

THE STAPLETON

Front Porch

DENVER, CO FOREST CITY FALL 2002

Stapleton Breaks Ground for First Affordable Senior Housing

Rendering courtesy of TP Development



Above: Architect's rendering of the lobby entrance to the Clyburn Apartments. **Below left:** Jackie Peterson, owner of TP Development LLC, the builder of Clyburn Apartments. **Below right:** Dignitaries break ground for the Clyburn Apartments, scheduled for completion in August 2003.

Photos by Roger Whitacre



Ground was recently broken at Stapleton by TP Development LLC for the first affordable senior citizen housing to be built at the former

Stapleton International Airport.

Located in Stapleton's first mixed-use residential neighborhood, Clyburn Apartments will provide 100 rental homes specially priced to be affordable for senior citizens 55 years of age and over who earn up to \$33,000 a year. The rental homes are the first of 4,000 apartments to be built at Stapleton over the next fifteen years as part of a community that will also include 8,000



for-sale homes. The Clyburn Apartments are scheduled for completion in August of 2003.

"This is truly an exciting residential development, whereby our seniors will

not only have an affordable and desirable housing facility, but will be adjacent to a city park, King Soopers, retail, housing, and other amenities within walking distance," said Ms. Jackie *(continued on back page)*

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DENVER, CO
PERMIT #3735

Printed with soy ink.



**Water Conservation
at Stapleton** Pages 2 & 3



Denver Water & Forest City Stapleton Work to Save Our Water

Sustainable Development at Stapleton

The internationally acclaimed Stapleton Development Plan and its commitment to water conservation and other principles of “sustainable development” guide Forest City’s redevelopment of Denver’s former airport. Conceived by the citizens of Denver in a planning process that began in 1989 and adopted as an amendment to Denver’s Comprehensive Plan by the Denver City Council in 1995, The Stapleton Development Plan has become a national and international model for “smart growth” that utilizes urban infill development as an alternative to urban sprawl.

Forest City is working closely with Denver Water and the other appropriate entities of the City and County of Denver to address most effectively the opportunities for water conservation at Stapleton. It is projected that those measures will result in savings of 80 million gallons of water annually in Stapleton’s first neighborhood, which is under construction and being occupied now.

The following are among the highlights of Forest City’s commitment to water conservation as expressed in its redevelopment of Stapleton:

Conservation

- The development of compact, urban neighborhoods where

Below: The Stapleton Development Plan (“The Green Book”)

lots as small as 3,600 square feet require less landscape to be irrigated, producing an estimated 35 percent reduction in the average water use per household.



Above: Stapleton homes have small yards that minimize outdoor water use.



Above and below: Ann Bacon displays the Stapleton Visitor Center’s landscape demonstration garden of xeriscape alternatives.

- A Landscape Master Plan that dictates landscape will be chosen for its low water consumption and resistance to drought is receiving active consideration.

- Drip irrigation and other measures designed to reduce outdoor water use are being implemented.
- A requirement that all homes at Stapleton must, at a *minimum*, comply with the water and energy conservation elements of the “Built Green” standards of the Home Builders Association of Metro Denver.
- The installation of pipe for reclaimed water is already underway to prepare for the use of non-potable water when it is available from Denver Water for the irrigation of parks and open space.
- A Stapleton Water Management Plan is being created by Forest City, in consultation with Denver Water staff.

Public Education

- The Stapleton Visitor Center includes a demonstration garden that educates potential homebuyers, business owners and members of the public about attractive landscape alternatives that are drought resistant and consume less water.
- Working with Denver Water, educational materials about water conservation are being distributed to the new residents and business owners at Stapleton through the Forest City web site, the Stapleton Intranet and all other available channels.

Below: The Sustainability Master Plan Draft



Published and funded by:
Forest City Stapleton, Inc.
1401 17th Street, Suite 510
Denver, CO 80202
Telephone: 303-295-1090



Website: www.StapletonDenver.com

Email: info@stapletondenver.com
Editor: Tom Gleason
Design & Layout:
Fine Print Brochures & Photography
Photography: Steve Larson

SAVE OUR SHADE

The Drought Isn't Over – Stop Watering Lawns!

