

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Quarterly Report to the Fort Collins City Council and Community



Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration at the Bison Mural located at Front Range Village

2023 Fall Edition (August-November)

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

Table of Contents

LETTER FROM CITY MANAGER	3
ISSUES BEFORE CITY COUNCIL	4
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT	5
CITY CLERK’S OFFICE	5
FINANCE	6
SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS	9
FORT COLLINS POLICE SERVICES.....	9
POUDRE FIRE AUTHORITY	11
COMMUNITY SERVICES	13
RECREATION	13
PARKS.....	14
CULTURAL SERVICES	16
NATURAL AREAS	17
VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT	18
SUSTAINABILITY SERVICES	19
ECONOMIC HEALTH OFFICE.....	19
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	20
SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	20
DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION OFFICE	22
UTILITIES	23
LIGHT & POWER OPERATIONS.....	23
WATER OPERATIONS	24
BROADBAND – FORT COLLINS CONNEXION	26
COMMUNITY DASHBOARD HIGHLIGHT	26

LETTER FROM CITY MANAGER

Everyone should have a voice in shaping our community and participatory democracy is one model that we can use as a tool for our residents to have power and influence over decisions that impact them directly. One of the most direct ways to participate is through elections. The City held its first regular municipal elections in November. They were previously held in April of odd number years but the timing was shifted by voters in November 2022. Thank you to all who participated – we had one of our highest turnouts since 2011 at 43%! We are grateful for our colleagues at the Larimer County Clerk’s Office who coordinated elections this year to be a fair and transparent process. Read a brief recap on page 5.

Community engagement has always been important to how we function as a city and as we continue the conversations in equity, we are always looking for ways to improve our process. Another way to get involved is through volunteerism. Started in 1985, we now have more than 10,000 volunteers who engage with the City annually, providing an economic impact of over \$4 million dollars. The vision for Volunteer Services is to strengthen the Fort Collins community by activating volunteerism guided by stewardship, inclusion, and impact. Read more about our first ever Summitt on page 18.

Boards and Commissions are also a way that residents are empowered to participate in democracy, build community, and shape public policy. Applications will be open from December 1 – January 15 and a link will be posted [here](#).

Part of our improvement journey is the opportunity to share and learn with other cities and countries around the world. Last year, the City had the opportunity to participate in the German Marshall Fund (GMF) program which is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the principles of democracy and international cooperation between the United States and Europe. The Local Policy Lab is a U.S. focused organization focused on the same ideals of promoting democracy. We recently participated in a Democracy Innovation Hub workshop at Bard College which is focused on innovative and collaborative democracy.

Locally, Colorado State University (CSU)’s theme for this year is the Year of Democracy and Civic Engagement. The City has partnered over the years with CSU’s Center for Public Deliberation. We are grateful to be part of a community that is continually seeking ways to offer meaningful engagement to our residents so that everyone can be part of the process.

I hope to see you out and about participating in our wonderful community!



Kelly DiMartino

ISSUES BEFORE CITY COUNCIL

Below are highlights from Council meetings from August-November and a preview of some items to come. To view full agendas and recordings of past meetings, use this [link](#).

Future items are subject to change. Please call the City Clerk's Office at 970-416-2774 for up-to-date information.

August 15 – Council adopted two resolutions to **refer to the November 7, 2023, ballot** a three-mill property tax to be used to fund affordable housing and a half-cent sales tax to be used for parks and recreation, transit, and climate goals.

September 5 – Council adopted a resolution to direct City staff to present amendments to the Land Use Code for Council consideration that increases limits on **occupancy in residential development**.

September 19 – On second reading, the Land Use Code was amended as it relates to buffering between buildings with occupiable space and **oil and gas facilities**.

September 19 – After seven months of work by the **Ad Hoc Council Committee on Boards and Commissions**, Council approved recommendations some of which included the elimination of one-year terms and rescoping of the Women Advisory Board to a Women and Gender Equity Board and a Bicycle Advisory subcommittee to an Active Modes Advisory Board.

October 10 – During this work session, Council heard updates on the **East Mulberry Plan**.

October 17 – Following several months of public engagement and updates to code language based on community feedback, Council adopted housing-related **Land Use Code changes**. For more information, please click [here](#).

November 14 – During this work session, Council received an update on the **City's Recovery Plan** to include American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that have been spent.

During the end of November, December and January, some items Council will discuss and consider include:

- Annual Reviews of Council Direct Reports (November 28 Work Session)
- Council end of term report (December 12 Work Session)
- Consideration of Code updates for requesting boards and commissions to have ex-officio members (December 5, 19)
- Special Organizational Meeting to swear in recently elected officials and appointment of Mayor Pro Tem (January 9)

For the most up-to-date information on upcoming Council agenda items, please view the six-month planning calendar [here](#).

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

City Priorities & Goals – Strategic Planning

In connection with citywide strategic planning efforts, the City recently partnered with CSU's Center for Public Deliberation to host three community-wide conversations to address the City's outcome areas. Each session involved group conversations, facilitated by CSU students, to learn about what each outcome area means to residents and how the City might work to realize these various outcomes. Results from the forums, as well as online surveys and other opportunities to engage in strategic planning outreach, will be shared on Our City: <https://ourcity.fcgov.com/priorities>



Boards & Commissions Open House

On Monday, November 6, the City hosted an open house to share about opportunities to serve on a Board or Commission. Over 30 attendees had the opportunity to speak with Council members and staff to learn how the City's Boards and Commissions shape the vision for Fort Collins.

Rooted in Community: Urban Forest Strategic Plan

The City of Fort Collins is embarking on its inaugural Urban Forest Strategic Plan: Rooted in Community, a 20-year vision to sustain a healthy and resilient urban forest. The plan focuses on refining existing forestry goals, incorporating best practices in urban ecology, and addressing climate change impacts. Key objectives include advocating for the social, economic, and environmental value of the urban forest, promoting equity in tree canopy distribution, proactive tree planting, and community collaboration. Kickoff of the project included two Open Houses on October 25 and 26 at Northside Aztlan Community Center and Fort Collins Senior Center. For more info and to share your views, visit <https://ourcity.fcgov.com/rooted-in-community>

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

November 7, 2023, Municipal Election

The City's first regular municipal election conducted as a coordinated election with Larimer County occurred November 7 after months of work and preparation by both the City and County. This shift also marked the transition from April to November for these regular elections. Initial figures immediately after Election Day show approximately 43.55% turnout for Fort Collins voters, with ballots still outstanding. This compares with 37.52% turnout in the April 2021 Municipal Election.

FCVOTE

Although all regular ballots had to be received by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day November 7, additional ballots continue to come in after that night both from military and overseas voters as well as provisional ballots. Results are not final until certified by Larimer County no later than November 29,

2023. These numbers will be updated on the County's website here:

<https://www.larimer.gov/clerk/elections/results> and the City will also include them at fcgov.com/vote.

