rich history, and advance our commitment to health, recreation and quality of life for all.

WHEREAS, Open Spaces staff and management have earned the highest respect over the years as trusted leaders, collaborators, and fiscal administrators, always with residents' interests in mind and driving toward exceptional results and meaningful outcomes. As one of the fastest-growing counties and most desirable places to live in the state of Colorado, Arapahoe County takes great pride in maintaining our treasured outdoor spaces and thriving park system for the benefit of future generations.

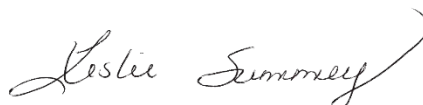
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Arapahoe County to officially recognize and celebrate the contributions that the Open Spaces Program has made to County residents and agency partners, and hereby declares that the program shall continue to build on its successes, dream big, and prosper.



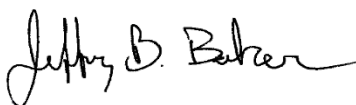
Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully
Chair of the Board



Commissioner Jessica Campbell-Swanson



Commissioner Leslie Summey



Commissioner Jeff Baker
Chair Pro Tem



Commissioner Bill L. Holen