

Westy CONNECTION

A NEXUS OF NEWS, COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS AND CITY HAPPENINGS

JOHN FIELDER

PHOTOGRAPHS WESTMINSTER

PURCHASE LIMITED EDITION

GREETING CARDS

23

16

RECREATION TO THE RESCUE

*HOW TO SAFELY MANAGE
STRESS IN THE COVID-19 ERA*



WESTMINSTER

Dec. 2020 | Vol. 1

State of
Our City 4

Babe
Walls 12

Top 10
Trails 20

WELCOME TO *Westy* CONNECTION

*You, the residents of Westminster,
want to know what's happening in your
community. The City of Westminster is
here to help with Westy Connection!*



Westy Connection is a nexus of news, community spotlights and city happenings. The first issue of this new publication highlights the state of our city, updates and offerings from our Parks, Recreation & Libraries department, and noteworthy information from across the city.

Westy Connection is published by the Innovation & Communication Division. It is mailed to every resident of Westminster. Issues are available online at www.cityofwestminster.us.

If you'd like to be added to the mailing list or know of delivery issues, please email ICD@cityofwestminster.us or call 303-658-2400.



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- Golf (Walnut Creek).....303-469-2974
- Libraries (College Hill)303-658-2601
- Libraries (Irving Street).....303-658-2301
- Municipal Court.....303-658-2250
- Parks/Recreation.....303-658-2192
- Standley Lake303-425-1097
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Cover Photo

In celebration of our Parks and Open Space, we have used photos taken by renowned local photographer, John Fielder, on the cover and pages 30 and 35.



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Don Tripp
City Manager

Communities across the globe have been changed forever by the devastating effects of 2020. The COVID-19 public health crisis, economic downturns, civil and social unrest, and natural disasters, including severe droughts and wildfires, have tested our resolve and resiliency.

The City of Westminster has been deeply impacted by this year's events. We have lost friends and loved ones to the pandemic. We have watched as valued members of our business community closed their doors. We have looked inward, to our culture and operations, to seek solutions to issues of justice and equity.

In a year of so much unknown, it's a comfort to draw on the city's rich and colorful past built on the dreams and hopes of a better tomorrow. Our roots anchor us in times of uncertainty, sustain us in times of drought. This year, more than any other, has challenged us to draw on the strengths of those roots and continue to grow, bloom, and provide for those around us.

In this issue of Westy Connection, we look back and proudly share what the city has accomplished in service to the community, and in alignment with City Council's vision, over this turbulent year.

Crisis Response



Public Health

As the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing public health crisis reached Colorado in early March, the city acted swiftly in the best interests of the community and staff to protect public health.

We prioritized the continuity of essential city services. In a matter of days, the Information Technology Department seamlessly moved much of the workforce to a remote virtual environment while maintaining the privacy, accessibility and security of the city's network.

City Council meetings and other public hearings shifted from in-person to virtual as well, and critical staff that remained on-site due to duties and responsibilities adjusted to the new normal of social distancing and mask-wearing.

City staff have demonstrated incredible flexibility and professionalism to meet the challenges of providing services to the community during stay-at-home orders and in our ever-changing environment.

The Parks, Recreation and Libraries (PR&L) Department pivoted to assist Growing Home, using staff from closed facilities to help their mission of strengthening families, nurturing children, and connecting the community. Together, PR&L and Growing Home organized the Westy Front Porch Food Drive, collecting over 17 tons of food and personal hygiene items for distribution to residents in need.

Another example of innovation within PR&L during the pandemic was the shift from in-person classes and programs to virtual offerings. These programs have been wildly popular and helped many residents stay active and engaged during periods of stay-at-home orders.



Economy

The city has made smart financial maneuvers that have allowed us to weather the current economic storm. In January 2020, the city hired its first Chief Financial Officer/Deputy City Manager, a move that proved prescient. The focus on financial sustainability, streamlined business practices, and economic strategy has become imperative as we respond to the economic crises brought on by COVID-19.

The city has made smart investments for the economic and social well-being of our community. WestyRISE launched in April as a collective effort to recover and focus on four areas: economic resilience, community resilience, government resilience and individual resilience.

Through the WestyRISE programs, the city has invested over \$4 million in housing assistance, social recovery programs and direct business assistance. These include the WestyRISE Business Grant program, Rise and Dine grants, PPEs for businesses, WestyRISE Above Housing Assistance Grant and tenant-based rental assistance.

Over the last several months, the city has experienced a variety of stages of public health orders, which resulted in a financial picture that is ever-shifting as previous months'

revenues come in and forecasting models are subsequently adjusted. The city's Finance and Policy & Budget Departments have produced the recurring COVID Chronicle report, which provides an in-depth look at city finances.

City Council extended the 2021 budget adoption to Nov. 30, so staff could present Council with the most up-to-date financial figures on tax revenues and expenditures. The adopted budget will carefully balance service-level offerings with accurate data. We also have a variety of policy decisions for Council's consideration to improve the financial sustainability as a city.



Social and Civil Unrest

The death of George Floyd on May 25 set off an outcry for justice and equity. For too long, issues of systemic racism at all levels of society have been ignored. In response, the city has paused to listen.

We have turned introspective and asked ourselves: How can we do better? How can we be part of the solution? How can we come together to improve our community? The city prides itself on being a welcoming community, but we can do so much more.

Looking forward, we have three initiatives underway. First, our Police Department is getting out in the community. They want to listen. They want to listen to complaints, concerns and ideas. They want to listen to those who, for too long, have felt unheard. As the department listens, they are evaluating the training and support that staff receives. Already, new legislation and policies—with significant impacts to our officers—are being enacted.

Second, a third party will conduct an evaluation of city diversity, equity and inclusion. We want to become a more diverse workforce. We want to better reflect the makeup of our community. We want to be a place where everyone—employee, resident, business owner or business customer—feels welcome.

Third, we are developing several initiatives to better engage our community. We are putting staff and partnerships in place to improve our two-way communication. These initiatives are explored in the section "Community Engagements."



Business Operations



Accomplishments in the Last Year

Maintaining and enhancing operations continues to be at the forefront of the city's mission. It would be easy to let the COVID-19 pandemic overshadow significant accomplishments from last year. A year like 2020, however, calls for celebrating every win we can get.

Innovation has always been one of the city's "SPIRIT" values. This year has seen innovative thinking in short- and long-term planning further embedded into the organization's culture through the formation of I-Teams and a focus on process improvement at multiple levels of staffing, including Solve Academy Lite, the city's first process-improvement academy.

Within the Police Department, command staff have created innovative process modifications and community partnerships around five areas: communication with the community, training and education of officers, supervision and processes, community partnerships, and officer mental and emotional health. The department also added two co-responder services in the community for mental health.

The safety of our residents continues to be a priority of the Fire and Police Departments. Together with 911 communication staff, the Fire and Police Departments are close to deploying a new

Computer-Aided Dispatch system. The system improves communication amongst north area fire and emergency medical resources across jurisdictional boundaries, resulting in faster and better-coordinated response times to emergency calls.

The city negotiated and adopted a two-year collective bargaining agreement with the Firefighter Local 2889 to be in place January 2021 through early January 2023. City management and the Fire Department have a strong relationship with the employees of the Local 2889, as seen by the success of the negotiations.

The city continues to make significant progress on Westminster Forward, a coordination of long-term plans and projects. Westminster Forward includes: a Comprehensive Plan for Land Use and Development; a Parks, Recreation & Libraries Plan; a Transportation and Mobility Plan; a Sustainability Plan; a Water Supply Plan; and Code Forward.