As of October 1st Denver Water customers may not use sprinklers.

Keep Watering Trees and Shrubs!

Drought stressed trees need moisture to avoid disease. Water only with deep root devices, soaker hose or hand sprayer (no sprinklers allowed).

Tips on Tree Watering in a Drought



- Apply water to full width of the critical root zone (width of the longest tree branches).
- Water slowly and deeply (about 8 inches into the soil).
- Water one or two times a month from October to March if the temperature is over 40 degrees and there is no snow cover.

For more details on watering trees visit www.watersaver.org

For general drought information visit www.denverwater.org





Call for a free brochure – 303-628-6343



DENVER WATER

OCT - MAR TREE WATERING SCHEDULE

For temperatures above 40 degrees with no snow cover
Water one or two times a month

Tree Trunk Diameter	TREE DIAMETER (in inches)																			
	<1"	1"	2"	4"	6"	8"	10"	12"	14"+											
WATERING DEVICE											2	5	10	20	30	40	50	60	70+	
											MINUTES									
																				
											2	5	10	20	30	40	50	60	70+	
																				
MINUTES									1	3	5	10	15	20	25	30	35+			
																				
MINUTES									2	5	10	20	30	40	50	60	70+			

COMING SOON!

Watch the Stapleton Website at www.stapletondenver.com
for "New Leaf: Tips for Sustainable Living."

MEET THE STAPLETON PRINCIPALS

Trish Kuhn, Stapleton Elementary School



Trish Kuhn

Hello. My name is Trish Kuhn. It is my privilege to be the principal of the Denver Public School elementary school (Early Childhood Education through grade 5) at the new Denver Public School campus at Stapleton.

Like so many of you, I am extremely impressed with the evidence of "Smart Growth" I see in the development of the Stapleton Community. The outdoor nature and recreational opportunities are many and

varied. Numerous and extensive parks, walking and biking trails and open space systems will provide an outstanding environment and hands-on opportunities. For example, Bluff Lake Nature Center, located along Sand Creek near Smith Road, offers both classroom presentations and accommodates field trips for school classes. The Urban Farm and the Sand Creek Regional Greenway also offer children the opportunity to learn first-hand about ecosystems, plants and animals in a beautiful and authentic setting.

Educational Program

The Stapleton Community values of "Lifelong Learning" and quality guided the Advisory Committee to adopt the nationally recognized Core Knowledge curriculum program. You may be asking "What is Core Knowledge?" Quoting directly from Core Knowledge literature, Core Knowledge is "An Idea; A Guide to Specific Shared Content." It is an educational improvement movement with a track record of success. The Core Knowledge Sequence is a detailed outline of specific content that is taught in kindergarten through eighth grade in several content areas. Core Knowledge is based on the idea that elementary and middle schools need a curriculum that is solid, sequenced, specific and shared (the four S's), to help children establish strong foundations, grade by grade. The Core Knowledge content guidelines include Language Arts/English, History and Geography, Visual Arts, Music, Mathematics, Science, all sequenced from Kindergarten through eighth grade. In our school, the Core Knowledge content guidelines will account for 50% of the school's educational program. This will allow for inclusion of other DPS curricula, Character Education and activities for teaching respect for racial and cultural diversity. The Core Knowledge Program also encourages teacher creativity, flexibility and ingenuity in developing lesson plans.

The Benefits of Core Knowledge

Many benefits are derived from the implementation of Core Knowledge. Core Knowledge provides a school-wide academic focus and encourages consistency of instruction. It provides content-rich instruction for students and a well-defined structure for parents regarding what their students are expected to learn in school. For example, First grade Language Arts includes Reading and Writing, Poetry, Fiction and Sayings and Phrases. (continued on page 9)

Nelson Chase, The Odyssey School

Photos by Steve Larson



Nelson Chase

The Odyssey School will be moving to Stapleton for the 2003-2004 school year!

In a unique and collaborative partnership, Odyssey will share a new building currently being built by Denver Public Schools (DPS) with a new elementary school.

Founded in 1998 by a dedicated group of parents and teachers, the Odyssey School is a Kindergarten through 8th grade public school chartered by DPS to serve northeast Denver. We currently teach 216 students in an Expeditionary Learning environment.

