

CITY OF BOULDER COLORADO

SPRING 2020

Community Newsletter

Vol. 5 No. 1



A look back at City of Boulder accomplishments through the 2010s

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INTERIOR EN ESPAÑOL

El censo 2020 comienza en marzo. El censo es el conteo que hace el gobierno federal cada diez años de todas las personas que viven en los Estados Unidos, de acuerdo con la Constitución de ese país.

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Utility relocations, repaving and drainage upgrades are in the works to improve Boulder's transportation infrastructure.

A NEWS ROUNDUP IN YOUR INBOX

The City of Boulder E-newsletter is a bimonthly roundup of city news, information and events in bite-sized pieces that help you stay up-to-date.

Keep current with upcoming engagement opportunities, read about the wide variety of projects city departments are focused on and get useful tips on topics such as recycling, preventing bike theft and so much more.

Visit BoulderColorado.gov/communications/city-newsletters to sign up for the citywide e-newsletter and choose from a dozen others from various departments and subject matters.



Looking back at 2019 and ahead to 2020



JANE BRAUTIGAM
CITY MANAGER

The beginning of the year is a good time to reflect on accomplishments, lessons learned and things to come. 2019 was a big year for the City of Boulder – and I'm proud of the work we accomplished together and excited for what's ahead this year. From expanding clean energy to improving critical infrastructure to focusing on inclusivity, the city made progress on a range of impactful initiatives in 2019.

Equity and engagement

Boulder is committed to being an inclusive and welcoming community.

The city strengthened relationships with partners and piloted community

connectors last year to ensure

more inclusive engagement around city projects. The city also created a Racial Equity Engagement Working Group to co-create meaningful and inclusive engagement practices with the goal of developing and implementing a City of Boulder Racial Equity Plan in 2020.

In 2019, Boulder progressed on affordable housing projects furthering the city's commitment to creating and preserving diverse housing options. The city adopted a Manufactured Housing Strategy last year and expanded the city's affordable housing goal from 10% to 15% of all residential properties as permanently affordable to those of low and moderate income.

Renewable energy

The city received authorization from the Colorado Public Utilities Commission last year to transfer assets necessary for the creation of a local electric utility. The ruling allows the city to begin the process – pending future voter approval – to buy much of the existing electric distribution system from Xcel Energy in Boulder.

The formation of a local electric utility is part of the city's goal to move to 100% renewable energy by 2030. To make progress toward that goal, the city also ordered new electric buses for its HOP fleet and expanded solar last year. The city began construction on a 2.5 megawatt portfolio of solar across city facilities. The city also recently installed 1.6 megawatts of solar panels at the Boulder

Reservoir Water Treatment Plant. The city's total solar portfolio after all these projects and including community solar garden subscriptions is 7.8 megawatts.

Infrastructure improvements

A portion of a new radio system infrastructure was installed last year. It will allow emergency services staff to have clearer and more reliable communication via radio during emergencies, which is critical for public safety.

Speaking of communication, the city completed the design of a dark fiber backbone in 2019, the first step required to deliver community broadband for the city. Construction of 65 miles of fiber is expected to start early this year. In the short term, this asset will be used for city and select community purposes, rather than providing direct broadband services to the public. In the long term, this infrastructure could support gigabit speed internet services to homes and various city applications.

Ahead in 2020

There's much to be excited about in 2020 too. The city will continue to collaborate in developing and implementing a strategy, known as the Climate Mobilization Action Plan, to address the climate emergency. This summer, construction is expected to be completed on two very exciting projects: renovations at Scott Carpenter Pool and redevelopment of the Boulder Reservoir Visitor Services Center. And toward the end of the year, construction is planned to wrap up on a bike and pedestrian underpass on Foothills Parkway by CU Boulder, which will improve accessibility and public safety. These are just a few of the many projects ahead this year. I look forward to partnering with you, our community, to do great things together in 2020. Learn more about the City of Boulder's 2019 accomplishments and work to come in the **2020 State of the City video at [Vimeo.com/389335553](https://vimeo.com/389335553)**.

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Partnership offers help to those in mental health crisis



CAREY WEINHEIMER
INTERIM POLICE CHIEF

As the new year begins, it's not uncommon for people to experience post-holiday blues. The truth is anxiety, depression and other mental health issues can affect anyone, at any time. That's where the partnership between the Boulder Police Department and Mental Health Partners comes in, which is proving to be a tremendous resource for community members in crisis.

The Early Diversion, Get Engaged (EDGE) co-response program brings law enforcement together

with behavioral health professionals. The program aims to prevent unnecessary incarceration and hospitalization of those experiencing behavioral health issues by helping community members get the treatment they need.

