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Arapahoe County, Parker Jordan Metropolitan District recognize teacher Cherry Creek Challenge School Teacher, Students Excel at Metro Denver Science Fair

Cherry Creek Challenge School seventh and eighth grade science teacher John Wiley was recognized with the first annual Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park Award at the 2008 Denver Metropolitan Science and Engineering Fair in late February at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The award is sponsored by Arapahoe County Open Space, Parks and Trails and the Parker Jordan Metropolitan District, co-developers of the Park.

Wiley received the award based on the success of his team of nine seventh and eighth grade students who achieved four Category Awards in animal science, behavioral science and medicine and health. In addition to a Category Award, Challenge School eighth-grader Diane Schulze earned the Best in Show award in the Junior Division for her project entitled *Monkey See, Monkey Do: Literary Imagery and the Mirror Neuron System*. Eighth grader Katie Watts won for her project, *Suture Affects on Recovery Period*.

Schulze, along with seventh-graders Category Award winners Dirk Marshall and Amanda Coopersmith, will proceed to the State of Colorado Science and Engineering Fair at Colorado State University on April 11. Marshall was recognized for his project, *The Eyes Have It*. Coopersmith won for her project, *Effects of Over the Counter Medication on Fruit Flies*. The projects by Schulze and Coopersmith also were recognized with awards from University of Colorado Denver Family Medicine.

Other awards at the Metro Science Fair by Wiley's student team include:

Environmental Sciences Awards Presented by Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners

Medha Gudavalli Topic: *Are Illicit Drugs Present in Wastewater Effluent?*

James McGregor Topic: *Water Quality in the Denver Area*

Challenge School science teacher Wiley is in his second year at the school after teaching several years at middle school and high school levels in Overland Park, Kansas. He is a Bachelor of Science graduate of the University of Kansas where he also received his masters degree in science education.

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About Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park

Parker Jordan Metropolitan District and Arapahoe County jointly developed Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park, an educational nature park at 7500 S. Jasper Ct., owned by the County and located in the city of Centennial.

The Park can be accessed from the intersection of Arapahoe and Jordan roads. Take Jordan Road south approximately 1.3 miles, turn left on Jamison Street and then left on Jasper Court. The Park is open from dawn to dusk daily.

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 web site or by calling 720-874-6723. Updates on periodic nature activities at the Park are available at www.co.arapahoe.co.us and www.cherry-creek.org.

Copies of a children's *Activity Book* on the Park and a *Teachers Guide* are available free of charge by contacting R. S. Wells LLC, district manager, at 303-779-4525. They also are available at www.valerianllc.com. To download the *Book* and *Guide* from the web site, *Click to Enter Site*, click on *Projects*, scroll down to *Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park Activity Book* and *Teachers Guide* and click on the icons to download.

To download photo click on the following link:

<ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/CherryCreekChallenge.jpg>

Photo Caption:

Cherry Creek Challenge School students and their teacher, John Wiley, were highly recognized for projects they submitted at the 2008 Denver Metropolitan Science and Engineering Fair. Participating in the Fair were: (back row, l. to r.) Wiley, Medha Gudavalli, Katie Watts, James McGregor and Diane Schulze; (front row) Amanda Coopersmith, Tara Sowrirajan, Sawyer McLane and Dirk Marshall. Not pictured: Mayanka Kumar. Wiley received the first annual Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park Award, jointly sponsored by Arapahoe County Open Space, Parks and Trails and Parker Jordan Metropolitan District, co-developers of Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park.