The General Services Department is leading a cross-departmental public-private partnership (P3) initiative to explore opportunities where public and private sectors share in the risks and rewards associated with a project. Thoughtfully entering into P3 agreements may allow the city to leverage private-sector expertise, operate more efficiently and mitigate risk.

Sustainability within the city is a priority—now more than ever. Public engagement has been completed for the city's first Sustainability Plan, and a first draft was provided to Council in November. Many conservation initiatives continue to move forward, including a Fleet Electrification Plan, the Reduced Energy District project for Downtown Westminster, and installation of a more efficient parks irrigation system.

Research has shown that stable housing benefits individuals and families by leading to more positive outcomes around health, employment and education. As a result, the city hired its first Homeless Navigator position in March. The Navigator meets with people where they live to help them with finding the best service agency or program to help them transition out of homelessness.

In addition, construction is in progress on 444 affordable housing units in the city, including The Aspire, Legends of Church Ranch and St. Mark Village.

The city's various boards and commissions play an essential role in allowing greater involvement in city decision-making by members of the community. These include the Election Commission; Environmental Advisory Board; Historic Landmark Board; Human Services Board; Inclusivity Board; Parks, Recreation, Libraries and Open Space Board; Personnel Board; Planning Commission; Special Permit and License Board; and the Youth Advisory Panel.

The city's first in-person onboarding session for boards and commissions members was held in February with great success. While facilities remained closed due to the pandemic, staff liaisons worked with the various boards and commissions to hold virtual meetings to continue the important work they do.





Community Engagements



Community RISE

Strong neighborhoods start with connected, engaged neighbors. Now, more than ever, it is essential that we come together to find solutions to our toughest challenges. Illness, social isolation, and economic upheaval are just a few of the battles that you, your neighbors and your loved ones may be fighting.

Community RISE is one of the city's responses to COVID-19, presenting an opportunity to listen to, learn from and take action with one another as we recover. Community RISE will take place in four phases through the middle of 2021. As we move through the phases, the city will learn about the challenges we are facing, define them, develop solutions and then share what we've created.

First is "Discovery," a time to find out what challenges we are facing as we listen and learn through open-ended conversations. Next is "Define," when we'll craft challenges based on what we learned in Discovery. The third phase is "Develop," where neighborhood-based action teams will develop solutions to address challenges. Finally, the "Deliver" phase will include sharing solutions we've created together and finding additional support to sustain them.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

As a member of Welcoming America's Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative, the city recognizes that we are all members of the community, regardless of where we are born or what we look like. We value diversity, equity and inclusion.

On Nov. 9, 2015, Council approved the formation of the Westminster Inclusivity Board. Their mission is to work with Council to advocate for all voices within our community and to ensure everyone is treated with fairness, dignity and respect. The valuable work of this board continues to this day.

The city already has a number of inclusivity programs available to the public, including swim lessons taught in Spanish, the Free Summer Lunch Program, citizenship classes, and inclusive practices at Council community meetings. The city is developing external and internal programs to address diversity, equity and inclusivity concerns of community members and employees. Changes in policy and practice will work to address these gaps.

In addition, the development and implementation of the first ever Language Access Plan will further outreach opportunities in the community.

The formation of an Equity Action Team of staff who are passionate about diversity, equity and inclusion will join forces with Human Resources and city leadership to ensure that the city walks the talk, beginning with its employees.



Future Plans

As we weather an unpredictable economic crisis, difficult decisions will have to be made. However, the city sees these challenges as opportunities. We see opportunity in exploring new ways of doing business that improve efficiencies and diversifies our revenues. We see opportunity in leveraging the innovation, passion, and dedication within our staff. We see opportunity in being a regional model for resiliency and recovery as we support our local businesses and grow our economy.

The city has exciting things on the horizon, including a mobile library; creative offerings from the Office of Cultural Affairs; and enhanced, safety-conscious services at City Hall.

The pandemic issued us a challenge to think about how we can provide essential services to the community while adhering to health orders and best practices. In the coming year, the city will embrace a new vision recently approved and adopted by Council: "We are a thriving community of safe neighborhoods and beautiful open space that is sustainable and inclusive." The city will pursue strategic goals and clear objectives to embody that vision.

We are proud of our efforts around diversity, equity and inclusivity, but know that we can do better. We will work to build bridges, engage with residents and stakeholders, and prioritize amplifying the diverse voices in our community.

Most importantly, we pledge to pause, to listen and to reflect. In the coming year, our community will be better informed and connected through strategic, engaging communication and increased access to information.

Much of the future remains uncertain as we seek solid ground in a shaky, still-evolving new normal. Our roots, however, remain strong. Our community values, including our dedication to inclusivity, will continue to frame the work done on your behalf over the coming months.

Your ideas and input are needed—now, more than ever before—as together we shape the future of Westminster.



CRISIS RESPONSE



The WestyRISE initiative is helping the Westminster community recover from the COVID-19 crisis by providing resources and programs specifically targeted toward Westminster economic resilience, including business grants, reopening guides, and outreach and support.

WestyRISE Business Grant

Created to: help cover local businesses' monthly mortgage.



WestyRISE and DINE Business Grant

Created to: aid local restaurants and bars that have had a decline in sales due to previous public health orders and that also wish to expand their operations. One-time grants of up to \$10,000 were used on qualifying purchases related to the pandemic.



WestyRISE Care Calls

Created to: reach out to our business community and inquire about immediate needs they might have, as well as update contact information to help them stay current with the latest COVID-19 updates.



WestyRISE Face Coverings Initiative

Created to: procure and distribute cloth face coverings, early in the pandemic, for free to businesses located within the city.



Community Partner Programs

Small Business Stabilization Program

The city partnered with Adams County.

Created to: provide local businesses with grants up to \$35,000, depending on business needs, to retain jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The WestyRISE Above Housing Assistance Program

Using CARES Act funds from Adams and Jefferson counties, the city worked with Maiker Housing Partners and Foothills Regional Housing.

Created to: provide rent/mortgage assistance and prevent evictions and keep individuals and families stably housed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is open to both homeowners and renters, as well as landlords and property managers applying on behalf of their tenants.

For more information about WestyRISE and its continuing efforts to help the community:
www.westminstereconomicdevelopment.org/westyrise



Growing Hope

Food drive and community garden help those in need



When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in early March, the city and Growing Home reinforced their bond to help those in the community struggling with food insecurity.

Growing Home is a local non-profit organization which supports strong families by providing services that strengthen families, nurture children and connect the community.

Several initiatives, along with many hours of volunteer work, have helped many in the community during these unprecedented times.

During the first weeks of the pandemic, Parks, Recreation & Libraries Department staff picked up food for Growing Home and stored it at The MAC recreation center. The MAC received 15,000 pounds of food every Friday from Food Bank of the Rockies. City staff and volunteers helped sort, weigh, and build food boxes. The crew built and helped deliver about 80 to 100 boxes of non-perishable food daily and helps deliver 120 pounds of diapers and hygiene products every week.

In addition, the city launched the Westy Front Porch Food Drive, collecting over 17 tons of food since May. With one pound of food equaling one meal for one person, the food drive delivered over 34,000 meals!



