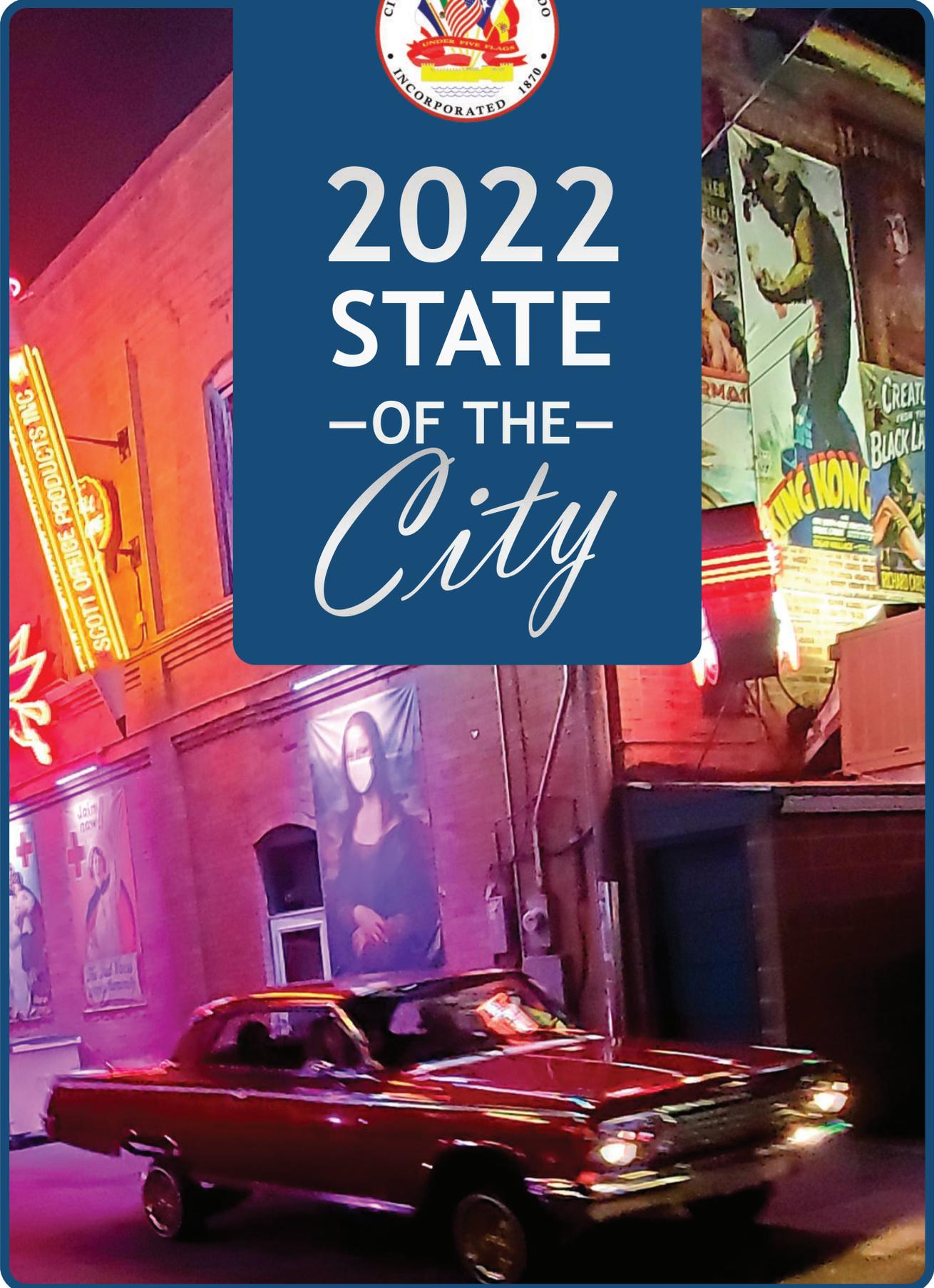




# 2022 STATE —OF THE— *City*



*Neon Alley, Historic Union Avenue District*

# Table of Contents

Mayor's Address .....	3
Pueblo, By the Numbers .....	8
Pueblo Quick Facts .....	9
American Rescue Plan Act.....	10
City Council .....	12
Finance & Sales Tax .....	14
Grant & Resource Development .....	16
Police Department .....	18
Code Enforcement.....	28
Fire Department .....	32
Pueblo Memorial Airport .....	38
City Clerk .....	40
Municipal Boards & Commissions .....	44
Housing & Citizen Services .....	52
Municipal Court.....	54
Parks & Recreation.....	58
Planning & Community Development .....	64
Public Works.....	70
Pueblo Food Project .....	80
Stormwater .....	82
Transit .....	88
Wastewater .....	90
Community Engagement .....	98

# Mayor's Address

As mayor of our great City, it is an honor to deliver the State of the City address for the third time. As I share remarks with you today, virtually, I am reminded that across the city we are a proud and strong community. This pandemic did not prevent the City of Pueblo from experiencing great successes throughout the year as well as great sadness at the continued impact on the health of friends and family that COVID-19 brought to many of our homes.

