



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

CITY OF  
**LONGMONT**  
C O L O R A D O



## CONTENTS

### 4 Everyday Work

Departments and divisions across the City do the important everyday work that makes our city a wonderful place to live.

### 7 Celebrating Together

Residents came together again at the Sister Cities ceremony, Day of the Dead, Turkey Trot and other events.

### 8 Onward & Upward

From park redesigns winning awards to NextLight expanding its service, the City continually works to improve the quality of life for its residents.

### 12 Public Safety

The Longmont Public Safety Department works 24/7/365 to keep our community safe.



### 14 Data Driven

Using data to access strategies across the City helps all of us build a better future for everyone.

### 16 Sustainability

The City continues on their mission to create a more sustainable future.

## INTRODUCTION

# CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

In 2021, the City of Longmont celebrated 150 years of growth, innovation and community with citywide events, a museum exhibit, tree planting and other programs.

The Longmont Museum created the “Longmont 150” exhibit, featuring historic artifacts gathered over the past 80-plus years. The Museum also produced five satellite exhibitions — displayed in City facilities such as the Civic Center, Senior Center, Recreation Center and more — that celebrated the history of various City divisions.

In addition, the City opened a time capsule sealed by the 125th anniversary committee in 1996, and created a new century chest to be opened in 100 years.

Longmont Power & Communications and NextLight sponsored a planting of a bur oak in Collyer Park in honor of Longmont’s 150th anniversary.

In the years to come, our city will continue to flourish with connectedness, and we will continue to drive onward and upward.





# THE WORK WENT ON

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Longmont firefighters respond to an incident during a winter storm. A new City Council was elected in November, including a new mayor (Joan Peck) and At-Large Council Member Shiquita Yarbrough. A Forestry technician feeds tree limbs into a wood chipper. Recreation Area Supervisor Ben Wagner explains the route of the Strider Rough Rider Race to its young participants. Longmont Power & Communications lineworkers James Heald and Chase Stenson replace a conductor on an overhead power line near Ken Pratt Boulevard and Sherman Street. Sanitation technicians use trucks run on renewable natural gas to pick up trash, recycling and compost. Streets Operations and Parks technicians perform snow and ice removal including clearing streets, parking lots, trails and sidewalks. Children, Youth & Families Resource Coordinator Louie Lopez helps teens with an art project. PWRN Engineering workers begin construction on the Resilient St. Vrain Project at Izaak Walton Reach 2 (Boston Avenue to Sunset Street) with Army Corps of Engineers.



# Reconnecting with the Community



## HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Increased funding allowed the Housing and Human Services Advisory Board to recommend funding for two more agencies and five more programs than they did in 2020.

The City continued to partner with Homeless Solutions for Boulder County on homelessness issues, leading to 55 individuals from Longmont exiting homelessness in 2021. Ongoing work with the OUR Center and the Home Steady program led to 53 households receiving assistance to remain housed or find more affordable housing. According to optional exit surveys, 100 percent of participants felt the Home Steady program helped their household remain housed; 75 percent felt confident they would remain in their current housing situation for the foreseeable future.

Community & Neighborhood Services extended mediation services to communities in east Boulder County and Lyons, resulting in 2,000 mediations specifically on housing retention in Longmont and the surrounding area.

Community & Neighborhood Resources also funded 36 neighbor activity grants and four projects were funded by Neighborhood Improvement Grants, bringing more neighbors together.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

In our community mental health programs and parenting classes, Children, Youth & Families staff saw more than 160 cases in one year — equivalent to more than 500 service hours.

In school-based leadership programs, staff helped almost 500 students develop leadership skills and supported them on their path to college. After-school programs served 1,181 youth in activities varying from outdoor sports, crafts, board games and more.

As part of the Longmont City Council's Book Club, 3,757 books were mailed to 342 3- and 4-year-olds.

