



Looking@Lakewood

Supporting Lakewood's neighborhoods, one connection at a time

In recent years, we all have experienced major events and trends that have pulled us apart, and as a result, our relationships with those around us have sometimes suffered. Many of our neighborhoods have changed, with new faces and families replacing old familiar ones.

What would it take for us to come together, thereby strengthening our neighborhoods and the city as a whole? That is the question that Lakewood's Neighborhood Support Team strives to answer. With a year under its belt, this nascent team continues to work hard to achieve its fundamental goal of bringing neighbors together, either through community building activities or dispute resolution.

Here are the Neighborhood Support Team programs and resources that you can use for your neighborhood:



Mediation Services



Get-Togethers grant



Neighborhood Resources



Volunteer Events



BLOCK PARTY! The Benthaven neighborhood near Graham Park used its Get-Togethers grant to have a block party last September that about 75 people attended. The residents said the event was an excellent way for neighbors to reconnect and meet new residents.

Lakewood Mediation Services

Let's face it, conflict is just an inescapable part of human interaction. However, what we can manage is how we respond and whether we are willing to seek solutions that both sides can live with. That is the objective of mediation: to bring parties in conflict together to respectfully discuss the issues with the help of a neutral third party to figure out a mutually acceptable path forward.

This city program is suitable for disputes not involving criminal matters that occur between neighbors, including issues related to fences, vegetation, parking, and nuisance concerns. When parties come to the table in good faith, there is a high likelihood of reaching a resolution. The team has seen several cases resolved through mediation, some of which were long-standing and complicated sources of stress for both residents and city staff.

This free and confidential service is made possible thanks to an amazing group of professionally trained volunteer mediators who selflessly offer their time and skills. More information is available at Lakewood.org/Mediation.

Neighborhood Get-Togethers grant

Sometimes the best way to strengthen your neighborhood is simply by spending some quality time with your neighbors, which is the idea behind this small grant program. Residents can apply for a modest stipend (\$100–\$500) to support a gathering that is open to the neighborhood and encourages community building.

Since the program was launched in August 2022, more than 30 applicants have received grants, with an average of 65 people per event. There have been a wide range of events, including block parties, cleanups, fire mitigation,

live music from neighborhood bands, art projects, and ice cream socials. Countless connections have been made, friendships have been rekindled, and many groups have stated that they will be maintaining their gatherings as annual events.

As one event organizer said, "This is a wonderful grant program. Enhancing neighborhood relationships is crucial to a strong community. Thank you. The grant program is easy to access and apply for, and the post-event reporting is simple and not excessive, making it attractive to apply for a grant." More information is available at Lakewood.org/GTgrant.

Free neighborhood resources

Two new rentable resources are available for neighborhood groups to borrow at no cost. **Neighbor Flix** is a portable kit with everything you need to throw a movie night

See **NEIGHBORHOOD** page 7

Teen Court gives students substantial volunteer experience

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PERMIT NO. 16

POSTAL PATRON



Lakewood is relaunching its Teen Court and is looking for teen volunteers, who have a chance to experience an excellent opportunity to build their confidence in public

speaking, explore possible career options in the justice system and meet other students from Lakewood and surrounding areas with similar interests.

Teens ages 13–17 interested in volunteering can participate as a prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, bailiff or juror for an actual case of a juvenile offender. Teen Court sessions will begin with the school year in the fall. To volunteer, please contact Teen Court Coordinator Caleb Mulvin at calmul@lakewoodco.org or 303-987-7424. For more information, visit Lakewood.org/TeenCourt.

Teen Court is based on restorative justice principles and seeks to

ensure that the harm caused by each juvenile offender is repaired. Teen Court volunteers accomplish this by holding each juvenile accountable for their actions, which helps ensure the safety of the community and fosters the offender's skill development to prevent any future violations.

The cases heard in Teen Court are real. All defendants in Teen Court are juveniles that have been charged with a violation of Lakewood's Municipal Code and are first-time offenders. They are required to complete the sentence given through the program to have their case dismissed.

MAYOR



Adam Paul

It sure has been welcoming to have Green Mountain truly shine in all its emerald glory with the beautiful wildflowers blooming. Please get out to enjoy events throughout the city including First Friday in the 40 West Arts District, concerts on Belmar’s Plaza, and Lakewood’s excellent summer concert series at Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park.

It has been a busy time for the City Council and, in some ways, historic. Over 25 years ago, city leaders and community members gathered to look at how to revitalize Villa Italia Mall and the Alameda corridor. Part of the vision was the creation of the voter-approved Lakewood Reinvestment Authority, which allowed for mechanisms to transform the dying mall into Belmar and to support Alameda improvements. The mechanism for Alameda just reached its 25-year expiration, and it is a celebration of the forethought given to the corridor’s future. With that expiration, the LRA was able to make an additional reinvest from the remaining \$1 million into supporting the corridor through small business grants, ways to remove blight and other assistance. This visionary

leadership helps make Lakewood a great community, and we must continue to look toward the future to ensure that the next 25 years will bring prosperity. To learn more, visit Lakewood.org/LRA.