Congratulations to Mayor Jeni Arndt, Mayor Pro Tem Emily Francis (District 6), and Councilmember Julie Pignataro (District 2) for their re-election and to Melanie Potyondy (District 4)! They will be sworn in at City Hall on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** followed up with a community reception.

FINANCE

Sales Tax

Monthly Reports on the City’s Website

This report reflects Sales and Use Tax collected in September for economic activity that occurred in August. Please note the sales and use tax collected in September is predominately from August sales but also includes delinquent collections from prior periods.

SEPTEMBER SUMMARY OVER PRIOR YEAR

	Month	Year to Date
Net Sales Tax Collected:	2.5%	4.8%
Net Use Tax Collected:	-7.9%	-1.2%
Net Sales and Use Tax Collected:	1.2%	4.0%

Year to date, sales and use tax collections excluding rebates are up 4.0% and total \$133.7M.

SEPTEMBER SUMMARY OVER BUDGET

	Month	Year to Date
Net Sales Tax Collected:	-4.5%	0.3%
Net Use Tax Collected:	1.5%	12.8%
Net Sales and Use Tax Collected:	-3.9%	1.7%

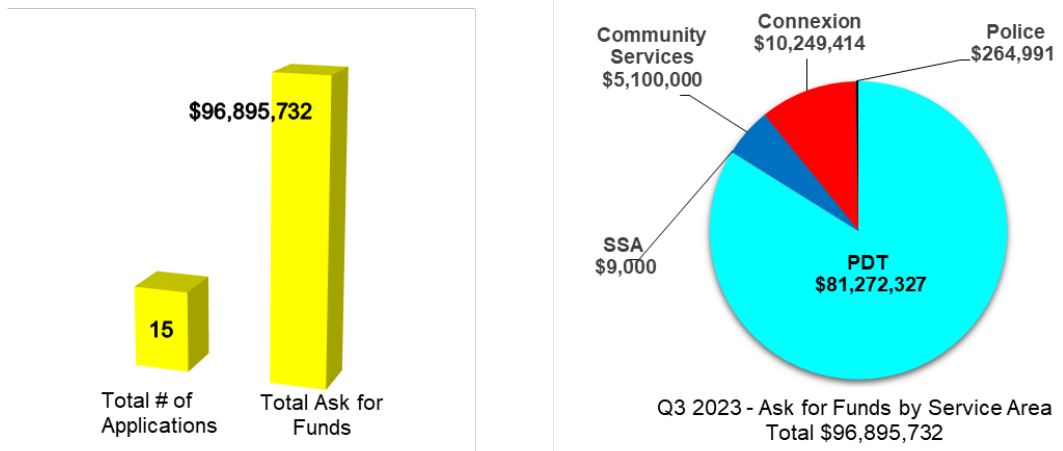
Year to date, the City has collected 1.7% more sales and use tax revenue, totaling \$2.2M over budget.

Read the complete reports here: <https://www.fcgov.com/salestax/salesreport>

Grants

A total of 15 funding opportunities were pursued during Q3 2023, totaling \$96,895,732, with asks varying from multi-million-dollar infrastructure upgrades and investments to replacement of gas-powered lawn and garden equipment in support of reducing the City’s carbon footprint.

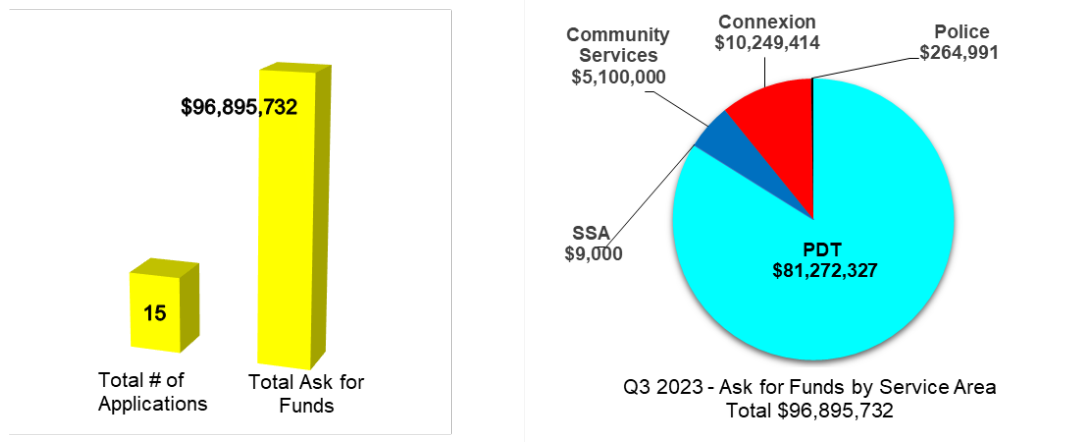
Funding Opportunities Applied for in Q3



SSA – Sustainability Service Area and PDT – Planning, Development, and Transportation

A total of six awards, totaling \$3,336,495 were received during Q3 2023, corresponding to efforts by many departments in support of furthering existing programs, as well as supporting new opportunities that align with several strategic objectives of service areas.

Funding Opportunities Awarded Q3 2023



The full report is available here: <https://www.fcgov.com/finance/quarterly-grants-updates.php>

Procurement

Major Competitive Procurements Completed and Contracts Awarded:

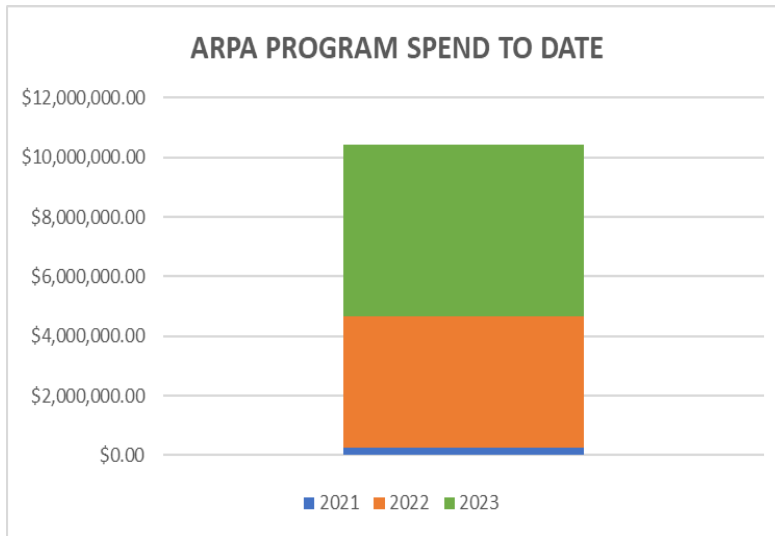
- Cloud-based Customer Service Information (CIS) and engagement software awarded to VertexOne Software, LLC
- Recreation and Parks Management Software awarded to Daysmart Recreation
- 9/11 Memorial at Spring Park awarded to GH Phipps Construction Companies
- Architectural Services for the Municipal Court renovation awarded to D2C Architects, Inc.
- Independent Financial Audit Services awarded to Plante & Moran, PLLC

