Boulder is working to become a zero waste community, where we reduce the waste we create and then reuse, recycle and compost most of what we throw away.

Flip to page 8 to read about how one Boulder business is taking its zero waste efforts to the next level.

PHOTO BY RUSS SCHNITZER
What's next for municipalization?

When Boulder voters fill out their ballots, their choices can have big impacts on issues that matter to all of us – affordable housing, access to open space and economic vitality. This is also true when it comes to environmental action in Boulder.

Last month, Boulder voters approved a measure that continues to fund municipalization through 2019, a choice that will shape how Boulder moves toward its ambitious climate and energy goals, especially getting to 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030.

While efforts such as recycling, reducing food waste and eating plant-based diets have environmental benefits, our data indicate that there are several emissions-creating activities that merit significant attention.

According to our 2016 GHG inventory, electricity generation causes about half of the emissions within our control. That’s because about 70 percent of our electricity is generated by burning fossil fuels (coal and natural gas). Achieving 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030 isn’t just a headline-generating goal, it’s essential to the dramatic reduction in carbon emissions we seek.

So, what’s next for the project?

The next phase of municipalization will focus on finalizing the costs for a few key variables that will determine whether the city can meet the voter-approved charter metrics and move forward with municipalization:

- The cost to buy assets from Xcel (acquisition costs)
- The cost to construct the separation of the city’s system from Xcel’s (separation costs)
- The cost to buy power (power supply costs)

According to the current schedule, the city expects to finalize these costs by mid-2019. Then, with all the information needed to decide whether to move forward, the community will make a definitive “go/no-go decision.”

In the meantime, there will be several ways to stay up-to-date on the project and engage in helping the city plan for key elements of the future utility, including rates, safety and reliability, energy services and power supply. Sign up for the city’s Climate and Energy newsletter for important updates on this project ([bit.ly/2lJsW3j](http://bit.ly/2lJsW3j)).

Staff provided an update on municipalization at the Nov. 28 City Council study session, which is available to view at [youtube.com/user/bouldercolorado.gov](http://youtube.com/user/bouldercolorado.gov). Watch the meeting to learn more about where we’re headed next.
In Boulder as much as anywhere else, friends and family often reflect the larger community – our neighbors and co-workers, the barista who makes your morning coffee and the friendly faces you pass by while running errands. I am always amazed how small gestures can have such a large impact on the people in our lives, and sometimes just reaching out to say hello and check in can open the door to meaningful conversations and deeper relationships.

In this spirit, it is important to remind ourselves that connections with our neighbors and the larger community can have an impact not only now during the holidays, but also as we settle back into the day-to-day routine once the presents have been unwrapped and the holiday trees recycled. And stronger relationships lead to stronger, more resilient communities. If a moment should come when a neighbor is in need, the small steps taken to build a connection today can make it easier to reach out and offer support tomorrow.

There are a number of city programs that consider community support and assistance to be at the heart of their mission. There are good examples of these efforts in this edition of the newsletter. The Keep Families Housed program, in partnership with the Emergency Family Assistance Association, aims to address homelessness by being proactive and working to prevent families from falling into such a dire situation where they do lose their home.

Another program – called Cafecitos – strives to create a welcoming environment where parents, both English- and Spanish-speaking, can connect with their children’s teachers. These gatherings offer a casual setting for free-flowing conversations that can be light-hearted or of a more serious nature, all while enjoying coffee and Mexican pastries.

These programs are just a slice of all the city has to offer the community – young and old, newcomers and natives, from all walks of life. They also provide a chance for you to get involved, volunteer your time or make others aware of what is available.

As we move into the winter season and the nights grow longer, I am grateful to know the warmth of our city reaches all of our community members. And I encourage you to take a few moments this holiday season and let someone know you care.

In what feels like the snap of the fingers, another year is winding down. Soon we will be making New Year’s resolutions and looking forward to all the potential 2018 has to offer. Before we say goodbye to 2017, however, most of us will take time during this holiday season to gather with friends and family and reflect on all that has happened over the past year. It is a joyous moment that allows the opportunity to reconnect with loved ones near and far, a time to remember what is so important in life.
The City of Boulder invites you to experience the enhanced Civic Area gathering spaces – spaces you helped create. In November, fences slowly disappeared around Phase One construction in the Civic Area – our “park at the core.” The transformation of this first 13-acre enhancement area in Boulder’s downtown was made possible by the 2014 voter-passed 2A Community, Culture and Safety Tax which invested $8.7 million in the park.

“With these improvements to Boulder’s expanded Central Park, visitors can enjoy greater visibility to Boulder Creek, wider and safer paths, 50 percent more lighting and over 150 new trees,” said Denise White, communications specialist. “All but the new children’s amenity just outside of Boulder’s Main Library opened on Nov. 20, and the nature play installation is set to open in early December once its surface has set.”

On Nov. 20 – #FencesDownDay – large sections of fencing that surrounded much of the park’s improved spaces west of Broadway between Canyon and Arapahoe Avenues were removed, allowing the public to enjoy heightened connectivity and several new plazas. Due to the time of year, #FencesDownDay acts as a soft opening of the park. More is planned for spring when flowers are planted and all landscaping and irrigation is completed.

Residents are encouraged to share photos from their visits from an afternoon walk or viewing the lights of Snow Much Fun (which will illuminate spaces west of Broadway this year visually connecting the park across the major thoroughfare). To keep the momentum going, staff will track the hashtag to highlight visitor photos in a temporary gallery coming to the Civic Area website.

“The community’s foresight and feedback throughout the planning and implementation of this phase of Civic Area improvements resulted in a smooth park development process and an elevated engagement effort incorporating aspects like fly-through animation and real-time construction webcams,” White said.

As this phase of construction concludes, the community is already looking ahead to what is next for the Civic Area Master Plan. Sign up to be part of the action, or follow the progress, as planning for the East Bookend gets underway at BoulderColorado.gov/civic-area. The project’s website will continue to provide updates on activation, 2018 calendar of events, updated map, links to aid in permitting an event or reserving a special space and more. You can also find more detail on new amenities like the Treehouse and nature play features.

The city and general contractor, PCL, extend thanks to the entire community for their cooperation during this one-year construction effort.
A community is best defined by its people. From volunteers to city employees to neighbors helping neighbors, there is no shortage of hometown heroes in Boulder – and we are delighted to spotlight one per newsletter. This edition’s Hometown Heroes are:

Emily Givens & Mike Liegey
Lifeguards

Lifeguards tend to exude a presence of cool, calm and collected. Perched up high, scanning the pool. Beneath that relaxed exterior, however, is a highly skilled, highly trained professional ready to take life-saving measures at a moment’s notice.