## LIBRARY

The Library checked out more than 1 million materials to patrons, along with more than 3,000 craft kits to kids and youth through its Crafternoons program.



## IN-PERSON EVENTS

# Celebrating Together

Events returned slowly in 2021, including the 46th Annual Longmont Turkey Trot. Recreation rounded out the year with full community attendance at both the Halloween and Longmont Lights parades.

The 2021 Día de los Muertos Family Celebration, held in Downtown Longmont, was a huge success. A simultaneous count tracked more than 4,000 people.

The Museum rebounded with a record-breaking fall season in terms of both ticket revenue (\$30,000) and attendance (more than 4,000) for programming offered in the Museum's Stewart Auditorium.

The parklet project in Downtown Longmont provided valuable outdoor space for restaurants and other retailers along Main Street. Additionally, the Longmont Downtown Development Authority was able to mobilize a local manufacturer, Rossmonster, to build the parklet units a few blocks away from where the parklets would be implemented on Main Street between Second and Eighth Avenues.

## SISTER CITIES

# Combining Cultures

The Longmont City Council, mayor and City staff hosted the Northern Arapaho Sister Cities Signing Ceremony with members of the Tribe, City officials and members of the public.

It was an incredibly moving ceremony filled with great mutual respect that truly reflected the importance of this historic partnership, the first of its kind.

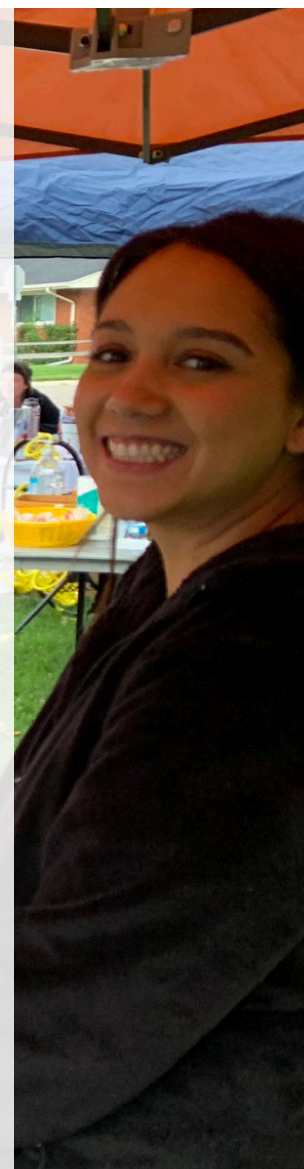


Photo courtesy of Cliff Grassmick

## NEXTLIGHT INNOVATION

NextLight, Longmont's gig fiber (high-speed internet) service, was once again ranked 3rd fastest in the nation and fastest in the west for internet service providers, as reported by PC Magazine.

NextLight continued to provide free or heavily discounted internet to income-qualifying customers, making sure its vision of a fully connected Longmont is realized.

NextLight introduced custom TV solutions for customers seeking to cut the cord or ditch the dish. These offerings, provided in partnership with Streamwise Solutions, save customers money while providing programming specific to their interests.

NextLight also introduced upgraded WiFi technology with the launch of WiFi6 Gigaspire routers. Customers can now enjoy faster internet connections from every corner of their homes.

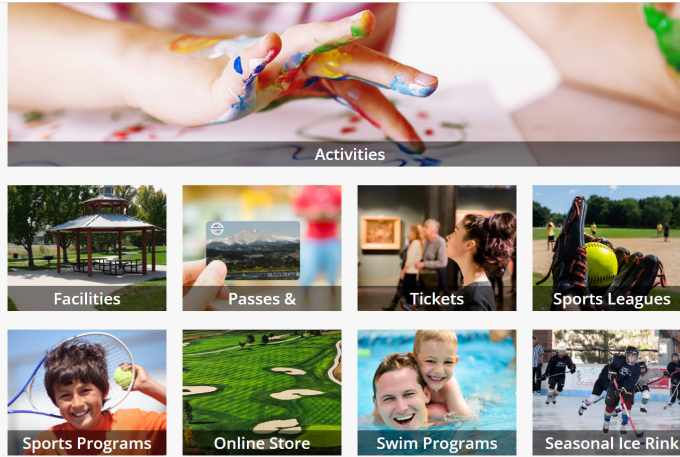


# ONWARD & UPWARD

## EXPANDING WAYS TO PAY

Utility Billing implemented "pay by phone" software, increasing customer access to services to 24/7.

