



Looking@Lakewood



Representing Lakewood. More than 30 community members and Lakewood staff presented three important city initiatives as part of the All-America City conference in June.

Lakewood recognized as All-America City finalist

Lakewood's efforts to engage its residents by bringing democracy to their doors through several innovative approaches earned the city a spot as a finalist in the All-America City Awards, a prestigious national recognition for communities across the country.

Presented annually by the National Civic League, the award honors communities for their collaborative

efforts and innovations to craft solutions for local challenges. The theme for this year's award was "strengthening democracy through local action and innovation," and Lakewood submitted its community-focused initiatives of Lakewood Speaks, Lakewood Together and the Sustainable Neighborhood Network.

More than 30 Lakewood community members presented the initiatives during the June 7-9 conference in Denver, showcasing how residents come together to embody the "pieces of democracy." Lakewood previously was named an All-America City in 2011 and 2016.

"I am so proud of the collaboration and engagement that these projects represent," said Mayor Wendi Strom. "They are a reflection of the city's focus on fostering democracy through grassroots efforts and creating new pathways for residents to engage and connect."

Lakewood Speaks

This is a pioneering online platform designed to enhance transparency and public participation in city meetings. By visiting LakewoodSpeaks.org, community members can find upcoming public meeting dates, review agendas, leave written public comments and watch City Council meetings live or recorded. It also provides accountability by showing the number of council members who have read the submitted public comments.

Launched in 2016, it is a trailblazing tool for public participation and has

been adopted in Boulder County; Topeka, Kansas; Springfield, Oregon; and other cities. It prompted an 800 percent increase in public meeting attendance, with 66 percent of comments submitted online, according to a 2020 study. It also engages residents from diverse economic, age and racial backgrounds.

Lakewood Together

This is the city's digital engagement platform that allows residents to get involved in city projects by visiting LakewoodTogether.org. Since its launch, the website has received 384,000 visits, averaging 2,000 visits daily. Residents can provide their thoughts, submit ideas, take surveys, help map issues and participate in other ways to shape projects including the Envision Lakewood 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the city's parking study,

potential ballot questions, and Lakewood funding discussions.

Sustainable Neighborhoods

This network empowers residents to create vibrant, eco-friendly communities through grassroots initiatives. Neighborhoods earn credits for projects like community gardens, energy conservation workshops, and waste reduction initiatives. These efforts promote environmental stewardship, enhance community resilience, reduce residents' carbon footprints and foster a sense of community.

Launched as a pilot program more than 10 years ago, the program has grown into its own nonprofit, spreading to other cities across the U.S. Lakewood currently boasts 10 certified sustainable neighborhoods. For more information, visit Lakewood.org/SustainableNeighborhoods.

"I am so proud of the collaboration and engagement that these projects represent."

— Mayor Wendi Strom,
City of Lakewood

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LONGMONT CO
PERMIT NO. 16

POSTAL PATRON

Scan to learn more about Lakewood's
2024 All-America City Projects

SUSTAINABLE
NEIGHBORHOODS



LAKWOOD
TOGETHER.ORG



LAKWOOD
SPEAKS.ORG



MAYOR



Wendi Strom

When my family moved to Lakewood, one of the top reasons we did so was the abundance of trees and parks. Today, as your mayor, that is one of the top reasons I hear also from residents why they too love and live here.

Lakewood loves our parks. Did you know that Lakewood has 114 parks and 240 miles of trails? There's

no better place in Lakewood than in our parks. Until serving on City Council, I admit that I had only been to a handful of parks around the city, and as you can imagine, I visited just those few that were close to my own home.

Fast forward to present day, and I'm now embarking on a summer goal of getting out and creating some new healthy habits. I'm inspired by two of our longtime residents who decided during the COVID pandemic that they wanted to spend their time by getting out to walk every single park in Lakewood.

And they did it, every single one!

For the last two years, life has taken me in directions that didn't lend itself to being outdoors as much as I would have liked (and arguably as much as our bodies need!), but that changes this year. This year, inspired by our two community members that made it their COVID quest, I've decided to get out and experience more parks across Lakewood. Getting to

all 114 will be no small feat, but I'm up for the challenge! It's probably not news to you, but did you know being outside helps both our mental and physical health? It can lift our mood, improve our concentration, create opportunities to connect with others, and so much more. And parks are literally common ground, letting you get outside to improve your mental and physical health without spending a dime!

Did you know that a park in Ward 4 is dedicated and named in honor of a Tuskegee Airman? In 2019, City Council renamed a Glennon Heights neighborhood park as the James E. Harrison Park at the request of residents to honor Harrison's years of service to the Lakewood community through his work on the city's incorporation and leading his homeowners' association and neighborhood watch program.

Or did you know that O'Kane Park in Ward 2 is named for the family that operated the Harp Dairy starting in 1903? The O'Kane family delivered milk to Denver in a wagon with an

Irish harp painted on the side.

I want to get out, get myself in shape, and I invite you to join me!

This summer, I challenge each of you to get out to experience parks across Lakewood that you've never visited. Find a full list of the city's parks, along with a map, at Lakewood.org/ParkList. In fact, let's make some fun out of it! Today I'd like to introduce the **Mayors Park Challenge**. Consider it a summer reading program for your body!