Emily Givens and Mike Liegey, two Boulder lifeguards, proved that in dramatic fashion recently by taking quick action and likely saving the life of an unconscious swimmer.

It was a typical late-summer day, and Givens had just relieved Liegey from his duties atop the lifeguard stand at Boulder’s outdoor Spruce Pool. Most of the faces in the pool were familiar, swimming laps and following their usual midday routine. Liegey came out of the office to talk with Givens when the lifeguards noticed a man in obvious distress limply hanging on to the edge of the pool. He was unconscious.

All the experience and training kicked in, and Givens and Liegey leapt into action. A typical day at the pool turned into an emergency situation in an instant – and the lifeguards were ready.

“IT was a lesson in mindfulness,” said Givens, a 29-year-old Boulder resident and University of Colorado Boulder graduate. “One of the things we talk about in training is to be rescue-ready, knowing that at any moment you may have to react to a life-threatening situation.

“Yes, when you see lifeguards they usually look very relaxed, but whenever I walk into a pool I remind myself that I am responsible for the safety of patrons and the peace of mind of their loved ones.”

Givens and Liegey immediately activated the pool emergency action plan. Givens pulled out the lifeguard CPR pocket mask and gave the unconscious man some breathes and conducted CPR before using an AED (automated defibrillator) to deliver shocks that ultimately revived the man.

“He started to show some signs of life and then told us to take the pocket mask off so he could breathe,” Givens said. “That was a good sign, and we were just so happy that he was alive.”

These efforts make it clear that complacency is not an option for lifeguards and those tasked with ensuring the safety of others. Still, it is remarkable how quickly and expertly Givens and Liegey reacted. For example, an AED has been used only three times at a City of Boulder facility in the past eight or nine years – at the Gerald Stazio Softball Fields, Boulder Reservoir and now the Spruce Pool – and all three uses proved to be successful.

Givens and Liegey illustrated the importance of training, which is a collaborative effort between the Parks and Recreation Department and Boulder Fire-Rescue. For the past two years, the fire department has provided scenario-based training to all Parks and Recreation lifeguards.

“If you would like to nominate a Hometown Hero, please email the person’s name, contact information and a brief reason for the nomination, along with your contact information, to communitynewsletter@bouldercolorado.gov.
Understanding that there is not one solution that works for every community or situation, Boulder works to address homelessness in a variety of ways for individuals and families. Boulder’s Homelessness Strategy puts a focus on proactive and forward-thinking ways to prevent homelessness by helping families who are struggling before things take a turn for the worse.

In 2017, the city partnered with Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA) on the Keep Families Housed (KFH) pilot, with a funding investment of $263,000. EFAA provides $100,000 plus operating costs.

The pilot program aims to prevent 300 families with children living in Boulder from falling into homelessness with $500 of short-term rental assistance for up to three months during the year to stay in current housing. During the first nine months of the program, 255 families received a first rental assistance payment, 180 a second payment and 78 a third payment. To receive rental assistance, families must meet established benchmarks on children and family stability/well-being. After stabilizing through the first month payment, families seeking a second or third month of rental assistance through the program must make progress on benchmarks to help stabilize the family, ensure essential investments in their children’s well-being and reduce the chances of future crisis episodes.

“It’s important that we address economic stability and focus on prevention of homelessness. Episodes of homelessness can be devastating, with loss of assets and toxic stress that can affect children for their whole lives,” said Julie Van Domelen, executive director of EFAA.

This partnership is helping to address EFAA’s and the city’s goals of helping families prevent homelessness and become more stable and economically resilient.

Stability is the key, especially when considering the needs of children. For example, when families are in and out of housing and moving around, education gets disrupted and children can fall behind. KFH includes help connecting families to resources, such as Boulder Valley School District’s Infinite Campus to help parents view their children’s grades and attendance while also offering an avenue to communicate directly with teachers.

For more information, visit bouldercolorado.gov/homelessness or contact Wendy Schwartz, Homeless Program manager at 303-441-1818.

There has been a shift in the way Boulder’s homeless shelters will serve individuals in search of a place to sleep. Those seeking overnight shelter now must complete the new countywide Coordinated Entry process to be assessed for program placement, with the goal to provide priority of service and resources to the more vulnerable populations.

In the past, the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless would typically provide shelter on a first-come, first-served basis. If the shelter was expected to be full for a particular evening, a lottery would determine who would receive service. Now, those experiencing homelessness will be assessed through the Coordinated Entry System process, and the most appropriate services will be determined.

“We are being more intentional with the process,” said Greg Harms, executive director at the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless. “The Shelter is now focused on those who have higher needs, who have ties to the community. If you are able-bodied and just stepped off the bus yesterday, you are going to be directed to Navigation Services.”

Once Coordinated Entry is completed, those with shorter histories of homelessness and less barriers to housing can access Navigation Services through the Path to Home program. Navigation Services are intended to eliminate or reduce time in homeless services for adults who may be able to resolve their housing crisis with limited, short-term assistance including access to employment, benefits and basic needs, coupled with an overnight shelter.

“The ultimate goal is not to get people to a shelter, it’s to get people into housing,” Harms said. “Of course we want to meet immediate needs, but the larger focus is on permanent solutions.”

For more information, to volunteer or donate, visit bouldershelter.org or boulderbridgehouse.org.
‘Tis the Season to Recycle

The holiday season has arrived – a time for family and friends, for joy and reflection – and a time for stuff. Lots and lots of stuff, much of which ends up in the landfill unless we take steps to recycle or reuse as much as we can. Here are some steps you can take to stay green during the holidays.

WHAT TO DO WITH THAT TREE

When you are ready to take your tree down, be sure to remove all tinsel, lights and stands. Do not include wreaths, garlands or other trash.

Yard Waste and Wood Drop-off Center at Western Disposal
5800 Butte Mill Road open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Curbside collection available in many locations. Call 303-444-2037 for more information.

WHERE TO RECYCLE THESE COMMON HOLIDAY ITEMS

WRAPPING PAPER
Boulder County Recycling Center, in the bin marked “wrapping paper” (available for a limited time – Dec. 26 through Jan. 31.) Do not include metallic wrapping paper, ribbons, bows, ornaments, tissue paper, fluorescent or dark paper or wrapping paper covered with tape.