City staff also created a new way for customers to pay parking tickets over the phone and at the Development Services Center counter.



## RECREATION ONLINE

Recreation & Golf Services staff launched a "microsite," making the website experience more streamlined and ADA-compliant.

Staff also enhanced user experience with WebTrac by including new features such as self-serve online cancellations; the ability to purchase and renew an expanded list of passes; and moving to a customized, new user interface in coordination with the Recreation website redesign.

## PARK REDESIGN AWARD

Parks, Open Space & Trails received the Colorado Lottery Starburst Award for excellence in using lottery dollars to renew Garden Acres Park, 2058 Spencer St. This project included the sports complex renovation, a new restroom building, two new playgrounds and improvements to the parking lot.



## CONTRIBUTING TO QUALITY OF LIFE

The Museum hosted the "Enduring Impressions" exhibition from January to May 2021, featuring more than 35 lithographic works, and several original masterworks, by renowned Impressionists Edgar Degas, Claude Monet and Camille Pissarro. It was supplemented by an exhibition on the process of lithography.

The Museum participated in the 2021 American Alliance of Museums Survey of Museum-Goers. Nearly 400 people from Longmont responded to the survey, with 70 percent of respondents stating the Museum contributes to the quality of life in Longmont. This is almost 20 points higher than the average museum in the survey.



# EQUITY

## CITY'S COMMITMENT

City Manager Harold Dominguez announced the City's commitment to begin an internal focus on social equity. The City's Equity Team and the new Office of Social Equity in the Community & Neighborhood Resources division leads this effort.

The Equity Team:

- conducted an Employee Racial Equity Survey to provide a baseline measurement and recommendations for equity goals;
- hosted equity-related training for City staff including multiple sessions of Introduction to Equity; BIPOC Voice/ White Voice: Barriers; Biases and Stereotypes: Help or Hinder; Beyond Binary: LBGTQ+ Concepts & Etiquette; Approaching the Intersection of Finance and Equity; and more.



## Countywide Collaboration

The COVID pandemic brought forward inequities that needed to be addressed through strategies, community conversation and conflict resolution. Community Services divisions were key — serving as a primary cultural broker and partner with Boulder County Public Health to co-lead the Vaccine Equity Committee. Working together, the committee implemented strategies to reach those most affected by health disparities. This includes black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), LBGTQ+, people with disabilities and those who live in mountain communities.



## LONGMONT MULTICULTURAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The committee provided the community a space to discuss issues such as racism and injustice, which helped move us toward understanding and action — amassing 3 million total views for community conversations.

## MUSEUM

The Museum added two new virtual tours of sites around Longmont to its online tour platform. One tour focuses on Latino history and the other on women's history. The mobile website had 3,651 visitors in 2021.

## RECREATION

Phone line trees were implemented at all Recreation year-round facilities to enhance self-serve options. All sites now have an option for Spanish-speakers to leave a message to be contacted, in Spanish, for assistance. The option rapidly gained popularity and today continues to be a well-utilized feature.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Inclusionary Housing program resulted in the construction of 24 new affordable homes: 10 rentals, 14 for sale. A total of \$139,163 in developer fee-in-lieu payments was invested into the City's affordable housing fund. Staff also processed 46 projects through the development process, resulting in 176 affordable rental homes and 10 affordable for-sale homes under construction. The Housing & Community Investment Division's grant and loan programs awarded the following projects:

- \$944,000 to Crisman II Apartments – 83 rental homes to be constructed in May 2022 (49 permanently affordable)
- \$250,000 to Element Sunset Heights to cover pre-development costs at Sunset Way property (55 permanently supportive homes to be constructed)
- \$500,000 to Cinnamon Park Apartments to construct 25 affordable rental homes for seniors
- \$87,943 paid out in fee offsets for Greenspire Apartments

A total of \$73,000 was spent on the following programs:

- Two general rehabilitation projects were completed
- Six mobile home repair projects completed
- Four architectural barrier removal projects completed

In addition to the programs above, the division:

- allocated \$50,000 to provide housing counseling, homeownership training and foreclosure prevention for 202 Longmont households
- provided \$213,294 in rental assistance to 89 households experiencing financial hardships due to COVID
- spent \$6,984 to improve security measures at The Suites Permanent Supportive Housing
- provided funding to leverage \$40,968,762 in private or other investments

Longmont Housing Authority completed the acquisition and renovation of the Aspen Meadows Senior Apartments to preserve affordability for 50 rental homes for seniors and preserve the property as an asset for the next 15-25 years. Staff also completed 861 tenant contacts to complete annual reexaminations, inspections, unit changes, interim changes and issuance of vouchers.

Shared Services provided additional assistance to low-income residents through the Longmont CARES program with an easier application process and expanded rebate offerings.

# DEDICATION & SERVICE



## New Public Safety Chief

Zach Ardis was selected as the City's new Public Safety Chief in July 2021. The decision followed a comprehensive recruitment and selection process including input from the community and City staff about the priorities and qualities the successful candidate would bring to the role. One of the strengths Ardis developed during his tenure in the community of Commerce, Ga., was identifying and connecting with the community as a whole, and challenging the status quo when it didn't serve community members equitably. His plan in Longmont is to focus on the critical issues of diversity, inclusion and equity that will strengthen Longmont's mission to serve the people who live, work and play in Longmont.



### STATE BILLS

## According to Law

The Longmont Public Safety Department worked with a vendor to develop an app in response to SB 20-217, which required self-initiated contact reporting by law enforcement.

The department also finalized an online compliment and complaint reporting, giving residents a streamlined approach for providing feedback.

### PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

Staff from Municipal Courts and Probation, Police Services, Children, Youth & Families and the Longmont Community Justice Partnership developed a process to assess youth for services and engage them in prevention and intervention programs in lieu of receiving a summons for court. This effort is an expansion of the REWiND (Rebuilding Expectations and Walking into New Directions) program. To date, REWiND has served more than 500 youth and their families in the last four years.

### COORDINATION + STEAMLINING

Fire Services formed a new working group with Boulder County fire departments in order to better coordinate and streamline emergency response, increasing collaboration on training for new recruits, technical rescue and hazardous materials.



### BY THE NUMBERS

Police Services responded to **85,000** calls for service

Victim services group provided more than **5,300** services to **1,200** crime victims

Community Health & Resilience provided consultation and coaching to **21** jurisdictions across the country

Police Services responded to **three** homicides, including the killing of a U.S. Postal worker; a fatal crash resulting in a 93-year-old driver dead; and an assault on a war veteran at the Longmont Regents

Social media outreach helped solve, find suspects or locate missing persons in more than **100** incidents

**92%** of adults placed under supervision successfully completed their conditions of probation. Adult recidivism rates remained at **less than 7%** for the ninth straight year.

# DATA DRIVEN

The newly established Strategic Integration department worked toward implementing the most efficient services with a focus on data- and results-driven organizational transformation. This included updating water meters with Automated Meter Reading technology, which improves water efficiency and reduces costs.



The Longmont Public Safety Department implemented a more robust Fire Services system for report writing, personnel and data management, as well as providing the team with analytics, inspections and pre-planning.

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

# Building a Better Future



Fire Services completed designs of two new fire stations. Planning & Development Services department reviewed, approved and issued 63 Infrastructure Permits; along with 620 Right-of-Way Permits.