Major Competitive Procurements In-Process:

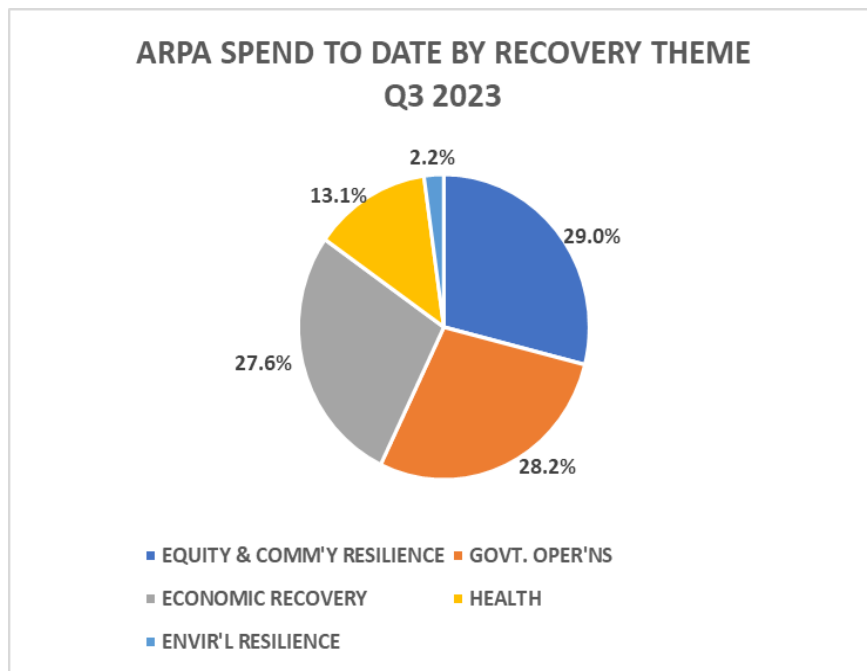
- Oak Street Stormwater Improvement Project
- Municipal Court Case Management System
- Grid Flexibility Services
- Lease Purchase Financing 2023
- Revolving Loan Fund
- Purchasing Card Program
- Poudre Trail Spur at I-25
- Meadow Springs Ranch Storage Facility

Recovery

Implementation of the City’s Resilient Recovery Plan under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is continuing. Total ARPA funds spent at the end of Q3 are \$10.4M (see below). Forecast for total spend at the end of 2023 is \$12.3M.



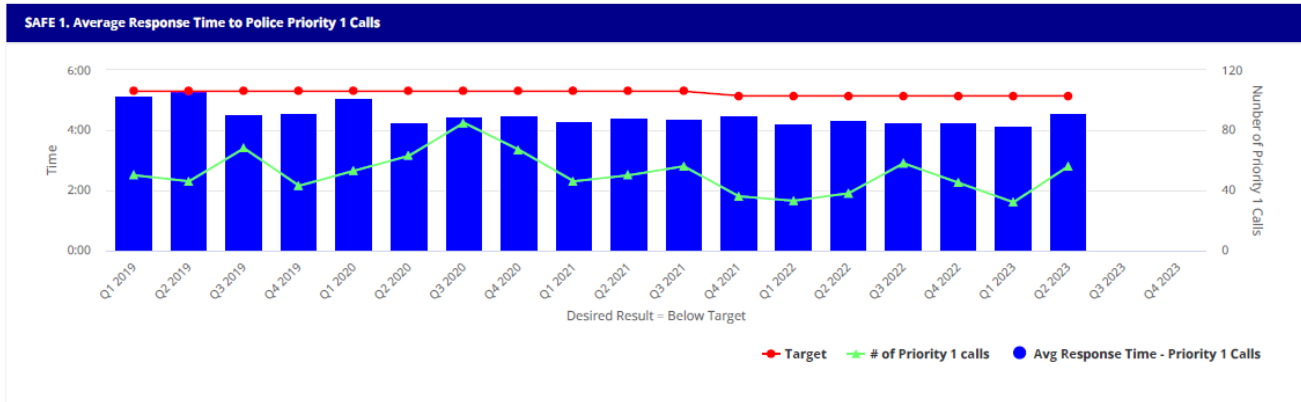
The total ARPA funds spent by Recovery theme at the end of Q3 2023 are about evenly split between Equity and Community Resilience, Government Operations, and Economic Recovery (see below). Spending on the Health and Environmental Resilience themes make up the remainder of the spending.



SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS

FORT COLLINS POLICE SERVICES

SAFE 1. Average Response Time to Police Priority 1 Calls
Police Services



Police Average Response Time to Priority One (Emergency) Calls

- Q2 2023 results indicate the City’s average response time was 4 minutes (m) and 57 seconds (s). This is below the City’s target of 5m15s and far faster than our Benchmark Cities’ 2022 average of 6m8s.
- A daily review is performed for any Priority 1 calls and a monthly reconciliation is also conducted. These allow us to evaluate the data integrity and more closely examine any unusually long response times.
- Specialty unit personnel supplement Patrol shifts for better staffing and supervisors are guiding the efficient use of time on calls to maximize officer availability.

Addressing Traffic Safety Through the Expansion of Red-light Camera Systems

STATIONARY RED-LIGHT CAMERA SYSTEM

Project Started January 1997

2023	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	AVERAGE/MONTH	Average/Day
PROSPECT SHIELDS	539	568	604	627	602	502	426	844	589	19
MULBERRY SHIELDS	158	159	214	254	285	292	236	238	230	7.5
HARMONY TIMBERLINE	104	98	42	36	6	57	193	254	99	3.25*
COLLEGE DRAKE	87	213	164	92	47	122	113	181	127	4

New Ride Light Cameras

- South Shields Street at West Harmony Road and South Lemay Avenue at East Drake Road.
- Cameras became operational at the end of September. Estimated citation start date is November 25, 2023.

Fines

- Red-Light Camera fines are \$75 and no points.
- Speed Van fines are \$40 and no points.

Camera Radar Vehicles

- All four camera radar vehicles have been deployed.
- The full-time new camera radar coordinator has started with Police Services. There are currently six operators. The City is working toward hiring to accommodate seven days per week and evening coverage.

Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Team



Camp/Site Clean Ups (Year to Date)

- 862 camps/trash sites cleaned up (average cost \$5,409)
- 1,117 sharps
- Average turn around – 8 days

Camping Related Tows

- 14 vehicles/RVs/trailers (Q3)
- 21 vehicles/RVs/trailers (Year to Date)

Calls for Service

- HOPE responded to and self-initiated 1,011 calls for service

Community Outreach

- Harvest Farm
- Listening Sessions
- Peterson Library
- Outreach Fort Collins
- Hickory Village Back to School Bash
- Homeless Outreach Breakfast
- Salvation Army Backpack Event

HOPE continues to host monthly “Coffee with a Splash of HOPE” to facilitate conversation with community members, business owners, and service providers around homelessness in the community.

FCPS Police Explorer Post



In September, the Fort Collins Police Explorers welcomed three new Explorers and promoted several others as senior members “aged-out.” During this ceremony, we also acknowledged the service to the community that the explorers provided over the past year. We welcome the City’s new members, congratulate those promoted, and thank these Explorers for the service they provide to the Fort Collins community.

The Explorer program is for youth, 15-21 years of age, with an interest in law enforcement. For more information about this program visit <https://www.fcgov.com/police/explorers>

POUDRE FIRE AUTHORITY

Fire Prevention Week and Month

The week of October 8 through 14 was National Fire Prevention Week. PFA does outreach and education all month. Outreach included:

- Risk Reduction Specialists presented in Poudre School District (PSD) classrooms (K, 2nd, 4th, and 6th Grades).
- Weekly educational posts on social media.
- A poster contest for all K through 6 PSD students which culminated in a ride to school on a fire engine for a winner from each grade.
- An Open House was held at Fire Station 3 on Saturday, October 28, featuring the PFA mascot, time with local firefighters, an activity table, photobooth, tours of the antique apparatus and engine 3, and station tours.



Car vs. Building

PFA responded to a Jeep that collided with a commercial building in the 2200 block of East Prospect. The Jeep went completely through the wall and was about halfway into the building. Responders stabilized the building and worked with the towing company to safely remove the Jeep. The accident occurred while the Jeep was being towed and became unhitched. It crossed a sidewalk and open grassy area before colliding with the structure. No one was in the vehicle at the time of the accident.



New Engines 1 and 5 in Service



PFA welcomed the newest members of the PFA Fleet into service. Engine 1 and Engine 5 are the first engines featuring the new red design. The engines and trucks are basically giant, customized toolboxes on wheels which are essential pieces of the crews. Fire Stations 1 and 5 are two of the City's busiest stations so the apparatus there will see a lot of mileage.

Fire Investigation Determined Cause of Fire was an Explosion

On October 13 at 12:14 a.m., PFA responded to a fire in the 200 block of North Sherwood Street. The battalion chief requested a second alarm. The Engine 1 Crew was the first on the scene and found a working fire with flames coming from the basement windows.



The fire was initially called in by a neighbor who reported hearing a loud boom. “While loud sounds are often reported in fires, a true explosion is rare in our jurisdiction,” said the PFA fire investigator.

Some of the key evidence leading the investigator to the cause was the pattern of broken glass from the basement windows and the location and condition of the refrigerator door, which was across the room and the exterior was only minimally affected.

The completed investigation found that a flammable chemical was being stored inside the refrigerator. The jar was not completely sealed so vapors escaped the container filling the refrigerator with fumes. An electrical component likely gave a spark which ignited the fumes and caused the explosion. No one was home and no injuries were reported.

Smoke Alarm Installation at Collins Aire Park

Poudre Fire Authority (PFA), the American Red Cross, Colorado State University students, Air Force cadets, and other partners completed the fourth and final alarm installation event of 2023. Twenty PFA staff members supported the event (on-duty, off-duty, and 40-hour/civilian employees).

- 109 smoke alarms were installed (many in homes with no working alarms).
- 45 carbon monoxide alarms installed.
- PFA and La Familia installed seven car seats and donated 50 bike helmets to the FCMoves Bike Rodeo.
- The Food Bank Lunch Lab served 50 meals, plus grab-and-go grocery items.
- Evie, Poudre Library’s mobile library, had 45 children visit.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

RECREATION

The **Southeast Community Innovation Center** is one step closer to realization with the announcement of partnerships with both Poudre School District (PSD) and the Poudre River Public Library District (PRPLD). Per the 2015 Community Capital Improvement Program (CCIP) ballot that passed, the City is obligated to build a Community Center in southeast Fort Collins focused on innovation, technology, art, recreation and the creative process. The Center will also have a large outdoor leisure pool with water slides, sprays and jets, decks, a lazy river and open swimming area. The partnership announced with both PSD and PRPLD brings the City one step closer to constructing indoor lap lanes and leisure as part of the facility, along with a more robust innovation space. [Read the press release](#) for more information.

Northside Aztlan Community Center is currently undergoing construction to the youth area, which will bring improvements in functionality and safety to the childcare classrooms. Construction is expected to conclude in November.



Recreation hosted the Rattlesnake Rumble in September at **Spring Canyon Park**, bringing regional runners from around Colorado together for an exciting middle school country meet.

Fall sports included participation from 250 girls in youth volleyball and 270 kids in flag football.

Seven community members participated in an overnight campout at the Cheley Center in the mountains as part of the Adaptive Recreation Opportunities (ARO program). Adaptive programs across the front range attended and participated in activities such as hiking, archery, a low ropes course, and more.

The ARO Flag Football teams placed 1st and 3rd at the Special Olympics Regional Tournament and went on to compete at the 2023 State tournament. Congratulations to Team Cowboy Kraken for their 3rd place finish in Division 4, Fort Collins

Broncos for their 3rd place finish in the Youth Division 1 and Team Crimson Tide for their 1st place finish in Division 1.

ARO's elementary-aged social skills program, Friends4all, has had two sessions this quarter and will continue on the first Friday of each month (skipping January) of the school year. Nine children have attended and participated in camp-style activities while also practicing appropriate social skills and peer interactions.

Fort Collins Senior Center hosted Live Involved, a resource event that promotes hobby groups, volunteer organizations, and clubs to enhance social wellness. We had 60 community members join the fair and presenters.

Twenty-five individuals are enrolled in the BOOTS hiking club. They have visited Windsor Lake, North Shields Ponds, Maxwell, and other city gems.

PARKS

The grand opening of a new neighborhood park, **Dovetail Park**, took place on October 23.

The pickleball courts at **Twin Silo Park** were recently resurfaced.

Parks Department Rangers are fully staff with one Lead Ranger and three Park Rangers.

The Forestry Division successfully distributed 1,000 locally grown trees as part of the Community Canopy Program.

Outreach for the Rooted in Community Urban Forest Strategic Plan is in progress. More information on the plan and how to be involved is available at ourcity.fcgov.com/rooted-in-community.