Each time you visit a new park, take a selfie with the park's sign, and submit it to Lakewood.org/MayorsParkChallenge. When you submit your photo, check out some fun facts about the park you snapped the selfie in on the park list. Each park selfie will be entered into a drawing for the fantastic grand prize of dinner for two at Lakewood's own Casa Bonita!

Get going and good luck!

Wendi Strom

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WARD 3



Rebekah Stewart

us over the next two years. These include:

- **Trust & Accountability in Government** – improved community engagement and expanded evidence-based programming across Lakewood.
- **Increasing Affordable Housing and Reducing Homelessness.**
- **Public Safety, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Sustainability** – prioritizing sustainable mixed-use developments, parks and open spaces, and waste diversion.
- **A Thriving Economy** – removing barriers for small businesses and much more.

We have our work cut out for us. But we have a collaborative, thoughtful council, and we're energized to dive in! A few quick highlights so far this year include:

- **Street safety and sustainability:** Many Ward 3 residents worry about the unsafe speed at which cars blast through our neighborhoods. We're working with other council members to reduce residential speed limits, pilot speed cameras to cost-effectively stop reckless speeding, build out protected bike lanes, and connect bike routes across Lakewood. We also endorsed a plan to expand and elevate Lakewood's Sustainability Division and help residents access federal dollars and tax rebates to voluntarily reduce their carbon footprint.
- **Prioritizing homelessness:** Council approved a \$9.3 million grant from the state for our new homeless navigation

center, funding critically needed beds, showers and more to get unhoused residents off our streets. Lakewood's new cold weather shelter, enabled by an ordinance Council member Stewart and others championed last year, served over 2,000 meals and saved lives this winter. We will work with local officials to open a second cold weather shelter elsewhere in Jefferson County to meet a growing need.

- **Affordable, attainable housing:** We voted with most of the council to approve our Strategic Housing Plan to increase affordable housing and prevent evictions. Review the full plan at LakewoodTogether.org/HousingStrategy. Council is poised to approve ordinances Council member Stewart proposed last year that allow homes on smaller lots and accessory dwelling units under our zoning. This will give residents of all ages more workable housing options. As a member of the Housing Policy Commission, Council member Low is championing an affordable housing fund, expedited affordable housing permitting, and more. We're working to bring these priorities to the full City Council for action!
- **Your Money at Work:** Council member Stewart chairs our city's Budget and Audit Board, and you might have received a text in April for a survey asking about your priorities for the city and what you would like us to continue to invest our tax dollars in. Lakewood voters approved our ability to keep excess

tax dollars above the TABOR limit in a separate fund to pay for parks and open space, police and public safety, and roads and sidewalk infrastructure through 2025. You can see exactly what projects have been funded at Lakewood.org/LakewoodFunding. Together, we have invested about \$8 million a year (approximately 3 percent of the total city budget) for the last several years into those community priorities. Through the April survey, you told us you'd like the city to continue to prioritize those investments into the future. We are excited to continue moving forward, and you might receive another survey request this month. Please take the time to fill it out (it is available in Spanish and English). We want to hear from you!

The two of us love our rotating monthly Ward 3 schedule of breakfasts, meetings and office hours. We hope to see you there or out in the amazing community that is Ward 3. Reach out any time to provide feedback, ask questions, or make a connection. We also encourage you to sign up for the city's weekly Friday Report newsletter at Lakewood.org/Newsletters. This newsletter will include details on upcoming Ward 3 breakfasts, meetings and office hours!

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WARD MEETINGS: Council members in each ward have monthly meetings in an informal setting for residents to share ideas and learn more about their community. Find out when your council members are having meetings and sign up to receive alerts about those meetings at Lakewood.org/WardMeetings.



The changing trends in offices and shopping centers

Commercial development, particularly in cities like Lakewood, changes and evolves over the years. What was commonplace as little as a decade ago fades, as new trends and market demands create new opportunities. A city's commercial development is shaped by changing markets, shifting consumer demands, unforeseen global events, updates in planning concepts and dynamics in real estate purchasing.

Twenty years ago, before the Great Recession, the commercial scene in Lakewood, like many suburban cities, was characterized by a robust, segregated office market, a burgeoning retail sector, and steady suburban residential development. Traditional office parks and shopping centers were the mainstays of commercial development. However, the last decade has seen a gradual shift away from these long-standing business approaches.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about seismic changes in how people live and work. As lockdowns became the new reality, businesses quickly adapted to remote work, leading to a significant decline in the demand for traditional office spaces. Lakewood was no exception to this trend, and remote working remained steady after the pandemic ended. The once-thriving office parks now face higher vacancies as companies allow employees to work remotely for several days each week. This shift has forced owners of commercial offices to rethink the future of their properties, leading to a rise in the conversion of office buildings into a mix of uses besides offices or into residential units.

Shopping has also experienced a major shift. The growth of e-commerce with purchases over the internet, accelerated by the pandemic, reduced foot traffic in brick-and-mortar stores. Fewer employees in adjacent office buildings also set in motion an upheaval for retail businesses. Shopping centers shifted their occupancy to new commerce concepts, service businesses, destination experiences and hallmark restaurants. Because of this, many shopping centers in Lakewood have been repurposed to accommodate experiential retail, entertainment venues, and fitness centers that cater to consumers' growing preference for experiences over products.