Longmont Power & Communications energized a new transformer, built new feeder lines and replaced and upgraded back-up battery banks to further increase LPC's electric capacity and reliability.

LPC staff also worked with NextLight to provide power to a new NextLight fiber hut at the County Line substation to expand NextLight's ability to serve its fiber customers.

The Flood Recovery division continued management of the CDBG-DR sub-allocation for Boulder County, serving as the lead agency in administration and oversight of a \$76.2 million grant — \$75.2 million has been reimbursed, bringing the program to 98.6 percent complete and leaving a balance of \$1 million to spend.

Housing assistance projects included 42 infrastructure projects completed and fully reimbursed; eight infrastructure projects underway and will be fully completed by June 2022.

The Library completed the first floor and garage rehabilitation project and reopened to patrons in late summer.

The women's public restroom at the St. Vrain Memorial Building, largely intact since the original 1950 build, was fully remodeled.

## COMPLETED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- County Line road widening project from Ninth to 17th Avenues
- Construction of First Avenue and Emery Street intersection including intersection improvements, new traffic signal installation and rail crossing improvements
- 19th Avenue traffic mitigation improvements
- Design of 17th Avenue sidewalk project, which includes installation of concrete sidewalk on the north side in 2022
- Design for drainage improvements at the intersection of 15th Avenue and Kimbark Street. Construction will begin in 2022.
- Design phase of the Price Park Tank Replacement Project at Longs Peak Avenue and Sunset Street. The City is working to replace the existing water storage reservoir near Price Park with a new above-ground tank that will offer a number of benefits to residents.

PWNR Engineering continued to provide life-essential services, infrastructure and natural resources management that sustained the health, safety and mobility of the community:

- Waste Services used renewable natural gas to power part of the City's fleet of trash trucks — offsetting 90,000 gallons of diesel fuel.
- Completed construction of the Resilient St. Vrain Project Reach 2B (South Pratt Parkway to Price Road) and Izaak Walton Reach 1 (Upstream of Price Road to Boston Avenue). Staff also began designing the Resilient St. Vrain Project at Izaak Walton Reach 2 with Army Corps of Engineers through a public partnership agreement (Boston Avenue to Sunset Street).





# SUSTAINABLE LONGMONT



City Council passed the GoEV Resolution, a commitment to electrifying vehicles in the City fleet and began the implementation of 12 Climate Action recommendations.

[VIEW THE FULL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION REPORT](#)

## Saving Energy, Water and Money

Longmont Power & Communications continued to educate and encourage participation in a new Commercial Building Benchmarking program to help businesses of 20,000-plus sq. ft. save energy.