The school draws its direction and strength from Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound Design Principles. These educational principles provide a powerful framework for personal growth through physical challenge and service. The curriculum is designed around rigorous,

purposeful, project-based learning expeditions tied to Colorado State Standards. The Odyssey School's learning experience includes: a focus on reading and writing through literature, a rigorous math program (Investigations and Connected Math), fine arts, documentation of students' work through portfolios, computers to develop students' research and thinking skills, and adventure with a focus on environmental education.

Gone are the ringing bells, rows of desks, and fill-in-the-blank worksheets. We believe children learn best through personal, direct experience. For all or most of the day, students and teachers are engaged in challenging learning expeditions that explore a topic or theme in depth. Their studies call for intellectual inquiry, physical exploration, and community service. On a given day, their explorations may take them outside the school building to do environmental research, conduct interviews in local businesses, or carry out other fieldwork assignments. Each day also provides opportunities for quiet reflection — time for students to write in their journals, gather their thoughts, and reflect on what they have learned. Students work individually and in small groups. Together

they learn to draw on the strengths of a whole class and to develop the curiosity, knowledge and skills necessary for successful adulthood.

The Adventure program at Odyssey supports learning expeditions in a variety of ways throughout the school year. Every fall and spring students take part in camping trips which vary in length from two to five days, depending on grade level. Trips involve a blend of adventure activities, inquiry, and teambuilding. For example, this year the fifth and sixth grade classes are working on a learning expedition titled "Borders," with a focus on immigration. Their fall camping trip takes them to Colorado's San Luis Valley for hiking, rock climbing, a service project in a homeless shelter and an in-depth investigation of immigration in the area and its impact on local history and culture.

The Odyssey School comprehensively evaluates student progress. We have clearly defined standards based, in part, on the Denver Public Schools Content Standards. We employ a number of assessment tools: portfolios, developmental guidelines and checklists, summary reports, public exhibitions, and standardized testing, including the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) and the (continued on page 9)



Nelson Chase and Trish Kuhn tour the school construction site.

STAPLETON. A TIMELINE.

1929 DENVER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Called the "Union Station of the Air," and heralded as the most modern facility in the country, the Denver Municipal Airport was constructed by the City of Denver. Many saw the building of the airport as a way of insuring Denver's future growth and prosperity.

1950 THE JET AGE 1950s - 1980s

By the late 1950s, the jet age was a reality and the need to expand the facilities and runways became a necessity. Additional land was acquired from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. In 1964, the airport's name was officially changed to Stapleton International Airport. By 1985, the airport had grown to 4,700 acres.

1987 DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS BORN

In 1987, the Colorado General Assembly authorized voters to decide whether a parcel of land in Adams County could be annexed to the City and County of Denver for a new airport site. In 1988, voters approved the annexation and Denver voters endorsed the plan in the May 1989 election.

1990 CREATING THE STAPLETON DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

In 1990, a group of civic and business leaders created the Stapleton Development Foundation. Financed by private philanthropy, this non-profit group was formed as a civic vehicle to work in partnership with the City administration. In 1993, Denver entered into a partnership agreement with the Foundation.

1995 STAPLETON PLAN ADOPTED – AIRPORT CLOSES

In 1995, after an extensive community outreach effort, the Foundation produced the Stapleton Development Plan, known as the "Green Book." This document established the framework for redeveloping Stapleton. The Denver City Council adopted the Stapleton Development Plan. After 66 years, Stapleton International Airport closes.

1999 FOREST CITY SELECTED MASTER DEVELOPER

Through 1999 and 2000, Forest City worked with the City of Denver, the Stapleton Development Corporation, the Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board, the Stapleton Foundation and the Denver community, as well as scores of design, financial, and legal experts to make the Stapleton "Green Book" become a reality.

2001 STAPLETON CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

In the spring, Forest City purchased the first Stapleton land from the City and begins construction of streets and utilities. By fall, construction began on the Visitor Center, model homes and the Quebec Square Retail Center.