Our police officers and EDGE team respond to mental health crisis calls daily. Each time, they seek to work with the person in crisis and family members to access mental health resources available in the community. This partnership is an essential part to the department's overall de-escalation philosophy. EDGE members also attend shift briefings to provide training and information to officers to better serve the public. By actively training officers and engaging those in crisis, the well-being of the individual and community safety is improved.

The Boulder Police Department is dedicated to bringing safe resolutions to interactions with community members in a mental health crisis. In addition to ongoing de-escalation training provided to officers during defensive tactics and firearms trainings, almost half of the officers have attended a week-long Crisis Intervention Training class. This training focuses on helping officers identify someone experiencing a mental health crisis, provides tools for better communication and involves role-play situations. The goal is for officers to be better prepared to assist someone in crisis during a call for service.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU CALL 9-1-1 FOR A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

First, uniformed police officers will be sent to begin looking into the situation. They will determine if any crime has been committed, and if necessary, will assess the safety of the individual. After obtaining this basic information they will request the EDGE team, if they are available and not already requested. When the EDGE team arrives, they will continue to gather information and decide the best course of action. That may include providing more resources, creating a safety plan or transportation to a crisis center or hospital. If the person requiring treatment needs to be transported, they may be handcuffed by the officers for the safety of everyone.

The City of Boulder and Boulder Police Department's values of customer service, respect, integrity, collaboration and innovation are all addressed with the partnership with Mental Health Partners, and we are proud of the work being done. If you or a loved one needs assistance in the coming year, our officers and EDGE team are committed to providing the best service possible to our community.

21,000+

Between 2015 and 2017, more than 21,000 people were involved in a crash in Boulder.

What's next for vision zero?

Vision Zero is the bold goal to eliminate all serious injuries and fatalities resulting from traffic crashes in Boulder.

Protecting the health of our community members means addressing risky behaviors through the Four E's — Engineering, Education, Enforcement and Evaluation — to design, operate and maintain a transportation system focused on travel safety.

Here are some of the high-impact Vision Zero action items staff will be focusing on in 2020:

Speed limits review

Reflecting a national “20 Is Plenty” campaign and recognizing speeding as a main contributing factor to the severity of traffic crashes, staff will evaluate crash data and develop a public process to review speed limits on local streets. The process will help the city determine whether speed limits in Boulder should be reduced and, if so, where.



Lower-stress walking and biking

From traffic-calming measures to high-visibility signs and pavement markings, staff will start implementing quick-build techniques outlined in the city's Transportation Master Plan (TMP) to improve the comfort and safety of people walking and biking.

Travel safety updates to design standards

Based on feedback from community members, staff will develop new transportation design and construction standards that align with industry best practices, increase travel safety and reflect TMP policies

More pedestrian head-starts

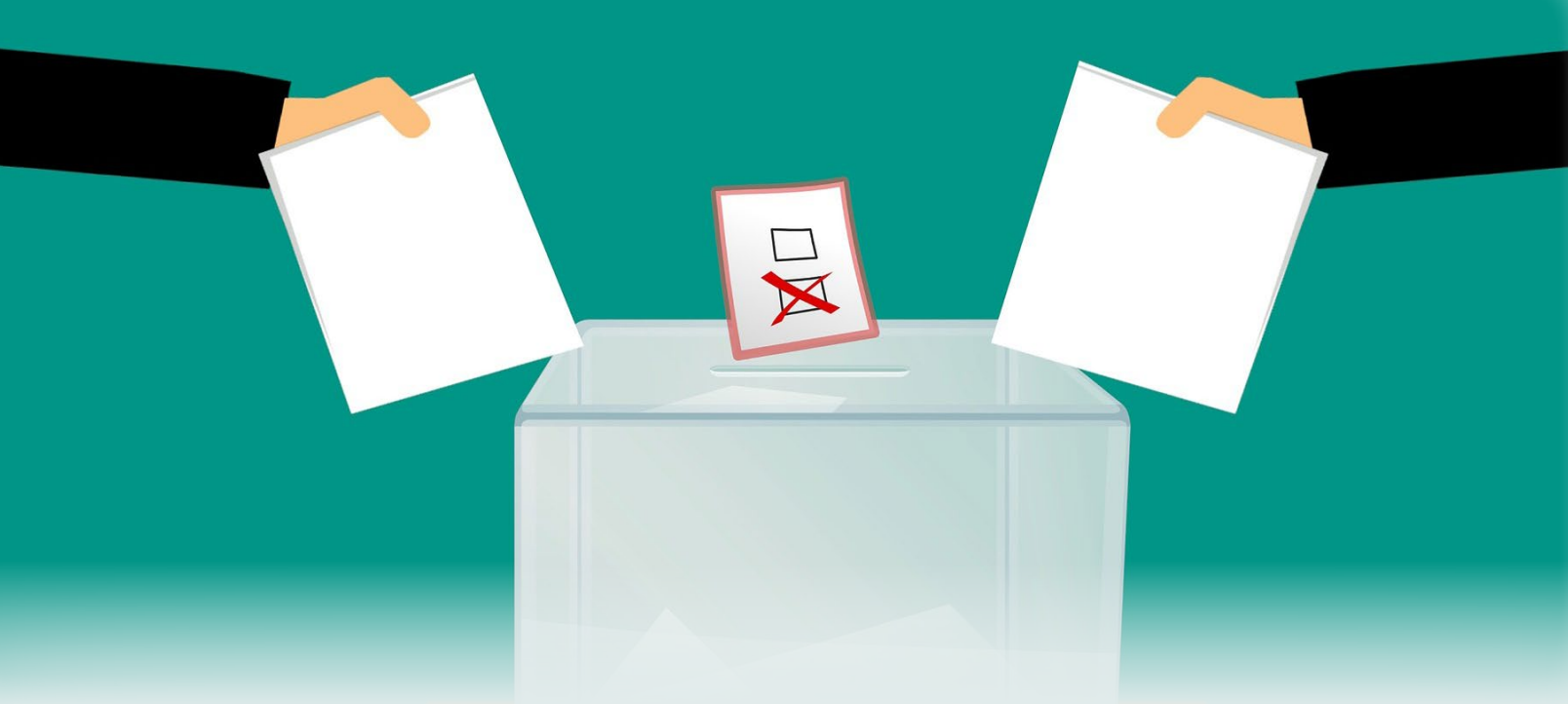
Staff will look at where more time can be built into pedestrian crossings at intersections, as well as where left-turn signals can adopt protected phasing (a green left-turn arrow instead of a yellow, flashing left-turn arrow).