I have hope that next year we will be able to gather in person for this event and properly recognize the many in our City who contribute to our City's growth and prosperity. Let me give a shout out to our hospitals, our medical providers, our businesses, our first responders, our front-line workers, our schools and colleges, for your resiliency and leadership to shepherd us through this pandemic.

In the last 21 months, we have faced many challenges. It has been nearly two years since the first COVID-19 case in Pueblo County and we have lost 690 souls in our county to the virus since then. About a year ago, vaccines became available to anyone who wanted them and most of the deaths since then have been unnecessary.

Pueblo, we are still in the midst of this pandemic and the situation is constantly changing, as is our response. What is not changing is that the way to end this pandemic is to get vaccinated. In Pueblo, we are not doing a very good job of getting vaccinated and as a result, we have one of the highest infection rates and death rates from COVID-19 in the State of Colorado.

We are learning to live with the virus and in 2021, we did so with minimal restrictions. No businesses were shut down, few capacity limits were imposed but even the minimal requirement to wear a mask in some situations was met with protest.

The brunt of this fight against the virus has been borne by our medical professionals and hospitals. Our hospitals have essentially been shut down for the last 12 months for anything other than emergencies and COVID-19 cases. Elective procedures like joint replacements have effectively been cancelled because there is no room in the hospital. Until we control the infection rate of the virus I expect that will continue.

Far too many Puebloans are accepting of the idea that we might not be able to get our knee or shoulder replaced or get that surgery on our aching back but at least we aren't required to wear a mask indoors around strangers.

My fellow Puebloans, the state of our City with respect to crime and criminal activity is not good. Our crime rate was up dramatically in 2021 and we set a record for the number of homicides in the City for a single year. This should be concerning to us all and it is little consolation that the rest of the country is experiencing the same thing.

In some respects, this can be blamed on COVID-19. When COVID-19 hit in 2020 the Department of Corrections and the Pueblo County jail began releasing prisoners in the hopes that this would contain the COVID-19 outbreaks in the prisons and jails.

As a result, we had many more bad guys on the streets. People on parole could not be put back in prison for technical violations of their parole. The Pueblo Police Department could not arrest individuals for certain crimes because they could not be taken to jail.

# Mayor's Address

This resulted in one of the more entertaining incidents of the year when the City of Pueblo made national news. Sean Hannity reported that I had set a policy that no one could be arrested unless they stole more than \$2,000 worth of property. This was fake news. The story was based on a report the Chief of Police gave to City Council but, as they say, a lot was lost in the translation and retelling.

While we can enjoy a laugh at the expense of the media, it is no laughing matter what is happening in Pueblo with respect to crime and all of it cannot be blamed on COVID-19.

There have been legislative changes that make it more difficult to be a police officer and that has had an adverse effect on our recruitment efforts.

Part of the reason for the increased criminal activity is our failure as a society to instill certain values in our young people. It seems like every young person has a gun and that is the preferred method of settling disputes. It seems like every night there is a drive-by shooting and sometimes, they don't even wait until it gets dark.

When you look at the data, it becomes clear that there is a criminal element that has regular contact and interactions with law enforcement but for whatever reason, they are not kept in jail or prison and when they get out, they go right back to what they were doing that got them put in the joint in the first place. If we want to have an effect on crime in our community, that has to change.

We need to get back to the system of "if you do the crime, you do the time". Now, all too often, there are no consequences for bad behavior, and it is no longer a felony for a previous offender to be in possession of a gun unless the previous offense was of a specified type. Consequently, we have convicted felons running around with guns and if caught, they get a ticket.

You can imagine the frustration felt by a police officer dealing with this system and why law enforcement as a career is less and less attractive to our citizens.

While we need to make sure there are consequences for criminal behavior, we also must do more to prevent crime from happening in the first place.

2020 was a year of economic survival. In contrast, 2021 was a year of economic development and growth. One needs only to look at our sales tax numbers for 2021 to recognize that things in Pueblo have turned. Sales tax numbers are up 28% through November of 2021, the latest numbers available. The City of Pueblo issued 669 new sales tax licenses in 2021. Many of those were to internet sellers who were not paying sales tax on items sold in Pueblo. The pessimists among us will say it can't last.

I disagree. We are in the throes of an economic boom in the City of Pueblo, the likes of which we have not seen in our lifetimes. We have no less than three national homebuilders building houses in new subdivisions, EVRAZ Steel is building their new long rail mill, Vestas sold their tower manufacturing plant to CS Wind which is planning to expand so they can build towers for all of the other wind generation companies like they do all over the world.

In 2021, PEDCO continued to bring new companies and jobs to Pueblo. Ladies and gentlemen, since I became Mayor we have been and are making it easier to do business in the City of

Pueblo. Last year we went live on our electronic licensing and permitting system which will have a grand opening next month. This program will be instrumental in the Pueblo Means Business initiative and we expect that in the next 18 months, Pueblo County and Pueblo West will join the system giving us a regional competitive advantage.