2002 STAPLETON VISITOR CENTER & MODELS OPEN

The New Year sees the opening of the Stapleton Visitor Center. By spring, Stapleton's first model homes opened. Summertime found the Quebec Square Regional Retail Center opening and construction beginning on the East 29th Avenue Town Center and Town Green Apartments. The summer also finds the first residents calling Stapleton home. By year-end, Stapleton is well on its way to becoming Denver's next great neighborhoods.

2003 A YEAR OF FIRSTS

This summer sees the opening of our first Town Center. East 29th Avenue Town Center, with 175,000 square feet of retail shops, grocery store, health club, drug store and two banks, is slated for September. In August, a new Denver Public Schools campus, shared by an elementary school and the Odyssey Charter School, will welcome its first students. And new residents will continue to move in – meeting new neighbors and building a community at Stapleton.



THE STAPLETON VISION

THE STAPLETON DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A development of the magnitude and importance of Stapleton calls for a clear vision that reflects the values of the community as well as state-of-the-art planning and design. Beginning in 1989, with the decision to build the new Denver International Airport, a group of civic and community leaders began planning the future of the Stapleton property. In 1995, they published the Stapleton Development Plan, more affectionately known as "The Green Book". This document identifies a set of principles to guide the development. These principles address economic, environmental, and social objectives, as well as the physical design of the community and methods to manage and implement development over time.

"The Stapleton site will be a network of urban villages, employment centers and significant open spaces, all linked by the commitment to the protection of natural resources and the development of natural resources." — 1995 Stapleton Development Plan.

PARKS & OPEN SPACES

Parks and open space define many of Denver's great neighborhoods. Washington Park, Cheesman Park, Congress Park, City Park and many others are grand public spaces that are part of Denver's legacy. Stapleton will build on that tradition devoting nearly 30% of its 4,700 acres to parks and open space, increasing the size of the Denver Park system by more than 25%.

The centerpiece of Stapleton's 1,116-acre regional park system will be the 80-acre "Central Park," nearly the size of Denver's Washington Park. Bikeways and paths, similar to those found along Denver's Cherry Creek, will grace Stapleton's Sand Creek and Westerly Creek Greenways. On Stapleton's north border, the community's extensive bike and trail system will link into the 17,000-acre Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

EDUCATION

The Stapleton Development Plan calls for an important focus on education with a goal of creating a community in which "Lifelong Learning" becomes an integral and valued component of Stapleton's new neighborhoods. Stapleton schools will be as diverse as its residents with new neighborhood based Denver Public Schools (DPS) living in harmony with charter, private, vocational and online learning opportunities. Current plans call for at least four elementary schools, two middle schools and a high school as well as a number of early childhood learning facilities. Stapleton's first elementary school, scheduled to break ground in spring 2002 and open in August 2003, will be an innovative campus with a 350-student DPS elementary school (K-5) sharing common facilities and play areas with the 220-student Odyssey Charter School (K-8), an expeditionary learning school modeled after Outward Bound.

LIVING AT STAPLETON

Stapleton will become Denver's next great neighborhoods. Tree-lined streets, parks and traditional architecture grace communities that are beautiful, walkable and wired for the technology of the 21st century. Stapleton features a diverse and distinctive collection of homes and apartments, many less than a ten-minute stroll from shops, schools, offices and parks. Singles to seniors, first-time buyers and empty nesters – all will find a lifestyle to fit their tastes and needs. Over the next 15 years, Stapleton's planned 12,000 homes and apartments will create exciting residential opportunities for more than 30,000 residents. New homes priced from the mid \$100s to over \$700,000. **Visitor Center and Models are now open.** Apartment homes will be available in 2003.

Kiss the burbs goodbye.



STAPLETON

the art of urban living



SHOPPING AT STAPLETON

Take a walk down Main Street! At Stapleton, many homes and offices are within a ten-minute walk from one of five planned town centers. Each town center offers a town green and a main street of two- to four-story buildings, with ground-floor retail shops and restaurants. Upper floors will be residential flats, townhomes, live/work lofts and offices. **East 29th Avenue**, Stapleton's first town center, will feature a full-service King Soopers grocery store along with stores and restaurants providing coffee, dry cleaning, ice cream, banking and more. Over two million square feet of regional shopping centers are planned with the first, **Quebec Square Regional Retail Center**, now open with Super Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Home Depot, Office Depot, Just For Feet and much more.