Learn more about the city's Vision Zero efforts at: BoulderColorado.gov/city-council/vision-zero-2



**CRASHES ON
FASTER ROADWAYS
ARE MORE DEADLY.**

Roughly **1 in 10** pedestrians survive a collision with a vehicle traveling **at 40 mph**, versus **5 in 10 at 30 mph**, and **9 in 10 at 20 mph**.



How to participate in Colorado's 2020 presidential primary

On March 3 – commonly known as Super Tuesday – Colorado will hold its first presidential primary election in two decades.

In an effort to be more inclusive, Colorado passed a bill in 2016 that allows unaffiliated and young voters to vote in the presidential primary.

Here is what you need to know:

- Colorado political parties will still hold caucuses in March to determine local and statewide candidates for the ballot in the June primary.
- Ballots for the presidential primary were mailed to voters beginning Feb. 10.
- Presidential primaries in Colorado are only held by the Democratic and Republican parties. You must be registered as a Democrat, Republican or unaffiliated to participate.
- Voters registered to a party will only receive the ballot for their respective party. Unaffiliated voters will be mailed both party ballots but can only vote on and return one.
- Unaffiliated voters could update their voter registration to pre-designate their ballot preference, which would eliminate getting two ballots in the mail, but the deadline to switch parties and receive only one ballot in the mail was Feb. 3.

Turning 18 soon?

Voters who will turn 18-years-old by the general election on Nov. 3 can now vote in Colorado primaries.

There is no voter registration deadline. You can register and vote up to and including Election Day. If you have a Colorado driver's license or state ID, you can register to vote or update your registration online at **www.GoVoteColorado.gov**. You can also register by mail or in-person at any Boulder County Clerk & Recorder's office.

For more voter and election information, visit **www.BoulderCountyVotes.org** or call 303-413-7740.

Everyone counts!

The 2020 census starts in March nationwide

The census is a count of every person living in the United States. It's conducted every ten years by the federal government and is required by the U.S. Constitution. The 2020 Census has been widely publicized over the past year, but just in case you missed it, here is some helpful information:

It's important!

The census is used to determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives, how federal and state legislative districts are redrawn, and the appropriation of federally funded programs. In fact, **census counts are used in distributing over \$13.1 billion in federal funds each year.** In Colorado, that's around \$2,300 per person *every year*.

It's safe!

All data is protected by law, and personal information is never shared with other government agencies.

It's easy!

The questionnaire takes about ten minutes to complete and is available in many different languages.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Expect to receive a postcard in the mail in mid-March from the United States Census Bureau with instructions for completing the census questionnaire online. You may also choose to take the census over the phone, use a paper mail-in form or meet in person with a census taker.

Want to get involved?

A complete and accurate count is only possible through community collaboration. Visit **BoulderColorado.gov/planning/2020-census** or contact census@bouldercolorado.gov to learn how you can help with the 2020 Census.

EVERYONE
2020
COUNTS
IN BOULDER COUNTY

United States®
Census
2020

¡Todo el mundo cuenta!

