

2021 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Through the past year, Fort Collins continued to navigate the disruptions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, pursued recovery efforts across the community, and looked ahead to who we want to be in our next phase ... all while continuing to deliver high-quality municipal services 24/7/365. Here are a few highlights from 2021 – more information is available at fcgov.com/StateOfTheCity.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY

Throughout 2021, the community continued to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. While capacity restrictions were eased as vaccination rates increased, emerging variants led to higher case rates and the return of a county-wide mask order. The City collaborated with state and regional partners to continue responding to immediate needs and looked ahead to support longer-term impacts and recovery.

The federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocated an additional \$28.1M to the City of Fort Collins. In May, City Council appropriated \$4.2M for short-term response efforts; another \$3.6M was allocated in the 2022 City budget. The remaining ARPA funds are expected to be allocated in the 2023-2024 budget cycle, after the Recovery Plan adoption in early 2022. Short-term ARPA-funded projects in 2021 included:

- Eviction legal fund
- Direct assistance for Utilities customers
- 24/7 shelter at Fort Collins Rescue Mission
- For Fort Collins business and economic recovery campaign & website
- Recovery communications

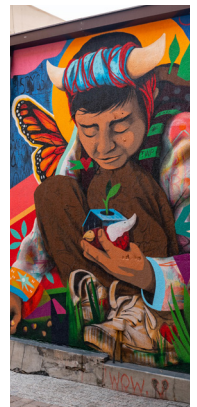


2021 HIGHLIGHTS



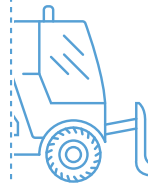
2021 saw several **changes among City leadership**: the April municipal election brought a new mayor and three new councilmembers, and in August the City said farewell to its longtime city manager. Other key leadership hires in 2021 included the interim city manager, deputy city manager, assistant city manager, city clerk, chief financial officer, Connexion executive director, Community Services director, and several department directors. In 2022, the City is expected to hire both a new city manager and a new Utilities executive director.

In August, the City welcomed its first **Equity & Inclusion Officer**. The position is housed in the City Manager's Office and will help incorporate an equity lens to City services and operations and foster partnerships and relationship-building across the community.



The Economic Health Office hired a full-time **Multicultural Business Specialist** to address the community-identified need for bilingual business support.

In March, Fort Collins received more than **23 inches of heavy, wet snow**. Crews worked around the clock plowing 10,100 total miles of roadway – including all residential streets – as well as sidewalks, bike lanes and City parking lots. The storm also caused severe tree damage, spurring a clean-up response that included pruning or removing 3,400 trees and diverting 35,000 cubic yards of branches from the landfill.



Streets purchased a new **all-electric street sweeper** – just the second of its kind in use in the U.S. – which will require less maintenance and advance the City's air quality goals.



A **plastic bag ordinance** was passed by Council and affirmed by voters last year, and will go into effect May 1, 2022, banning plastic bags and placing a 12-cent fee on paper bags at large grocers.

Fort Collins Connexion continued construction and signing up new customers, securing a 31% take rate. Connexion also launched a new website and a new billing platform with enhanced features to help customers pay their bills and manage their accounts.



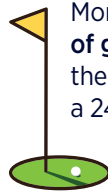


The **Gardens on Spring Creek** hosted its first full-capacity concerts welcoming 1,500 patrons to performances by Herbie Hancock and the Fort Collins Symphony, and welcomed nearly 30,000 visitors to the Garden of Lights.

After a season of pandemic-induced closures, **The Lincoln Center** hosted more than 300 events in 2021, offered new services like live streaming, and secured nearly \$2 million in state and federal grant assistance.

the **LINCOLN** center

Recreation continued to see participation and revenue improvement, despite ongoing COVID-19 impacts, serving more than 750,000 participants at 10 facilities.



More than **92,000 rounds of golf** were played across the City's three courses – a 24% increase from 2019.

In partnership with local organizations, Recreation facilities hosted several COVID-19 **vaccine clinics**, distributing more than 8,000 vaccines to community members from low-income or underserved populations.



Voters approved a citizen-initiated ballot measure directing the City to rezone and purchase the **former Hughes Stadium property**. The property has since been rezoned as Public Open Lands, and in November the City and CSU announced they would move forward to finalize agreements for the City's purchase of the property, likely to be completed in the first half of 2022.

Traverse Park opened in the northeast Trail Head neighborhood, featuring an activity spine, seating areas, play elements, a pump track, walking loop trail, and more.

After 80% of the site was burned in 2020's Cameron Peak Fire, **Bobcat Ridge Natural Area** reopened in September. Restoration work included removing burned trees adjacent to trails, reconstructing bridges and boardwalks, reconstructing Valley Loop trails that were washed out by several flash floods, and more.



Watershed recovery efforts in the Cameron Peak Fire burn area included aerial mulch applied by helicopter to 5,050 acres to stabilize the hillslopes and slow erosion that threatens downstream water supply infrastructure, private residences and water quality. Eight additional stream and hillslope mitigation projects were completed on private land.

Fort Collins Utilities' **electricity from non-carbon resources** exceeded 50% for the first time, thanks to the recent addition of the Roundhouse Wind Energy Project and approximately 470 new community solar arrays. Fort Collins now has approximately 2,573 operational solar arrays, totaling almost 23 MW.



The **Safe Water Action Program** has investigated and replaced aging galvanized steel water service lines and more than 600 lead goosenecks, improving water quality and reliability for customers.



The new **Lemay Avenue Bridge** over the BNSF Railroad and Vine Drive opened to traffic on Dec. 11 - three weeks ahead of target – marking a major milestone in the years-long effort to improve traffic congestion and safety in the area.

Transfort installed **solar-powered lighting** at 21 bus stops to improve safety and visibility for both passengers and drivers.

After eight years of planning and collaboration, the **Northern Colorado Law Enforcement Training Center** opened as a world-class resource for Fort Collins Police Services, Loveland Police Department, and regional law enforcement agencies to continuously advance their skills. It includes a 1.4-mile driving track, 5-acre skills pad, 50-yard tactical range, and classroom space.



The Police **Mental Health Response Team** expanded in 2021 to two teams providing daytime coverage seven days a week. Through a partnership with UCHHealth, the Response Team assists people in crisis, helping them access appropriate community services and increasing safety for community members and officers alike.

The 2021 **Housing Strategic Plan** sets an ambitious vision that everyone in Fort Collins has healthy, stable housing they can afford. The seven greatest challenges to this vision have been identified, and 26 strategies have been prioritized as first steps to address each of these challenges.



Our Climate Future (OCF), adopted in March, is the City's update to its Energy Policy, the Road to Zero Waste Plan, and the Climate Action Plan. OCF centers on co-creating equitable solutions with the community, leveraging collective action to respond to community priorities and achieving the climate goals set forth in the three plans.