Volunteers have collected and sorted over 34,000 pounds of food and hygiene items for those in need during the pandemic

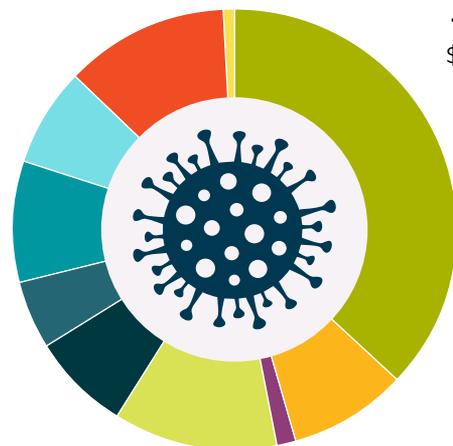
To supplement its food pantry operations, Growing Home applied for grant funding from the city's Parks, Recreation, Libraries and Open Space Advisory Board to fund construction of a communal garden. They received an award of \$25,000, which was used to build a new garden at Irving Street Library.

Dubbed "The Garden of Faith and Hope," the garden was built by city staff and has three large beds for row crops and over a dozen raised beds for smaller plants and herbs.

This garden empowers the community to grow their own food and share the bounty with others in need. Volunteers work together on the garden, which has produced both food and a strong sense of community.

Westminster COVID-19 Estimated Expenditures

- Direct Business Assistance (\$2.65m)
- Housing Assistance (\$620k)
- Food Security Assistance (\$100k)
- Social Recovery Programs (\$855.48k)
- Hazard Pay (\$528.15k)
- Facility Cleaning and Supplies (\$349.95k)
- Facility Modification (\$651.55k)
- PPE for City Staff (\$504.88k)
- Telecommuting Equipment (\$857.12k)
- Public Outreach/Communications (\$53.25k)



Total:
\$7.17m

City's community services don't miss a beat during pandemic

The city's Community Development Department oversees the planning and development of residences, business, and the city's transportation system. Since the closure of City Hall due to COVID-19, development, permitting, and inspection services have had to find new, creative ways to continue helping residents and business owners.

Since March, Community Development has been busy for you on a number of priorities:

- Completed a backlog of over 800 roof inspections
- Expedited the remodel of the 84th Avenue and Federal Boulevard St. Anthony's health care facility to serve as a COVID-19 emergency care center
- Launched a project website with a development map that includes information on Uplands, Westminster Promenade, Jaidinger Villas and others
- Received a Community Engagement award for a "Junior City Planner Activity Book" that introduces elementary-age students to the concepts of city planning
- Engaged the public with the city's first Transportation & Mobility Plan, which analyzes the condition of the city's transportation system and vision
- Started the Federal Boulevard Multimodal Transportation Study with the City of Federal Heights and Adams County, which will improve the

street with better lighting, crosswalks, intersection and vehicle lane modifications

Looking ahead, the department is focused on helping city restaurants as much as possible. For example, an emergency directive was passed to allow restaurants and bars to expand into outdoor areas adjacent to their businesses, in order to promote social distancing and public health measures related to COVID-19. In addition, modified liquor service areas and updated heater and tent guidelines will help restaurants during the colder months of the pandemic.

Justice never stopped being served at Municipal Court

The Westminster Municipal Court serves our community by handling over 10,000 cases a year, including domestic violence, misdemeanor criminal cases, traffic offenses, parks violations, and more.

When the Court closed to the public in March due to COVID-19, full-time operations continued telephonically and virtually to ensure access to justice and hear matters of domestic violence, cases with in-custody defendants, and to address speedy trial deadlines.

To help ensure the safety and health of city staff and our community during this time, the Court modified its operations, including:

- Expanding video and phone hearings
- Using a virtual connection to metro jails to handle in-custody cases
- Increasing online payment options
- Installing a drop box for payments and paperwork
- Initiating text message reminders for information such as court dates and warrants issued
- Adjusting the docket to manage the number of community members within the courthouse

When the Court reopened in June, safety measures were adopted in coordination with Tri-County Health Department experts, including:

- Continuing virtual hearings, when appropriate
- Installing of Plexiglas throughout the building, where needed
- Improving communication with our community in person and via the city's website.
- Starting mandatory health screens
- Restructuring seating in the courthouse for social distancing
- Enforcing revised occupancy limits
- Modifying the HVAC system to improve air flow

As of mid-November, Court staff operate on split teams to address the ongoing increase in COVID-19 within the community. Additionally, the Court will again increase its telephone and virtual dockets and further limit in-person hearings.

The Court has thrived during this pandemic and will continue to provide access to justice moving forward. We will adjust as needed to ensure the health and safety of our Court team and community.



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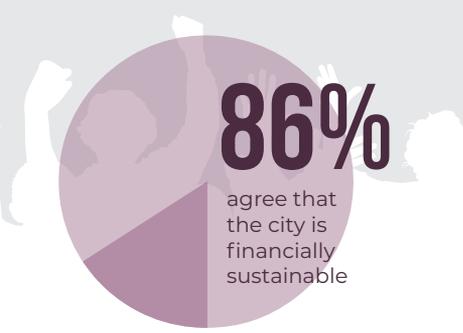
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2020 City of Westminster Community Survey Results



HIGH PRIORITIES
Residents identified these as very important



ROCKSTAR RESULTS
These are higher than the national benchmark!




COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



BABE WALLS

Babe Walls, the start of a movement for women and non-binary artists, made its debut in the Westminster Station neighborhood at an event from August 13-16.

Founded by local artist, Alexandria Pangburn, the event featured 28 artists working collaboratively and focused on inspiring the community.

This celebration of women and their art was organized as a safe place for women, both those already accomplished in the mural art world, and those coming up in the medium.

The event was mostly crowdfunded through Kickstarter and raised over \$58,000, garnering support from neighborhood businesses and property owners and developers, including Maiker Housing Partners and Christina and Mike Eisenstein, who offered up walls on all of their buildings.

The Economic Development Department and the Office of Cultural Affairs provided a \$2,500 sponsorship as well as logistical and marketing support for the event.

The positive impact will be felt on this neighborhood for some time to come, and the public is encouraged to visit.



A map and more information can be found:
www.babewalls.com





Westminster Legacy Foundation honors local leaders

On Sept. 15, the Westminster Legacy Foundation (WLF) honored residents, individuals, groups, businesses and organizations who strive to make the community better at their annual Community Awards Ceremony.

Established as a community foundation in 2001, the WLF serves as the leader, catalyst and resource for philanthropy in our community. The foundation works to close funding gaps in our community that would not otherwise be met in the areas of basic needs, conservation, and arts and culture, with a focus on projects that give all city residents the opportunities they need to thrive.

Congratulations to the 2020 recipients of the WLF Community Awards:

Health and Human Services Hero:

Rachel Williams

Corporate Citizen of the Year:

Front Range Community College

Art and Culture Award:

Colleen Dowling

Citizen of the Year:

Roger Gudenkauf

Young Citizen of the Year:

Jessica Venegas Williams

For full bios on all of our amazing award winners, please visit www.cityofwestminster.us/News/westminster-legacy-foundation-honors-local-leaders-during-community-awards.

“We feel it is important to bring attention to the individuals, businesses and organizations that make our community such a wonderful place to live, work and play. Without these folks, Westminster would not be the vibrant, beautiful and diverse city that it is today. We are honored to recognize their work through our Community Awards program.”

Lauren Werner
WLF Executive Director

Highlighted award winners:



Nature, Environment and Sustainability Award:

Rod Larsen

This award was established to highlight determined individuals or organizations that have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to efforts

in conservation, protection of natural resources, land management and environmental justice.

Larsen started his career with the city's Parks Division in 1981 as a Parks Irrigator when there was little to no formal open space to be found in the city. Larsen played a key role in the development of the Open Space Division and grew in his responsibilities as the program grew over the years. He was instrumental in the development and implementation of numerous programs including the volunteer program, community gardens, weed management, dog parks, trailhead installations and many more.