Park Planning, Poudre Fire Authority, and City Give hosted a groundbreaking event for the **9/11 Memorial at Spring Park project**.



The Golf Division supported the “Friday Knight Lights” event at **Collindale Golf Course**, put on by C.B. & Potts. During the day, the Rams For Life tournament raised funds for both the City’s Youth Golf Scholarship Fund, and the Tom Ehlers Student Athlete Endowment Fund.



CULTURAL SERVICES



Terry McNerney painting the 400th Transformer Cabinet Mural

Art in Public Places

Art in Public Places just had local artist Terry McNerney paint the program's 400th cabinet mural at 3754 Landings Drive! This is McNerney's fifth cabinet mural to date and his design celebrates the Program's milestone with whimsical characters in a colorful, birthday party atmosphere.

The Gardens on Spring Creek and **The Lincoln Center** has successfully concluded their Live at the Gardens Summer Concert Series! All shows were sold out, bringing together the Fort Collins community for great music. Highlights included performances by Old Crow Medicine Show, Pink Martini, Blood, Sweat & Tears, and more!

Upcoming Events

The Lincoln Center has kicked off the [2023-2024 LC Live Season](#) with shows like Gaspard&Dancers and Little Joe y La Familia. Upcoming shows include Lewis Black Live, Omnium Circus, Annie, and much more.

The Gardens on Spring Creek will be hosting its annual [Garden of Lights Winter Holiday Lights Festival](#) from December 8-23. The festival will include a half-mile loop filled with glowing grapevines, towering flowerbeds, dancing color blossoms, and other imaginative displays made of hundreds of thousands of glittering lights.

Carnegie Center for Creativity

The Carnegie Center for Creativity is currently under renovation until the summer of 2024 and will reopen as an inclusive and accessible community space for art and culture. Recent progress has been the installation of a new mechanical system for the nearly 120 year old building.



The Carnegie Center for Creativity currently under renovation.

NATURAL AREAS

Two Colorado Open Space Alliance Awards

The Environmental Learning Center Flow Restoration project received the prestigious Blue Grama Award for Outstanding Achievement in Ecological Restoration at the 2023 Colorado Open Space Alliance conference. The project was recognized because it maintains instream flows valued at \$220 million in the Cache la Poudre River to protect habitat for fish and wildlife, while maintaining recreation values. An innovative low-impact diversion structure was constructed that is new-to-the-watershed and weaves together reliable water delivery, river restoration, and equity-centered design.

The Natural Areas Department partnership with regional open space programs including Boulder County, Jefferson County, Larimer County, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife received a second notable award from Colorado Open Space Alliance, the Outstanding Achievement in Ecosystem Resilience Blue Gramma Award. The Front Range Foothills Habitat Restoration Partnership takes a landscape-scale approach to eradicate cheatgrass and restore foothills habitat for large mammals such as mule deer and elk.



Visitors enjoy the river near the newly constructed award-winning riffle crest diversion structure.

Kestrel Fields Celebration & Community Interest in Conservation Agriculture

Thank you to the over 300 people who attended the Kestrel Fields Natural Area Celebration in September. The event was full of joy, connection, and community. [Watch the event highlights](#) including speeches from Councilmember Susan Gutowsky, Poudre Valley Community Farms Director, Stacy Lishka, and Natural Areas Director, Katie Donahue, activity stations, live animals, locally grown food, and live music. The Kestrel Fields Celebration was a success thanks to the collaboration with partner organizations including Poudre Valley Community Farms, Irish Elementary Escuela Bilingüe's Mariachi Band, Blue Grama Band, Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, Kestrel Fields Art Studio and local Plein Air painters.

Conservation agriculture efforts by the Natural Areas Department were the focus of several media stories leading up to the Kestrel Fields Celebration. Two stories aired on CBS Colorado and one on Rocky Mountain PBS. They focused on how the partnership between the City of Fort Collins and Poudre Valley Community Farms supports multiple City goals including enhanced conservation outcomes and affordable access to land and water for young farmers. The first story can be viewed [here](#), the second story [here](#) and [the third story here](#).



Community members help harvest at Kestrel Fields Natural Area.

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Volunteers have played a pivotal role in City service since 1985, when the City's first Volunteer Coordinator was hired. Presently, more than 10,000 volunteers partner with 30 departments, contributing to city services valued at over \$4 million annually. Recent initiatives have streamlined processes and fostered resource sharing through the establishment of a centralized Volunteer Services Program. In spring 2023, Volunteer Services introduced a 3-year strategic plan, underscoring the integral role of volunteerism in City priorities. The plan focuses on six key areas, emphasizing diversity and inclusion throughout while prioritizing training for both staff and volunteers. In August, Volunteer Services hosted the inaugural **Volunteer Engagement Summit (VES)**, a groundbreaking event combining training, development, and appreciation for all City staff and volunteers. VES attracted 247

participants, featured 14 diverse sessions, and concluded with a grand celebration dinner and live music on the rooftop deck at the Lincoln Center.

SUSTAINABILITY SERVICES

ECONOMIC HEALTH OFFICE

The Economic Health Office hosted a business listening session with City Manager Kelly DiMartino and Councilmembers Tricia Canonico and Susan Gutowsky for clients of the Multicultural Business and Entrepreneur Center (MBEC) on September 12, 2023, at Board & Brush. The goal of the listening session was to gain an understanding of challenges and opportunities small businesses are facing. Seven businesses shared their insights with City leadership and staff.



Growing from the success of the Talent 2.0 initiative, **NoCo Works** is composed of collaborators from across Weld and Larimer counties working collectively to address regional workforce challenges and opportunities. In September 2023, NoCo Works and its six subcommittees were launched. These six subcommittees comprise of over 200 participants representing various community partners, propelling this regional workforce initiative forward and initiating the work related to regional talent and workforce development within the Northern Colorado ecosystem. Partners include Larimer County Economic & Workforce Development, Employment Services of Weld County, Poudre School District, Front Range Community College, Aims Community College, Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce, Greeley Chamber of Commerce, and many more.

The Economic Health Office hosted the **10th annual Business Appreciation Celebration** on October 12, 2023. This annual event celebrates business owners, managers, representatives, and leaders' contribution to the local community. The event includes a panel discussion and [short film](#) with local business leaders sharing their lived experiences in the community. A special added touch this year is "Merchday Thursday," where attendees were encouraged to wear merchandise from their favorite local business. Over 200 attendees representing 135 different businesses and organizations were in attendance at Block One.

The City's **Revolving Loan Fund for Small Businesses** was approved through Ordinance No. 126, 2023. In Fort Collins, businesses with 1-50 employees make up 96% of all companies. A revolving loan fund offers a gap financing tool for small businesses development and expansion. The City is partnering

with Colorado Enterprise Fund (CEF) to administer the revolving loan fund. To qualify, businesses must have 1-50 employees, less than \$2 million in annual revenue, and their primary business operations in the City of Fort Collins Growth Management Area. This program includes nonprofits. The program anticipates launching in early 2024.