HOLIDAY CARDS
You can reuse cards as next year’s gift tags or place-setting cards. Cards can be recycled in curbside bins and all drop-off centers. Do not include cards embossed with foil, non-paper materials, or non-paper items such as ribbons, photos or photo paper.

HOLIDAY STRINGS LIGHTS AND EXTENSION CORDS
Recycle as scrap metal at the CHaRM location, not in curbside bins (no fees apply). Attached lightbulbs are OK; please bundle cords and tie with the loose end so they don’t get caught in the machinery.

ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES
Recycle at the CHaRM location (fees apply), or at a responsible company listed at ecocycle.org/a-zguide/electronics. Remember: Disposing of electronics in the trash is illegal in Colorado.

FOOD SCRAPS AND COOKING OIL
Food scraps can be composted in curbside bins and at CHaRM (fees apply). Cooking oil should be recycled at CHaRM, not in curbside bins ($3 fee applies).

DROP-OFF CENTERS FOR BOULDER AND BOULDER COUNTY

Boulder County Recycling Center
1901 63rd St. Open 24 hours.

Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management Facility (HMMF)
1901 63rd St. Open Wednesday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder CHaRM:
Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials
6400 Arapahoe Road. Open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Note: Fees apply for some materials; visit ecocycle.org/charm for more information.

GREEN TIP
Use creative eco-wrapping, such as comics, posters, maps, blueprints or calendars.

GREEN TIP
Re-charge it: Make the switch to rechargeable batteries.

GREEN TIP
LED holiday lights last longer and use less energy than traditional lights.
When it comes to zero waste, prAna takes things seriously. The passionate employees of the Pearl Street store not only embraced the addition of compost bins, added when the Universal Zero Waste Ordinance was adopted in 2016, but used that opportunity to take sustainability to the next level.

Employees help each other to sort, pinning confusing items above their three-bin system and looking to on-staff zero waste leaders to answer questions. PrAna also hosted a zero waste event this past summer to build a community around zero waste with neighboring businesses where experts presented on sorting, businesses received free bins, bags and signs from the city and to everyone could share successes and challenges related the ordinance’s implementation.

“A lot of businesses worry that composting and sorting is more work, will take more time and will be too expensive,” said Kelli Kremer, prAna Boulder’s store manager. “We have found it doesn’t take longer, it’s impactful and our employees are really engaged on doing it correctly.”

PrAna takes the additional step of weighing its waste at the end of each day to better understand what is going into the landfill while still searching for areas to improve efforts. In August alone, the Pearl Street store composted or recycled 340 pounds of waste, sending only 40 pounds to the landfill. Even with its excellent diversion numbers, employees are determined to take waste reduction and recycling to the next level by tackling a key part of their waste stream – plastic wrap.

When the Universal Zero Waste Ordinance began, the Boulder prAna location examined what sorts of waste were headed to the landfill and it became clear that plastic packaging was still an issue. In 2010, prAna’s corporate arm began a program to reduce the use of plastic packaging, opting instead to ship many items with raffia (a natural fiber) or cloth ties, rather than in plastic sheets. Since the program’s inception, the company estimates that it has saved 13 million pounds of plastic, which is even more impressive when considering how little the wrapping weighs.

Despite these above-and-beyond efforts, the store realized that it still generated a fair amount of plastic wrap waste – so the team continued to search for solutions. By working with its hauler, Eco-cycle, prAna came up with a system of collecting the waste and sending the materials to the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM) rather than the landfill.

PrAna’s plastics collection program has started a ripple effect of other retailers interested in collecting this hard-to-recycle material and keeping it out of the trash. It has inspired some of the neighbors on Pearl Street to collect plastic, and their efforts have caught the attention of some major stores at the Twenty Ninth Street mall. Eco-cycle began a pilot program collecting plastic wrap at five stores and is adding 20 additional stores as 2017 winds down.

The Boulder store’s efforts have been noted at prAna headquarters, where the green team has a goal of reaching zero waste by 2020.

“The Boulder store is a pilot for what we hope to rollout in our other six prAna stores over the next couple years,” said Kelsey Towne, leader of the Green Team at prAna’s headquarters. “Boulder’s ordinance and the passion of our employees for reducing their waste has led prAna’s corporate division to look into how we can bring composting and sorting efforts to our other locations, as well as how we can continue to reduce our plastic waste.”

Learn more about hard to recycle items, the Universal Zero Waste Ordinance and available zero waste resources at ZeroWasteBoulder.com.
Officer Sheila Kunstmann was the first female officer to join the Boulder Police Department back in 1974, leading the way for the skilled and hard-working group of 34 women who currently serve on the force. That includes a commander, four sergeants, four major crime detectives and several SWAT negotiators.

As with any profession, finding the right individual for the job can be challenging. But we don’t seek out female officers just for the sake of diversity – we look for the best-qualified applicant.

“Everyone here is on the same playing field. We all go through the same hiring standards, it just happens that as a department we’ve always been above the norm for female officers,” said Cmdr. Katie McEldowney, who started with the department in 1996.

And I’m proud to say that we do rank well above the norm. The Boulder Police Department is one of 30 law enforcement agencies that participate in the Benchmark Cities group. The group was established in 1997 by a number of police chiefs from around the country and consists of cities with similar size, population and demographics, which in our case includes the college community. Extensive surveys are completed each year and reviewed at an annual conference which allows agencies to compare themselves over a wide variety of criteria and ensures they are providing the best service possible to their respective communities.

Boulder has ranked No. 1 for the number of female officers for the past several years. Last year, 19.3 percent of the department consisted of female officers, well above the Benchmark Cities average of 11.7 percent. We also rank high for the number of female officers in a position of sergeant or above – 30.6 percent compared to the group average of 19.2 percent.

A diverse department not only reflects our community, but it also offers the opportunity for the strengths of individual officers to shine.

“I think communication skills and conflict resolution come into play,” said Sgt. Melissa Carey, who has been with the department for 26 years. “With the size differences, women might have to be a bit more patient and have that ability to communicate and deescalate a tense situation.”

For all officers, priorities of the department include providing the highest levels of training and support.

“It’s a good feeling to know the department stands behind us and gives us good direction,” said Sgt. Lauri Wegscheider, who has worked in law enforcement since she was 21 years old. “We are secure in the fact that the department is here for you and supports the decisions you make.”

Stay in the know with the Emergency Alert Program

Be sure to stay informed of any emergency situations by signing up for the Emergency Alert Program and receive notifications. To register, visit bouldercolorado.gov/police and click on Emergency Alert Signup Page. You will receive tailored messages for specific locations that you choose.
Striving for more affordable housing

Since its adoption in 2000, the Inclusionary Housing program has helped Boulder to produce affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households. City Council recently approved modification to this program will help to address the growing need for middle-income homes.