Nancy Heil Lifetime Achievement Award:

Wilbur Flachman

In early 1961, en route to a job interview in Monte Vista, Colorado, Wilbur and Marilyn Flachman stopped in Westminster to visit friends and they never left town. Flachman has had a 50-plus year entrepreneurial career of newspapering and specialty magazine publishing. Known as the “Publishing House,” Flachman’s newspaper and printing office was always a beehive of activity.

The arts and cultural activities have played a paramount role in Flachman’s life. Besides holding many leadership positions, he and four other Westminster Rotarians established the Westminster Community Artist Series in 1983. Flachman was the initiator of this organization which brought cultural and art programs to the north metro area. Today, it is known as the North Metro Arts Alliance.



Cases are rising! Don't be another statistic. Stay safe.



IF ONLY IT WERE THAT OBVIOUS...

Small, intimate gatherings are fueling the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Please be extra careful this holiday season, or you might receive an unwanted gift you can't return!

- Please comply with state and local health orders.
- Limit personal gatherings.
- Wear a mask to protect yourself and others.
- Watch your distance. Keep 6 feet or more apart.
- Wash your hands often. Scrub for 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Stay home if you're sick. Get well and don't spread germs.

**WHEN SEASONABLE,
BE REASONABLE!**

www.CityofWestminster.us/COVID-19



**IS THIS YOU?
ARE YOU GOING A LITTLE CRAZY?
TRY RECREATION. IT HELPS.**



RECREATION TO THE RESCUE!

HOW TO SAFELY MANAGE STRESS IN THE COVID-19 ERA

A global pandemic. Lockdowns. Economic downturn. Raging wildfires. Social unrest. Is it any wonder 2020 has resulted in unprecedented levels of stress for many of us?

So how do we preserve our sanity and protect our personal wellbeing when facing the challenges of the COVID-19 era? Simple. We reconnect with nature, wellness, and literacy—the three pillars of the city's Parks, Recreation & Libraries Department.

Even in the midst of COVID-19, the department remains the community's premier resource for physical exercise, mental stimulation, and communing with nature—all things proven to reduce stress. Here are some answers to common questions regarding recreation in the COVID-19 era.

"CAN I VISIT A RECREATION CENTER?"

With more than a million visits a year prior to the pandemic, Westminster's award-winning recreation centers have long been the community's go-to for personal fitness. After an initial closure of several months, most of our facilities have been operating at reduced capacities since the summer. As long as public health conditions permit, you can still visit our recreation centers and enjoy your favorite stress-busting activities, such as heart-pumping fitness classes, self-directed workout sessions in our weight rooms, yoga sessions, massages and more.

Regardless of which class or activity you choose when visiting our facilities, know that staff is taking every possible precaution to protect your wellbeing by reducing the risks posed by COVID-19.

"We know Westminster residents are eager for life to return to normal at our recreation centers," said Recreation Manager Tim Lachermeier. "When permitted to operate, we will do so at the permitted capacity and while taking all available steps to ensure a safe, healthy experience. Our goal is to take every step possible to safely meet the wellness needs of the community for the duration of the pandemic."

Despite our best efforts, the fluctuating transmission rates associated with COVID-19 means our facilities are subject to rapidly changing restrictions and possible closures if mandated by state or local public health agencies. For the most up-to-date information on recreation facilities, visit www.cityofwestminster.us/COVID-19.

Alternatively, city recreation staff offers residents a full library of virtual, pre-recorded fitness classes on the Parks, Recreation & Libraries Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WestminsterParksandRecreation.



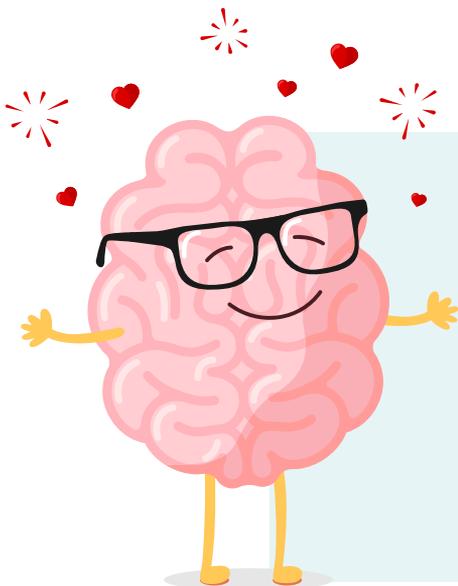
The health and safety of our guests and staff will always be our top priority. Our phased reopening plan for facilities and amenities complies with state and county recommendations and includes reduced facility capacities, enforcing social distancing guidelines, enhancing cleaning and sanitization efforts, using PPE and more.

- All participants must be registered to enter the facility.
- All facility guests and staff must wear a mask and adhere to the 6-foot social distancing guidelines.
- Classes and weight rooms are limited to 25% capacity.
- All cardio equipment is properly spaced to promote social distancing.
- Locker rooms, elevators, handrails/door handles and other high-touch areas are sanitized multiple times each day. Cardio equipment is fogged and disinfected after each use.
- Guests are provided with personal disinfectant spray bottles.
- Touchless sanitizer stations are located throughout the facilities.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

FOR THE MOST CURRENT LIST VISIT:

www.cityofwestminster.us/ParksRecreation



NOTHING REDUCES STRESS LIKE PHYSICAL EXERCISE, WHICH CAUSES OUR BODIES TO RELEASE THOSE MAGICAL NEUROCHEMICALS KNOWN AS *ENDORPHINS*.

Endorphins are secreted by the brain where they reduce emotional stress, relieve pain and generate feelings of euphoria. Endorphins provide a variety of other benefits, including better sleep and improved feelings of self-esteem. Endorphins also help us fight depression—a common side-effect of excessive and/or persistent stress (as in during a global pandemic). Luckily, the city offers a variety of indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities to get those endorphins flowing.

“I DON’T FEEL COMFORTABLE EXERCISING INDOORS. CAN YOU SUGGEST AN ALTERNATIVE?”

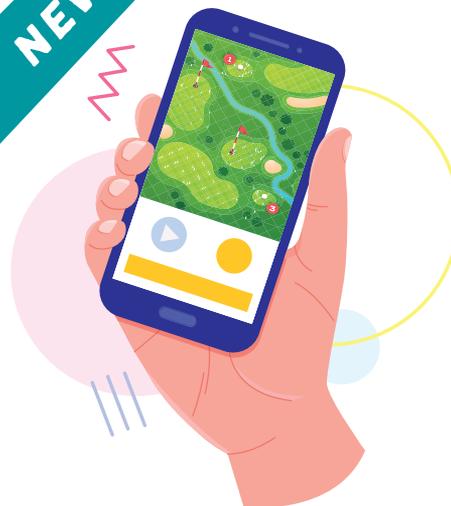
Have you ever considered the game of golf? If you’ve never tried your hand at this relaxing pastime, there’s no better time than the present. Westminster is home to two award-winning golf courses: Legacy Ridge and Walnut Creek Golf Preserve. Even during the height of the pandemic’s first wave, one of the first assets to reopen was our golf courses, due to the nature of the game (where social distancing is the norm!).

While golf is a challenging game to master, nothing reduces stress quite like meandering along the lush, picturesque fairways of a golf course. Against the scenic backdrop of the Front Range, golf in the city is truly a magical way to connect with nature while burning calories and reducing tension.

If you’d like to give golf a try, both courses offer player development programs to help you get started on a lifetime of enjoyment.



NEW!