The Economic Health Office partnered with the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade on August 22, 2023, to host 30 semiconductor businesses and support organizations to discuss the first established **CHIPS Zone (Fort Collins)** in Colorado.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The City of Fort Collins recently completed the **Northside Aztlan Community Center Resilience Project**. This project added battery storage and upgraded the solar system at this vital community space. The solar and battery system together help support the community through environmental and energy savings benefits while increasing resilience to the future impacts of community-level events. This project was partially funded by a grant from the State of Colorado's Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and relied on the close collaboration of several departments including Utilities' Energy Services, Environmental Services, Operation Services, and Recreation. Much more detail on the project can be found in [this article](#).

The Timberline Recycling Center was recently awarded Front Range Waste Diversion (FRWD) grant by the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) for nearly \$300k to purchase new equipment. These purchases will provide capacity to receive more recyclables at this much-loved community site that receives over 400 recyclers per day, as well as improve its safety and day-to-day functioning.

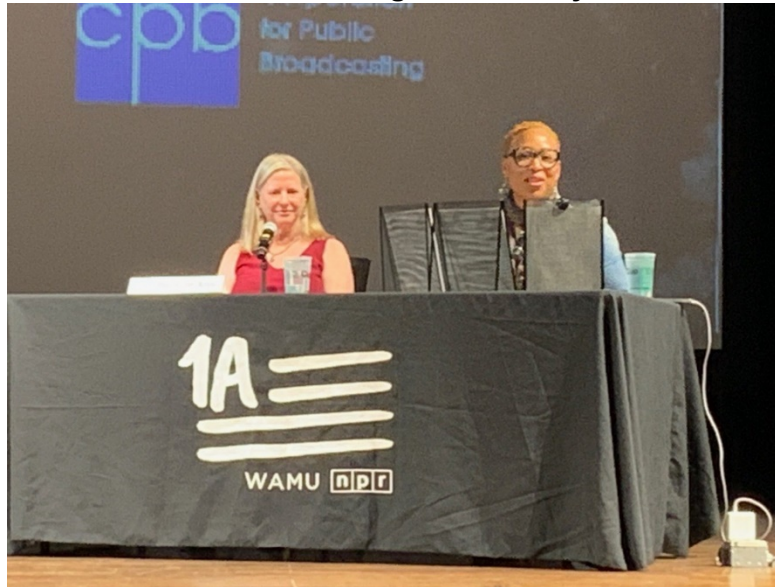
SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

2023 Real Estate Development Partner Award:



The City of Fort Collins was awarded a 2023 Real Estate Development Partner Award by the Mercy Housing Mountain Plains division of Mercy Housing. This award recognized the City's support of the newly constructed Northfield Commons. When finished, this community will offer 84 affordable 1-, 2-, 3-bedroom apartment homes. The City provided Private Activity Bond capacity, affordable housing fee credits, and investment through the City's annual Competitive Grant process. This was also made possible in part due to a partnership with Landmark Homes which was formed to satisfy Landmark's metro district obligations for a neighboring development project.

NPR's 1A Show Panel Discussion About Housing Affordability in Colorado:



On September 28, NPR's 1A show recorded a panel discussion about Housing Affordability in Colorado for a radio broadcast later in October. NPR's host was Jenn White. Panelists included Sue Beck-Ferkiss from City of Fort Collins, Patricia Alvares-Havill (sic) from Mi Voz at La Familia, and Stephanie Daniels, a podcaster with KUNC covering Colorado Housing issues.

The discussion was taped before a live audience at the Lincoln Center. Questions centered around why Colorado has become less affordable, what is Fort Collins' experience and what is the City doing about it, what is happening with mobile home parks, and what is going on in the Mountain communities. The panelists were given questions ahead of time, but the audience was so engaged and asking so many questions that most of the time was spent answering audience questions about the land use code update, occupancy regulations, inclusionary housing, homelessness response, and rights of mobile home residents.

Community Groundbreakings:

October 3 – Village on Impala Affordable Housing renovation and redevelopment project – Housing Catalyst

- 86 homes
- 62 new apartments
- 12 renovated duplexes

October 5 – Heartside Hill Affordable Housing project – CARE Housing

- 72 multifamily housing apartments
- 9 Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity single-family homes for low-income buyers
- 2 L'Arche Fort Collins congregant style homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- A community center with early childhood education, after-school care, behavioral health services, and workforce development

October 5 – Community Hub at Coachlight apartments renovation and redevelopment project – Neighbor to Neighbor

- Rehabbed 68 2- and 3-bedroom apartment homes

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION OFFICE



October 2023 Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration

On October 9th, the Equity and Inclusion office co-sponsored in partnership with Trees, Water & People (TWP) a community gathering where many local Indigenous community members from the City joined together in celebration. City Manager Kelly DiMartino read the land acknowledgement and Mayor Jeni Arndt read excerpts from the 2022 resolution, declaring the first Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day. This event featured local Native

Elders who shared an opening prayer and blessing, as well as artists and musicians featuring flute, drums, and traditional dancers. The celebration was held at the Bison Mural, which is located at Front Range Village in the Courtyard on Council Tree Avenue. The beautiful mural was created by Oglala Lakota artist, Isaiah Stewart. This event is an example of the City's commitment to support and bring visibility to the rich cultural history and continued cultural contributions from the diverse local Native American community representative of multiple Tribal Nations.

On Saturday October 14th the Equity & Inclusion hosted the first annual **Latiné/Hispanic Heritage Month Community Celebration**. This is the first community-wide collaboration engaging non-profits, agencies, small businesses, several city departments, and over 800 community members in honor of this cultural gathering. Cultural Services took the lead in creating a vibrant list of performers to showcase the rich diversity of Latin America. The Gardens on Spring Creek was a beautiful setting for all to enjoy.

CSU Symposium for Inclusive Excellence

The City was a proud sponsor of CSU's Symposium for Inclusive Excellence which was held the week of October 23-27. It was a week full of workshops, panel discussions, guest speakers, and events centered around diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice.

The City's Equity Office partnered in three specific sessions on Tuesday, October 23, around topics of community disparity data, mapping community assets to foster places of belonging, and building personal relationships and community networks.

For more updates please visit: <https://www.fcgov.com/equity/>

UTILITIES

LIGHT & POWER OPERATIONS

Rosborough Cable Replacement Priority #14

Estimated Project Budget: \$120,000

Phase: Constructed

Project Details:

- Replacement of seven submersible transformers
- Replacement of 16 sections of single-phase underground cable, approximately 5,200 linear feet.
- Replacement of two sections of three-phase underground cable, approximately 1,300 linear feet.