El censo 2020 comienza en marzo

El censo es el conteo que hace el gobierno federal cada diez años de todas las personas que viven en los Estados Unidos, de acuerdo con la Constitución de ese país. El año pasado se le hizo muchísima publicidad al censo 2020, pero en caso de que no la haya visto, a continuación encontrará algunos datos útiles:

¡Es importante!

El censo permite determinar el número de escaños que cada estado tiene en la Cámara de Representantes, las modificaciones a realizar en los distritos legislativos federales y estatales, y la asignación de fondos para los programas financiados por el gobierno federal. De hecho, **el conteo del censo se utiliza para distribuir más de \$13,1 mil millones en fondos federales cada año.** En Colorado, eso equivale a unos \$2.300 por persona *cada año*.

¡Es seguro!

Todos los datos están protegidos por la ley y la información personal nunca se comparte con otros organismos gubernamentales.

¡Es fácil!

Toma unos diez minutos completar el cuestionario y está disponible en muchos idiomas.



¿Y QUÉ SIGUE?

Espere recibir por correo, a mediados de marzo, una postal de la Oficina del Censo de los Estados Unidos con las instrucciones para llenar el cuestionario del censo en línea. También puede optar por llenar el censo por teléfono, usar un formulario impreso a enviar por correo o reunirse en persona con un funcionario del censo.

¿Desea participar?

? Un conteo completo y preciso solo es posible con la colaboración de la comunidad. Visite **BoulderColorado.gov/planning/2020-census** o comuníquese con census@bouldercolorado.gov para saber cómo puede ayudar con el censo de 2020.





How to keep your dogs safe this winter

Your dog still needs exercise, no matter how frightful the weather. But what do you need to know to keep your dog safe during the cold months? Keep the following information in mind this winter.

Frostbite and hypothermia

Paws, tail, and ears are vulnerable to frostbite in cold weather. If you notice ice crystals on these areas, bring your dog inside immediately and allow it to warm up. Go with shorter, more frequent outings (and don't leave them in the car) to reduce risk of hypothermia.

No ice is safe

Keep pets away from frozen bodies of water. If your pet falls through a frozen body of water, do not go out on the ice. If the ice cannot support the weight of your pet it will not support your weight. Immediately call 9-1-1 and specially trained firefighters from the City of Boulder will come help.

Insufficient calories

During colder months, a dog's body is working harder than usual to keep them warm. Replace those lost calories with healthy meals. And always, always make sure they are hydrated.

Salt and melting crystals

These can cause paw burns, extreme drying and cracking. Consider investing in pet boots or use a product like Bag Balm before your walks to protect their feet. Wash your dog's feet with warm water after the walk.

Antifreeze

Antifreeze is toxic, but its scent makes it a big danger for pets. Keep all antifreeze containers closed tightly and placed on out-of-reach shelves. Be on the lookout for green, blue, pink or orange spills in your driveway.

DID YOU KNOW 1 IN 3 PETS GO MISSING IN THEIR LIFETIME?

Scary, right? That's why the City of Boulder has partnered with DocuPet to give Boulder dog guardians access to features like the HomeSafe Lost Pet Service when you register your pups.

Learn more about the membership online at **Boulder.Docupet.com** or call 855-249-1370.

2010 to 2019 – ten years of

2010

SMART REGS ORDINANCE ADOPTED

This requires basic energy efficiency measures for rental properties, recognizing that more than half of all Boulder housing is made up of rentals. This supports the city's climate goals and ensures that renters experience the benefits of improved efficiency, such as increased comfort and potentially lower utility bills. **As of 2019, 99% of the city's approximately 23,000 rental units are compliant. The electricity savings are equivalent to taking roughly 950 cars off the road each year.**

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT BOND APPROVED

In 2011, Boulder voters **gave the city the authority to use existing revenues to bond for up to \$49 million to pay for necessary capital investments.** Since the bond was paid for with existing revenues, it did not raise taxes. This allowed the city to implement a list of projects that addressed significant deficiencies and high-priority infrastructure improvements like roadway reconstruction, park facility upgrades, police equipment needs and more.

2011

VALMONT BIKE PARK OPENED

Approximately 2,000 people attended the opening day celebration for Valmont Bike Park. The 42-acre project was 15 years in the making and has been **called North America's most state-of-the-art public bike park.**

BOULDER REGIONAL FIRE TRAINING

The Boulder Regional Fire Training Center opened for operations in 2011, and **allows firefighters to simulate emergency scenarios** like floor collapses and elevator rescues. The 10-acre site also includes a 15,800 square-foot classroom and administrative building.