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Sustainability is the management of natural, economic and social systems in a manner that enhances quality of life yet does not diminish the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Stapleton is grounded on the principles of sustainability. Energy efficiency, recycling, building materials, landscaping, water, and indoor air quality as well as diversity of housing and public transportation opportunities, are all priority concerns. The integration of these considerations into the physical design of Stapleton is setting the community apart. All homes are required to meet or exceed the standards of the Colorado Built Green Program. Stapleton will be the largest Built Green community in the nation.

WORKING AT STAPLETON

Proximity. Variety. Technology. Stapleton is the ideal spot to relocate your business. Ten minutes to Downtown Denver and 20 minutes to Denver International Airport. Twelve thousand diversely priced homes and apartments. Three million square feet of retail space and two square miles of parks let you walk to lunch. Ten million square feet of planned office space – from the quaint village setting of Town Square, to the premier image and views of the 12-story One Tower Center, to the more individualized settings of the Small Office Pads – a wide range of choices. Our Telecommunication Master Plan ensures a wired future for your business. And with Stapleton in Denver's Urban Enterprise Zone, we can offer significant tax incentives.

TECHNOLOGY AT STAPLETON

The Stapleton Technology Master Plan provides for the three important components of an integrated community telecommunication plan: Home Wiring, Service Providers and a Community Network. Stapleton Residential Wiring Guidelines ensure high capacity, high-quality home telephone, video and data wiring systems for every home, for today and the future. Two service providers – AT&T Broadband and Qwest Communications – will provide a complete array of telecommunication services. StapletonOnline.com, our intranet site, will connect the entire community, providing Stapleton residents and workers with lifetime learning and a closer, more convenient network with forums, newsgroups, community calendars, chats and updates that focus on life at Stapleton.

LIVING AT STAPLETON.

Urban living just east of Downtown Denver.
Homes, Townhomes, and Flats from the mid \$100s to over \$700,000.
Model Homes Now Open.



McStain Neighborhoods
2 & 3 bedroom Row homes starting from the mid \$200s
303-399-9799



Trimark Communities
2 & 3 bedroom Flats and Townhomes combined in a large Mansion home starting from the mid \$100s
303-320-4847



KB Home
2 & 3 bedroom Gallery Series homes starting from the mid \$200s
888-KB HOMES



John Laing Homes
3 & 4 bedroom homes starting from the low \$300s
303-316-0873



McStain Neighborhoods
3 & 4 bedroom homes starting from the mid \$300s
303-399-9799



KB Home
2 & 3 bedroom Coach House Series homes starting from the low \$200s
888-KB HOMES



Wonderland Homes
2 & 3 bedroom Garden Court homes starting from the mid \$200s
303-393-9099



Parkwood Homes
3 & 4 bedroom homes starting from the low \$300s
303-320-4938



New Town Builders
2 & 3 bedroom homes starting from the mid \$200s
720-941-0359

COMING SOON: SANFORD, A BEAZER HOMES COMPANY — HOMES FROM THE MID \$400S

VISITOR CENTER AND MODEL HOMES NOW OPEN.

Located 5 miles east of Downtown at Syracuse St. and Martin Luther King Blvd.

Visitor Center open daily 10am – 6pm 303-355-9600.

Models and Sales Court open Monday, noon - 6pm, Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 6pm.

www.StapletonDenver.com



DENVER ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION

Promoting Quality of Life through Better Architecture

By John B. Rogers, FAIA

The Denver Architectural Foundation has completed its tenth year assisting the public in understanding the impact of architecture on the quality of life in Denver. It's 2002-2003 year starts out on an exciting note with a lecture by Paul Goldberger, architectural critic for the *New Yorker*. Goldberger has been called the most influential architectural critic in the United States. He is now at work on a book that will tell the story of the redevelopment of the site of the World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan and he will explore that topic in Denver on the evening of Thursday, November 14th.