**DOWNLOAD THE NEW,
FREE GOLF WESTY APP
AND GET ALL THE PERKS!**

- Contactless check-in and pay
- Book tee times
- GPS on the course
- Keep score and track games
- Follow live leaderboards
- Monthly challenges
- Deals
- Earn points in the loyalty program and much more!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.GOLFWESTMINSTER.COM**

“I’M BORED TO PIECES FROM SPENDING SO MUCH TIME AT HOME!”

While physical exercise is a great way to reduce stress, it is certainly not the only tool for improving your wellbeing. One excellent alternative is reading a book.

Feeling wanderlust, but afraid to fly? You can travel the world from the comfort of your favorite armchair with a travel memoir. Bored while staying at home? With the right books, you can learn a new skill or explore a new hobby in your free time. Weary of watching tedious streaming services? Recharge your powers of observation with a good mystery novel.

Mental stimulation and enrichment is every bit as important to your wellness as physical activity. Fortunately, Westminster is the home of two outstanding public libraries that can meet your intellectual needs during COVID-19 restrictions.

College Hill and Irving Street Libraries both offer curbside pickup five days a week. Book drops are open 24/7. You can even sign up for a temporary library card online and gain access to all of our digital resources, including e-books and e-audiobooks.

Of course, Westminster Public Libraries do more than just lend books. They offer access to job hunting resources, language learning apps, movies, music, virtual programming for all ages, and much more! Both libraries also offer in-person computer use by reservation.

ESCAPE TO FAR OFF LANDS FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME

E-BOOKS | E-AUDIOBOOKS | CURBSIDE PICKUP

[WWW.CITYOFWESTMINSTER.US / LIBRARIES](http://WWW.CITYOFWESTMINSTER.US/LIBRARIES)



TOP 10 WESTMINSTER TRAILS TO EXPLORE

HOW MANY OF THESE
HAVE YOU VISITED?

“Trail use has increased 400% during the pandemic, so we’re fortunate to have these great natural resources and the many benefits they provide our community.”

Jason Genck.
Director of Parks,
Recreation and Libraries



3

FARMERS’ HIGH LINE CANAL TRAIL

Winds from near Standley Lake east to Northglenn’s EB Raines Park and beyond into Thornton. Much of the trail is shaded by ancient cottonwood trees.

4

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GREENWAY

This regional trail stretches across the northern part of the Denver metro area (crossing Westminster northwest of Standley Lake along Simms) and was named one of 16 priority trail projects in Colorado by Governor Hickenlooper.



1

BIG DRY CREEK TRAIL

Westminster’s signature trail, this crown jewel stretches 12 off-road miles from Standley Lake Regional Park to I-25. Covers acreage larger than New York’s Central Park.

2

SOUTH STANDLEY LAKE TRAIL

The south shore of Standley Lake Regional Park is a mountain biking and hiking mecca. More than three miles of single-track, dirt trails wind through native vegetation untouched by civilization.

“WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR FACILITIES CLOSE AGAIN?”

Even in the worst-case scenario of another stay-at-home order, Westminster has you covered. Our city is a veritable destination for outdoor enthusiasts, thanks to our open space trail system and our network of neighborhood parks. In the safety of 3,100 acres of open space, 2,910 acres of parks, and over 150 miles of trails, you’ll find all the room you need to reconnect with nature.

5

MCKAY LAKE TRAIL

This scenic 1.5-mile trail encircles McKay Lake within the McKay Lake Open Space. Be on the lookout for a variety of waterfowl that frequent the lake.

6

METZGER FARM

This 152-acre open space off Federal Blvd. and 120th Ave. is threaded with trails and unique natural areas, including two hidden ponds perfect for viewing waterfowl.

7

MUSHROOM POND

This 20-acre open space (off Federal Blvd. just north 108th Ave.) features the hidden Mushroom Pond. A trail encircles the pond and is ringed with trees, shrubs and wetland plants. Pond visitors include fox, coyotes and white pelicans. Farmers' High Line Trail abuts the southern edge.

8

COLLEGE PONDS

This nearly one-mile gravel trail within Big Dry Creek Open Space provides an attractive trail loop opportunity along the Big Dry Creek Trail north of Front Range Community College. The trail passes by two ponds and a large prairie dog colony, and is a good location to spot foxes, coyotes and raptors.

9

WALNUT CREEK TRAIL

This open space west of Wadsworth Parkway is 43 acres and forms a continuous corridor between Westmoor Drive and Simms Street. The gravel Walnut Creek Trail extends 1.5 miles through this area and offers pastoral views of the creek area.

10

LITTLE DRY CREEK TRAIL

This trail connects to the Denver regional trail system. Just south of the city, the trail ends at Clear Creek Trail, which connects to the South Platte River Trail. The entire 2.4 mile length of the trail through the city is devoid of any street crossings.

“WHAT HAPPENED TO WESTMINSTER’S ACTIVITY GUIDE?”

Unfortunately, Westminster’s Parks, Recreation & Libraries Activity Guide is a temporary casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic. Simply put, it is impractical to publish a reliable schedule of activities in such an unpredictable, restricted and ever-changing landscape. But we know how much you miss this time-honored publication. In fact, community surveys consistently rank Westminster’s Activity Guide as one of the most valued publications in our city. Rest assured, once we achieve a greater degree of stability in our recreation centers and beyond, the Westminster Activity Guide will return in all its glory to your mailboxes. In the

meantime, the best place to find up-to-date information in the COVID-19 era is at www.cityofwestminster.us.

“We are as eager to return to normal as our customers are,” confirms Parks, Recreation & Libraries Director Jason Genck. “We know how important our services are to our residents, and we don’t take that responsibility for granted. We’re as committed to your wellbeing as we were before the pandemic, and we will continue to meet your wellness needs when this public health crisis is behind us.”

35 YEARS. OVER 3,100 ACRES PRESERVED.



FOUNDED IN 1985, Westminster's Open Space program (Colorado's second oldest municipal program) is only made possible through taxpayer support. With your sales tax dollars, we're still working hard to protect and preserve Westminster's open spaces and natural vistas. Can you imagine where we'd be without them?

JOHN FIELDER

PHOTOGRAPHS WESTMINSTER



LIMITED EDITION

Greeting Cards

Set of 10 blank cards featuring John Fielder's Westminster series through the seasons.

\$15

To order visit:
[www.cityofwestminster.us/
HolidayGiftGuide](http://www.cityofwestminster.us/HolidayGiftGuide)

In celebration of 35 years of Open Space, John Fielder agreed to capture the beauty in our backyard. Through his lens we are reminded of one of our most precious resources.

"I especially enjoyed riding my bike along the Big Dry Creek Trail...so many stately cottonwood trees lime green in spring and yellow/orange in fall. Every sunrise visit to McKay Lake revealed a new scene...pink clouds reflecting in the lake, fishermen in boats, runners silhouetted against a rising sun, and waterfowl everywhere. In spring, summer, fall, and winter I saw how so many beautiful places change from one season to the next."

- John Fielder





City Facility Reopenings

Information current as of Nov. 20, 2020.

To see the reopening status of city facilities, visit the city's website at:

www.cityofwestminster.us/COVID-19

CITY PARK RECREATION CENTER

Weight room, racquetball courts and some swimming areas are available by registration.

CITY PARK FITNESS CENTER

Weight room and cardio area are available by registration.

WEST VIEW RECREATION CENTER

Cardio area, weight room and indoor track available by reservation.



SWIM & FITNESS CENTER

Weight room and lap pool are available by reservation.



TENNIS/ PICKLEBALL COURTS AND SKATEPARKS

Open with a limit of 10 users at a time.



WALNUT CREEK AND LEGACY RIDGE GOLF COURSES

Courses, the golf shop and clubhouse and open with restrictions. Restaurants are limited to open-air dining.