In another creative approach, City Council, using the lodging tax paid at hotels, and the LRA, using the authority’s funds, addressed dilapidated nuisances of former motels. Through purchasing them, environmental issues will be remediated, the buildings torn down, and the properties put back out on the market to create new developments shaped by a vision that will include feedback from the community.

Council also worked with the Economic Development Division to create a unique partnership with

the private sector to provide a low-cost loan to tear down a shopping center at West 10th and Sheridan. This property has long been vacant and had become a nuisance by attracting crime. By demolishing the center, the developer can more quickly create a mix of new uses to serve the community and repay the loan. These are great examples of Lakewood staff and the community collaborating to address challenging issues through unique solutions.



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We are building an inclusive community.

WARD 1



Charley Able

City Council’s ward meetings offer opportunities for direct contact with your elected representatives and responsive discussion of issues of concern to the community. Such firsthand communication is essential to good governance.

Most city council members continue to meet with their constituents in monthly in-person meetings, while others offer to meet folks they represent either one-on-one or virtually in “office-hour” sessions. Notice

of ward meetings is available at Lakewood.org/WardMeetings, under City Council on the “Government” tab on Lakewood.org or on LakewoodSpeaks.org under the “All Meetings” tab on the top menu bar.

Our Ward 1 meetings are conducted the first Saturday morning of each month with a few exceptions for holiday weekends, etc. These meetings are open to everyone and can provide the opportunity to broach new issues of community importance, discuss previous issues and City Council votes, and provide grassroots suggestions to increase governmental responsiveness and efficiency.

And there’s no better way to meet other involved neighbors, exchange ideas and strengthen neighborhoods.

Charley Able
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Jeslin Shahrezaei

We are lucky in Lakewood. There are a number of amenities available to us including recreation classes, indoor and outdoor pools and considerable open spaces across the city with hiking and biking trails. Summer is a great time to explore our community, take advantage of the offerings and maybe meet some new neighbors!

Since February, I have been participating in an adult education

class through Lakewood’s Community Resources Department. My class has included Lakewood residents but also Wheat Ridge, Golden and Denver folks, reinforcing the point that neighbors across the metro area recognize the opportunities available in Lakewood.

Whether you want to invest in your physical health or increase your creative skills, there is something for everyone. Visit Lakewood.org/Recreation to check out some of the classes and events available this summer and grab some friends and neighbors to find a fun way to get out of the house.

Jeslin Shahrezaei
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WARD 2



Sharon Vincent

Happy Pride Month and Juneteenth! It’s exciting that Lakewood made a Pride Month Proclamation in support of our LGBTQ+ community on June 12 for the second year.

As our community continues to change, we are saddened to see Molholm Elementary School close its doors as a neighborhood school on the last semester of the school year,



Sophia Mayott-Guerrero

but we are hopeful we get another community asset. We have heard from many that they are hoping to see a community or recreation center take Molholm’s place, and hearing from the community is the best way for us to convey to the school district the desires of the community. If you have hopes for Molholm, please email us or write a comment under “public comment” for an

upcoming City Council meeting at LakewoodSpeaks.org.

We have also continued to hear our seasonal increase in complaints about traffic speeds and pedestrian safety. As the weather warms and more people are out and about walking and biking, we know this is a serious concern. Luckily, we have recently received completed studies on sidewalk and bike lane connectivity here in Lakewood, and we will work diligently to make the community safer for children and adults to get around without cars.

The West Colfax Safety Project is still on track, and we hope to see the long-term benefits of a safer, more walkable, and more beautiful Colfax from Teller Street to Sheridan Boulevard. In the meantime, we continue to explore pathways forward on safe routes to school,

complete streets, and other options to make Lakewood pedestrians safer.

Finally, the Lakewood Strategic Housing Plan is tentatively scheduled to come before council in July. This study contains recommendations to help guide Lakewood as we work to mitigate the housing crisis. This plan includes solutions for helping people out of homelessness, increasing attainable housing stock, and improving pathways to homeownership. If there are parts of this plan you hope we focus on, email us or put it on LakewoodSpeaks.org.

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Sophia Mayott-Guerrero
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WARD 3



Anita Springsteen

The regional president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has honored me by asking that I start an NAACP chapter here in Jefferson County — for the very first time. NAACP is a national organization founded in 1909, is on the front lines of the fight for civil rights and social justice, and attempts to remove

all barriers caused by racial and other discrimination.
Given a recent Axios article stating that Colorado ranks second in the nation for the number of Latinos killed by police, and the City of Lakewood’s refusal to provide statistics about Hispanic arrests or explain high arrests for African Americans in our city — this is timely.
I need volunteers for my Organizing Committee and members for our chapter. Please contact me at anita@springsteenlaw.com to join in this effort to bring a voice to People of Color and to all those who suffer injustice, discrimination, and oppression in Jefferson County and in Lakewood.