Another factor putting pressure on Colorado's commercial development is the state's laws governing construction defects in condominiums. Enacted to protect homeowners from those construction defects, the state's laws have had the unintended consequence of discouraging development of entry-level condos and townhomes. For decades, developers, wary of potential lawsuits, have steered clear of building these entry-level residential units, adding to a shortage of attainable housing options for first-

time homebuyers. With housing demand high and building of attainable housing low, investors put their money into building market-rate, multifamily housing rather than into other kinds of commercial developments because the return on their investment is easier.

As our city continues to evolve, several trends are shaping its commercial development including mixed-use development; sustainable, green building; technology integrations; and flexible workspaces.

Mixed-use developments blend residential, commercial, and sometimes recreational spaces. Ideally, these projects create vibrant, walkable communities catering to a lifestyle that is in demand.

Environmentally sustainable projects have become more top-of-mind in recent years as well. Developers are increasingly called upon to incorporate green-building practices and more energy-efficient designs, reflecting the community's growing awareness of their impacts on the environment.

Smart-building technologies are becoming standard, enhancing the efficiency and convenience of commercial properties. Features

such as automated lighting, climate control, and advanced security systems are in high demand.

With the future of work leaning toward hybrid models that include working from home, there is a rising demand for flexible office spaces that can adapt to changing needs. Co-working spaces and business incubators are gaining popularity, providing versatile environments for startups and remote workers.

The commercial development landscape in Lakewood has seen remarkable evolution over the past decade. Market trends, technological advancements, and the pandemic's impact have driven significant changes, presenting both challenges and opportunities. As the city moves forward, a focus on innovation, sustainability, and adaptability will be key to fostering a dynamic and resilient commercial environment. The shifts we observe today are paving the way for a future where Lakewood continues to thrive as a hub of economic activity and community life.

Economic Development Division
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Former Sears store update

The Lakewood Reinvestment Authority recently approved up to a \$2.75 million Public Benefit Loan to the current owner of the former Sears store and auto center at the Westland shopping center on West Colfax Avenue to allow for the demolition of the buildings. The store and auto center includes three buildings, and the loan will allow for an expedited demolition of the dilapidated vacant buildings. This will help decrease vagrancy and other problems at the site and will provide a benefit to the surrounding community while the plans for redeveloping the property continue. The owner of the property



is required to repay the loan when funding and permits are in place for redeveloping the property.

The Lakewood Reinvestment Authority is a separate entity from the city, and its board includes representatives from the city, the school district, West Metro

Fire District and a Jefferson County commissioner. The LRA has designated urban renewal areas in Lakewood, and West Colfax Avenue from Sheridan Boulevard to Simms Street is one of those areas. The LRA is funded by property tax revenues that increase when commercial development with a higher value is built in the renewal areas.

WESTLAND AREA – DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

2024	LRA approved a Public Benefit Loan for the demolition of former Sears structures. This expedited removal of dilapidated vacant buildings means greater community stability as plans for a comprehensive, mixed-use redevelopment of Westland moves forward.
2023	Artesia, along with the city and community leaders, began long-range planning for the eventual redevelopment of the Westland site. In general, plans for the area follow the established zoning for mixed uses and community commercial development.
2022	Artesia acquires Seritage assets in Westland.
2021	Artesia acquires RCG assets in Westland in a concentrated effort to redevelop all of the Westland area.
2021	RCG completes the option contract for ownership of the center's parking lot and begins acquiring the separately owned parcels within Westland.
2018	Sears closes, along with 188 Sears properties across the country. Its ownership transfers to a real estate holding entity named Seritage (short for Sears Heritage).
2017	RCG Ventures acquires inline stores. Sears buildings are on separately owned parcels. The center is fragmented by area subdivisions, land sales, and multiple ownership.
2003	Lowe's home improvement store replaces Kmart and signs a series of decades-long leases.
1993 - 1994	Much of the Westland Mall is demolished, and a redeveloped Westland Town Center takes its place. This center anchored by two-story Sears and Auto Care Center, Kmart SuperCenter, Gordmans discount outlet. Inline stores included Alpha Graphics, Dress Barn, GNC, MacFrugal's, Payless ShoeSource and Half Price.



Lakewood
Full of Possibilities.

City Manager
Kathy Hodgson

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ARTS, PARKS & Recreation

ARTS & HISTORY



SOUNDS EXCITING! Summer Concert Series

Limited tickets available!

Wednesday nights, June 12-July 31

Outdoor concert series with food trucks and a Beer Garden hosted at Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Amphitheater.

Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park
Lakewood.org/SoundsExciting

LCCP SEASON TICKETS ON SALE!

Season Subscription sales open July 1

Lakewood Cultural Center Presents the 2024-2025 season with an extraordinary schedule of performances. Single ticket sales open August 1.
Lakewood.org/LCCP

BASE BALL BOUT

Saturday, August 3

Bring the family to a vintage baseball match featuring vintage rules, uniforms and snacks! \$5 adults, \$3 kids (3 and under are free!).

Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park
Lakewood.org/Bout

CIDER DAYS

TICKETS ON SALE August 8 for event October 5-6.

Purchase advance tickets for Cider Days online, or in person at Lakewood Cultural Center or Heritage Lakewood.

Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park
Lakewood.org/CiderDays

CAR No. 25 OPEN HOUSE **FREE!**

September 14, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Ride the beautifully restored rail car and experience a moment from the past.

Denver Federal Center
Lakewood.org/RideCar25

PARKS



CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS **FREE!**

Saturday evenings in June and July

Learn about animals, ecosystems and conservation during weekly programs by our park naturalists at the amphitheater. FREE with park pass.

Bear Creek Lake Park
Lakewood.org/Register

NATIONAL WILDLIFE DAY

September 4

Join park naturalists to learn about local wildlife.

Bear Creek Lake Park
Lakewood.org/BCLPEvents

TRAIL RUNNING SERIES

Races are hosted on Wednesdays, September 4-25.

Register now!

Bear Creek Lake Park
Lakewood.org/TrailRunning



RECREATION



FITNESS IN THE PARK **FREE!**

Saturday mornings June – August

Work out in the fresh air! The program's focus and park location rotate each week.

Lakewood Parks
Lakewood.org/SummerFitness

SUMMER FUN PASS

On sale now! Valid May 15 – September 2

Purchase a pass to enjoy unlimited general admission to outdoor pools, spray parks and recreation centers.

Lakewood.org/Register

CELEBRATE PARK AND REC MONTH

July 1- 31

Enjoy special offers at Lakewood recreation centers including discounts and FREE Fridays!

Lakewood.org/ParkRecMonth

FAMILY HEALTH AND FITNESS DAY

September 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Celebrate the fun of fitness for all ages.

O'Kane Park
Lakewood.org/FamilyFitness



Save the date...

FOR FALL REGISTRATION!

Registration opens at 10 a.m. on July 9

Nonresident registration opens at 10 a.m. on July 11

REGISTER AT LAKWOOD.ORG/REGISTER

To ensure easy access, please create an account, check residency, and confirm an email address before registration day.



For financial assistance, apply for 2024 funds at:

[Lakewood.org / PossibilitiesFund](http://Lakewood.org/PossibilitiesFund)

Celebrate Independence Day with a community gathering culminating in a drone light show!

★ July 3

Belmar
Downtown Lakewood

Event kicks off at 5 p.m.
Drone light show approx. 9:15 p.m.

Lakewood.org/BBB



RAIN or SHINE





About 80 neighbors gathered in the Eiber neighborhood for a block party sponsored by the Get-Together grant.

NEIGHBORHOOD GET-TOGETHERS: GRANT PROCESS



Lakewood provides support for neighborhood gatherings

As the weather warms up, our neighborhoods become reinvigorated with activity and opportunities to interact with those who live around us. Neighbors begin to cross paths more often, going for walks, heading out for bike rides and spending time gardening or simply hanging out on the porch.

Some neighbors go the extra mile by organizing and participating in neighborhood parties and events. For those occasions, Lakewood's Neighborhood Support Team strives to be a valuable resource by providing a popular program, the Neighborhood Get-Together grants. Organizers of neighborhood events can receive reimbursement for their gatherings by following the easy steps laid out on Lakewood.org/NeighborhoodSupport.

Is your neighborhood having a get-together this year? If so, please visit our website for more information about this grant and other Neighborhood Support Team programs and resources such as the litter cleanup and the movie night kits as well as mediation services.

The grants have fostered important community building, as reflected by what residents have said about their experiences:

"Having an activity like this, where everyone had so much fun, was a great way for people to get to know each other, renew relationships, and it helped to create new bonds among neighbors and to set aside differences, if any."

—Primrose Above Bear Creek resident

"This event really brings a sense of neighborhood to our street. There are people who never met each other simply because they live at both ends of the street. At least everyone knows their neighbor now!"

—Coyote Gulch resident

"This gathering benefited the neighborhood in countless ways, not the least of which being the nurturing of longstanding friendships as well as planting seeds for new ones. These sorts of connections benefit our neighborhood because the more connected people feel to one another the more they look out for one another and the safer our neighborhood remains as a result."

—Green Mountain Estates resident

Lakewood's 2024 Outdoor Water Conservation Program

Save water and money with the city's outdoor water conservation program! The city is offering several incentives to help you reduce water use and transform your yard into a beautiful and vibrant Colorado native landscape. Quantities are extremely limited and available first-come, first-served.

1. Garden In A Box
\$25 discount on Garden In A Box kits, with an additional discount for income-qualified households. These professionally designed kits include several perennial plants and easy instructions for planting and watering.

2. Slow the Flow Evaluations
Free sprinkler system evaluation with the option to add a smart controller or rain sensor at no additional cost.

3. Lawn Replacement \$500 Discount
\$500 credit toward lawn removal services or Garden In A Box kits with turf removal commitment.

For more information, visit lakewood.org/outdoorwater



MAKING ONE BOTTLE INTO ANOTHER

Glass bottles and jars that you recycle at the Quail Street Recycling Center are transported just a few miles to be made into new glass bottles.