Open for gatherings of fewer than 10 people. The public assumes responsibility for cleaning any area they use.

IRVING STREET AND COLLEGE HILL LIBRARIES

Curbside pickup of materials on hold is available every day except Tuesday and Sunday. The building is closed, but limited computer access is available by reservation only.



"On behalf of all of our dedicated staff, we thank you for your unwavering support and resilience during these difficult months. We sincerely miss seeing you in our facilities and providing services that you may need or enjoy."

Jason Genck
Director of Parks,
Recreation and Libraries



The care you need. When you need it.



Primary Care for routine health needs.

Take an active role in maintaining your health through regular physicals and screenings. When illness or injuries arise, our practices offer the care you need to get you feeling better or back to your active lifestyle.

Convenient Care Clinic for same-day visits.

Same-day appointments and short in-office wait times. Staff is trained to get you seen quickly. Expert team seeing patients of all ages for minor illnesses and injuries including:

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- Strains and sprains
- Flu and fevers
- Rashes
- Allergies

Located on the St. Anthony North Health Campus. 720-627-3980.

Weekdays: 1-9 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Emergency Care when you need care faster.

St. Anthony North Health Campus' state-of-the-art emergency department is staffed with board-certified emergency physicians, trauma-trained emergency nurses and EMT's. 24/7 emergency services conveniently located near I-25 at 144th Avenue.

To learn more about these services and a full list of services we offer, visit centura.org.

St. Anthony North Health Campus



Centura Health Physician Group



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Neighborly Advice

What do I do with hard to recycle items?

The environmental compliance program keeps the city's internal operations in check while also assisting residents with recycling and disposal activities.

Hard to recycle guide:

- Automotive fluids, household chemicals, paint and almost anything else liquid in your home: use the city's Household Hazardous Waste (At Your Door) program through Waste Management. One television or computer is also accepted.
 - Call 1-800 449-7587 or email AtYourDoor@WM.com to set up your once-a-year, free pickup.
- Electronics, paint, batteries, smoke alarms, large steel items, televisions, Styrofoam, books, ink/toner cartridges, cassettes/VHS, appliances, propane tanks, compost and all other kinds of hard to recycle items: SustainAbility in Arvada or Denver.
 - Call 303-425-9226 or visit www.sustainability-recycling.com.

Only rain down the drain!

The city has separate sanitary and storm sewer systems. Separate systems have two separate pipes—one pipe carries stormwater (rain) from storm drains to local streams, rivers and lakes, such as Big Dry Creek, with little or no treatment. A different pipe carries sanitary sewage to the wastewater treatment facility. Therefore, it's critical to not dispose of anything into the storm sewer.

Please help us keep our water clean.



Pick up pet poop



Fix oil leaks
(don't pour used oil down drains!)



Use fertilizers sparingly



Compost leaves



Use commercial car washes

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

For general inquiries and assistance, contact a Community Assistant.

Monday-Thursday,
7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

303-658-2400

(then press "0" from the menu options)

- Mattresses: Spring Back Colorado in Commerce City.
 - Call 720-515-1328 or visit springbackco.org.
- Wood/lumber: check out Oxford Recycling (Englewood), ReSOURCE (Boulder), or Western Disposal (Boulder) as a few examples.
- Other large, bulky items: contact your solid waste provider to schedule a special pickup.

The full guide is available on the city website: www.cityofwestminster.us/HardtoRecycleGuide. If you have questions about waste disposal, please contact hhwhotline@cityofwestminster.us or call 303-658-2300.

Floodplain Advice

While new homes built in Westminster are prohibited from being constructed in a floodplain, some of the city's older homes may be in a floodplain if located near a stream or creek.

Help reduce the impacts of flooding:

- Do not dump anything in ditches or streams. Keep the banks clear of brush and debris.
- Check with the Building Division before you build, alter, re-grade or fill on your property.
- Determine if your house is located in a floodplain, and whether you need to implement floodproofing measures and/or obtain flood insurance.

Flood safety

- Don't walk through flowing water.
- Don't drive through a flooded area.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Report downed power lines to Xcel Energy at 1-800-895-1999.
- Have your electricity turned off by Xcel Energy.
- Don't use appliances or motors that have been wet.
- Look out for small animals that may have been flooded out of their homes.
- Be alert for gas leaks. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flames.

If you have flooding on your property and need assistance, please contact the city's Engineering Division. engineering@cityofwestminster.us or 303-658-2120



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REALTORS**

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is where the
Heart is*

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OF CITY EVENTS**

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Each office individually owned and operated.



Find a volunteer opportunity

You can make an impact on your community. If you want to give your time and help those in need, Volunteer Westminister is the way to do it. And there's lots of ways to do it!

From shoveling snow for a senior or disabled resident to helping Growing Home's food pantry operations to advocating for victims of a crime, volunteering will fill your heart and help others.

Connect with city volunteer opportunities at www.cityofwestminster.us/VolunteerWestminster.

One current opportunity is to be a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and help children in foster care.

CASAs are trained volunteers who represent the interests of child victims of physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect in the judicial system.

Responsibilities include:

- Conduct an independent examination of each case
- Monitor the child's progress
- Attend court hearings
- Connect with the professional team, when necessary

CASA volunteers must be 21 years old, willing to commit to 18 months and complete the training. Learn more and fill out the application at ColoradoCASA.org or call 720-277-9112.

SCHOOL OF ROCK BROOMFIELD



YOUR CHILD CAN
BECOME A MUSICIAN ⚡

At School of Rock student health & safety is our top priority. We offer online and socially-distanced in-school programs. Select the educational approach that's right for your child and start their musical journey today!

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303.325.3772

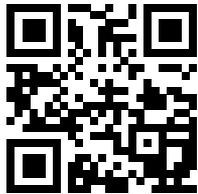
broomfield.schoolofrock.com
email: broomfield@schoolofrock.com
[@schoolofrockbroomfield](https://www.instagram.com/schoolofrockbroomfield)

Your Next Adventure is Within Reach

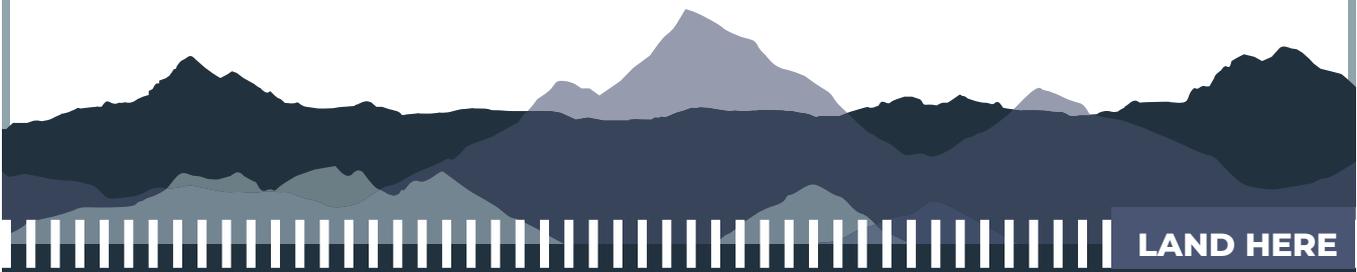
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FUTURE PLANS

**We are a thriving community
of safe neighborhoods
and beautiful open space
that is sustainable
and inclusive.**

**VISION
STATEMENT**

**ADOPTED
2020**



WESTMINSTER

2040 Comprehensive Plan guides Westminster's next decade

WESTMINSTER *FORWARD* *one community. one vision. one future.*

The Comprehensive Plan is just one of several plans that will lead the city into the future. Westminster Forward was developed as a coordinated community engagement program to identify policies and actions to form: an updated Comprehensive Plan; the first Sustainability Plan; a Transportation & Mobility Plan; a Parks, Recreation & Libraries Plan; Water Supply Plan, and Code Forward to provide development standards to support the policies of these plans.