Project Status: Project has been 100% completed.



Overhead to Underground: Overland Trail

Estimated Project Budget: \$170,000

Phase: Under Construction

Project Details: This project will convert approximately 1,200 linear feet of overhead (OH) high voltage power line to underground facilities along South Overland Trail. This will provide the reliability of underground power to three customers along Overland Trail.

Project Status:

- All underground (UG) primary cable and facilities have been installed along South Overland Trail.
- The new UG system will be energized in late October 2023 and the OH will also be de-energized at that time.
- Pole and OH cable removal is scheduled for November 2023.



Overhead to Underground: Drake Road

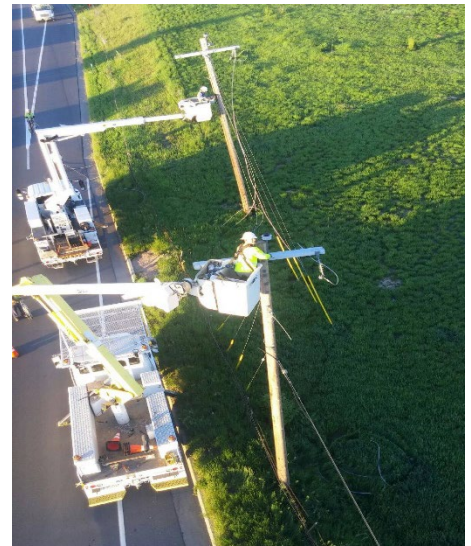
Estimated Project Budget: \$42,000

Phase: Under Construction

Project Details: This project will convert approximately 560 linear feet of overhead (OH) high voltage power line to underground facilities along West Drake Road. This will provide the reliability of underground power to two customers and will finalize the underground projects within City Limits. There are only two other properties (one section of OH cable) to be converted within City Limits, but that section has been placed on hold due to these properties currently being under Development Review.

Project Status:

- Easements have all been obtained by the private property owners.
- Boring construction has begun with the completion time to be within the next couple of weeks.
- Full construction of the new infrastructure is planned to be completed in the first part of November 2023.
- Pole and OH cable removal is scheduled for the first part of December 2023.



WATER OPERATIONS

Project Name: Fossil Creek and Stanton Creek Stream Rehabilitation

This project is intended to rehabilitate Fossil Creek and Stanton Creek for better flood conveyance and stream and ecological health in the basin.

Project status summary:

- A contract has been awarded to Jacobs Engineering
- Field work including land survey, wetland delineation, fish survey, and geomorphological survey have been completed
- A letter was sent to eleven native nations to inform them of the City's intent to dig test pits to better understand what, if any, cultural material is in the project area. Four nations have responded they would like to consult. Tribal consultation was held on November 6 and 7 in conjunction with two Natural Areas projects
- A 30% design will be ready by the end of November
- Community Engagement with Natural Areas and Parks and Recreation to inform the public about the project will come in 2024
- The total budget for the project is \$5M: \$1M for design and \$4M for construction. These numbers include staff time
- Construction is scheduled for the fall 2024 into the spring of 2025



Consultant Team collecting data for the Fish

Project Name: Oak Street Stormwater Project
Budget: \$41.0M - \$3.0M (Design), \$38.0M (Construction)

Project Phase: Pre-construction until summer 2024, including hiring a general contractor and a construction manager, permitting, assisting the contractor with permitting and material submittals.

Project Details: This is the design and construction of the Oak Street Stormwater Improvements Project (OSSP) that is part of the larger Downtown Stormwater Improvement Program (DSIP). The project is located on Oak Street from Mason to Jackson and will include storm laterals on Meldrum, Loomis, Washington, Mack, and Jackson. There will be ~9,900 LF of new storm pipe installed with this project, over 50 new inlet banks, and three “rain garden” systems at Howes, Washington, and Jackson.

Status: Design completed in June 2023; Pre-construction activities commencing until anticipated construction start in summer of 2024.



Rain event on July 31, 2023, in downtown Fort Collins

Poudre River Raw Waterline Replacement at Gateway Natural Area

Budget: \$3.2M

Project Phase: Design Complete, Construction mobilization in October 2023, construction planned completion by April 2024

Project Details: The existing 27” Steel Raw Waterline is one of two pipelines that transport the City’s water supply through the Poudre Canyon. A portion of the pipeline downstream of Gateway Natural Area is exposed due to erosion of the river. This portion of the pipeline will be relocated and buried at a depth to protect it from future erosion. The relocated section of the waterline will also be enlarged to allow for future operational flexibility.

Project Status: Final design, cost estimates, permitting, and early procurement of materials complete. Temporary and permanent easements secured. Currently completing preconstruction planning with construction contractor and starting mobilization to construction staging area.

Mobilization to construction site will began in October 2023 and work on the waterline started in November 2023.



BROADBAND – FORT COLLINS CONNEXION

Grant Funding Applications

Recently, the Connexion team has been working on applications for various grant funding opportunities that would allow Connexion to expand into areas in Larimer County like Red Feather Lakes and Rist Canyon. These are key locations within the Larimer County broadband strategic plan, and residents and businesses in these areas need faster, more reliable internet for employment, emergency response, and equality with the nearby urban areas. Applications were submitted the last week of September and we should receive the results by the end of the year. If successful, work start the first half of 2024.

2 Gig Early Access Customers

Current Connexion customers are now able to sign up for Early Access 2 Gigabit speed! Beginning in October, the sales team started scheduling upgrade appointments for interested customers. The Outside Plant team has done a wonderful job working with a handful of beta tester customers upgraded to 2 Gig. We are eager to start delivering this speed to current customers. We will offer this speed to the broader community in January 2024.

Refer a Friend Program

This quarter, we launched the long-awaited Connexion Refer a Friend program. This program allows current customers who refer others to Connexion to receive a \$50 credit on their monthly bill. The new customer will also receive a \$50 credit on their monthly bill. We're looking forward to seeing loyal fans and unofficial community ambassadors getting credit for their copious customer referrals. For more information, please visit <https://fconnexion.com/support-and-resources/refer-a-friend/>.

