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For release: September 15, 2008

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Second edition of Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park Activity Book and Teacher's Guide now available

Just in time for the new school year, Arapahoe County Open Space and the Parker Jordan Metropolitan District have released the second edition of the *The Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park Activity Book*, designed especially to appeal to elementary school children.

The Activity Book offers exercises, experiments, puzzles and creative illustrations to help children enjoy the Park. The book also covers the Park's historical habitation by Native Americans and settlers and its current role as an environmentally sensitive educational preserve along Cherry Creek. It explains seasonal changes, wildlife, plant types and water cycles.

The book is available free of charge by contacting R. S. Wells LLC, district manager, at 303-779-4525 or Dawne.Hirsbrunner@cliftoncpa.com or Arapahoe County Open Space at 303-795-6732 or openspace@co.arapahoe.co.us. Copies are available to download at www.co.arapahoe.co.us or www.valerianllc.com.

For information and rules on the Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park, visit the Arapahoe County web site at www.co.arapahoe.co.us. Copies of a brochure on the Park are available on the County's web site or by calling 720-874-6732. Updates on periodic nature activities at the Park will be available in 2008 at www.co.arapahoe.co.us and www.cherry-creek.org.

The educational nature park, at 7500 S. Jasper Court, south of Arapahoe Road and east of Jordan Road, was jointly developed by Arapahoe County, which owns the Park, and the Parker Jordan Metropolitan District.

This year, Arapahoe County added several features to the Park to enhance visitors' experience and to protect its natural habitat from the surrounding urban environment. New features include a Council Gathering Ring with landscape boulder seating for 15 to 20 people; an Outdoor Stepped Nature Classroom with stone seating for up to 25 people; new entry monuments near the parking lot and the Park's pedestrian bridge; 57 new evergreen and deciduous trees, and plank rail fencing on the Park's western boundary.

The Park also features a boardwalk across the wetlands, a floating dock on the pond, educational signage providing a self-guided tour of the area, overlooks and benches along the creek and pond, and picnic tables and restrooms.

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