One bottle recycled makes one new bottle. The process is also less expensive than making bottles from mined raw materials.

Recycle your glass bottles and jars, as well as your cardboard, aluminum beverage cans, paper, scrap metal and plastic bottles at the Quail Street Recycling Center.



Lakewood.org/Recycling | 303-987-7974

Updating Lakewood's Comprehensive Plan: Envision Lakewood 2040

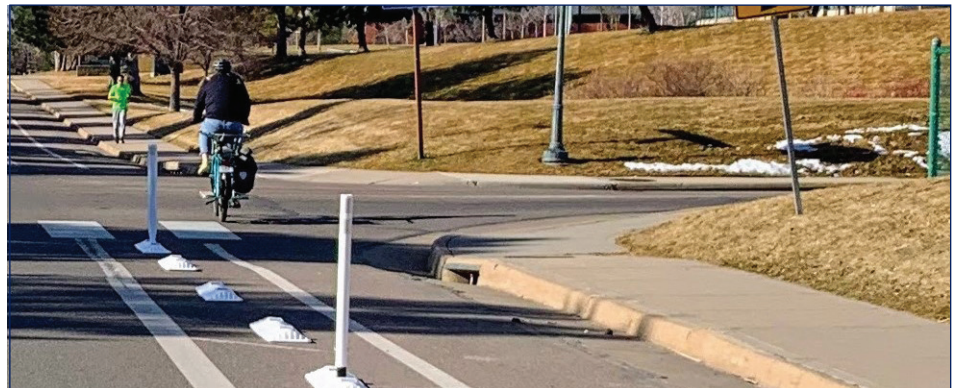
Thank you to all the Lakewood residents who shared ideas and concerns for the future of Lakewood during the first phase of the process to update the city's Comprehensive Plan—the Vision and Values phase, which launched in January. The input received during this phase came from more than 2,000 survey responses, numerous conversations at community events and other engagement activities, and they provide direction to inform the next phase of the process, which is to develop draft goals and strategies that will guide the city for the next 10-15 years.

To kickoff the Goal and Strategy phase, three community advisory groups have been formed with each covering a range of topics: Community and Quality of Life; Housing and Economy; and Transportation, Green Infrastructure and Systems. Each group includes members of the community and

Planning Commission and will receive support from city staff and outside experts. City Council's Ad Hoc Community Engagement Committee appointed the community members for each advisory group. The application and selection process was designed to create broad community representation with diverse perspectives and lived experiences.

The advisory groups began meeting at the end of May and will continue to meet until early 2025. The meeting schedules, agendas and summaries will be posted throughout the process at Lakewood.org/EnvisionLakewood2040.

Residents can continue to participate in updating the plan through online activities and events coming up this summer and fall to gather citywide input and feedback as the goals and strategies are drafted with the advisory groups.



Separated bike lanes coming to Lakewood this summer

Did you know that 25 percent of Colorado's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation? Lakewood is trying to make more eco-friendly forms of transportation such as walking and bicycling available to everyone, and part of this effort is the addition of separated bike lanes to Lakewood's transportation network.

Separated bike lanes, also known as protected bike lanes, are on-street lanes exclusively for bicycling that are separated from the rest of the roadway by curbing, posts, parked cars, or another vertical element. Because they are physically separated from traffic, these lanes can decrease car-dependency and increase bicycling volumes by appealing to less-confident riders who might not feel comfortable riding alongside

moving vehicles. They can also improve overall safety on the roadway through traffic calming effects and by increasing motorists' awareness of the bike lane.

This summer, Lakewood will be installing plastic curbing and posts to construct the city's first three separated bike lanes on sections of South Garrison Street, Denver West Parkway, and South Harlan Street. Current traffic patterns will not change.

Please use caution and look for bicyclists when driving or turning across these lanes, and also remember that it is hazardous and against the law for motorists to park or stop in any bike lane. Bicyclists should treat these separated bike lanes — and all bike lanes — as one-way travel lanes and always ride in the same direction as traffic.

Learn more about this project and ask questions at LakewoodTogether.org/SeparatedBikeLanes.