During the past year the Foundation has sponsored other prominent speakers including Blair Kamin, architecture critic of the Chicago Tribune, and Ed Finer, chief architect of the United States General Services Administration. It sponsored "hardhat" tours of newly built public buildings including the Cable Building and the new performing arts building, both at the University of Denver, the US Courthouse Annex, Faith Bible Church, and Greenhouse Lofts at Cherry Creek.

One of the most exciting projects for the DAF is working with the Denver Public Schools on a program called Architecture

Photo by Gaspar Tinngale



Paul Goldberger

and Education. Up to now about sixty children have participated in second through eighth grades at Slavens School and it will be introduced into other schools as well. The goal of the program is to help students integrate knowledge and skills acquired in core courses through working on architectural projects. The students work with

school personnel as well as architects, landscape architects and engineers provided by DAF. Activities include learning about positive and negative space, understanding the difference between a view, an elevation and a section of a building, and producing a scale drawing. One of the first assignments of fifth graders is to sketch a floor plan of their classroom and complete a scale drawing of the space. As a culmination of the class, each student team designs a floor plan, sectional drawings and an elevation for a proposed recreational facility at their school. The students construct models of their design and receive critiques from their teacher, architect, and fellow students. This exercise is designed to help the students learn about architecture and also to provide a hands-on project that uses the students' skills in math, reading and writing. These are three of the areas which the state of Colorado has chosen to evaluate in the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP), the only statewide measurement for student achievement.

For information about membership in the Denver Architectural Foundation and the November 14th Paul Goldberger lecture, call 303-575-8565.

Kuhn (continued from page 4)

In Music they are introduced to Elements of Music, Listening and Understanding (Composers, Orchestra, Opera, Ballet, Jazz) and Songs. Mathematics begins the study of Numbers and Number Sense, Money, Patterns, Computation, Measurement, and Geometry.

The **Core Knowledge Foundation** provides ongoing support for and a vast array of resources and services to educators and schools. The Core Knowledge Foundation is "dedicated to excellence and fairness in the early education." It is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to improving children's education.

Currently over 1000 schools from 46 states and more than 30 schools in Colorado use the Core Knowledge curriculum. The **DPS Garden Place Academy** in Globeville has been successfully implementing the Core Knowledge program for four years. Described as "an enhancement to the [district] Literacy Initiative," Core Knowledge has been infused into their curriculum.

Core Knowledge on the Web

For further information and other helpful sources about Core Knowledge, go to www.coreknowledge.org. For lists of Core Knowledge schools in Colorado, including: CSAP (Colorado Student Achievement Proficiency exam) data; Performance Results for schools; Alignment of Core Knowledge curriculum with Colorado State Standards; upcoming conferences and other related links, go to www.ckcolorado.org.

I am very excited about the unique opportunity to help create the first school at Stapleton. Additionally, I am looking forward to partnering with the Odyssey Charter School to be housed in our new school facility. I believe that, together, this school environment will provide a solid and high quality foundation for learning for many of Stapleton's youngest "Lifelong Learners."

Chase (continued from page 4)

Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

Odyssey has a highly qualified and dedicated staff. Each dual age classroom has a teacher and a full time assistant allowing for a student to adult ratio of 12:1. All teachers are Colorado State certified, with 60% holding graduate degrees. All of the teaching assistants have a bachelor's degree with some teaching experience.

We are committed to providing a rich learning environment for students from diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds – students with a range of abilities, affinities, and strengths. Odyssey's only requirement for admission is family involvement. As a school of choice, admission to the Odyssey School is done via a lottery. Applications may be made at any time; however, to take part in the lottery for the 2003-2004 school year, applications should be received by February 26, 2003.

For further information about the Odyssey School, call the school at 303-316-3944 or visit our website at www.odysseydenver.org.

TRISH KUHN

Trish Kuhn has a Specialist in Education Degree (Ed.S.) in Administration, Curriculum and Supervision from the University of Colorado at Denver. She has served as a principal at two K-8 schools, one of which was a charter school. Ms. Kuhn has more than twenty years experience in Second Language Instruction - including English as a Second Language and has managed both Back to Basics/ Core Knowledge Programs as well as enrichment programs. She has been the recipient of the Colorado John Irwin School of Excellence Award and has been honored in Who's Who in American Education for educational leadership.