Anita Springsteen
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Rebekah Stewart

During this last 2023 Colorado legislative session, the City Council’s Legislative Committee was hard at work tracking and responding to bills that may have a direct impact on our city and residents. One of the more major bills of the session was Senate Bill 213, which was a sweeping land-use proposal aimed at addressing our very real housing affordability crisis.

Though the city ultimately joined other municipalities in the state in opposing this legislation due to the implications to our home rule authority, I do believe it highlighted the need to do more and be innovative when it comes to meeting our growing housing needs over the next decade and beyond.
If the concern was indeed local control, then we as local officials have a responsibility to step up, do more, and be bold moving forward to help our communities. I plan to do just that.

Rebekah Stewart
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WARD 4



Barb Franks

A few years ago, when I began discussions with council members about the benefits of bringing the city attorney position in-house rather than having it remain a contracted position, there were mixed feelings among the City Council at the time.
Since Alison McKenney Brown took the helm of the City Attorney’s Office as the in-house attorney, the quality of service and financial savings have both exceeded my expectations.
Below are two highlights from the June resolution that recognized

Ms. McKenney Brown’s service and authorized a salary performance increase:
1. Providing legal services at a cost significantly below that of other municipalities that are of a similar size within our region.
2. Utilizing in-house attorneys to reduce litigation expenditures.
Additionally, she was selected by the Municipal City Attorney’s Association as the Outstanding City Attorney for 2022.
Use this link to read the complete resolution: LakewoodSpeaks.org/items/3036.
And finally, the draft Strategic Housing Plan has been posted at LakewoodTogether.org/HousingStrategy. Please review the plan and provide your thoughts and comments to City Council at citycouncilmembers@lakewood.org for our review of the final plan later this summer.

Barb Franks
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Rich Olver

Lakewood needs good people.
City Council elections will be in November. There are five council seats up for election and currently only four people running. To run, you only need to fill out an affidavit now and collect signatures of 25 Lakewood residents by the August deadline.
More importantly, Lakewood needs moderates. There’s a simple moderate test: Does your friend, who thinks Trump won the last election, think that you’re a leftie? Does your

friend, who puts pronouns after their name, think of you as a rightie? If you answered “yes” to both of these, then you’re a moderate.
Please consider running. Extreme left or right candidates tend to believe that they already know all the answers. As they said in the film “Avatar,” “It’s hard to fill a cup that is already full.”
We need council members who will ask why, when, where, and who’s paying for that? Find information on how to become a candidate at Lakewood.org/CandidateInfo.
Rich Olver
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WARD 5



Wendi Strom

It’s finally summer, the season of gathering is here! It’s fun to watch the rollout of so many community events ahead of us these next few months.
I’m most excited for the new partnership with Belmar for our inaugural drone light show for the Fourth of July. This new Independence Day celebration will include live music on the Plaza and kids’ activities and will replace the fireworks shows of the

past with a new drone light show. That will take place on July 3. See Lakewood.org/BigBelmarBash for more details.
Separately, information is already up for National Night Out, which this year will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 1. If you’d like to have our first responders join you at your neighborhood event, sign up fast at Lakewood.org/NNO because there are a limited number of events they’ll be able to attend.
And if you’re thinking you’d like to organize a community event yourself, check out Lakewood.org/GTgrant for grants available to help offset the costs for block parties or other neighborhood events like tree plantings and cleanups.
Wendi Strom
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Mary Janssen

Lakewood property owners are charged a city mill levy on the annual property tax bill. With skyrocketing assessed property values, the city will be taking in more revenue than ever without having to refund excessive taxes.
We set the mill levy in October, which is then part of the property

tax bill sent out in January. We could provide relief if the majority of council members want to take that action, and a property tax reduction doesn’t require voter approval. Reducing taxes would help owners and also renters since property taxes on businesses are passed on to consumers in higher cost of goods like food, necessities, and other products.
Far too many residents are facing the situation of being house rich but don’t have the additional income to pay the higher property taxes. Relief would be timely, and I believe Lakewood residents and businesses deserve that consideration.
Mary Janssen
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Economic Development programs to help new and existing businesses

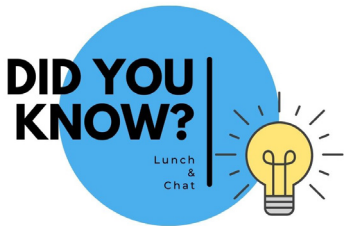


The Lakewood Economic Development team assists new and existing businesses of all sizes in our effort to support the overall economic vitality of our community. The team is always brainstorming new ideas of how to assist businesses and entrepreneurs.