2012

BROADWAY/EUCLID UNDERPASS COMPLETED

This project aimed to improve efficiency and safety for vehicles, buses, pedestrians and bicyclists in the area. Broadway is a busy street for vehicles, **carrying more than 2,500 vehicles during peak hours and more than 1,280 buses stopping** at the CU Transit Station each day.

PROGRAMS LAUNCHED UNDER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOND

In 2012, a variety of projects were launched through Capital Improvement Bond, including infrastructure improvements at **Boulder Reservoir, renovation of Canyon, Columbine and East Palo Parks, and replacement of South Boulder Recreation Center gymnasium floor.**

progress in the City of Boulder

2013

REBUILDING AFTER THE FLOOD

Boulder received a year's worth of rain in eight days in September 2013, causing flooding and widespread damage. In Boulder, 14% of households, 15% of paved paths, 34% of parks and 100% of open space trails were damaged. **Work to recover from the flood and prepare for future floods continues today. The city has received more than \$20 million in grants and reimbursements to support recovery and resilience projects.**



2014

NORTH BOULDER CORNER LIBRARY

Opened in 2014, this 600 square-foot library serves the north Boulder community by providing easy access to pick up holds, drop off books, use Wi-Fi and access public computers. Today, this small community hub hosts weekly storytimes in both English and Spanish.

BOULDER PUBLIC LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

The voter-approved Capital Improvement Bond allowed the Main Library to complete needed renovations. Improvements were made to the children's area, a larger teen space was created, outdated electrical systems and carpet were replaced. **The bridge over Boulder Creek was also updated to allow for a café.**

COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND SAFETY TAX APPROVED

Boulder voters approved a three-year 0.3% sales and use tax for funding to improve community spaces, bolster cultural projects and organizations and enhance safety. **The \$27.6 million raised was used to fund a variety of projects, including lighting and pedestrian safety improvements at Boulder Creek, the Civic Area and Chautauqua Park.** It also helped fund theater improvements at Dairy Center for the Arts, the relocation of the Museum of Boulder, and a variety of public art projects.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

2015

BOULDER JUNCTION PROGRESS

Boulder Junction is a mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented district with regional transit connections and public spaces. **The vision for the 160-acre Boulder Junction is guided by the 2007 Transit Village Area Plan**, though the idea began in 2000, when the City of Boulder initiated a planning effort for a transit-oriented development district. Since then, the city has worked alongside private developers, RTD, community members and other partners to create the Boulder Junction district.

UNIVERSAL ZERO WASTE ORDINANCE ADOPTED

"UZWO" requires all property owners to subscribe to trash, recycling and composting collection services. All businesses must separate their waste streams and have appropriate bins and signs. This ordinance makes composting and recycling easy and convenient across our community as we work towards **our goal of producing new materials from 85 percent of our waste by 2025, rather than sending that waste to the landfill.**

CAP TAX EXTENDED

In 2015, voters approved to extend the Climate Action Plan (CAP) tax to 2023 to help fund important sustainability initiatives in the city. **The CAP tax generates approximately \$1.8 million per year** that helps fund projects aimed at mitigating climate change and building resilience in the city.



2016

BOULDER PUBLIC LIBRARY BLDG 61 MAKERSPACE

The all-ages workshop space located in the north wing of the library houses a variety of equipment, including 3D printers, woodworking tools and a laser cutter. The makerspace was created thanks to the generosity of the Boulder Library Foundation and it sees thousands of visitors each year.

BASELINE UNDERPASS

The underpass between Broadway and 27th Way was completed in 2017 and **provides a safer way to cross Baseline Road for bicyclists and pedestrians, plus improves connectivity in the area.** This location is an important corridor for the community, and an underpass had been planned for it since the city's first Transportation Master Plan in 1989.

CLIMATE COMMITMENT ADOPTED

Boulder's Climate Commitment is the official climate strategy framework for the city organization.

It provides a vision for Boulder's future and the initial pathways to reaching sustainability goals. This committed the city to striving toward 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030 and reducing Boulder's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050.

2017

BOULDER CIVIC AREA OPENING

Boulder held a soft opening for the 13-acre Boulder Civic Area park in 2017. Crews removed fencing surrounding much of the project area, **allowing visitors to start enjoying heightened connectivity in the new plazas.**



COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND SAFETY TAX EXTENDED

In 2017, Boulder voters approved a four-year extension of this tax, which will fund several important city facilities, such as the **construction of the north boulder library, a new fire station on 30th Street, and improvements to the city's radio infrastructure to support public safety functions.** It also provides matching funds for several community nonprofit facilities, including Meals on Wheels, Community Cycles and Growing Gardens.

BETASSO WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

In 2018, the city upgraded this facility as part of the city's Capital Improvement Bond. **This \$35 million project replaced aging equipment and updated treatment processes at the city's primary water treatment plant.** The Betasso plant has operated year-round for nearly 50 years.