Since 1989, Boulder has seen a more than 6 percent decrease in middle-income households and a corresponding increase in high-income households. Since the adoption of Inclusionary Housing in 2000, the city has experienced success with creating more low- and moderate-income households. More homes for middle-income will help the city to remain diverse and vibrant. Here are a few key features of and what has changed.

1. The Basic Requirement of Inclusionary Housing
   Until this year, Boulder required all new residential developments to contribute 20 percent of their building project to the city’s affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households. This year, City Council approved a 5 percent increase specifically for middle-income households.

2. How does Inclusionary Housing Work?
   The developers can meet the new 25 percent requirement through several options. They can provide the low-, moderate- and middle-income units on-site, build or dedicate new units off-site, provide land for affordable housing developments or pay cash-in-lieu. Payment for cash-in-lieu goes into the city’s Affordable Housing Fund and is used to leverage state and federal funding sources to build additional affordable housing.

3. Who Benefits?
   Making sure that we have a diverse housing stock ensures we have a diverse community. Affordable housing options mean that people who work in Boulder can live in Boulder. As of 2017, the city has 3,305 low and moderate permanently affordable homes, or 7.2 percent of housing in Boulder. The city is building on the previous success and has adopted a goal of 3,500 middle-income units by 2030.

4. Why Can’t We Get More Affordable Homes Built On-site with Market Homes?
   The city is prohibited by the state from requiring on-site units in rental developments. There are also financing and market challenges. However, the city recently adopted several incentives to encourage developers to provide affordable units in for-sale developments. The cash-in-lieu is also beneficial to the city in achieving our housing goals by providing resources to ensure deeper levels of affordability (e.g., very low-income and senior housing). There are many challenges to a one-size-fits-all approach; financing for market-rate is often not compatible with affordable housing finance. All options produce good and equitable results for the city, although new incentives will encourage more on-site building of permanently affordable homes.

5. What Option is Best for Boulder?
   The primary goal for the program is to produce more affordable housing for low-, moderate- and middle-income households. Developers have a variety of tax credits and financing to supplement low- and moderate-income units, but there are few options available for middle-income. The new Inclusionary Housing Ordinance is expected to incentivize housing options that are not common in Boulder.

   Attracting middle-income households means producing housing types and sizes that are more likely to remain affordable without being deed-restricted. However, to meet the 3,500-unit goal with a diversity of approaches, the city anticipates that 1,000 homes will be deed restricted. Middle-income homes are often attached products such as duplexes, fourplexes, condos, courtyard apartments and townhomes. For more information on the Inclusionary Housing update, visit BoulderColorado.gov/housing/inclusionary-housing-update.
Work is under way to consider changes to regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and increase the diversity of housing opportunities in Boulder.

The effort aims to simplify regulations and remove barriers to the construction of this housing type in ways that are compatible with neighborhoods.

For this near-term work, the intent is to consider incremental and focused changes to the regulations, not wholesale changes. Several initial options under consideration include:

- Simplifying rules
- Allowing higher concentration
- Increasing the allowed size
- Changing parking requirements
- Exploring location-specific implementation

It is important to note that additional analysis will be required to understand the potential impacts of these changes prior to any formal proposal to change the regulations.

**HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED**

- Visit bouldercolorado.gov/housing/adu to share your ADU story and help us confirm the project goals.
- Attend an open house on Monday, Dec. 11, at Shining Mountain Waldorf School (999 Violet Ave.).
- Stay tuned for information about meeting opportunities in January and February to provide feedback on a Proposal Discussion Draft.

For more information contact Jay Sugnet, senior planner, at sugnetj@bouldercolorado.gov.

**ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS TIMELINE**

In November, the city began a project with the community to provide predictability about building heights in Boulder, as guided by the community’s vision and the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan.

Changes to the Land Use Code will regulate where buildings up to the 55-foot City Charter height limit may be permitted and where lower heights and intensities should occur.

The project will also result in standards for achieving more affordable housing to benefit the community in cases where those taller buildings are permitted. Its anticipated completion is July 2018. This effort will build on extensive community feedback in recent projects, including two surveys as part of the recent Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan update.

**HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED**

Visit bouldercolorado.gov/planning/building-heights to learn more about the project and get involved.

For more information contact Phil Kleisler, planner for the city, at kleislerp@bouldercolorado.gov.

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Boulder’s urban forest – all the public and private trees within city limits – faces multiple threats from invasive pests, diseases, climate change and more. In response, the Parks and Recreation Department’s Urban Forestry unit has spent the past year engaging the community in conversations about trees. These conversations, along with input gathered from technical experts and a working group, are the foundations of a draft for the Urban Forest Strategic Plan (UFSP), a long-term plan for the sustainability of Boulder’s public and private trees.

Trees work continuously to mitigate the effects of urbanization and development while protecting and enhancing lives within the community in many ways. Among other benefits, a healthy urban forest improves air quality, captures stormwater runoff and enhances water quality, mitigates heat to help cool cities, provides habitat and benefits for wildlife, and offers a variety of health, socioeconomic and aesthetic services to a community.

Boulder’s public trees include approximately 50,800 inventoried street and park trees, managed primarily by the city’s Urban Forestry unit. These public trees are a fragment of the overall urban forest, which also includes hundreds of thousands of trees on commercial and private property and naturalized areas throughout Boulder.

As the urban forest has grown, challenges and opportunities have emerged that require a proactive management approach and a long-term planning strategy to preserve the health, sustainability and services of trees and canopy cover. The UFSP is the first major planning effort to guide the long-term management of the public urban forest – taking a closer look at how to support the community to best address challenges that will also affect private trees. While there are challenges facing our trees, the conversations and plan also identify multiple opportunities for us, as a community, to dig in and participate in the solutions so our trees can branch out and thrive.

The draft plan, crafted from input gathered from both experts and the community, will be shared with residents in early 2018 with the aim of educating the community and finalizing input on the plan. If you are interested in Boulder’s trees and urban forest, visit BranchingOutBoulder.org for information on the plan and next public meeting.

After extensive study and public feedback, the City of Boulder began the new Neighborhood Speed Management Program (NSMP) this past October. The focus of the program is to improve livability by reducing speeding traffic on neighborhood streets. It has four components (engineering, enforcement, education and evaluation) and involves a resident-initiated process with neighbors applying to the city to enter the program. The current application period is open, and applications will be accepted through April 27, 2018.