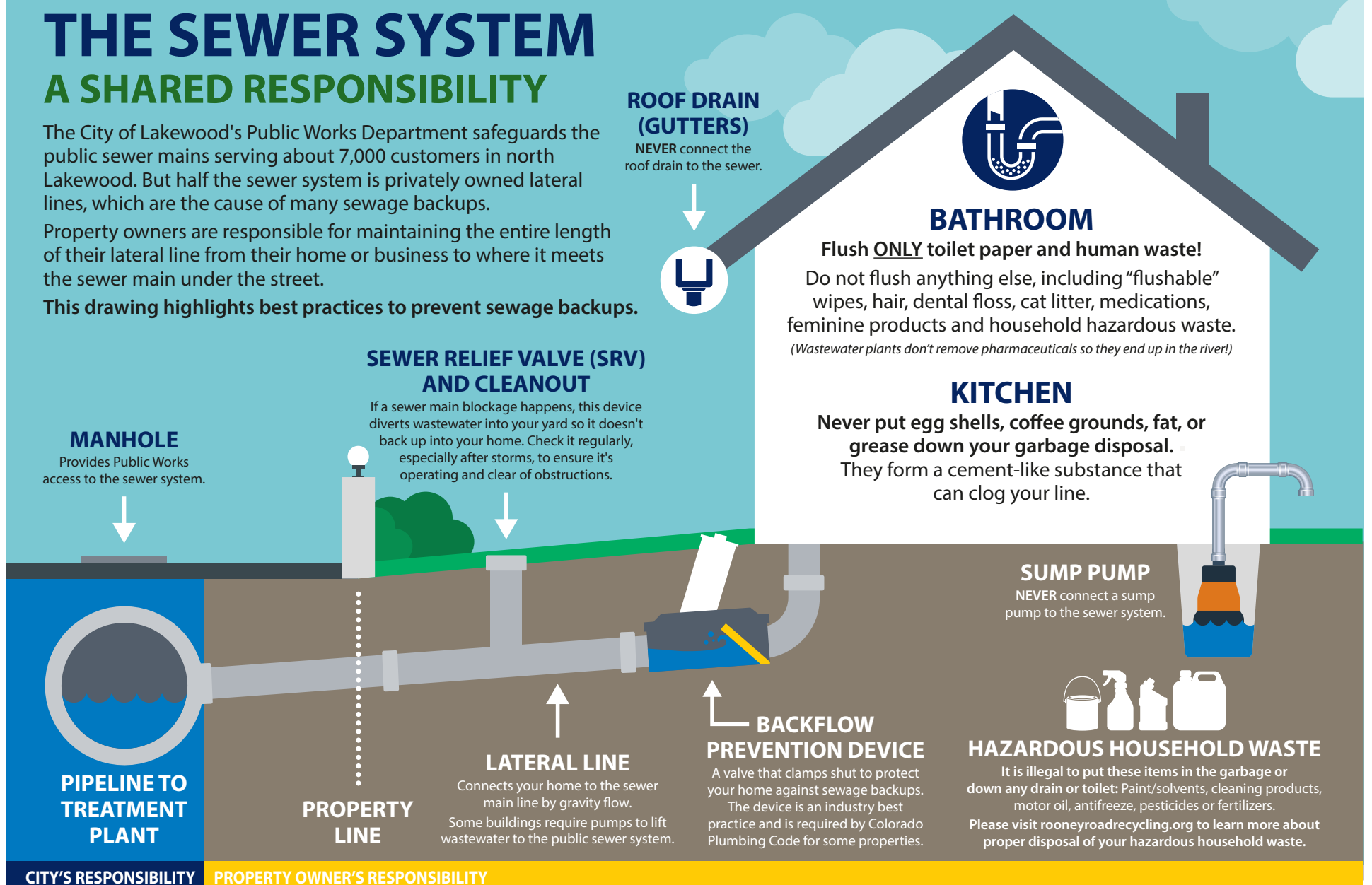
Learn more about the project and stay up to date about all of these opportunities as soon as they are scheduled by visiting Lakewood.org/EnvisionLakewood2040 and signing up for email updates.

THE SEWER SYSTEM A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

The City of Lakewood's Public Works Department safeguards the public sewer mains serving about 7,000 customers in north Lakewood. But half the sewer system is privately owned lateral lines, which are the cause of many sewage backups.

Property owners are responsible for maintaining the entire length of their lateral line from their home or business to where it meets the sewer main under the street.

This drawing highlights best practices to prevent sewage backups.



CITY'S RESPONSIBILITY

PROPERTY OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU—DAY OR NIGHT! If sewer water is backing up in your home or yard it is an emergency—don't hesitate to call us for an immediate inspection of the City-owned sewer main. Our friendly, professional crew is on call 24 hours a day, every day and can tell you if the problem is in the **main line (our problem)** or the **lateral line (your responsibility)**.

Billing **303-987-7615**
Water & Sewer Maintenance . . . **303-987-7955**
Emergencies & After Hours . . . **303-980-7300**
Lakewood.org/Flow

National Night Out

On Aug. 6, residents in neighborhoods throughout Lakewood are asked to spend the evening outside with neighbors as part of National Night Out. Many neighborhoods will be hosting a variety of special events such as block parties, cookouts, parades, flashlight walks, contests, youth activities and other neighborhood watch events. Lakewood Police encourage residents to participate in this annual community-building effort to make Lakewood's neighborhoods safer and more

caring places to live. Learn more at [Lakewood.org/NNO](https://lakewood.org/NNO).

Track our projects

Lakewood's Public Works Department has launched a new map that lets you see where in the city public improvements for roads, traffic lights and similar projects have been built or are scheduled to be done. Visit the Capital Projects Map and click on the car, traffic signal or other icons to learn about each project for the years 2023-2026. The map is available at Lakewood.org/ConeZone, where information on important projects such as the North

Dry Gulch flood prevention project and the annual street maintenance program is available.

Keeping track of city meetings and events

The city has a one-stop location on its website for you to keep track of the city's meetings and events. Lakewood.org/Calendar lists both, and you can view the calendar with only meetings, only events or both.