Business grant programs

We opened applications for three matching grant programs in 2023: Business Safety and Security, Commercial Reinvestment, and Adaptive Reuse. All three programs are a matching grant, with a maximum amount of \$10,000. The Business Safety and Security program provides funding to help business owners create or update safety features on their business property, such as lighting and cameras. The Commercial Reinvestment Program encourages businesses and property owners to invest in their properties in the form of exterior improvements, such as façade and parking lot improvements. The Adaptive Reuse grants provide funding to businesses and property owners to overcome

barriers in the redevelopment of vacant buildings in the form of property improvements, such as Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility and fire sprinkler improvements. For more information about the grant programs, guidelines, eligibility requirements and applications, visit Lakewood.org/EconomicDevelopment.



Lunch and Chats

Are you a Lakewood business owner or employee who would enjoy having lunch with the Economic Development team and other like-minded members of our business community? If so, you can sign up for a Lunch and Chat! Lunches are industry specific events and tailored toward different areas of businesses within Lakewood. Topics for the rest of 2023 include technology and manufacturing,



Misk'i Wasi Sausages won Lakewood's 2022 Jumpstart competition.

hospitality, engineering and construction, medical, and entrepreneurialism. Attendees will make valuable connections and share common experiences from the last few years. We want to hear from business owners about what is going right in their businesses, what may be challenging them, and what solutions their businesses have used to overcome those challenges. To learn more about future lunch topics and to RSVP for a future event, visit the economic development webpage.

Applicants will have the opportunity to pitch to a panel of judges and compete for a cash prize to fund their business creation or expansion. Applications will open in the fourth quarter of 2023 and will need to include business plans and how the business will be funded or expanded with the prize money. Once the application period is completed, applicants will attend an interview and pitch prep, which is a workshop where they can hone their pitching skills. Finally, the big day for the actual pitch will take place later this year!

To learn more about our staff or our programs for 2023, be sure to reach out to us at 303-987-7730 or ED@lakewood.org. You can also subscribe to our weekly newsletter at Lakewood.org/Newsletters or follow us on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn) for the most up-to-date information.



Mingle with a Mentor

Lakewood's experienced business owners have invaluable wisdom to share with new entrepreneurs as they begin their journeys. Mingle with a Mentor assists our women- and minority-owned business owners to do just that. Women or minority business owners who have been in business for at least two years are invited to participate as mentors. Women or minority business owners who have recently opened their businesses or have been in business for less than a year are invited to join the program as mentees. Applications for the 2023-24 cohort will open later this year.



Economic Development team: (From left) Robert Smith, Katie Faltys, Laura Moody and Isabella Nunez.

Jumpstart Lakewood

Are you an entrepreneur with an idea for the next great business? Have you just started a business and are looking for funding to expand into new markets? Jumpstart Lakewood is for you. This contest will be open to all entrepreneurs in Lakewood who have yet to start a business or recently started a business and have generated less than \$25,000 in net revenue.

Welcome to LAKESIDE GRAND OPENINGS

We are thrilled to welcome these new businesses to Lakewood.

5280 Burger Bar at Colorado Mills
14500 W. Colfax Ave., Suite 345A
5280burgerbar.com/colorado-mills

Arc Thrift Store
6791 W. Colfax Ave.
ArcThrift.com

ANB Bank
7950 W. Alameda Ave.
ANBbank.com

Best Option Restoration Lakewood
7830 W. Alameda Ave., Suite 103-140
WaterDamageInLakewood.com

Camp Bow Wow
3214 S. Wadsworth Blvd.
CampBowWow.com

Danny Ray's Food & Spirits
11353 W. Colfax Ave.
DannyRaysFoodAndSpirits.com

Kung Fu Tea
7740 W. Alameda Ave., Suite D
KungfuTea.com

Lady Nomada
7167 W. Alaska Dr.
NomadaKitchen.com/location/belmar-shopping-district

Mile High Flood District
12575 W. Bayaud Ave.
MHFD.org

My Salon Suite of Lakewood
98 Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 108
MySalonSuite.com/lakewoodco

Rise & Shine Biscuit Kitchen
615 Garrison St.
RiseAndShineDenver.com

TJ Maxx
5152 S. Wadsworth Blvd.
TJmaxx.tjx.com

If you are a new business and want to be listed here, please visit Lakewood.org/GrandOpenings.



Lakewood

Full of Possibilities.

City Manager
Kathy Hodgson

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Lakewood.org

ARTS, PARKS & Recreation

ARTS & EVENTS



LCCP 2023–24 SEASON

Lakewood Cultural Center has announced the LCC Presents 2023–2024 season, bringing a inspiring and captivating offering of music and theater to Lakewood beginning in September. Season tickets are on sale now. *Single ticket sales begin Aug. 1.*

Lakewood.org/LCCPresents

CIDER DAYS

Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 7–8

With kids' activities, apple pressing, historical demonstrations and more, the annual Cider Days festival offers fun and excitement for everyone! *Buy your timed entry tickets in advance, beginning Aug. 3.*

Lakewood.org/CiderDays

CAR 25 OPEN HOUSE

10 a.m.–3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16

See the beautifully restored interurban Car No. 25 in-person and cruise down memory lane during this free event. It will be quite a ride as we break out Lakewood's historic streetcar for rides! *No reservations are needed this year.* Located at the Denver Federal Center, Gate 1.

