



## NEWS RELEASE

Office of the City Manager, City of Wheat Ridge  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Clean Up Event Occurring at Historic Fruitdale School in Wheat Ridge

**WHEAT RIDGE** – In the spring of 2011, the Wheat Ridge Housing Authority (WRHA) purchased the Fruitdale School from the Jefferson County School District. The historic school, built in 1926 and designed by noted Denver architect Temple Buell, was slated for demolition by the School District after the construction of the new Norma Anderson Pre-School adjacent to the Fruitdale building.

The WRHA is working with Colorado Preservation Inc. (CPI) on a structural assessment and reuse analysis of the building through a grant provided by the State Historic Society. A team of architects will inspect the building and looking at items such as the layout and square footage will provide ideas for possible new uses for the building. The results of this inspection will help guide the WRHA in moving forward with determining a future use for the building if it is not suitable for housing.

Since the building was slated for demolition by the School District, many items and debris were left in the building when the school was vacated in 2007 with the move to the new pre-school. In order for the architects to have full access and movement throughout the building, it needs to be cleaned out before the architects' inspection. Weston Solutions, Inc. (WESTON®), a global leader in delivering integrated environmental, sustainability, property redevelopment, energy, and construction solutions, has volunteered their local Lakewood office staff to do a clean-up of the Fruitdale School. The City is fortunate to have WESTON working with Renewal Wheat Ridge on the redevelopment of the southeast corner of 44<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Wadsworth Blvd. in Wheat Ridge.

Mayor Jerry DiTullio said, "I am grateful to Weston Solutions for volunteering to help with the cleanup of the Fruitdale School. As partners in the urban renewal project at the corner of 44<sup>th</sup> and Wadsworth and this project at Fruitdale, Weston Solutions continues to show a deep commitment to the communities they work in."

WESTON is known for their involvement in the communities where they are working. "As a company that truly lives its core values, WESTON takes pride in our efforts as a company and as individuals to make a difference in the communities where we live and work, and in the world as a whole. Our Community Partnering program provides a platform for our employee-owners to support the causes they are passionate about and to work side-by-side with our colleagues, members of their communities, and clients on projects that let us serve as partners to our communities, as this one does here in Wheat Ridge" said Lisa Leone, Vice President, State and Local Government Programs with WESTON.

Mark Blanchard, Operations Manager, of the Lakewood Office continued, "WESTON is excited about partnering with Wheat Ridge to clean up the historic Fruitdale School building. Making a difference in our local communities is one of our company's core values. For our Colorado team, that means rolling up our sleeves and pitching in to help restore our historic and natural heritage for future generations to enjoy."

On Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> WESTON staff will be cleaning up the Fruitdale School. This will involve sorting and hauling debris from the inside of the building to outside dumpsters. This effort is greatly appreciated by the WRHA according to Cheryl Brungardt the WRHA Chair, "Wheat Ridge Housing Authority is very grateful that WESTON has stepped up to offer a group of employee volunteers to clean up Fruitdale School. It's a beautiful building with great promise that just needs some TLC to get it ready for architect evaluations. WESTON's generous offer of time and personnel will assure that the building will be ready for architects to walk through to see what possibilities the building holds. With their expertise in safe and efficient site cleanup, we can't think of a better partner than the WESTON volunteers, and we thank them in advance for their service on the Fruitdale project."

For additional information on the WRHA or the Fruitdale project, please contact Sally Payne, Senior Planner for the City of Wheat Ridge at 303-235-2852.

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