Grants available for neighborhoods

The 2024 Neighborhood Participation Program offers grants of up to \$60,000 for qualifying physical improvements that residents believe will make a difference in their neighborhoods. Examples include community gardens, public art, or new playground equipment and picnic facilities in neighborhood parks. To provide additional time for neighborhoods to submit applications, the grant deadline has been extended to July 1. The online application and information about the requirements are available at Lakewood.org/NPP.

Photo contest leads to a global connection

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and for one Lakewood resident, taking pictures of her hometown parks grew into



an unexpected global connection. Read this touching story on our Good News Blog at Lakewood.org/GoodNews, where you can learn about inspiring work and innovative efforts performed by city employees.

Document illegal fireworks

For most, the Fourth of July means time spent outside with loved ones, grilling and all things America-themed. For others, it means excessive noise, scared pets and potential injuries or property damage. Remember that all fireworks are illegal in Lakewood and please be respectful of others. Lakewood has provided a way for residents to map the use of illegal fireworks in their neighborhoods each year, which helps the Lakewood Police Department plan education and enforcement efforts. Watch a video about how illegal fireworks affect a veteran, and drop a pin in this year's map at LakewoodTogether.org/2024FireworksMapping.

Community Outreach Court summary

MISSION: Bringing the court to the community and expanding access to the criminal justice system. Allows individuals to resolve their cases while providing them with direct and immediate access to community services and resources, with the goal of improving their lives as well as the overall community.

DETAILS: Collaborative effort of the Municipal Court, Probation Division, Municipal Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office, Police Department, and local service providers.

- First Thursday of every month at Mountair Church, 1390 Benton St.
- Accessible to individuals with active cases in Municipal Court and those seeking only assistance with resources.
- Launched December 2022.

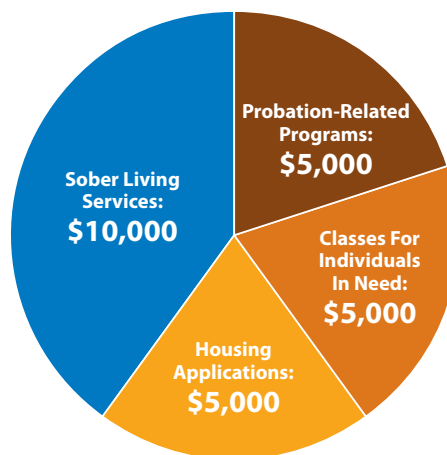
OBJECTIVE: Provides immediate access to resources and services such as an identification, medical care, housing, mental health services, substance misuse assistance, and temporary employment opportunities including help with resume writing and interview preparation. All services are offered on-site.

PROCESS: Individuals check in through the "passport" process with one of Lakewood's homeless navigators who assists in determining participants' needs and connects them with the service providers on-site. Following that, those with outstanding Municipal Court cases meet with a public defender, then a Lakewood prosecutor to discuss the case. A municipal judge then reviews the case and the "passport" of services the participant has accessed. Resolution of the case can involve signing up for services the person needs or returning to Municipal Court for monthly reviews to assess the individual's progress in resolving issues that might have led to the municipal citation.

FUNDING: Operated by Lakewood employees who normally work in the Municipal Court, Police Department, Probation Division, and as homeless navigators. All the service providers volunteer their time. Grant supports additional services.

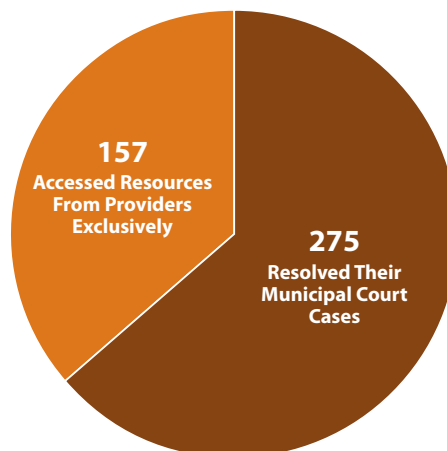


Colorado Gives Foundation's Thriving Jeffco Grant



(\$25,000 awarded in 2024)

432 Participants Reached



(December 2022-May 2024)

932 touchpoints with service providers (April 2023-May 2024)*

- **Department of Motor Vehicles:** Driver's license, identification card and permits.
- **Jeffco Public Health:** Health check, illness prevention, connections to health care services, immunizations, and healthy eating information.
- **Mile High Behavioral:** Behavioral health, health care, housing/outreach support, women's and marginalized community support.
- **Servicios de La Raza:** Spanish speaking counseling services, food resources, employment services.
- **West Metro Fire Rescue's ARM:** First aid, urgent care, blood panels, EKGs, access to medical records.
- **Jefferson Center for Mental Health:** Mental health evaluations, treatment, mental health services.
- **Metro Caring:** Vouchers for DMV ID or birth certificate, housing information, food bank information, veteran services, employee assistance.
- **Community Connection Center (C3):** Blankets, hand warmers, bus passes, hygiene kits.
- **Bayaud Enterprises:** Laundry, employment opportunities, job training, resume writing.
- **Benefits in Action:** Assistance for applying for benefits through Medicaid, food stamps, RTD cards, cash assistance.
- **Ascent Health:** Substance misuse and mental health treatment.
- **The Action Center:** Food and assistance to break the cycle of poverty.
- **The Laundry Truck:** Clothes washing on-site, with 120 pounds of laundry done during court sessions.

