

Stapleton Parks

A LOVE STORY

STAPLETON™

A PARK IS A BEAUTIFUL THING

It's a fresh perspective. A good conversation. A place to lose a few pounds or the weight of the world. A park can change your mood. Lift your spirits. And turn an ordinary day into one to remember. Kids expand their imaginations and learn to play together. People break free of their over-scheduled lives. That's the power of a park.

Here, parks are in our DNA. From day one, Stapleton was envisioned as a place where people will spend more time outside. Walking or riding instead of driving. Getting to know each other. Taking advantage of Colorado's climate. And taking better care of themselves. In so many ways, parks are what make Stapleton ... Stapleton.



35% PARKS



27% RESIDENTIAL



4% CIVIC
(SCHOOLS, LIBRARY, REC CENTER)















34% COMMERCIAL






Central Park

FUN FOR EVERYONE



Central Park 

Look for the leaves and find the parks (listed alphabetically) on page 22.

Simply put, Central Park is 80 acres of fun. As Denver's third largest park, it attracts people from all over the city for sledding, RC boating, team sports, and an amazing Dr. Seuss-inspired playground. If Stapleton has one signature park, Central Park is the one that truly represents the rich diversity of experiences available here. And yet it's only the beginning of what you'll find exploring the many parks of Stapleton.



FOUNDERS' GREEN IS THE SCENE

For centuries, towns were built around a central green—a place where people gathered for community events or just to relax and watch the world go by. The same goes for Stapleton. Lined by oak trees and distinguished by a sculptural fountain, Founders' Green has an urban formality to its design. And a festive vibe that makes it the perfect venue.

Thanks to the Stapleton MCA (Master Community Association), residents are treated to a weekly farmers market, a monthly art and antique market, regular concerts, movies under the stars, and even a little Shakespeare ... just to name some of the fun.





Westerly Creek 43

For decades Westerly Creek had been confined to giant drain pipes buried beneath three feet of runway and tarmac concrete. An intense restoration project has returned the waterway to its former glory—replanted with native, drought-tolerant vegetation and lovingly re-flowed. And the entire Westerly Creek basin is engineered to handle a 100-year flood scenario.



WANDERING WESTERLY

Take a walk through one Stapleton park and you'll soon find yourself in another. Stapleton is as much a progression of parks, interconnected with trails and open space, as it is a series of neighborhoods. Westerly Creek is a beautiful example of how getting there is half the fun. With creek-side bike paths braided through a riparian corridor—past public art—and wildlife migrating right along with you.



But there's something else happening here, too.

Westerly Creek serves as a natural water filtration system, cleaning storm water runoff, feeding the landscape and creating a healthy natural habitat for birds and other species. Many of the neighborhood parks serve this same purpose, filtering the water through sand and special pipes before sending it on its way.

Westerly Creek soon confluences with Sand Creek. In fact, all of Stapleton's runoff eventually flows into the Platte River, which connects with the Missouri River, followed by a trip down the mighty Mississippi, for an inevitable rendezvous with the Gulf of Mexico.

STAPLETON PARKS THAT MANAGE WATER PARTICULARLY WELL INCLUDE:

- 39 Terra Park
- 20 Heritage Park
- 22 Measurement Park
- 34 Songbird Park



THE GREAT WIDE OPEN

Some of Stapleton's parks are not necessarily *Stapleton's* parks. They're in and around the community but they're not counted among Stapleton's menu of green spaces. Let's call them ... bonus parks.

3 Bluff Lake Nature Center

This unique urban wildlife center and outdoor classroom can be found on Stapleton's east side. For schoolchildren, Bluff Lake is



a destination for summer camps, bird walks, nature lectures, wildlife education, geocache treasure hunts, and fireside s'mores. It's a quiet place to walk, run or just forget you're in the city for a while.

28 Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge ▲

Where the buffalo roam. Well, American bison is the preferred nomenclature. The Refuge is home to a sizable herd of the native beasts, reintroduced as part of a massive effort to restore the prairie ecosystem. The Refuge is also a great source for environmental education, with opportunities for fishing, wildlife observation and photography. It's free, open to the public and a bike ride away from Stapleton.

31 Sand Creek Regional Greenway

Connecting to Denver's 800-mile regional trail network, this 14-mile greenway connects with Stapleton near Bluff Lake. It follows Sand Creek through a range of animal habitats, from cottonwood forests to wetland bird sanctuaries.



So bring a camera. The trail welcomes walkers, runners, mountain bikers and horseback riders.

JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Stapleton is full of neighborhood parks. Hidden gems that serve as an extension of your yard and a ready change of scenery, just footsteps away from your home. Here are three to explore.

16 Fred Thomas Park



Whatever you play, you can probably play it here. Fred Thomas Park has basketball, tennis and sand volleyball courts. Football, soccer, baseball and softball fields. Plus a playground and bike path. After the game, relax at the picnic tables, park benches or in the pavilion.

34 Songbird Park ▲

Find a bench and eavesdrop on the local and migratory birds conversing all around. Songbird Park offers a shady gazebo and the soothing babble of a fountain. And for our feathered friends, several birdhouses. So that they, too, may take up residence and start a Stapleton family of their own.

1 Arc Park

Named for the graceful curve and low, stone wall along the park's south side. Walkways, benches,



picnic tables and two playgrounds—one for big kids and one for small fry—create a friendly social atmosphere.