Lakewood.org/Car25OpenHouse

PARKS



CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS

7:30 p.m. every Saturday, June 17–July 29

Register for FREE programs about local animals, ecosystems, and conservation hosted by our naturalists and special guests each week at the amphitheater at Bear Creek Lake Park.

Lakewood.org/BCLPevents

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

8 a.m.–noon on Saturday, Sept. 23

Celebrate the largest national day of volunteer service dedicated to public lands! This project is still being developed, so check Lakewood.org/BCLPevents for updates, details and registration.



GUIDED HIKES

Take a sunset or night hike with park naturalists! Learn about wildlife and explore new terrain. *Open to all ages; please register as locations vary.*

Lakewood.org/register; search "Hikes."

RECREATION



FITNESS IN THE PARK

7:30 a.m. on Saturdays, June 3–Sept. 2

Join free fitness classes hosted in Lakewood parks on Saturday mornings. *Class subject and park location rotate weekly.*

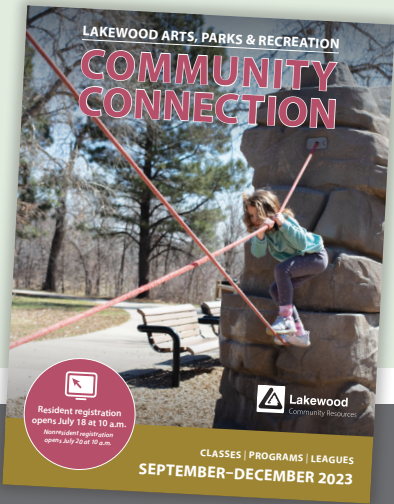
Lakewood.org/SummerFitness

TRAIL RUNNING SERIES

Sept. 6–27

The popular trail running series in Bear Creek Lake Park takes place weekly in September. Different routes allow participants to explore all areas of the park. Racers can compete against others in-person on Wednesday evenings, or run the marked course on their own Tuesday–Wednesday weekly for a virtual option.

Lakewood.org/TrailRunning



FALL REGISTRATION

View the activity guide posted at Lakewood.org/CommunityConnection or pick one up at any Lakewood facility. Registration opens for fall activities on July 18 for residents. For financial assistance, apply at Lakewood.org/PossibilitiesFund.

Mark your calendars for the

West Metro VETERANS FAIR



Thursday, Oct. 5
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Elks Lakewood Lodge #1777
1455 Newland St., Lakewood

For more information, visit
Lakewood.org/VeteransFair

July is Park and Rec Month!

Celebrate in Lakewood!



Lakewood.org/ParkRecMonth

- Visit one of more than 100 parks!
- Work out at a rec center or swim at a pool.
- Share your feedback about future projects at LakewoodTogether.org
- Thank a park and recreation employee!



Lakewood
Recreation



Do you know whether you live in a flood hazard area?

This year's unusually rainy spring and frequent thunderstorms are reminders that some Lakewood properties lie in flood hazard areas even though they don't normally appear to be in danger. Flooding can happen in high, medium or low risk flood areas.

To understand your property's flooding risk, call 303-987-7500 or submit a request for this free service to Lakewood's Public Works Department at [Lakewood.org/FloodPlainRequest](https://lakewood.org/FloodPlainRequest). You can also write to the department or visit in-person at 470 S. Allison Parkway, 80226. Public Works staff members are also available to visit your property to discuss potential flood hazards.

Public Works can provide you with detailed flood plain information including Federal Emergency Management Agency flood insurance rate maps and studies, local community flood hazard area study maps, flood depth data, elevation certificates, landslide hazards, historic flood events and the location of designated wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory. Learn about your flood risk and other National Flood Insurance Program resources online at FloodSmart.gov.

Tips for living in or near a flood hazard area

Insure your property

- Check to see if you have a current flood insurance policy for your property. Flood insurance is recommended for everyone because standard homeowners' and renters' insurance policies do not cover flood losses.

Property owners can insure their buildings and contents, and renters can insure only their contents. There is a 30-day waiting period before policies become effective, so plan ahead.

- Lakewood is part of a federal program that provides discounted flood insurance premiums for any property owner in the city whether or not the building is in a flood hazard area. For flood insurance and premium details, contact your insurance agent. To search for an agent by your ZIP code, contact the National Flood Insurance Program at 877-336-2627 or FloodSmart.gov.

Protect your property

- Analyze the slope of the ground around your foundation. Check to see that water drains away from your foundation a minimum distance of 7 to 10 feet on all sides.
- Check your gutters and downspouts to see that they drain away from your foundation. Use splash blocks as necessary. Make sure that your downspouts do not drain toward your neighbor's foundation. Remember, standing water in your yard can seep into a basement.
- Help keep drainageways clean so they can carry flood flows. Do not dump or throw debris into gulches, ditches or streams, including branches, grass clippings, garbage, dirt and concrete. Debris can accumulate and block drainageways and increase flooding hazards, and it is against city law to dump debris in drainageways.
- Report dumping in gulches, ditches or streams and potential problems such as blocked culverts to the Public Works Department at 303-987-7500.