Each year, city staff will work with applicant neighborhoods to identify appropriate speed management strategies for their streets. All applications requesting engineering treatments must include a neighborhood petition with signatures from 20 neighbors or 30 percent of households on the same block, whichever is less. All applicants will receive tools to support education and enforcement.

Neighborhood applications requesting engineering treatments (such as speed humps and traffic circles) will be ranked based on the criteria laid out in the program guidelines. All applicants will be notified of the ranking. Staff will then present a list of prioritized projects to the city’s Transportation Advisory Board for review.

The NSMP builds on the city’s previous traffic calming program by reintroducing engineering treatments to neighborhood streets to reduce traffic speeds. Staff began a public engagement process in early 2017 that included meetings, online engagement and leadership from the city’s Transportation Advisory Board.

The NSMP is tied to the city’s Transportation Master Plan and Toward Vision Zero goals, which focus on continuous improvement in safety for all modes of travel, with the ultimate goal of reaching zero serious injury and fatal crashes. The NSMP addresses this goal by reducing speeding traffic on neighborhood streets, which can reduce the frequency and severity of crashes. Reducing speeding traffic can also help people feel more comfortable walking and biking, which leads to an increase in walking and biking trips and supports the city’s overall climate and sustainability goals. For more information and to review the program guidelines, visit bouldercolorado.gov/transportation/nsmp.
This past June, City Council approved the Central Broadway Corridor Design Framework that describes the relationships between several activity centers and planning projects that are under way along Broadway. It also provides guidance for overall planning in each area. These areas include the Civic Area, downtown, Alpine-Balsam and University Hill.

The framework identifies opportunities to strengthen existing assets, fill gaps and address challenges. While each project, or activity center, has its own unique contribution to the community, the city wants to ensure that they each protect physical and environmental features; are accessible and provide connectivity; respect the existing built environment; and support community character and assets.

Here is an update on current planning projects that are benefiting from the Central Broadway Corridor Design Framework:

- **The Civic Area park** is nearing completion and will soon be fully open to the public for use. The next phase of Civic Area Master Plan implementation will focus on the East Bookend (between Canyon Boulevard and Arapahoe Avenue from Broadway to 14th Street). Over the coming months the city will seek input from the community on potential uses that will complement the site.

- **Downtown improvements** continue to be a focus of the city. This past summer, bear-proof, zero-waste bins for recycling, compostable and landfill items were installed on Pearl Street Mall. During the fall, over 40 zero-waste bins were installed throughout the downtown commercial district. Additionally, parking garages are being painted to provide a safer, brighter parking environment, and garage access equipment has been updated.

- **This January, the Alpine-Balsam project** will begin an area planning process, with the goal of presenting an area plan for adoption by City Council and Planning Board in early 2019. The project team will work with the community throughout 2018 to explore opportunities and options for the area. Implementation of the plan will begin after the hospital vacates the site in 2019. You can find more information and current opportunities to provide community input, as well as the project purpose statement and boundary, at bouldercolorado.gov/planning/alpinebalsam.

- **The final of three University Hill capital improvement projects funded by the Community, Culture and Safety Tax** were completed in support of the ongoing Hill Community Development effort. A new half-block space between 13th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue will periodically host small public events and provide an attractive, public gathering space. The city also continues to pursue a public-private partnership to build a hotel and parking garage at Broadway and University Avenue.

For more information on the Central Broadway Planning Projects and to share your thoughts on the Central Broadway Corridor Design Framework, visit bouldercolorado.gov/planning/centralbroadway.
Reflecting on 2017

The end of the year is always a good time to reflect on accomplishments, lessons learned and so much more. And what a year 2017 was! The City of Boulder team addressed a wide range of topics, from major construction efforts and infrastructure renovations to community outreach strategies and a continued focus on environmental awareness, and most everything in between.

Using the seven categories listed under the city’s Sustainability Framework, here is a look at some of what has been accomplished in 2017.

- Implemented the Chautauqua Access Management Plan (CAMP) summer 2017 pilot, providing nearly 23,000 free shuttle rides to Chautauqua and decreasing parking by 20 percent on neighborhood streets during summer weekends.
- As part of the Access Management and Parking Strategy (AMPS), completed the pilot d2d (Door to Downtown) to reduce parking demand downtown during the holiday and post-holiday periods by subsidizing rides with transportation network companies.
- Completed the installation of the new parking access and revenue control system (PARCS) for all five CAGID garages, to support access to downtown.
- Completed major capital improvement projects, including the Diagonal Highway reconstruction, intersection improvements at 29th Street and Valmont Road, the Baseline underpass and the 28th Street corridor.
- As part of Open Space and Mountain Parks work to develop regional trails, the department worked with Boulder County to complete the IBM Connector Trail, which connects trails around the Boulder Reservoir to trails in Gunbarrel.
• Achieved 100 percent compliance with Phase 1 of the Building Performance Ordinance rating and reporting requirement for the largest commercial and industrial buildings in the community.
• Kicked off the development of a comprehensive solar and storage strategy, including convening a solar working group, to create an action plan to meet the city's local renewable energy generation goals of 100 megawatts by 2030.
• Built on previous natural gas replacement strategies by co-convening a group of 20 cities and major manufacturers to support a national initiative to accelerate the adoption of renewable-ready electric heating and cooling appliances.
• Began enforcement of Boulder's ground-breaking Universal Zero Waste regulations. Ninety-five percent of businesses that received a warning came into compliance prior to a fine being issued.
• Installed 55 public zero waste bins on Pearl Street Mall, the Hill and in parks to increase access to composting and recycling and to support the Universal Zero Waste Ordinance.
• In addition to one-on-one business assistance, zero waste advisors worked with 288 businesses in eight shopping plazas in key areas throughout the city, including the Twenty Ninth Street Mall, Table Mesa Shopping Center and Meadows on the Parkway to ensure that these and other places where Boulderites work and play are compliant with the Universal Zero Waste Ordinance.
• Replaced existing electric vehicle charging stations, installed seven dual-charging electric vehicle stations in downtown parking garages and purchased three new electric vehicles for the city's fleet.
• Received a favorable ruling at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The ruling clarified the path forward for municipalization and marked a significant milestone for the project.
• Kicked off the development of a solar strategy for the community and city facilities and a supporting solar working group. The strategy will include an action plan for meeting city local renewable energy goals.
• Completed research and analysis in support of the development of an electric vehicle strategy in support of climate commitment transportation-related emissions reduction targets.
• Played an active role in Xcel applications to the PUC. Boulder is currently an intervenor in three active proceedings: Xcel's Rate Case, Electric Resource Plan and Demand-Side Management Strategic Issues.
• Participated in regional, national and international collaborations in support of the Boulder community’s climate and energy goals.
• Continued energy efficiency improvements and continuous monitoring and reporting on 28 city facilities reducing energy consumption in buildings by 8 percent from 2015 levels and 46 percent from 2008 levels.
• Installed seven dual-charging electric vehicle stations in downtown parking garages and purchased three new electric vehicles for the city’s fleet.
• Completed a significant update of the city’s energy codes, developed supporting resources and training materials, and implemented measures to improve compliance with the codes.
• The City Council accepted Open Space and Mountain Parks’ Agricultural Resources Management Plan, which will help the city maintain and enhance agricultural values on city open space while strengthening the community’s connections with local farmers and ranchers.
• Open Space and Mountain Parks, partners and volunteers planted more than 11,000 shrubs and trees to repair damage from the 2013 floods and to help restore a two-mile corridor of Boulder Creek.
• Open Space and Mountain Parks is nearing the completion of its efforts to rebuild from the 2013 floods for work that is eligible for reimbursement from the federal government. This year, the department completed repairs along the NCAR-Bear Canyon, Amphitheatre and Chautauqua trails.
- Grew city’s social media presences and engagement; Boulder is now the No. 1 Colorado city government on Facebook and Twitter in terms of followers.
- Systematically audited and improved more than 1,000 pages on the city website to improve the user experience and eliminate outdated content.
- Finalized the seventh major update to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan that will shape the valley’s future.
- Created the Central Broadway Corridor Design Framework, work, a tool to implement the BVCP in and between five activity centers: University Hill/CU, the Boulder Civic Area, Downtown, the Alpine-Balsam site and Boulder County’s site at Broadway and Iris.
- Completed the community engagement phase of the Library Master Plan update project.
- Launched a digital newsroom pilot to make news content more visually engaging and give users a destination for media-worthy news and digestible tidbits of information.