BOULDER FALLS RE-OPENING

Nearly five years after closing due to the 2013 flood, and \$1.2 in restoration and improvements, the city re-opened the iconic Boulder Falls.

SOLAR ARRAY AT BOULDER RESERVOIR

The city **completed construction of a 1.6 megawatt solar array at the Boulder Reservoir Water Treatment Plant,** providing up to two-thirds of the plant's annual electrical needs and moving the city toward its renewable energy goals.

2018

2019

WONDERLAND CREEK GREENWAYS IMPROVEMENT

This \$30 million, three-year project helped reduce flood risk to numerous structures, including more than 450 homes in a FEMA-rated high-risk flood zone. It also extended the multi-use path system connecting the east side of Foothills Parkway to 30th Street, constructing three underpasses to provide safe passage for pedestrians and cyclists.



ALPINE-BALSAM PLAN ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL

This area was purchased in 2015, and the recently adopted plan offer an opportunity to further the city's access, mobility, sustainability and climate goals. It is a **guide for the area's future and will inform decisions about private development, public facilities and services in the area.** It balances many factors and strikes a compromise on density and use to ensure the area remains a lively neighborhood center.



Boulder Public Library says goodbye to late fees

Some people may have wondered why late fees at the local library have vanished, but the estimated 72% of households in Boulder that have an active library card probably aren't missing them.

Many studies have found that late fees disproportionately impact patrons with the least ability to pay. Because of this, Boulder Public Library decided to do away with late fees back in March 2019. The fees only made up a small portion of the library's overall budget, while the opportunity to remove barriers to access these important services was a driving force.

The library's old policy blocked accounts with over \$10 in overdue fines from checking out additional materials. Overdue fines were removed from 46,000 patron accounts, increasing equity among library users and allowing those with previously blocked accounts the option to check out books again.

What it means for you

Checked out items still have a due date, and borrowers are encouraged to return them on time. Items not on hold for someone else will automatically renew up to three times.

If an item is not returned within one month of the final due date, a charge will be placed on the account for the full amount of the missing item. However, if the item is returned within one year, the replacement charge will be removed.

If you have any questions about library accounts or the new policy, call 303-441-3100 or visit www.BoulderLibrary.org



BOULDER ARTS WEEK 2020

March 27 - April 4

Celebrate our rich cultural landscape at the 7th Annual Boulder Arts Week! Enjoy Boulder's only large-scale, inclusive celebration of the community's vibrant arts and culture scene.

Boulder Arts Week will feature many free and discounted experiences at venues across the city:

- **Art walks**
- **Exhibitions**
- **Performances**
- **Dance**
- **Music**
- **Theater**
- **Public Art**
- **Lectures**
- **Readings**
- **Workshops and more!**

Because this is Boulder, look for quirky and unusual arts encounters, like last year's burlesque show in a bike shop or art show in the funeral home.

Find out more at BoulderArtsWeek.org.



Art: "Untitled" - abstract resin and alcohol ink - Brittany Free, 2019



What does resilience mean in Boulder?

Like many cities and communities across the country and around the world, Boulder is adjusting to a new normal, where the effects of climate change are becoming increasingly apparent.

And like residents of other cities that have recently experienced a severe natural disaster, many of us understandably perceive resilience as preparing for the kinds of events that are magnified by climate change.

Boulder has some of the highest fire and flood risks of all communities in Colorado, and the number of days over 95 degrees Fahrenheit in Boulder have doubled since 2000.

But resilience is not only about natural disasters or the effects of climate change. Rather, it's about addressing the fundamental chronic stresses that weakens the fabric of our community.

For Boulder, resilience is the ability of our community to prepare for and respond effectively to shocks and stressors. Shocks come on suddenly, like the 2013 flood, wildfires, violence or illnesses. Stressors can look like economic hardship, social inequality or the declining health of a community and its members. By focusing on both shocks and stresses together, Boulder will become more able to respond to challenging events and is more likely to thrive as a happy, healthy and inclusive community.

Resilient communities prepare for, survive, adapt and learn to thrive under new conditions. These efforts come in many shapes and sizes, such as building a resilient, renewable energy system; managing our ecosystems and green infrastructure well; creating a local, circular economy; and preparing individuals and neighborhoods to work together in times of natural disaster.

The city is committed to ensuring our resilience efforts are innovative and built with the help of our community. Collaborating closely with the Boulder County, the city is working to enhance our organizational preparedness for a range of potential hazards, as well as develop and deliver a series of community workshop trainings designed to assist residents in building their personal, neighborhood and community resilience.

Resilience is also one of the core principles for the Climate Mobilization Action Plan, or CMAP, a community-centered process to create a new climate strategy in response to renewed climate urgency. Learn more about resilience in Boulder and get involved at **BoulderColorado.gov/CMAP**.