NELSON CHASE

Nelson is currently in his first year as Executive Director of the Odyssey School. Previously, he worked with the Peace Corps as a Regional Director in Denver from 2000 to 2002 and, from 1994 to 2000, as Country Director in the countries of Moldova, Albania, and Slovakia leading educational and community development programs. Nelson also worked for many years with the Colorado Outward Bound School in Denver, teaching courses and directing a variety of school programs. Nelson has Masters Degrees in both Social Work and Business Administration. His undergraduate degree is in Anthropology.



THE TRAIL IS OPEN

...BUT THE JOURNEY HAS JUST BEGUN

Sand Creek Regional Greenway is now open for exploration! On June 8th, Phase 1 of the greenway was completed. Winding through Aurora, Denver and Commerce City, the trail now connects the Platte River Greenway and High Line Canal, creating a 50+ mile loop through the Denver metro area. Follow the map to walk, bike, or ride your horse along the trail to experience open space close to home and reminders of the industrialization that made our cities strong. Don't forget your binoculars for a closer look at deer, fox, hawks and herons!

Sand Creek Regional Greenway has received funds from citizens, Great Outdoors Colorado, private grants, and the three cities, but we still need your financial support to complete such greenway projects as:

- Taking the final 1.75 miles of trail off-street, away from traffic
- Amenities like water fountains, restrooms and picnic areas
- A first-class nature center at Star K Ranch

Whether by foot, wheel or horseback, come find the wilderness in your city. We appreciate your support. Happy trails!



Fill out and return this portion with your contribution.

DONOR CARD

Yes! I want to help launch Phase 2 of Sand Creek Regional Greenway today.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership or SCRGP.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Visa or # _____

MasterCard number (not one) # _____

Signature _____ Expiration Date _____

WE'RE READY TO START PHASE 2

Your contribution will allow us to continue work on the greenway. Please make your tax-deductible donation today.

Mail your contribution to:

SCRGP
3401 Quebec St., Ste. 8100
Denver, CO 80207

For more information call:
303-393-7700

Bluff Lake Nature Center: *Where Minds Run Wild*

by Sue Schafer

When I think back to my childhood, I remember carefree days of playing in the creek that ran through my backyard. I would run out of my house early in a summer morning with my yellow bucket and spend the day, with my best friend, knee-deep in golden water catching minnows and tadpoles. It was in these waters that our imaginations would take flight and our minds would run wild with adventure. After an entire day of chasing wild beasts, fighting pirates and building forts, we would drag our tired bodies back home, each proud of the day's accomplishments.

That stream ran deep in me and taught me a love of nature that led to a career in Environmental Education. My days as an adult are not that much different from days as a child. I have the privilege of leading groups of students on hikes at Bluff Lake Nature Center everyday. Most of our students feel out of place and even scared at times because their trip to Bluff Lake is

their first experience in a natural setting. Every now and then a child will surprise me. I remember one particular little boy from

Photo by Steve Larson



Children have an outdoor classroom at Bluff Lake.

Montview Elementary School. Their class had walked over for a program and this little boy ended up in my group. He spent most of his time lagging behind and talking to his friend. I tried to include him in our discussions but he just was not interested in what I had to say. I finally asked him why he was so distracted. To my surprise, this little boy spends many of his afternoons at Bluff Lake. Because our park is so close to home, he and his

friends can ride their bikes here and spend their spare time exploring our trails. He was disinterested in my presentation because he already knew all the information. He was able to tell me where the deer hide, when the owls nest and how to spot the bald eagle. This young man inspired me to remember the awe and wonder of discover-

ing nature for the first time. Maybe all kids, especially city kids, need a creek to play in.

Bluff Lake provides an opportunity to look for animals and explore the "wild" in the city while being environmentally aware and protecting the natural resources. Our trails allow a close and personal look at creeks, wetlands and prairies. Our classes provide a hands-on approach allowing students to enjoy playing in nature while teaching them how to tread lightly.