- Launched a Downtown Retail/Vibrancy Study to identify emerging trends and opportunities for improvement in collaboration with Downtown Boulder Partnership.
- Partnered with the Boulder Chamber to host a job fair to connect dozens of local employers with job seekers.
- Launched several “civic incubator” programs as a new and creative approach to focus on important opportunities within the city.

- Implemented data collection from vehicle and pedestrian stops in support of the department’s commitment to fair and equitable enforcement action for the community.
- Obtained new body worn cameras for officers to improve evidence documentation and increase accountability and transparency.
- Secured funding and coordinated the installation of “solar + storage + backup generation” systems at Boulder Housing Partners and Via that will enable them to maintain emergency operations during a major grid outage.
- Established the Community Dialogue and Engagement Panel to discuss policing strategies and increase public awareness regarding community issues.
- Initiated a new Records Management System (RMS) to optimize operational efficiency and resource management throughout the Boulder Police Department.
- Continued Toward Vision Zero initiatives to reduce traffic collisions, including traffic signal modifications, green pavement markings for bicyclists in high crash areas, and Heads Up and Lighten Up campaigns to increase safety awareness for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.
Livable Community
• Promotes and sustains a safe, clean and attractive place to live, work and play
• Facilitates housing options to accommodate a diverse community
• Provides safe and well-maintained public infrastructure, and provides adequate and appropriate regulation of public/private development and resources
• Encourages sustainable development supported by reliable and affordable city services
• Supports and enhances neighborhood livability for all members of the community

Healthy & Socially Thriving Community
• Cultivates a wide range of recreational, cultural, educational, and social opportunities
• Supports the physical and mental well-being of its community members and actively partners with others to improve the welfare of those in need
• Fosters inclusion, embraces diversity and respects human rights
• Enhances multi-generational community enrichment and community engagement

• Began implementation of the new Human Services Strategy, including a new focus on economic mobility and resilience for community residents and launching the first annual Boulder Job Fair.
• Completed the Community Perceptions Assessment Report, providing recommendations for a community gathering and to inform the Human Relations Commission and Human Services Department Inclusive and Welcoming Community workplans.
• Continued implementation of the new Homelessness Strategy, including expanding housing options, implementing a new adult services system with a one-stop coordinated entry system, year-round shelter and services, and short-term navigation services.
• Developed the Health Equity Fund community grants program for use of Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax and implemented a Health Equity Fund Advisory Committee to make recommendations for allocation of funds to the community.
• Completed a revision of the Policy for the Acquisition and Maintenance of Public Art, and successfully launched the new public art program with a series of new commissions.
• Completed the 2017 cultural grants cycle in support of the Boulder Arts Commission, distributing $675,000 to more than 40 artists, presenters and venues.
• Launched the Arts and Economic Prosperity study to gather data on the importance of cultural organizations and their audiences on the economic prosperity of Boulder.
• Facilitated the process for City Council’s official recognition of the NoBo Art District and began collaborative governance.
• Supported the update of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, including many new references to the important of arts and culture to the community.
Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) is changing the way it delivers news and program offerings to you.

Last year, the department surveyed BPR Guide recipients and facility users on how they obtain parks and recreation information.

Responses revealed that our visitors increasingly choose web, email and social media prompts to access our latest news, including the digital (online) version of the guide.

We heard you! Moving forward, BPR will rely less on printed paper and postage – and more on guiding residents to our robust online resources, using social media and email messages.

Starting this winter, we’re reducing our print mailings from six in 2016 to five in 2017 and four in 2018.

THE CHANGES

The Winter Guide will be mailed later in December as we combine it with the New Year’s Fitness Sale mailer, a shift that allows the city to save postage costs. The Summer Camp Guide and open camp registration will be released in February instead of March. BPR’s first combined Spring/Summer Guide will be published in March. Registration opens for both sessions Tuesday, March 6.

STAYING INFORMED

While BPR will continue to mail three guides a year before the start of each session, the best way to ensure you’re getting the latest news and program offerings is to visit BoulderParks-Rec.org and provide your name and email address in the “News & Events Email Sign-up” box. And be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.
From reducing emissions to ensuring public safety, the City of Boulder is working to achieve a wide variety of goals. These are priorities our community and City Council have identified – and it is important, as a local government, that we are accountable for our work to support them.

The city recently launched a new online tool to help measure and explain the city’s progress toward data-driven goals. The interactive platform, known as Boulder Measures, is available at bouldercolorado.gov/boulder-measures.