What are the values behind Local Power?

Q&A with Steve Catanach, head of Boulder's Local Power project, the city's effort to bring clean, local, affordable and reliable electricity to the community by developing a community-owned local electric utility.



Q: Lots of people associate Local Power with clean energy. What's the connection?

Accessing 100% renewable energy is a goal the city often cites when discussing Local Power. It's an important factor, no doubt. Local electric utilities have the ability to choose how their power is generated, which means that a city-run utility in Boulder could quickly access renewables. And, it's encouraging our analysis shows the city could achieve 100% renewables as early as 2025, five years ahead of our goal.

Q: Beyond renewables, what else is driving Local Power?

When I think of Boulder's energy future, I envision more local generation of electricity, where rooftop solar and local battery storage power our lives. I see the community fully enabled to participate in their

electricity system, directing investments into things that matter to them, like resilience and renewables. And I see a robust local energy economy where Boulder companies can compete to provide cutting-edge programs and services to customers. Our goal is to bring clean, local, affordable and reliable electricity to the community.

Q: What are some of the next steps for the project?

Community involvement has always guided this project, and it's a key component of our work in 2020. While our engineers and attorneys are working to identify key variables for the project, we're focused on sharing all we learn with the community along the way, and giving folks a chance to let us know what they'd like out of a local electric utility.

Boulder International Film Festival

The 16th annual Boulder International Film Festival (BIFF) — one of the "25 coolest film festivals in the world" — will be held March 5 to 8.

The festival features over 50 acclaimed and new films for every taste — shorts, comedies, documentaries and features. Between films, checkout other areas of the event:

- Gala parties
- Filmmaker talkbacks
- Celebrity interviews
- Free programming for kids
- Live music
- The CineCHEF culinary competition and much more

New in 2020, eTown Hall will host the BIFF Adventure Film Pavilion, featuring the very best of outdoor adventure filmmaking. **Find out more and get tickets at biff1.com.**

10 tips to start the year green

The new year is a perfect time to reflect on old habits and get inspired for the future. Here are 10 tips to be eco-conscious and reduce your carbon footprint in 2020.

REDUCE YOUR WATER USE

Snowmelt from our beloved Rockies supplies thousands of people with water for cooking, cleaning and food production. Conserve water by turning off the faucet when you brush your teeth, taking quicker showers and limiting use of water-heavy appliances like the dishwasher.

COMPOST, COMPOST, COMPOST

This is an important way to help draw down carbon from our atmosphere and create healthy soils for growing food and protecting our landscape.

DON'T WASTE FOOD

Food waste contributes to 8% of global emissions -- and reducing food waste is the third best way to address the climate crisis.

EAT A PLANT-RICH DIET

Plant-rich diets reduce emissions and tend to be healthier, leading to lower rates of chronic disease.

SAY NO TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

These take up space in landfills, and their production contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. When you can, choose greener options such as tote bags for groceries and recyclable packaging.

TAKE THE BUS

Public transportation is a great way to reduce emissions by getting cars off the road.

BE A MINDFUL CONSUMER

You can save money and reduce waste and emissions by being thoughtful about how much you buy.

LEARN HOW TO SORT WASTE

When items that can't be recycled or composted end up in the wrong waste stream, they can be rejected. Sorting properly helps prevent items from ending up in the landfill.

ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT

You reduce your energy by keeping your thermostat lower in cool temperatures and higher in warm temperatures. This saves you money and can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy consumption.

GET INVOLVED

The city and many local organizations are working hard to protect our environment and mitigate climate change, but everyone has a part to play.

Find out what you can do at Boulder.Earth/CMAP



Infrastructure improvements in the works

Utility relocations, repaving and drainage upgrades are in progress to improve Boulder's transportation infrastructure.

30TH AND COLORADO UTILITY RELOCATIONS

The 30th and Colorado Bike and Pedestrian Underpass project will provide important safety, accessibility, mobility and drainage improvements to the intersection of 30th Street and Colorado Avenue. The project is in the advanced preparation stage, with the team working diligently to ensure the groundwork is laid for a successful project groundbreaking in summer.

Short-term impact: Travelers should anticipate minor delays, with one-lane of travel northbound on 30th Street. Flaggers are on-site to direct traffic. Utility work will take place overnight on Saturdays and Sundays, and nearby residents may experience minor noise disturbances while necessary work is completed. Utility relocation work is slated to continue through March.

ADA RAMP ENHANCEMENTS

From January to May, the Colorado Department of Transportation will be enhancing or adding ramps compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at 56 different locations in Boulder on state Highway 119, state Highway 7, state Highway 93, state Highway 157 and U.S. Highway 36. The enhancements are part of a statewide, \$1.1 million project to improve the ADA compliance of ramps and create new ramps in areas that do not have them.

