Community plants a learning landscape

Submitted by Pat Smid
The community surrounding Johnson Elementary School joined forces on Sept. 25 with volunteers from Kaiser Permanente, friends and parents of children attending the school and Southwest Denver Kiwanis to plant perennials in the school playground. Cate Townley, volunteer coordinator, organized the community event. Graduate students of the Landscape Architects Department at the University of Colorado at Denver and Christopher Hoy designed the Learning Landscape. Designscape, Inc. installed the playground equipment, trees, shrubs, grass and parking facilities.

Approximately 25 volunteers dug holes and planted perennials at the school, which were designed to enhance the functions of the playground and parking area. While creating a beautiful campus-like environment, the additions will add a park-like atmosphere to the neighborhood.

The students were so excited to see their new playground that Principal Gonzales took each class on a tour where they could ask questions and thank the volunteers for their work. A Learning Landscape will provide a playground where children learn to play together while enjoying the growth, beauty and importance of the trees and shrubs.

The completion of this Learning Landscape will fulfill the goal of Gonzales when she arrived at Johnson School in the fall of 2007.

Some of the 25 volunteers dig holes and plant perennials, Sept. 25, at Johnson Elementary School.

Photo courtesy of Pat Smid