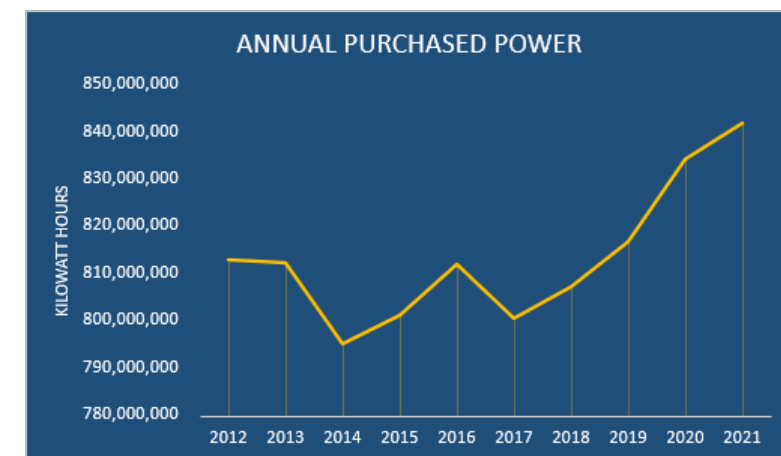
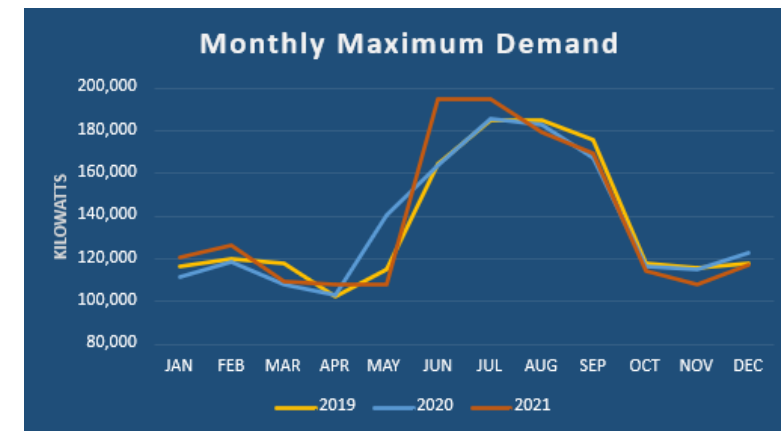
The division saved nearly 7 million kilowatt-hours of electricity through commercial and residential Efficiency Works energy efficiency programs — enough to power more than 10,000 homes for a month.

LPC earned a SolSmart “Gold” designation, reflecting the City’s continued efforts to encourage solar energy in the community.



Operations achieved 42 percent waste diversion from landfills in alignment with the 2008 Zero Waste Resolution.

The focus on efficiency included water resources with the water conservation team launching the Longmont CAREs Garden in a Box discount, selling 55 gardens at an 80 percent discount.



### INITIATIVES

Staff received a B rating on the Carbon Disclosure Project Climate Action Reporting Assessment, an outstanding achievement for a first-year submission.

City staff oversaw the closure of two remaining active oil and gas wells within city limits. Closure was in accordance with the site relinquishment agreement developed in 2018 between the City and Cub Creek Energy and Top Operating Co. The City also created alliances with city of Boulder, Boulder County and Weld County for air quality and oil and gas communications.

Staff performed COVID-19 monitoring at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, helping to track the virus and make informed decisions regarding local health policy.

Ecosystem Management secured a protected bat cave at Button Rock to preserve the bat population and habitat.



# Looking Ahead

- Longmont Power & Communications is beginning to deploy the community’s new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) for greater reliability and sustainability.
- Staff is working with ecobee on a “Smarter Summer” smart thermostat demonstration project, as well as developing a community solar project.
- LPC is also developing a “Smart Grid” roadmap to ensure reliable delivery of renewable energy into the next decade.
- Parks and Natural Resources will continue water efficiency efforts by adding two water conservation gardens in 2022 at Sandstone Ranch, 301 Hwy 119, and Rogers Grove, 220 Hover St.
- Future park designs and openings include Nino Gallo Park (south of Blue Vista subdivision and north of Quebec Avenue) and South Clover Basin Park (southwest Longmont near Renaissance Drive and Plateau Road).
- Future open space acquisitions include property for additional trail systems extending from Union Reservoir to the St. Vrain Greenway and St. Vrain State Park; and finalizing the acquisition of 130 acres of open space and associated water rights from Adam Dairy (southeast of Union Reservoir and immediately south of Newby Open Space).



## PARK ITEMS:

1. RESTROOMS/PICNIC PAVILION
2. XERIC GARDEN AREA
3. NATURE THEMED PLAYGROUND
4. OPEN / FLEXIBLE-USE LAWN
5. OUTDOOR FITNESS STATIONS
6. CONCRETE TRAIL
7. HAMMOCK / SLACK LINE POSTS
8. BRIDGE/DITCH/BOULDER PLAY
9. SOFT SURFACE TRAILS
10. BIKE SKILLS /PUMP TRACK
11. NATURAL OPEN SPACE