*Touchpoint tracking started in April 2023, and a touchpoint means a participant met with a service provider. In most cases, participants meet with several service providers to receive the resources they need.

Know Your City Council Members



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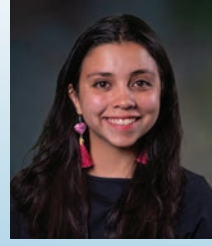
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To learn more about City Council, visit Lakewood.org/CityCouncil

Join the discussion about your tax dollars

Thanks to Lakewood residents, the city has built more sidewalks and safer pedestrian crossings, provided important safety equipment and health programs to police agents and bought 70 acres of new parkland since 2018.

That year Lakewood residents voted to lift the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) limits on the city's revenues, allowing the city to provide more essential city services to its residents. TABOR is a state law that Colorado voters approved in 1992 as an amendment to the Colorado Constitution, and it limits the money Lakewood collects from taxes and other sources from one year to the next. TABOR also allows voters to approve lifting those limits so that the city can keep the funds instead of refunding them to the taxpayers.

Residents should care about TABOR because it limits the amount of taxes they pay and protects their financial interests, yet in turn, limits the services provided in their communities.

Lakewood's Budget and Audit Board has been discussing the city's

long-term financial challenges since 2022 because the city's streets, buildings and other infrastructure are aging, resulting in more money needed to maintain and replace these important public assets. Numerous meetings dedicated to discussing these challenges and how to address them led the board to surveying residents in recent months about their priorities, their perspective on how the city has spent the TABOR funds based on the 2018 vote and whether they would support lifting those limits again.

"This is an important discussion for the community to have because it really affects the essential services that the city will be able to provide in the future. Please participate by sharing your thoughts with your council members," said Council member Rebekah Stewart, chairwoman of the Budget and Audit Board, which consists of three council members and three Lakewood residents. Council member Stewart also provides insights on this discussion in the Ward 3 Council Corner column on page 2.

To learn more about this discussion, watch the City Council and Budget and Audit Board's May 20 joint study session, review the results of the survey and see an outline of how the city has used the TABOR funds by scanning the QR code below or visiting Lakewood.org/LakewoodFunding.

To ensure accountability and transparency, the city has created a separate fund specifically to collect and track the money that exceeds the TABOR limits. Since 2022, those funds have averaged about \$8 million a year. By pooling this money, these funds have had a more significant impact on the quality of life for Lakewood residents in the areas identified in the 2018 vote to lift the TABOR limits through 2025:

- Transportation improvements in areas with high priority public safety concerns including sidewalks, streets and path lighting.
- Parkland acquisitions, improvements and maintenance.
- Police Department safety-related equipment, assets and personnel.

In addition to the TABOR discussion, City Council has taken an important step to address the financial needs that property owners face in the current economic climate. City Council reduced the amount of property tax homeowners will pay on the Lakewood portion of their property tax bills for 2024.

As part of the review of the city's long-term finances, the Budget and Audit Board has found that Lakewood faces significant expenses for maintaining the city's roads and its 69 facilities that serve the public. Examples of these expenses include \$67 million over the next four years for annual street maintenance and paving. More than \$25 million is needed to revamp the street maintenance campus, which serves as the hub for snowplow crews and materials, pothole repair, and maintenance of the city's fleet of snowplows and police vehicles.

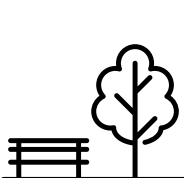
If Lakewood voters allowed the city to keep TABOR funds beyond 2025, these funds would help pay for maintenance of the city's streets as well as other essential services important to residents such as public safety needs and parkland improvements. If, on the other hand, Lakewood residents vote to refund the TABOR money to taxpayers, homeowners could receive another reduction in their property taxes after 2025. That refund is estimated to be about \$85 for a home valued at \$500,000.

Continue to follow this discussion and participate by asking questions and talking with City Council members, whose contact information is available at Lakewood.org/CityCouncil.



Scan the QR code or visit Lakewood.org/LakewoodFunding to learn more.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT LAKEWOOD'S TABOR FUND



PARKLAND PROJECTS

Since 2018, Lakewood has purchased 70 acres of parkland, improved the Bear Creek Trail, opened Peak View Park, and developed improvements for several other parks.



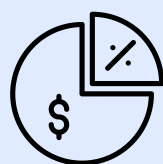
STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Since 2018, Lakewood has built more sidewalks and safer pedestrian crossings, improved traffic signals and developed other safety projects.



POLICE NEEDS

Since 2018, Lakewood has launched the body-worn camera program, purchased equipment to fight vehicle thefts and acquired safety gear as well as provided important health and wellness support to police agents.



SEPARATE TABOR FUND

Since 2018, the city has tracked the TABOR dollars in a separate fund to provide transparency and accountability.



PROPERTY TAX REDUCED

City Council voted to reduce Lakewood's property tax for 2024, helping homeowners and businesses.



FUTURE TABOR FUNDS

After 2025, if TABOR funds were refunded to property owners, a homeowner with a home valued at \$500,000 could expect to see about an \$85 reduction in property tax.