Protect yourself and others from flood hazards

- During heavy rainfall, stay alert for warning signals (sirens, television, radio, websites, and social media). Evacuate if directed.
- Plan evacuation routes to move to higher ground if necessary.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 2 feet of water can sweep away your vehicle.
- Prepare, plan and stay informed. Visit Ready.gov.

Build responsibly

- Always check with Lakewood Public Works at 303-987-7500 to ask about development requirements before you build, remodel, fence, regrade, fill or otherwise alter your property. All development within the flood plain requires a special permit from the city.

Protect natural flood plain functions

- Natural drainageways function as conveyance systems for storm runoff and flood events. Help keep Lakewood's gulches and streams clear and clean by properly disposing of any trash, debris, motor oil or other household hazardous items at Rooney Road Recycling Center. Follow directions when using fertilizers, pesticides and weed control chemicals.

Participate in monthly photo contests with prizes, trivia and more.

Join us in learning about all of our efforts to help you enjoy the great outdoors in Lakewood.

Lakewood
Full of Possibilities.

LakewoodTogether.org/MoneyAtWork

City grants support improvements and important community services

Lakewood offers a variety of grant funding opportunities to help better serve the community, support residents and their families and build strong neighborhoods. Each year, City Council approves the recipients for these grants, and this year's approvals occurred in May. Congratulations to all those who received 2023 grants. Learn more at Lakewood.org/Grants.

Community Grant Program

This program is an annual funding opportunity that establishes a process for review and evaluation of funding requests the city receives from nonprofits serving Lakewood. For 2023, \$100,000 in funds was awarded in amounts ranging from \$2,000 to \$12,500 to the following organizations (listed here in alphabetical order): 40 West Arts District, Archway Communities, Benefits in Action, Brothers Redevelopment, CASA of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties, Catholic Charities and Community Services of the Archdiocese of Denver, Family Tree, GiGi's Playhouse, Gold Crown Foundation, Hands of the Carpenter, Jeffco Eats, Jefferson County Library Foundation, JUST Living Recovery, Lakewood Symphony Orchestra, Outdoor Lab Foundation, Ralston House, Sprout City Farms and the Action Center.

More information about this program is available at Lakewood.org/CommunityGrant.

Youth Programs Grant

This program is a new opportunity for nonprofit organizations to introduce unique or otherwise cost-prohibitive programs or to support existing programs serving youth in Lakewood. Funding for these grants comes

from money received in 2022 from the Metropolitan Football Stadium District through the sale of the Denver Broncos.

In its first year, \$300,000 in grants was awarded in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$75,000 to the following organizations: 40 West Arts District, Outdoor Lab Foundation, Jeffco Eats, Gold Crown Foundation, Girl Scouts of Colorado, Friends of Paha, Hands of the Carpenter, Alameda Youth Sports, Youth Seen, and Brown Bag Ministries.

More information about this program is available at Lakewood.org/YouthProgramGrant.

Neighborhood Participation Program

Lakewood started this grant program in 1992 to support improvements that residents believe will make a difference in their neighborhoods such as community gardens, public art, new park playgrounds and landscaping projects. Since its inception, 161 projects have been funded through this program.

In 2023, \$154,395 was awarded in amounts ranging from \$1,395 to \$60,000 to the following projects: Creighton Middle School multiuse courts resurfacing; Lakewood West Colfax Safety Project gateway sculpture installation; water fountain installation in parks; grills and game tables at Meadowlark Park; and a Ga Ga ball pit installation at Carmody Park.

More information about this program is available at Lakewood.org/NPP.

ROONEY ROAD RECYCLING CENTER

RooneyRoadRecycling.org

Imagine Tomorrow! sets the course for the next 10 years

We asked you, our residents, to help create a plan for the city's parks, recreation and art experiences for the next 10 years, and you really came through. More than 6,000 of you kept track of this planning process, aptly called Imagine Tomorrow! Arts, Parks and Recreation for All. Several hundred of you participated in surveys and three community meetings, and all this public participation has helped set the goals for the Community Resources Department that manages these programs.

"We are so proud of this community and the level of support we witnessed for this planning effort," said Amber Thill, Community Resources operations and public engagement manager. "Public engagement was far-reaching and varied including virtual and in-person opportunities to interact with staff and the consultant team, often meeting people where they are. We documented and refined plan goals and strategies every step of the way with Lakewood residents until we felt we got it just right."

The planning effort also included a 22-member advisory committee that provided local insights, knowledge and feedback during the process. The members represented a broad range of Lakewood organizations, nonprofits and user groups who could lend their unique expertise and perspectives.

This 14-month planning process included mailing a postcard to each of the 65,000 households in the city to ask for their participation as a way to include those who might not have online access, and Spanish translation and interpretation were available as well.