“Boulder Measures is intended to create opportunities for two-way dialogue with our community about issues using a shared set of transparent information,” said Chief Innovation and Analytics Officer Julia Richman. “The tool will help residents engage in government – accountability – and help the city further its shift toward data-driven management of our performance.”

Boulder Measures has been in beta since it debuted to council in December 2017. It has been enhanced based on public feedback provided at two community open houses in February as well as ongoing input provided through online feedback forms. The tool currently features 11 data sets, which cover topics such as greenhouse gas emissions, library program attendance and fire department response times. Each topic includes data visualizations and narrative explaining the goal, its significance and observations about the trend.

Boulder Measures is a tool that will evolve with time. Some of the goals the city is tracking with the tool are ambitious and long-term in nature. It should be expected, therefore, that there will be both progress and setbacks over time. Nonetheless, this tracking will provide valuable learning opportunities, as well as the chance to revise programs and funding commitments to ensure that community expectations are met.

For most metrics, the city will update Boulder Measures data at least quarterly, with a few measures updated more frequently. Raw data for many of the metrics will be made available in the city’s Open Data Catalog at bouldercolorado.gov/open-data. Boulder Measures and the Open Data Catalog are part of a larger effort across the city organization to use data to better inform decisions, enhance transparency, heighten accountability and enable continuous improvement. The city is working with an external partner, What Works Cities, to incorporate practices learned by cities around the country and improve on those in a way that’s most valuable to the Boulder community.

You can review metrics or submit feedback on Boulder Measures by visiting bouldercolorado.gov/boulder-measures. We would love to hear your thoughts.
In late 2016, the city embarked on a major study to propose multimodal transportation improvements in the area of 30th Street and Colorado Avenue. A large study like this begins with the basics: what are the existing conditions in the area, and what does the community want to improve?

This area connects major activity centers, including Boulder Junction, Williams Village and the University of Colorado Boulder’s main and east campuses. The corridors have some of the highest rates of crashes in the city, making it a high priority for improvements to travel mobility and safety. City staff analyze crash data – as well as transit ridership, vehicle counts and other data – to understand the existing conditions on the streets.

But what to do with that data and identifying solutions requires close collaboration with the community to understand your needs and values? Here are some of the highlights of community engagement so far, as well as opportunities for future input:

2017
Feb. 9: Open house attended by more than 60 community members and circulation of an online questionnaire to inform the community of the scope the project and receive feedback to develop the project’s vision and goals.

March: City staff formed a Community Working Group (CWG) made up of 16 members with broad interests and perspectives. The CWG met five times between April and August 2017 and has helped develop the project’s

About 100 community members attended the Sept. 25, 2017, open house and provided feedback on the study’s goals and design options.

Update on Underpass Projects

30TH AND COLORADO BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS
City staff, in close collaboration with the community, are currently evaluating design options for a new underpass that will improve the safety and travel efficiency for the more than 30,000 vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists that cross the 30th Street and Colorado Avenue intersection every day.

The project also will provide important accessibility, mobility and drainage improvements to the intersection. These improvements will make moving around this area easier and safer while also advancing the city’s sustainability goals. Approximately $6 million of the $8 million in total projected costs will be paid for through federal funds.

FOOTHILLS PARKWAY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS
The current bridge over Foothills Parkway south of Colorado Avenue has reached the end of its service life and doesn’t meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and bicycle facilities design guidelines. City staff are working with the community to evaluate five locations for the underpass.

Both projects are expected to start construction in 2019. Please visit bouldertransportation.net to learn more and sign up for email updates.
**19th Street project to add sidewalk links, more**

Nineteenth Street is an important travel route in north Boulder, providing access to several area schools between Norwood and Yarmouth avenues. However, when some students walk to school in the morning, they literally encounter where the sidewalk ends.

Although there are some sidewalks and bicycle facilities along 19th Street, in some places they are incomplete or not built to the city’s current design standards.

For these reasons, city staff began working to better understand what could be done to provide safer travel through the area.

At a public open house and two site walks this year, along with an online questionnaire, staff met with those who live and travel this section of 19th Street, including families of nearby schools, and learned that safety and ease of pedestrian and bicycle travel are some of the top concerns.

“Several community members expressed concern about the safety of pedestrians crossing at transit stops and intersections,” said Transportation Planner Melanie Sloan. “Although this project was given a high priority through the city’s Missing Sidewalk Links program, this kind of community engagement is an opportunity for us to get feedback on existing conditions that might not always be visible if you don’t travel down a particular street frequently.”

After reviewing input to date, city staff will develop a set of conceptual designs and then asked the community again for their feedback later this fall.

The final design will be selected in 2018, with construction scheduled to begin in 2019.

The 19th Street Multimodal improvements project will use funds from the Colorado Department of Transportation Alternatives (TAP) program, the Federal Highway Administration’s Safe Routes to School grant program and the city’s Transportation Fund.

To stay up to date on this and other transportation projects, please visit bouldertransportation.net.

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**ENGAGED from Page 20**

vision and goals and provided initial ideas on design options. The CWG will continue to provide ideas and feedback throughout the design process.

**Summer:** Distribution of questionnaire to corridor area businesses.

**Sept. 25:** Open house, attended by more than 100 community members to get input on the identified vision, goals and design options. The materials from the open house also were posted online to create a “virtual open house,” with the option for community members to take online questionnaires.

**2018**

**January (exact date coming soon):** Open house to share results of the design options evaluation process and begin to narrow design options to identify one or two for further refinement.

**March:** Community meeting to get public feedback on refined design options.

In between meetings with the community, staff worked with consultants to evaluate the feedback received before developing and refining design options.

For this study, the city and consultants developed 15 different multi-modal transportation options – five options for each of three corridor segments – that were presented at the Sept. 25 open house.

Currently, staff is working with consultants to analyze all of the feedback on the design options from the community and evaluate the options on how they are meeting the study’s goals and objectives.

Staff will present the results to the CWG and at another open house, to be scheduled in January 2018.

Staff will then narrow down the options to one or two designs for review by boards and City Council, and then move into estimating the costs and developing an implementation plan.

For more information and to sign up for updates on this and other projects, visit bouldertransportation.net.
Cafecitos offers relaxing environment to connect

For Spanish-speaking parents of young students, connecting with teachers and the larger school community can be a challenge. A program at University Hill Elementary School is working to open the doors to communication in a familiar and comfortable way.

