

# Smart Growth Case Study: Stapleton, CO

## What Health Officials Can Learn from Stapleton, CO

A classic example of a rejuvenated urban center, Stapleton, Colorado turned from concept to reality when Denver's Stapleton International Airport closed in 1995. City planners, government officials and involved citizens saw the potential for a community committed to environmental and economic sustainability and social equity. The redeveloped community would grow to a full-fledged urban center in subsequent years, prioritizing the quality of community education, social responsibility, balanced transportation options and environmental stewardship.

Utilizing the Smart Growth methodology, Stapleton's residents derive substantial health benefits from the city's design. Pedestrian-friendly streets, strategically located homes and offices around four town centers, invite residents to walk to and from work. Stapleton's walkability along with intelligent city planning, allow residents to increase their typical physical activity levels, reducing their risks for many of the most common chronic diseases.

### Smart Growth Principles at Work:

- Mix Land Use
- Compact Building Design
- Range of Housing Options
- "Walkable" Neighborhoods
- Preserves Open Space
- Ample Transportation Choices
- Community Participation

### Other Resources

- [Stapleton's Sustainable Development Plan, Denver, Colorado](#)
  - A brief overview of Stapleton's use of Smart Growth technologies as well as links to many other Smart Growth resources.
- [City of Stapleton Website](#)
  - An interactive guide to Stapleton's neighborhoods and attractions in addition to community contact information.
- [Article: Denver's Stapleton, Green Urban Infill for the Masses?](#)
  - Article exploring a few of Stapleton's many urban planning initiatives.