Westminster Forward is not one final plan or product. The outcome will be a suite of individual plans to establish guidance for policy and programming based on resource availability.

Comprehensive Plan Purpose

The Comprehensive Plan will lay the foundation for livability, accessibility, community identity and growth for the next two decades. As the city nears buildout, the Plan creates a framework and standards to ensure future development is adequately served by municipal services and infrastructure.

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan will take into account changed conditions since 2013 including greater demographic diversity; an aging population; housing needs; transit improvements; diminishing land inventory and changing market conditions; an interest in public health; and a reconsideration of land use assumptions to align with the city's water supply.



How does the 2040 Comprehensive Plan reflect these changes?

- The 2013 Plan's nine themes were reevaluated and pared down to emphasize the mature nature of the city with development opportunities; the responsible management of water and other limited resources; and the desire to be one of the most sustainable, safe and healthiest cities in America.
- In tandem with water supply planning, the updated Plan revises the land use categories and their distribution. This evaluation was necessary to ensure a balance of opportunities to provide for employment opportunities, housing and accessible locations for goods and services.
- Several topics were identified through the public engagement process that are not addressed in the existing Plan. Some of these include:
 - Predictable and transparent development process
 - Healthy living, including food access
 - Reinvestment in existing neighborhoods
 - Housing to address changing demographics, such as seniors and intergenerational households
 - Resiliency of the water supply system
 - Water conservation

We encourage the public to review the Draft Comprehensive Plan. Here's how you can be involved now:

1. Stay tuned for ways to review the draft at www.cityofwestminster.us/forward.
2. Sign up online to be notified by email of Westminster Forward updates and events at www.cityofwestminster.us/forward.
3. Email us at westminsterforward@cityofwestminster.us.

www.cityofwestminster.us/Forward

City aims to be a leader in electronic vehicle use

The Fleet Management Division is responsible for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of the city's fleet of over 600 pieces of equipment. The city partnered with Xcel Energy to develop an Electric Vehicle Action Plan to improve air quality and save money through electric vehicle adoption. This project includes three areas of focus, with targets to be achieved by the year 2025:

1. Cost-effective conversion of the city's fleet vehicles to electric vehicles
2. Increase access to charging stations at city facilities for residents and visitors
3. Encourage the purchase of electric vehicles for private and commercial use

Westminster's Electric Vehicle Baseline & Targets



Bikeway updates roll in

Big improvements are coming to Sheridan Boulevard and the U.S. 36 bikeway corridors. The street and bikeway are two heavily utilized transportation networks in the city and will receive an upgrade in the Sheridan Boulevard Multimodal Transportation Improvement (MTI) project.

The city will use \$6.6 million in federal and state funding with the support of the Denver Regional Council of Governments and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to make Sheridan Boulevard six-lanes from Turnpike Drive to West 88th Avenue. A concrete median will be installed with new dual streetlights. Also part of the project will be a concrete underpass at West 88th Avenue and Sheridan Boulevard to connect RTD's U.S. 36 & Sheridan Station to Downtown Westminster. This underpass will improve the safety and convenience of the U.S. 36 Bikeway in this area.

Multiple projects have created traffic impacts at Sheridan Boulevard and West 88th Avenue over the past few years. The Sheridan Boulevard MTI project will work to mitigate traffic impacts as much as possible. The project team and the construction manager, CEI, are working with CDOT on a traffic control plan.

The project is 90% designed and the city anticipates that construction will start in the summer of 2021.

Help us make Westminster more sustainable

A draft of the city's first Sustainability Plan was presented to City Council on Monday, Nov. 16. The draft Plan will serve as the city's multi-year strategic plan to help Westminster become a more sustainable city.

The plan is organized around seven themes:

- Energy
- Economic resilience
- Environment and natural resources
- Health and wellness
- Housing and neighborhoods
- Materials and waste
- Transportation and mobility

In addition, five cross-cutting areas address issues that touch on all seven of the themes. These cross-cutting areas are:

- Education
- Equity
- Climate
- Resilience
- Safety



The draft Plan is now available for public comment, and the comment period will conclude at the end of January 2021. The draft Plan, including summary documents, can be found on the city's website at www.cityofwestminster.us/Residents/CityServices/Sustainability/Sustainability-Plan.

A variety of opportunities will be made available for the public to provide comments, including the comment form on the city's website and a virtual open house. Given the challenges to in-person public engagement during the COVID-19 public health crisis, details are still being worked out on how that might occur.

Please send any questions to: sustainability@cityofwestminster.us



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BY THE NUMBERS



TOP 5 FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES

51



BUILDING
FIRES

18



VEHICLE
FIRES

24



RUBBISH
FIRES

42



VEGETATION
FIRES

22



COOKING
FIRES



TOP 10 EMS RESPONSES

7,418
EMS CALLS

5,694
PATIENT
TRANSPORTS

- 1 ILL PERSON
- 2 FALL
- 3 BREATHING PROBLEM
- 4 TRAUMATIC INJURY
- 5 DOWN PERSON
- 6 CHEST PAIN
- 7 SEIZURE
- 8 ABDOMINAL PAIN
- 9 TRAFFIC ACCIDENT
- 10 PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEM



FINANCE

\$3.6 MILLION

Saved by refinancing the Wastewater Revenue Bonds

\$31,000
Amount saved annually in retirement investment consulting fees

33,000
Customers served by the utility billing customer service unit

\$16,000
Provided in utility billing assistance to over 300 customers



IT DEPARTMENT

193+ MILES OF FIBER

currently connecting 44 city facilities to the city network.

\$1.3 million saved per year by avoiding data line leases

1,200+ mailboxes (2.3 TB) of email have been migrated to Exchange Online in the cloud

≈500,000 emails delivered to city email addresses every 30 days
↓
1/5 of them are **NOT** spam

IT SUPPORTS:
1,500 phones, **1,200+** computers and laptops at over **30** facilities, **500** physical and virtual servers, and **100** applications and systems citywide.

“I want to thank our Finance and Public Works and Utilities Departments for responding quickly to lower interest rates made available during the COVID-19 pandemic, saving millions for our residents.”

Don Tripp
City Manager



POLICE DEPARTMENT

K-9 UNIT:

5 teams

3 trained in narcotics / **2** trained in explosives

8-week academy + 10 hours/week continued training

Work **5-7** years

K-9 unit deployed **511 times** in 2019

Pipo





City's water supply holding up in midst of severe drought

Standley Lake serves as Westminster's primary source of drinking water and provides water storage for Thornton, Northglenn and the Farmer's Reservoir and Irrigation Company (FRICO). The city owns a little over seven billion gallons in water storage in the lake and protects it with industry-leading water quality monitoring and source water protection programs.

Although the city has a secure water supply, no water supply is immune to droughts when inflows from streams decrease and outflows to customers increase – especially when hot, dry conditions cause outdoor irrigation to increase.

The drought that began over the summer is continuing to intensify across the state. Virtually all of Colorado is in a "severe" or "exceptional" drought according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The city water resources team has been working hard to protect existing water supplies, and as of the beginning of November, water storage is in a relatively strong position for this time of year.

No local drought declarations or water restrictions are needed at this time, but water resource staff continue to keep a close eye on climate conditions, reservoir storage and customer water demand.