Bluff Lake Nature Center is open everyday from dawn to dusk. Free parking and easily accessible trails make Bluff Lake a perfect place for all visitors. Located approximately at 30th and Moline, Bluff Lake is close to downtown Denver and Aurora. School programs are offered throughout the year for students in grades K-4. Funding is available to assist qualifying schools with program fees and transportation. For more information, contact Bluff Lake Nature Center at 303-393-7700 (ext. 403) or visit our web site at: www.blufflakenaturecenter.org.

Philips Elementary School Gets a New Playground



Contractors from Stapleton contributed more than \$70,000 in labor and materials and Johnson & Wales University raised more than \$10,000 to turn the knee-scraping gravel playground at Philips Elementary School into a small field of green that is now a neighborhood showplace.

Principal Charles Babb applauded Mosaic Consulting, M.A. Mortenson, Twin Peaks, Urban Farmer, Valley Crest, Wards Landscaping and Johnson & Wales for their concern for the neighborhoods around Stapleton. Landscape architects from the University of Colorado at Denver had worked with students, teachers and the community to develop an overall design for a new playground. When Bill Bell of Mosaic Consulting decided that the initial landscaping work for the half block site at Montview Boulevard and Magnolia Street was an ideal opportunity for construction companies to help, he started recruiting contractors at the end of 2001. Mortenson Stapleton Project Manager Kerry O'Connell and assistant Project Manager Barbara Proff then joined with DPS facilities officials to construct the playground.

Cart Attack: Bring 'Em Back

Original Aurora Renewal (OAR) recently earned national recognition from the "Neighborhoods USA" Neighborhood of the Year Awards for its creative efforts to corral abandoned shopping carts from the neighborhoods to the south and east of Stapleton.

"Cart Attack: Bring 'Em Back" was a three-day campaign that enlisted nearly

200 volunteers and neighborhood residents to remove 685 carts worth more than \$106,000 from the streets, parks, and alleys in the neighborhoods that comprise the birthplace of Aurora. Since then, OAR has worked with grocers to find long-term solutions to the problem that exists in many neighborhoods across the nation.

Aurora City Councilwoman Nadine Caldwell, OAR resident Marsha Watts, and City of Aurora "Employee of the Year" Peg Alt presented the project in the national competition.

Original Aurora was established in 1992 to preserve and improve the city's "original neighborhoods." For more information about OAR and its programs, call (303) 739-7929.





Photos courtesy of Aurora Parks and Rec

SAND CREEK JAMBOREE

Amy Pulver, Executive Director
Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership

The Fourth Annual Sand Creek Jamboree at Aurora's beautiful Star K Ranch Open Space Park was a rollicking good time! In addition to square dancing, food, and entertainment, this year's Jamboree included prizes for people who arrived at the

Jamboree by using the Sand Creek Regional Greenway, which runs through Star K Ranch.

A special feature of the 2002 Jamboree was the kick-off of the project to remodel the old ranch house and garage into the Morrison Nature Center. The Center is scheduled to open at next year's Jamboree, which is set for Sunday, August 24, 2003. Mark your calendars now!



Clyburn Apartments – Affordable Housing for Seniors



Among the dignitaries at the groundbreaking were John Lehigh of Forest City (left), City Councilwoman Happy Haynes (middle) and City Councilwoman Elbra Wedgeworth.

(continued from front page) Peterson, owner of TP Development LLC, a minority-owned company that is participating in Forest City Stapleton's Associate Developer Program.

"Our goal at Stapleton is to create a traditional urban community that has the diversity in age, race, and income that has always made Denver such a vibrant, desirable place to live," said John Lehigh, chief operating officer for Forest City Stapleton, Inc., the master developer of the 4,700-acre property. "The Clyburn Apartments will provide attractive

and affordable housing for seniors adjacent to the grocery store and a variety of retail in our first town center, as well as beautiful parks and public transportation."

Ms. Peterson's development features 51 two-bedroom apartments ranging from 750 to 800 square feet, and 49 single bedroom units of 600 square feet. Rents are anticipated to range from \$702 to \$841 a month. Residents of the building will have a computer lab/community room on the first floor, a 2nd floor sunroom/lounge

Mrs. Gene Clyburn Grier, for whom The Clyburn Apartments are named.

and library, and a large garden/courtyard. The cost for Clyburn Apartments is approximately \$12 million.