

For Immediate Release

Parks and Recreation Director Accepts Position on Front Range

GRAND JUNCTION, CO April 23, 2008 – After nearly fourteen years of service, City of Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Director Joe Stevens announced today that he will be leaving his job with the City of Grand Junction to take the position of Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Louisville, Colorado. Stevens' last day of employment with the City will be July 4, 2008. Louisville is located in Boulder County, northwest of Denver. In addition to Parks and Recreation responsibilities, Louisville manages a Recreation Center, a Senior Center, The Coal Creek Golf Course and is responsible for 700 acres of open space.

Stevens joined the City of Grand Junction in June of 1994 as the Director of Parks and Recreation. A number of notable accomplishments have taken place under Stevens' direction including the development of Canyon View Park, Wingate Park, Westlake Park and Eagle Rim Park, the construction of the Bookcliff Activity Center in cooperation with School District 51, the completion of a dog park at Canyon View, Riverfront Trail improvements, renovation of Two Rivers Convention Center, the addition of synthetic turf to Stocker Stadium, the acquisition of Matchett Park and receipt of the national 2004 Gold Medal Award for excellence in Parks and Recreation administration.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Stevens said, "Louisville appealed to me both for the great professional opportunity as well as for family reasons since all of my children and grandchildren are on the Front Range. I am thankful for the experiences I have had in Grand Junction and trust that I have served citizens, City management, and a "world class staff" with professionalism and leave the areas for which I have been responsible a little better than upon my arrival in June 1994. I love Grand Junction and wish the City of Grand Junction and the leadership team much success." Acting City Manager Rich Englehart, who is filling in for City Manager Laurie Kadrach while she is on vacation, said, "We sure wish Joe great success and thank him for all the wonderful things he has done for this community since 1994. I know firsthand how very well respected he is in the Parks and Recreation community and his accomplishments while in Grand Junction speak for themselves. Louisville made a great choice."

Plans for a replacement in the Parks and Recreation Department are being discussed.

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