

# 2026 OPEN SPACE GRANT AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

JULY 6, 2026





## OPEN SPACE GRANT PROGRAM

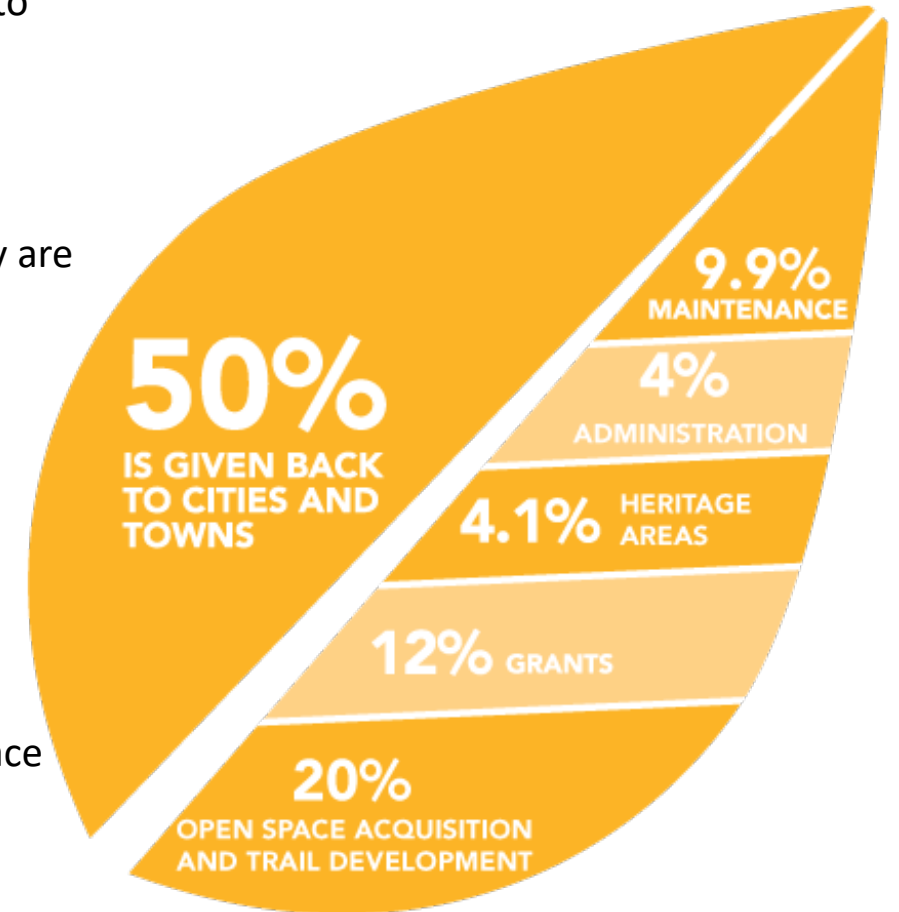
12% of revenue from the Arapahoe County Open Space Sales and Use Tax is dedicated to funding grants per the County's open space resolution

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

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



## STANDARD GRANTS

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

### Belleview Park Playground

City of Englewood

**Grant: \$600,000**

Total Project: \$1,448,432

Replacement of an outdated playground at Belleview 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

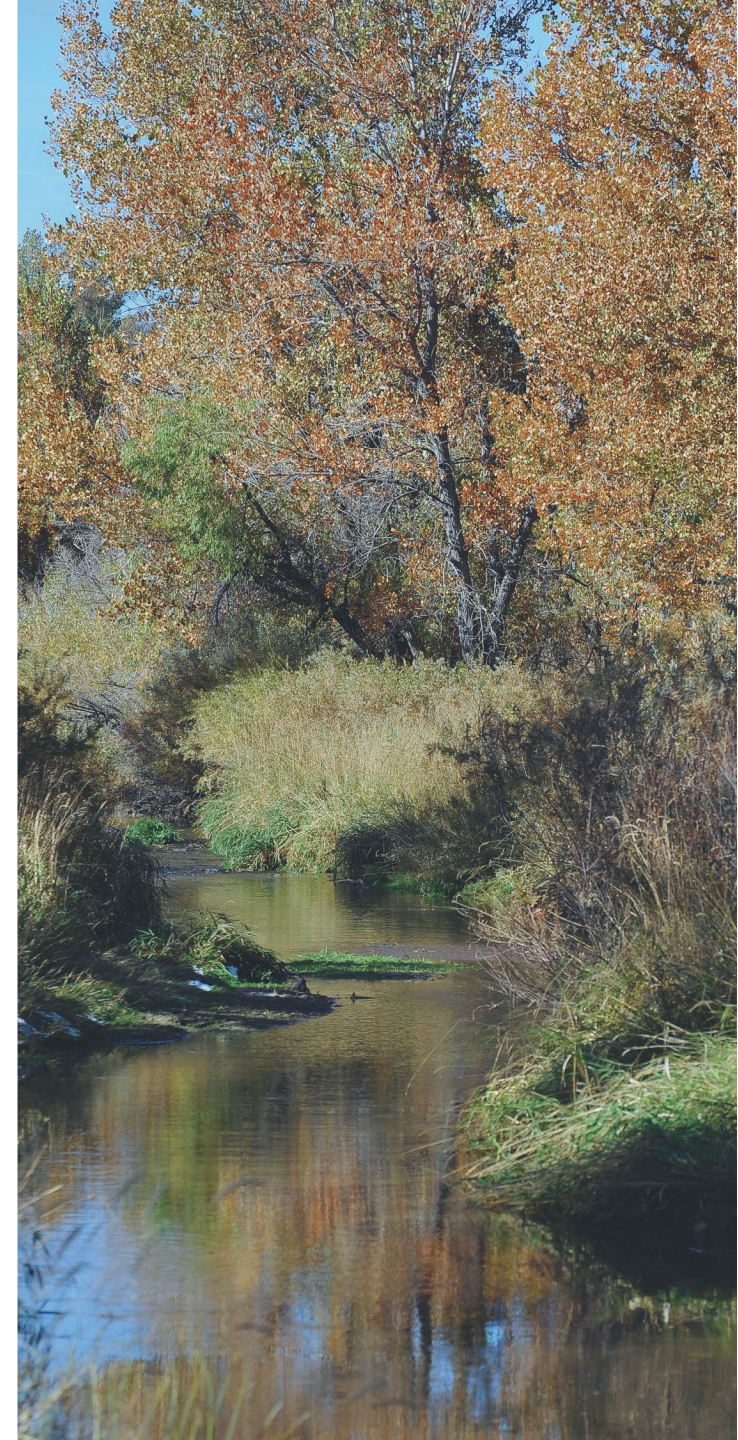
Population growth, changing demographics, and new property acquisitions necessitate updates to the District's existing plan

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



## 2026 GRANT CYCLE OUTCOMES

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