The project also evaluated equity, which assesses whether everyone in the city has the same access to arts, parks and recreation opportunities. Three factors were used to evaluate equity. First was measuring the number of parks and open space acres per 100 residents for each city ward, which is the geographic districts for City Council representation. Second was



walkability to park and open spaces, measured by a 10-minute walk via a safe pedestrian route. Third was using 15 factors that identify vulnerabilities for health issues for each census tract in the city. Mapping these three factors showed the areas of greatest need in the city, which were largely in the northern and eastern parts of Lakewood.

City Council recently approved the Imagine Tomorrow! master plan, which is available for review at LakewoodTogether.org/ImagineTomorrow, including the interactive map tool showing

opportunities for improvement in equity that allows residents to zoom in on neighborhoods or specific areas.

Several key themes emerged from the planning process including a high priority for parks, trails and safe connections; maximizing efficiency and creative use of existing parks and facilities; a desire for multigenerational programs and facilities that are inclusive of all ability levels; and equitable access to arts, parks and recreation for underserved neighborhoods and populations.

The process also allowed the community to identify 10 core services that Community Resources should provide. These services are of greatest importance to the community and will assist staff, elected and appointed officials, and the public to focus on these when making decisions.

The priorities resulting from this robust community participation shaped six goals for this 10-year plan as listed below. Detailed strategies and actions were also developed for each goal to serve as the foundation for implementing this plan and measuring the progress toward accomplishing these goals.

Imagine Tomorrow! goals

1. Serve the diverse needs of the community by balancing unique arts, parks and recreation programming, services and events with the demand for high-quality core services.
2. Respond to community needs and priorities by maximizing the efficiency of existing arts, parks and recreation facilities and resources through proactive asset maintenance and stewardship.
3. Inspire enjoyment, creativity, and wellness by offering a safe and rewarding experience in our parks, facilities and trails.
4. Connect the community to arts, parks and recreation facilities, programs and services, and empower residents to make the most of the opportunities available to them.
5. Responsibly conserve vibrant arts, parks and recreational resources through preservation, sustainable practices and environmental stewardship.
6. Enable physical, mental and social well-being by fostering a healthy community with equitable access to arts, parks, recreation, trails and open spaces.

"We documented and refined plan goals and strategies every step of the way with Lakewood residents until we felt we got it just right."
— Amber Thill, Community Resources operations and public engagement manager

WE ASKED, LAKEWOOD RESPONDED!
OUTREACH BY THE NUMBERS

02	POP-UP ENGAGEMENT BOOTHS
05	ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS
07	CONSTITUENT LISTENING SESSIONS
22	ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
31	OPEN HOUSE ATTENDEES (PUBLIC MEETING #3)
50	VIRTUAL VISIONING WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS (PUBLIC MEETING #1)
30	COMMENTS & "LIKES" IN DRAFT PLAN ONLINE REVIEW
92	IDEAS SUBMITTED VIA PROJECT WEBPAGE
100+	WORKSHOP IN THE PARK ATTENDEES (PUBLIC MEETING #2)
267	COMMUNITY-WIDE SURVEY RESPONDENTS
467	STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY RESPONDENTS
6,000+	VISITS TO PROJECT PAGE ON LAKEWOODTOGETHER.ORG
65,000	DIRECT-MAIL NOTICES TO LAKEWOOD HOUSEHOLDS

Short-term rental licensing now open

The licensing process is now open for owners of short-term rentals in Lakewood, which are most known through companies such as Airbnb and VRBO that connect people offering residences or rooms to those who want to rent them for short-term stays.

The information about this process and the documentation needed to obtain a license is available at Lakewood.org/STR. The city law governing these rentals and answers to frequently asked questions about them are also available on the webpage.

Owners of these rentals have until Sept. 1 to be licensed. City Council approved a new city law in March requiring licensing and regulation of short-term rentals in the city after several years of research, discussion, community outreach and public comment. The city's law allows an individual owner of only a primary residence to obtain one license.

If you have questions or concerns as a resident about this issue, please visit Lakewood.org/RequestLakewood, the city's online customer service hub.



Continued from page 1 Neighborhood

with your neighbors and friends: a projector, large cloth screen (150 inches), stands, speaker, Blu-ray/DVD player, and more. This is a fun, family-friendly activity for warm summer nights that everyone can enjoy! More information is available at Lakewood.org/Flix.

The **Litter Cleanup Kit** is also a portable kit that contains all the necessary supplies for a small group of volunteers to perform a neighborhood trash cleanup. More information is available at Lakewood.org/CleanupKit.

Neighborhood volunteer events

Speaking of volunteers and cleanups, additional meaningful and accessible opportunities for residents to help their neighborhoods

will be coming soon. These opportunities will include city staff assisting neighborhood leaders in the planning and implementation of events, but the heroes of the day will be the folks who come out, roll up their sleeves, and contribute to the betterment of the community. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements about these exciting new opportunities.