Cafecitos is an outreach program that engages all parents in an intimate setting that is culturally appropriate and effective in building trust and rapport. The nature of the name Cafecitos does offer an added layer of familiarity for Spanish-speaking parents, but all presentations are offered in both English and Spanish.

Boulder began collaboration with University Hill three years ago to launch the effort to reach parents who otherwise might not connect as often and easily with the teachers and administrators who play such a pivotal role in their children’s lives. While the Cafecitos program is relatively new, 25 years ago Boulder Valley School District and the City of Boulder realized the importance of partnering together to better serve families and the community as a whole, which gave way to the beginning of the Family Resource School program that is now in five elementary schools.

The atmosphere of the meetings is casual. Conversations are typically free-flowing, led by parents and less structured, and attendees settle in with hot chocolate or coffee and Mexican pastries to talk about anything — what happened that day or last week or with the family, as well as more high-level discussions about the transition to middle school or finding ways to talk to children about marijuana.

“It can be a bit uncomfortable when you feel like you have very rigid parent-teacher meetings. Cafecitos is so relaxed that parents can say, ‘OK, someone cares about my situation and I can offer something of myself in return,’” said Ana Silvia Avendaño-Curiel, family outreach coordinator for the city.

“At the core of it, we all want to belong somewhere. And a huge goal of ours is to make a stronger connection directly between the parent and the teacher.

For more information about Cafecitos, please contact Avendaño-Curiel at 720-561-2938 or Avendano-CurielA@bouldercolorado.gov.

Cafecitos les ofrece un ambiente relajante para poder conectarse

La comunicación entre los padres hispanos de estudiantes jóvenes, con los maestros y la comunidad en general puede ser un reto. Un programa en University Hill Elementary School está trabajando en un programa para poder tener una comunicación abierta de forma familiar y relajante.

Cafecitos es un programa el cuál divulga e involucra a los padres de familia en un ambiente intimo, el cual es culturalmente apropiado y efectivo para construir confianza y una buena relación. El origen del nombre Cafecitos se hizo con el fin de dar un toque de familiaridad a los padres Hispánoparlantes, pero todas las presentaciones se ofrecerán en los dos idiomas Inglés y Español.

La cuidad de Boulder inició su colaboración con University Hill hace tres años para así iniciar un esfuerzo para poder ponerse en contacto con los padres de familia, quienes de otra forma no podrían estar en contacto con tanta frecuencia ni tan fácilmente con los maestros y el personal administrativo, quienes juegan un papel fundamental en la vida de los niños. Aunque el programa llamado Cafecitos es relativamente nuevo, hace 25 años el Distrito escolar Boulder Valley y la cuidad de Boulder se dieron cuenta de la importancia de una mutua colaboración y unión, para poder servir a las familias y a la comunidad como un todo, lo cual dio como inicio al programa de las escuelas primarias “Family Resource School program.”

Las reuniones tendrán una atmósfera informal. Las conversaciones fluirán libremente, y están dirigidas por padres de familia y sin mayor estructura, en donde los participantes se sientan a tomar una taza de café o chocolate caliente y con algunos pasteles botanas Mexicanas para hablar de cualquier cosa. Algo como ¿Qué pasó con la familia ese día con una situación específica la semana pasada?, al igual que discusiones de otro nivel de importancia acerca de la transición a la escuela Intermedia middle school o como encontrar la forma de hablar con sus hijos acerca de la mariguana.

“Cuando las escuelas realizan las típicas reuniones de padres de familia, que son muy estrictas y formales, se pueden tornar un poco incomodas. Cafecitos es tan relajado que los padres pueden decir, ‘OK, siento que a alguien le importa mi situación, y así siento que debo aportar algo de mi parte también,’” dijo Ana Silvia Avendaño-Curiel, coordinadora para la ciudad del Programa de Divulgación Familiar family outreach. “En el núcleo de este, todos queremos tener sentido de pertenencia. Y nuestra mayor meta es la poder hacer una fuerte conexión directa entre los padres y los maestros.”

Para mas información acerca de Cafecitos, puede ponerse en contacto con Avendaño-Curiel at 720-561-2938 o Avendano-CurielA@bouldercolorado.gov.
Before it reaches your faucet or shower, Boulder’s drinking water takes an epic journey, from alpine mountain slopes on both sides of the continental divide, through a complex system of reservoirs, canals and pipelines.

An important stop along the way is one of Boulder’s two water treatment facilities: the Betasso Water Treatment Facility, located several miles up Boulder Canyon, west of the city, is the primary treatment facility with a rated capacity of 40 million gallons per day (mgd). It delivers about two-thirds of the annual water supply.

The Boulder Reservoir Water Treatment Facility, located on 63rd Street, has a rated capacity of 16 mgd. The Boulder Reservoir facility is critical to meeting peak summer demands associated with outdoor irrigation in our arid climate and provides operational flexibility to reduce public impacts associated with droughts, infrastructure failures, floods, power outages, fires, and other emergencies.

The Betasso Water Treatment Plant has operated continuously since it was constructed in the 1960s and is undergoing a large-scale rehabilitation project to update components and help ensure it can maintain reliable treatment into the future. The facility is currently unable to reliably treat water at its rated capacity and has numerous components that are at or beyond the end of their useful life. The $35 million project, which began in 2016 and is scheduled to conclude at the end of 2018, will replace aging equipment, upgrade treatment processes and provide more efficient and cost-effective waste disposal.

Did you know?
One acre-foot of water is equal to approximately 325,851 gallons, which is the approximate amount of water that two typical three-member households use in one year. Together, the Betasso and Boulder Reservoir plants have a combined capacity to treat up to 62,720 acre-feet of water, or 20.2 billion gallons, each year.

Because the city cannot meet peak water demands with the Betasso Water Treatment Facility offline, work is being phased so that construction can occur with the facility operational. A small number of complete shutdowns will occur during periods of low water use. In these instances, the Boulder Reservoir facility will serve the entire city. The city is continuously adjusting system operations to minimize public impacts associated with the construction.

For more about Boulder’s water utilities, visit BoulderWater.net, and you can follow the Betasso Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project at bouldercolorado.gov/public-works/betasso.

Betasso rehab to continue through 2018

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 bi-monthly through 2017. You also can sign up to receive an electronic version in your email inbox by visiting bouldercolorado.gov/newsletter.

We welcome your feedback!

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

In keeping with Boulder’s sustainability values, the paper used for this newsletter contains recycled content and the printer is FSC certified, which means they follow standards required by the Forest Stewardship Council. Please recycle this newsletter after use.