FIND YOUR FAVORITE PLACE

Go forth and explore as many Stapleton parks as you can. You'll discover that every one is different. In the process you're sure to find your favorite. One that puts a smile on your face and a song in your heart. It won't necessarily be the biggest park either. Sometimes, if a park has nothing more than a nice bench and a view, like Arrowhead Park, it has everything you need. Or maybe you prefer a place that tells the story of the night sky, like Constellation Park. Or parks that please the senses, as the Bluff Lake neighborhood parks do. Whatever you're after, there's a park with your name on it.



36 Spring Park

Early-blooming flowers rise to announce the equinox and usher in the thaw. The weather is finally fit for man and beast.

14 Fall Park

Maple trees and a mix of foliage blaze with autumn colors every season. Looking out across Westerly Creek from the shady pergola, you'll notice the park's pathway aligns perfectly with Central Park's promenade.



38 Summer Park

A park full of flowers that love summertime. A playground for kids who love summertime. And a compass that orients visitors to the path of the sun.

46 Winter Park

Snow gathers on the north side of the graceful rolling hills. Pine trees stand at attention. And from the center of a snowflake-emblazoned plaza at sunset on the winter solstice, you can watch the sun drop between two perfectly positioned vertical stones on a nearby hill. Signifying the end of the year's shortest day.

A PARK FOR EVERY SEASON



Puddle Jumper Pool **E**



POOL PARKS

Most parks are a study in the various forms of terra firma and the terrestrial pursuits thereof. But six Stapleton parks are dedicated to the life aquatic. Places to relax poolside, swim laps, take a lesson, aquacise, launch a cannonball, splash around and generally take the edge off a hot summer day. And each of Stapleton's community pools, managed by the MCA, offers a different experience – from the architecture to the pool itself.

SIX WAYS TO BEAT THE HEAT:

- A** Aviator Pool **C** Jet Stream Pool **E** Puddle Jumper Pool
- B** F-15 Pool **D** Maverick Pool **F** Runway 35 Pool

PARKWAYS

Between here and there is a lovely place to be.

Traffic moves east and west along 29th Avenue. But not just for cars. Between the lanes, a tree- and flower-lined pathway (inspired by the Tuileries Garden in Paris) transports foot traffic from Founders' Green to Westerly Creek and back. Parkways in Stapleton are the parks that connect to other parks, the town center, offices and schools. Instead of driving or walking on a sidewalk you can stroll a meandering path beneath a canopy of trees, with places to sit and rest along the way. The parkways along 32nd and 35th Avenues also make getting from A to B a sincere pleasure.

23 MEWS

Mews are linear green spaces, three blocks long, that take the place of streets in the Central Park West neighborhood. Instead of looking out to parked cars and traffic, homes are oriented toward these quiet parks fostering a unique sense of community. And each block along the mews has its own distinct character. A mews may feature a playground, a giant sand pit with climbing boulders, or a twenty-foot harvest table beneath a pergola. Mews emphasize beauty over boulevards.



48 29th Avenue Parkway



OTHER PARKWAYS:

49 32nd Avenue Parkway 50 35th Avenue Parkway



GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARKS

Greenway Park, a favorite among walkers and runners, is also home to some very important guests: the Skate Park, Dog Park and Community Garden. Plus an observation tower, climbing wall, the Mud Pie Sandbox, barbecues, tennis courts, shady spots to relax, public art and places for kids to play.

While it's easy for these attractions to hold the spotlight, what makes Greenway Park feel so good is mature trees, which are some of the oldest in Stapleton. The lushness of the park bodes well for our newer parks. It's a sign of good things to come.

+ 33 SKATE PARK

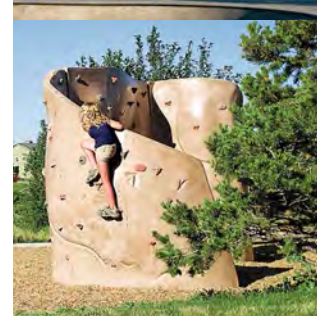
Stapleton is home to one of Denver's nicest skate parks. Welcoming skateboarders, in-line skaters, and BMX bikers— young and not-so-young —and designed to challenge advanced riders without intimidating newbies.

+ 12 DOG PARK

Dogs need to run. They need to play. And they absolutely need a place where they can just be dogs. It might not be the prettiest park in Stapleton, but to our canine friends, the Dog Park looks like heaven.

+ 7 COMMUNITY GARDEN

Gardening is a universal theme in Stapleton. From the cultivation of common areas to garden-ready homes, fresh food is part of a healthy lifestyle. The Community Garden's popularity is proof there will always be a need for places that let people sink their hands into the soil.





DOGS LOVE STAPLETON

Running along trails, rolling in the grass, taking in the fresh air and sunshine. These are things that are good for all of us. But sometimes it takes a dog with a leash in its mouth to get us out of the house and into something good. At Stapleton, good opportunities are all around you and your dog. In the parks, greenways and open spaces. So listen to your dog—and let yourself be reminded of what’s really important in life.



a PARK TO DO EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE

These are not just parks. They’re a to-do list. And for whatever you do, there’s a park for you.

5	Central Park							
16	Fred Thomas Park							
18	Greenway Park							
8	Conservatory Green							
A	Aviator Pool							
B	F-15 Pool							
C	Jet Stream Pool							
D	Maverick Pool							
E	Puddle Jumper Pool							
F	Runway 35 Pool							







STAPLETON™





FORESTCITY

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