The best thing that residents and

businesses can do for the city's water supply is to use less water outside. Outdoor water usage accounts for almost half of the city's overall water usage and is the easiest form of water usage to reduce. Conservation and water efficiency programs will play a growing role in managing the city's water supply. Learn more at www.cityofwestminster.us/Residents/Water/Conservation.

The next opportunity for Standley Lake to refill will be next spring when the winter snowpack begins to melt. The amount of snowpack this winter will be a major determining factor in assessing the need for drought declarations in 2021.

The city has a Drought Management Plan in place that outlines specific triggers that indicate the need for water restrictions. It also outlines drought response strategies and specific restrictions that need to be implemented to protect the long-term safety of the water supply. Learn about the city's plan at www.cityofwestminster.us/drought.

Prior to 1955, the city obtained water solely from groundwater wells. Rapid growth during the 1950s put strain on this supply leading the city to develop a surface water supply by purchasing water rights in nearby ditches and canals. During an exceptionally hot summer in 1962, this system was again strained, forcing the city to use water from a ditch with unpleasant odors.

After a "Mother's March on City Hall" demanded improved water quality, the city negotiated a deal with FRICO in 1963 to raise the Standley Lake Dam and give the city a high quality, reliable source of drinking water.

City commits to being a diverse, equitable and inclusive organization

The Human Resources Department has committed to continuously challenge themselves and others to be a diverse, equitable and inclusive organization, and will embrace these pillars of excellence as critical to healthy people, healthy communities and a thriving workplace. The department strives to harness perspectives in order to encourage employees to think critically, realize and challenge their assumptions, and collaborate to forge a greater understanding of each other—all the while creating and maintaining opportunities for engagement that are enriched with diverse views. To support the importance of this effort, an organization-wide assessment of the city's practices and policies is anticipated to be conducted, with recommendations on areas for improvement.

Additionally, all employees across the organization are required to attend Respect in the Workplace trainings every other year, which emphasizes the importance of a respectful and harassment-free work environment. All supervisors are required to attend a Leading for Respect training that underscores the importance of their role in maintaining a harassment and discrimination-free environment. Human Resources also offers trainings on Building Cultural Awareness to help employees build their understanding of cultural differences that impact the organization and everyday interactions.

The City of Westminster formed an Inclusivity Board in 2015. This dedicated group of volunteers works with City Council to advocate for all voices in our community. For more information, visit www.cityofwestminster.us/inclusivity.

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Two Downtown Westminster projects achieve LEED Silver Certifications

Since its inception, Downtown Westminster has been envisioned and promoted as a sustainable neighborhood, which includes not only environmental design decisions, but social factors and economic considerations—known as the triple bottom line. The city has invested in a number of projects and planning initiatives that support this triple bottom line approach to sustainable development.

At the level of private investment, the most significant tool is LEED certification of buildings. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and

Environmental Design and is an internationally recognized green building certification.

Developers in Downtown Westminster are directed to pursue a minimum of LEED Silver certification and two projects have recently achieved that award. Eaton Street Apartments was recognized in March and **The Ascent** received the award in August.

Credits toward the certification are accumulated from various design and material components, performance measures such as water and energy conservation, and location benefits such as access to transit.

LEED consultants from Spirit Environmental are providing supporting services to Downtown Westminster projects to optimize credits and continue advancing sustainability goals. The city will also evaluate the site for a possible LEED-ND certification, which demonstrates the city's commitment to a sustainable future.

Uncovering city snow operations

It takes a team of over 70 employees in the Public Works and Utilities Department to help keep the city's streets clear of snow and ice throughout the winter. These staff are on call 24 hours a day to provide the best driving conditions possible during and after snow storms.

However, not all of the city's 1,100 miles of road can be plowed at once. The city has to prioritize snow removal on city streets and respond to different levels of snow storms. Some streets are even plowed by other jurisdictions.

For example, seven other jurisdictions remove snow, including the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Adams County and Jefferson County. CDOT is responsible for snow removal on Wadsworth Parkway, US 36, Federal Boulevard, 120th Avenue, Sheridan Boulevard south of 88th Avenue and I-25.

Streets are categorized into three levels of prioritization for snow removal:

Primary routes - All arterials and major collector streets that must be kept open to serve high traffic routes and provide access to hospitals, police stations and fire stations. Examples of primary routes include Sheridan Boulevard, 72nd Avenue and 128th Avenue.

Secondary routes - Collector streets and select residential streets that provide access to arterial roadways, major collectors, schools and bus routes. Examples of secondary routes include Skyline Drive, Independence Street and Alcott Street.

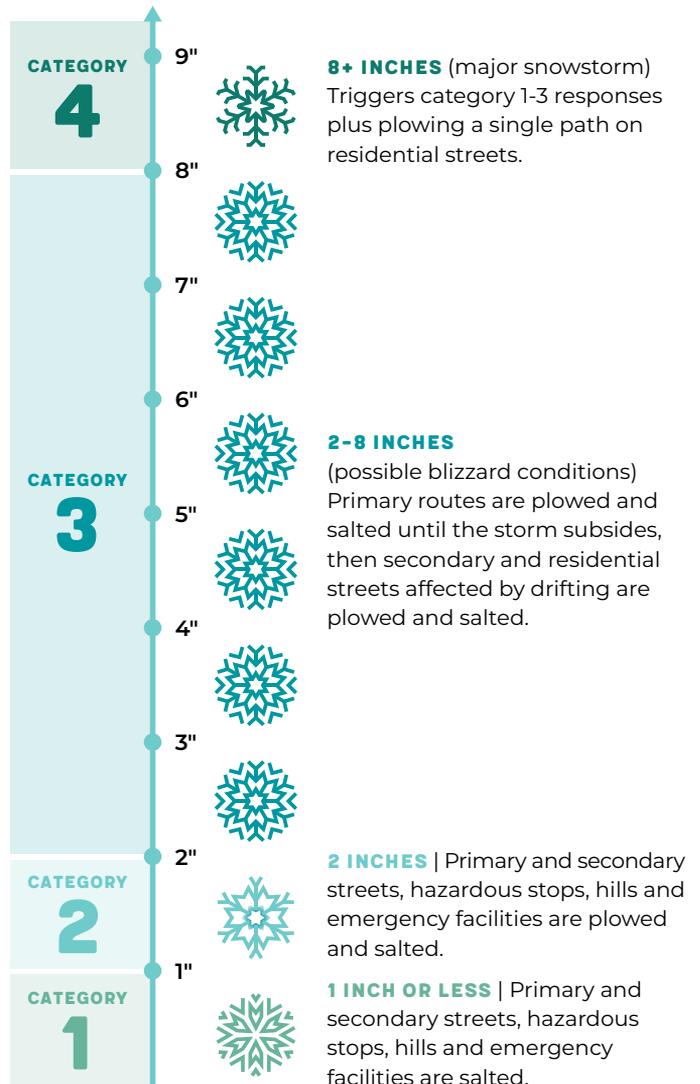
Residential areas - Streets that serve residential neighborhoods and subdivisions that are not primary or secondary routes. Priority is given to residential streets that have dangerous intersections, hills and curves.

Snow removal operations first focus on primary routes and emergency facilities. Secondary and residential routes are plowed and salted as soon as possible thereafter. Snow removal operations will provide a navigable surface in residential areas. Streets in these areas may have snow or packed ice, but plowing and material application allows a vehicle to travel the street safely on at least one center lane. When plowing is required, windrows of snow across driveways are created and it's the responsibility of the property owner to open their driveway.

More information and a full map of these snow removal routes can be found at www.cityofwestminster.us/snowmap.



SNOW RESPONSE LEVELS





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