Connexion Dedicated Customer Service Team

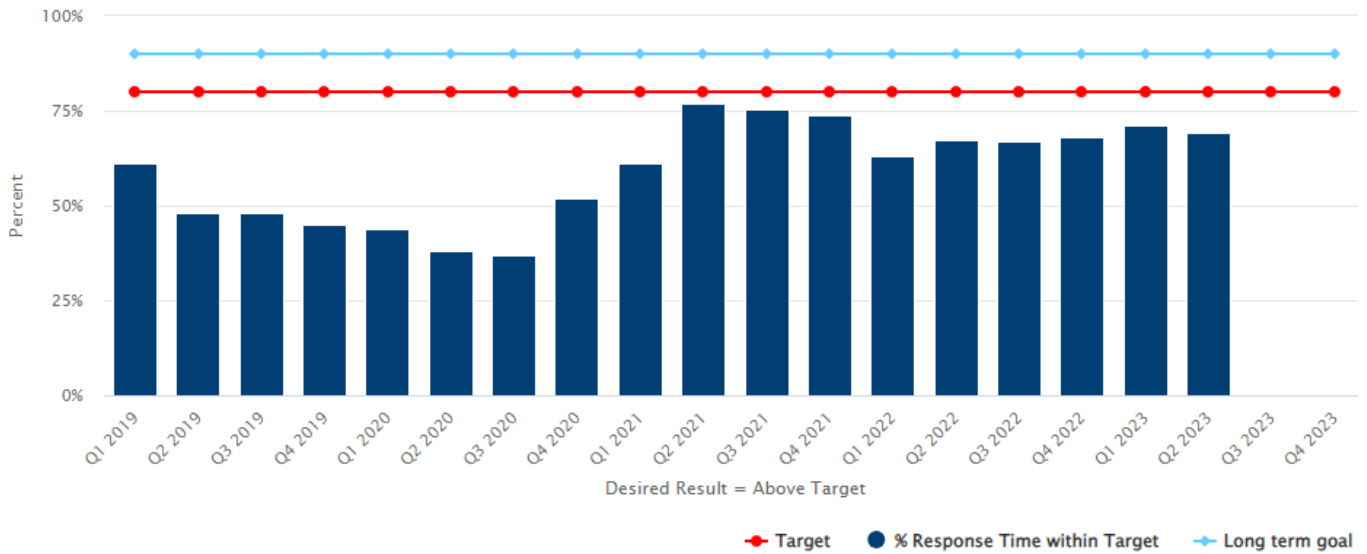
This quarter we successfully transitioned to a dedicated Connexion Customer Service Team and hired a new Connexion Customer Service Manager. This team has been key in improving customer retention and offering customers the support they need.

COMMUNITY DASHBOARD HIGHLIGHT

The Community Dashboard features performance data and information that highlights how the City is doing in achieving its seven Outcome areas: Neighborhood Livability and Social Health, Culture and Recreation, Economic Health, Environmental Health, Safe Community, Transportation and Mobility and High Performing Government. The Dashboard is made up of 37 total metrics that are published quarterly and demonstrate where the City is doing well and where there are opportunities to improve. The color status of performance for each metric is determined based on the actual result for the quarter compared with the target. The color status of performance for the Outcome is determined based on the average calculation of the performance of each metric within that Outcome.

This report contains a metric from the Safe Community Outcome.

Percent of Time PFA Fire Personnel are on Scene Within 7 Minutes 20 Seconds in the Urban Area



Analysis of Performance

The 90th percentile time in the second quarter of 2023 in the urban area (City of Fort Collins GMA) was 09:08 with an overall increase of incidents over the second quarter of 2022 (2022 = 6,174 / 2023 = 6,209 increase of 0.57%). The overall benchmark goal for the PFA Standards of Cover is to respond to emergent calls within the urban area is 7:20 minutes 90 percent of the time. This is a lofty goal that is designed to be difficult to achieve. This represents a 69.4% successful completion of this goal.

Several system changes have contributed to the performance of PFA units on this measure. PFA has seen an increase in all emergent call processing times with the re-establishment of Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD). This process involves call screening through a nationally recognized protocol (software provided by the Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority, LETA) that allows for dispatchers to take emergency action with callers over the phone such as directing and coaching callers to provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). This contributes to PFA's mission as "prompt" response begins with the call to 911. PFA and FC911 moved away from EMD and send in 2015 to specifically improve call processing (time from receiving the call in dispatch to sending response units) which is one of three components of total response time (call processing + turn out + travel = total response time). The need to return to EMD and send is for overall system efficiency and to "right size the response". This involves sending more efficient units to specific incident types.

The second system change was in the definition/designation of the urban and rural response zones. The urban area is larger now, moving from 48 square miles to 62 square miles. This includes far northeast Fort Collins which doesn't currently have a fire station. The Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) removed the suburban designation from its accreditation model. Most of the old suburban area became urban. The PFA has continued to develop a specific policy on the urban and rural designations which are:

Urban Zone: Within Fort Collins and Timnath city limits. Residential, commercial, and industrial zoning. 112 or more addresses per quarter mile. Rural Zone: Agricultural, rural residential, and open space. Small areas surrounded by an opposing zone are incorporated into the surrounding zone.

The PFA Standards of Cover compliance model as adopted by the Poudre Fire Authority Board of Directors designates the plan for improvement. The recommendations of the 2020 Community Risk

Assessment and Standards of Cover specify the following analysis. Items two through five have the potential to improve this measure:

1. Analyze system improvement with an additional company and determine the optimal location. In January of 2023, the Poudre Fire Authority added a third support company (truck functions) to the system, operating out of Station 4. Ongoing analysis will be conducted to determine overall effectiveness of this apparatus and impacts to system reliability.

2. Analyze the impact of an additional RAM unit in the south/southeast portion of the jurisdiction. In 2022 the single, existing RAM in the system was deployed to split their time between the south part of the system in the morning hours and north part of the system in the afternoon and evening hours. Ongoing analysis will help determine ongoing effectiveness and the needs for additional RAM units in the system.

3. Analyze the impact of an additional static planning zone in the southwest or western portion of the jurisdiction.

4. Analyze the optimal static planning zone station location in the northeast portion of the jurisdiction.

5. Analyze the impact of the current training schedules and rotations to ensure optimal coverage of the entire jurisdiction. PFA outcomes measures (specifically flashover and fire loss data as well as cardiac arrest survivability) continue to be at a high level. The cost of improving response time performance will need to be weighed against possible improvements in outcomes.

Metric Definition

Fire response time measures the time elapsed from when the citizen/customer dials 911 to when the first PFA personnel arrives on-scene. This data includes calls for emergencies in the urban response area of PFA. PFA's target is to respond within 7 minutes, 20 seconds at least 80% of the time. This is aligned with PFA's baseline performance goals under fire service accreditation.

Why is this important?

Quick response times mean that fire-rescue staff reduce the potential for fire loss and respond to medical/rescue calls within critical time frames for delivering patients to definitive care. Rapid response has the potential to limit costs to residents, the community, the health care system and other responding agencies.

City Organization Impact on Performance

High – Response times for emergency calls are influenced by fire companies through efficient turn-out times, firefighter training, effective station location, and the use of technology for efficient dispatch and call mapping.

Benchmark Information

Benchmarking in progress.

To review all the metrics on the Community Dashboard, go to <https://fortcollins.clearpointstrategy.com/>