You and your neighbors can access all the Neighborhood Support Team programs and resources at Lakewood.org/NeighborhoodSupport. Thank you for your interest, and we look forward to partnering with you to support our neighborhoods!

Neighborhood Support Team
303-987-7369
neighborhoods@lakewood.org

Rules of the trail for electric bikes



An electric bicycle contains a motor that provides power to the cyclist, and these e-bikes are becoming more popular, resulting in increased use in city parks. Lakewood, however, has regulations in place for e-bikes within the city’s parks, and it’s important for everyone to understand the different classes of e-bikes to understand which e-bikes are allowed.

Electric bike classification


- **Class 1:** Pedal assist only, with motor assistance up to 20 mph. (After top speed is reached, the motor will stop helping.)
- **Class 2:** Pedal assist or throttle power up to 20 mph. (Bike can operate with or without cyclist pedaling.)
- **Class 3:** Pedal assist only, with motor assistance up to 28 mph.

Park rules




The following requirements apply to all operators of e-bikes:



- Operation of Class 1 e-bikes is permitted only on designated hard- and soft-surface trails.
- Operation of Class 2 e-bikes is permitted only on designated hard surface trails.
- Operation of Class 3 e-bikes is banned from city park property and trails.
- Maximum speed allowed for e-bikes is 15 mph on city park paths.
- Fuel-powered bicycles and powered scooters of any type are banned from city park property and trails.

- Designated locations where Class 1 e-bikes are allowed and where Class 2 e-bikes are allowed only if hard-surface trails are present:
 - Bear Creek Lake Park
 - Bear Creek Greenbelt
 - William Frederick Hayden Park
 - Main Reservoir
 - Smith Reservoir
 - Forsberg-Iron Spring Park
 - Coyote Gulch Park
 - Sister City Park
 - Peak View Park (upon completion of park construction)
- Devices designed to assist people with mobility impairments, such as wheelchairs and power chairs, are permitted on designated hard-surface trails or other designated trails.
- E-bikes must yield to other bicycles, horses and pedestrians on park pathways and follow all other laws and regulations that apply to bicyclists within Lakewood.
- E-bike use is banned at all other park locations within the city that are not listed above.

E-BIKE CLASSES

CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3
Pedal Assist No Throttle 20 mph Max Assist	Pedal & Throttle Assist 20 mph Max Assist	Pedal Assist No Throttle 28 mph Max Assist

TYPE OF VEHICLE	SOFT SURFACE	HARD SURFACE
 Class 1 e-bike	YES	YES
 Class 2 e-bike	NO	YES
 Class 3 e-bike Other motorized vehicles	NO	NO

Lakewood launches new outdoor water conservation and incentive program





\$25 OFF

Garden In a Box Kit



Free

Sprinkler Evaluation



\$500 CREDIT

Lawn Replacement

The Sustainability Division has launched a new Outdoor Water Conservation Program that includes rebates, discounted services, and other resources to encourage sustainable landscapes and reductions in water used for lawns and landscaping.

With more than 50 percent of home water use going to watering landscapes, improving water efficiency and practicing water conservation are key to ensuring we all have enough water to sustain our present and future community. Besides helping residents save money and resources, Lakewood’s new Outdoor Water Conservation Program will assist the community in reaching the city’s Sustainability Plan target of reducing citywide water use by 20 percent. This new program supports that goal by providing educational resources and a range of free or discounted services. Visit [Lakewood.org/OutdoorWater](https://lakewood.org/OutdoorWater) for full program details and enrollment information.

1. **Discounted Garden In a Box Kits:** Receive a \$25 discount on a set of low-water native landscape plants professionally designed for Colorado yards. Additional discounts available for income-qualified households.
 2. **Free sprinkler evaluations:** With the help of landscape professionals, possibly save thousands of gallons of water each year by optimizing irrigation systems and identifying leaks. After the evaluations, opt to receive a smart controller or rain sensor at no cost.
 3. **Lawn replacement:** Receive a \$500 credit that can be used toward lawn removal services, Garden In a Box kits, or both, with a commitment to removing a minimum of 200 square feet of turf grass and replacing it with native low-water landscape.
- Quantities of incentives are limited this year, but additional quantities will be available beginning in the spring of 2024. The city has partnered with Resource Central, a local nonprofit focused on water and energy conservation and waste

reduction, to manage this new water conservation effort. Please sign up on Resource Central’s interest list at ResourceCentral.org to find out when these resources become available.

As part of the Outdoor Water Conservation Program, Lakewood staff is creating a residential outdoor water resource guide and a homeowners association toolkit to assist community members with creating a beautiful and vibrant Colorado landscape in yards and common areas while also reducing water use. These materials will be an upcoming addition to Lakewood.org/OutdoorWater.

This new program is supported by two grants from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, including the state’s Turf Replacement Program. Results from the two-year incentive program will be used to inform future strategies that will help the community increase water efficiency. Please contact the Sustainability Division with any questions at sustainability@lakewood.org.