

## **STRAWBERRY PARK AMPHITHEATER PROJECT**

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project features construction of a 200-seat outdoor performance space on the campus of the Strawberry Park Elementary School campus in Steamboat Springs. The Steamboat School District, RE-2, owns the property and will be the principal collaborator with Piknik Theatre (Yampa Valley Performing Arts Council) which has a 20-year lease on the property. It is anticipated that this facility - the only one of its kind in Northwestern Colorado - will be used for various outdoor performances by regional arts groups, local schools, and local community groups. It will also be suitable for outdoor educational activities for the school district, especially during the school year, and as a community outdoor gathering venue. The amphitheater will be designed for acoustic performances and activities only during daylight hours as there will be no amplified sound or stage lighting. This is intended to be a three-season operating venue with no provision for heating or snow removal. In addition to the leasehold, the school district is providing parking, toilet facilities, and maintenance of the facility.

There are no designated outdoor performance venues for acoustic, arts and educational activities with a 200-seat capacity in Steamboat Springs. The proposed amphitheater will likely be used by every type of community youth group seeking the ambience of an outdoor venue. The facility will be available to all performing arts and school groups during the summer months (with Piknik Theatre having priority) and when available during the school year. As importantly, all the schools in the district will have priority access to the facility while school is in session. All youth performing arts organizations, including the student symphony orchestra, opera in the schools, local dance academies, and our own theatre and musical theatre programming, will find ample opportunity to expand their youth services with a facility that is eminently suitable for smaller scale shows. All have written letters of support for the project. School performing arts activities, which are also supported by Piknik Theatre staff and programming, will have enhanced opportunities to perform outdoors as weather permits in the spring and fall months.