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1001 17th St. • Suite 700 • Denver, CO 80202

main: 303-455-1000 • fax: 303-480-6790 • email: drcog@drcog.org • web: drcog.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Steve Erickson
Denver Regional Council of Governments
Director, Communications & Marketing
Office: 303-480-6716
Email: SErickson@drcog.org

DRCOG HONORS BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, ARAPAHOE COUNTY, AND THE CITY OF AURORA

May 7, 2019 (DENVER) – A group of stakeholders, led by Buckley Air Force Base, Arapahoe County and the City of Aurora received a 2019 Metro Vision Award from the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) at its annual awards celebration May 3 at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center.

The innovative project, initiated by Buckley AFB in response to an Air Force community initiative, brought partners together for a land acquisition to create a protected buffer around the base. By leveraging more than \$20 million in local, state and federal funding they acquired more than a thousand acres of open space, creating a buffer zone around the base’s perimeter. The buffer will be used to create a perimeter trail for walkers and cyclists, improving opportunities for healthy recreation, and the land conservation investments will sustain wildlife habitat and protect East Toll Gate Creek, an important regional waterway. And Buckley Air Force Base will benefit by improving military testing and training capabilities at this important strategic facility.

Other partners include the Trust for Public Land, the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and Great Outdoors Colorado.

“Our region has a well-deserved reputation for collaborating across multiple levels of government and across numerous other sectors” said Douglas Rex, executive director for DRCOG. “The compatible use buffer project represents all the benefits that can come from such broad and deep collaboration.”

The region’s plan for growth and development, Metro Vision, supports open space, connecting trails and a vibrant regional economy, and this project has us moving in the right direction.

(more)

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DRCOG's Metro Vision Award program recognizes exemplary projects, plans and initiatives that significantly improve the quality of life in the Denver region and its communities. The regional council has been honoring outstanding achievements for more than 30 years.

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The Denver Regional Council of Governments is a planning organization where local governments collaborate to establish guidelines, set policy and allocate funding in the areas of transportation and personal mobility; growth and development; and aging and disability resources.