Short-term impact: North, south, east and west-bound single-lane closures are to be expected Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. until the work concludes in May. Pedestrian traffic will detour to adjacent crosswalks. Real-time traffic impact updates will be posted at [BoulderConeZones.net](https://www.boulderconezones.net).



BROADWAY AND QUINCE IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements will be completed along Broadway at Quince Avenue to address street drainage issues and add a curb and gutter. There will also be enhancements made to curb ramps, bus stops and sidewalks.

Short-term impact: Daytime vehicle lane shifts with limited turning movements at Broadway and Quince. Temporary sidewalk closures with pedestrian detour routes indicated by on-site signage. Work on the west side of Broadway is anticipated to last through approximately Jan. 27, after which work on the east side of the street will begin.

FOOTHILLS PARKWAY UNDERPASS

The Foothills Parkway Bicycle and Pedestrian Underpass will replace the bridge south of Colorado Avenue, which is nearing the end of its service life and isn't compliant with ADA guidelines and current best practices for bike facilities.

Short-term impact: Motorists, cyclists and pedestrians can expect intermittent lane closures and detours for the duration of the project, which is expected to last through summer.

OTHER CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Up-to-date construction impacts for these projects and others across the city can be found at [BoulderConeZones.net](https://www.boulderconezones.net). We thank the community for your patience during this important work and encourage all travelers to contribute to the safety of our transportation network by going slow, leaving plenty of room for construction workers and following signage.

BOULDER CONE ZONES MAJOR CONSTRUCTION

For the latest updates on current and upcoming City of Boulder construction projects, including those that may affect traffic and parking in the city, be sure to check [BoulderConeZones.net](https://www.boulderconezones.net). For more information about these projects, visit [BoulderColorado.gov/transportation](https://www.bouldercolorado.gov/transportation) and [BoulderColorado.gov/water](https://www.bouldercolorado.gov/water).

Input to action: five years of progress for Boulder's parks and recreation

Five years ago, City Council adopted the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan. The plan, developed through extensive research and a comprehensive community engagement process, provided the department with a roadmap aligned with community values to guide city staff in daily work and big picture projects.

Working alongside our community and with partner organizations, the department developed a wide range of meaningful programs and initiatives, an effective asset management program, and financially responsible and sustainable practices.

The Parks and Recreation Five-Year Progress Report illustrates the collective strides taken to promote the health and well-being of the entire Boulder community and highlights some of the successes achieved as 92 % of initiatives were accomplished.

While this overview is not exhaustive, it highlights significant milestones that demonstrate promises kept to the community. Achievement of the master plan goals has enhanced community access, improved facility condition and increased the department's overall effectiveness.

This work and your continued support have made Boulder's parks and recreation system strong, yet there are challenges to be met in achieving Boulder's desire for quality, accessible recreation and parks. In 2020, the city will undertake an update to this plan to guide the department's future direction. Community input on what the city should strive for – system needs and balanced, prioritized investments – will help us continue to serve your health and well-being needs as a leader in parks and recreation.

To learn more about the master plan, visit BoulderColorado.gov/pages/parks-recreation-master-plan.



City of Boulder
Communication Department
P.O. Box 791
Boulder, CO 80306

Boulder Postal Customer

ECRWSS

BOULDER CITY COUNCIL



Mayor
Sam Weaver
303-416-6130
weavers@
bouldercolorado.gov



Mayor Pro Tem
Bob Yates
720-310-5829
yatesb@
bouldercolorado.gov



Council Member
Aaron Brockett
720-984-1863
brocketta@
bouldercolorado.gov



Council Member
Rachel Friend
720-601-0163
friendr@
bouldercolorado.gov



Council Member
Junie Joseph
720-789-3234
josephj@
bouldercolorado.gov



Council Member
Mirabai Nagle
303-818-4128
naglem@
bouldercolorado.gov



Council Member
Adam Swetlik
720-610-8580
swetlika@
bouldercolorado.gov



Council Member
Mark Wallach
720-601-9977
wallachm@
bouldercolorado.gov



Council Member
Mary Young
303-501-2439
Hablo español!
youngm@
bouldercolorado.gov

This community newsletter is created by the City of Boulder to share local government news, information, initiatives and events with residents.

It will be printed and distributed to every address within city limits periodically through 2020.

We welcome your feedback!

If you have suggestions for future stories you'd like to read, please email them to **communitynewsletter@bouldercolorado.gov**.



City Manager
Jane Brautigam
303-441-3090
brautigamj@
bouldercolorado.gov

Important City of Boulder Phone Numbers

Emergency
911

Non-emergency
dispatch line
303-441-3333
24/7

City switchboard
303-441-3388
Monday to Friday,
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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