Our future is not without its challenges, but it is bright. Our economic expansion will finally, at long last, exceed that of the rest of Colorado because the rest of Colorado is limited by something that Pueblo has in abundant supply. Water. The citizens of the City of Pueblo have paid for and own the best municipal water supply in the state of Colorado, perhaps in all of the southwest United States and we must use it to our strategic advantage.

Last year, Congress passed and the President signed the American Rescue Plan Act. That will result in 36.7 million dollars being sent directly to Pueblo. We received the first half in May 2021 and expect to receive the second half this May.

Upon passage of the act, I conducted five town halls in a week to gather input from citizens on projects that they believed would make a difference in our community. We have received 207 requests for funding from the community and we have set up committees of citizens to evaluate proposals and make recommendations for funding. To date, City Council has approved projects totaling \$7,120,662.98 for 28 projects that provide aid for small businesses, the homeless, the food insecure, working families and nonprofits. Other projects remain under consideration. We will continue to work on evaluating and funding these projects that will have a lasting effect in Pueblo.

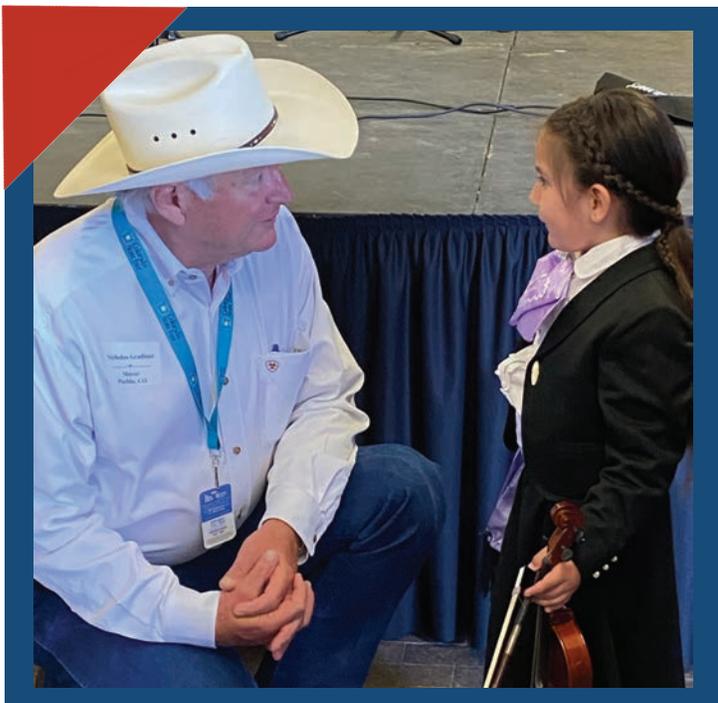
Our Municipal Airport, Transit Department, and Housing Department also received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. These funds are being used to support City services to the community.

Last year I shared with you that I would ask City Council to put a measure on the ballot that would impose a half cent tax for street repairs and transportation projects. In discussing the matter with Council, it became clear that some members would not support a tax for street repairs and a compromise was reached in the form of ballot issue 2A. That ballot issue debruces the City of Pueblo in perpetuity and allows the excess Tabor funds to be used for road repairs, which, as you know is the number one complaint of our citizens.

As I say, this was not my first choice, but it was a compromise that was approved by the voters with 72% of the votes. It is not a steady source of income for street repairs but, based on our economic projections it will produce funds in the next couple of years that will make substantial dents in our road repair projects. The 2022 budget allocates \$10 million for street repairs this year.

In November the voters elected four new City Council members and I am excited to be working with this new City Council to move our

*Mayor Gradisar speaks with a young Mariachi performer during Mayor's Day at the State Fair.*





*Mayor Gradisar gives the State of the City Address virtually in January 2021.*

## Continued: Mayor's Address

community forward. There are new ideas and new perspectives on this City Council that will make our city stronger.

The written State of the City report will be released today and will be available on the city's website. This document contains reports from all of the city departments and compares their 2021 activities with those of previous years.

As we look back at 2021, we can all see that as a City we experienced challenges that we cannot prevent. But we can also say proudly that as a City we work together, celebrating our diversity to make good things happen. It is time for us all to create a brighter more hopeful future.

I am honored to serve as the Mayor of Pueblo during these unprecedented times and am looking forward to our continued recovery and growth. While at times during the past year our challenges seemed insurmountable, we worked collaboratively, as a community to creatively develop a pathway for a bright future. And while I can't think of a better time to be a mayor, I am hopeful that our days of mask wearing and social distancing will soon come to an end and that we will once again be able to gather together without limits.

Finally, I want to thank all of the dedicated employees of the City of Pueblo who have worked hard this year to continue to deliver services to our citizens. And I want to thank and acknowledge the leadership team of the City, who met with me daily during the early days of the pandemic and regularly thereafter to ensure that the City of Pueblo could continue to deliver high-quality services to its citizens under these most unusual circumstances.

Last but not least I want to acknowledge the contributions of my partner, Jan Pullin. She has been on this journey with me from the beginning and has been there through thick and thin, through the good and the bad, and her comfort and support make it possible for me to serve our community.

Ladies and gentlemen; not only does Pueblo have a proud history, it has a bright future.

Thank you.



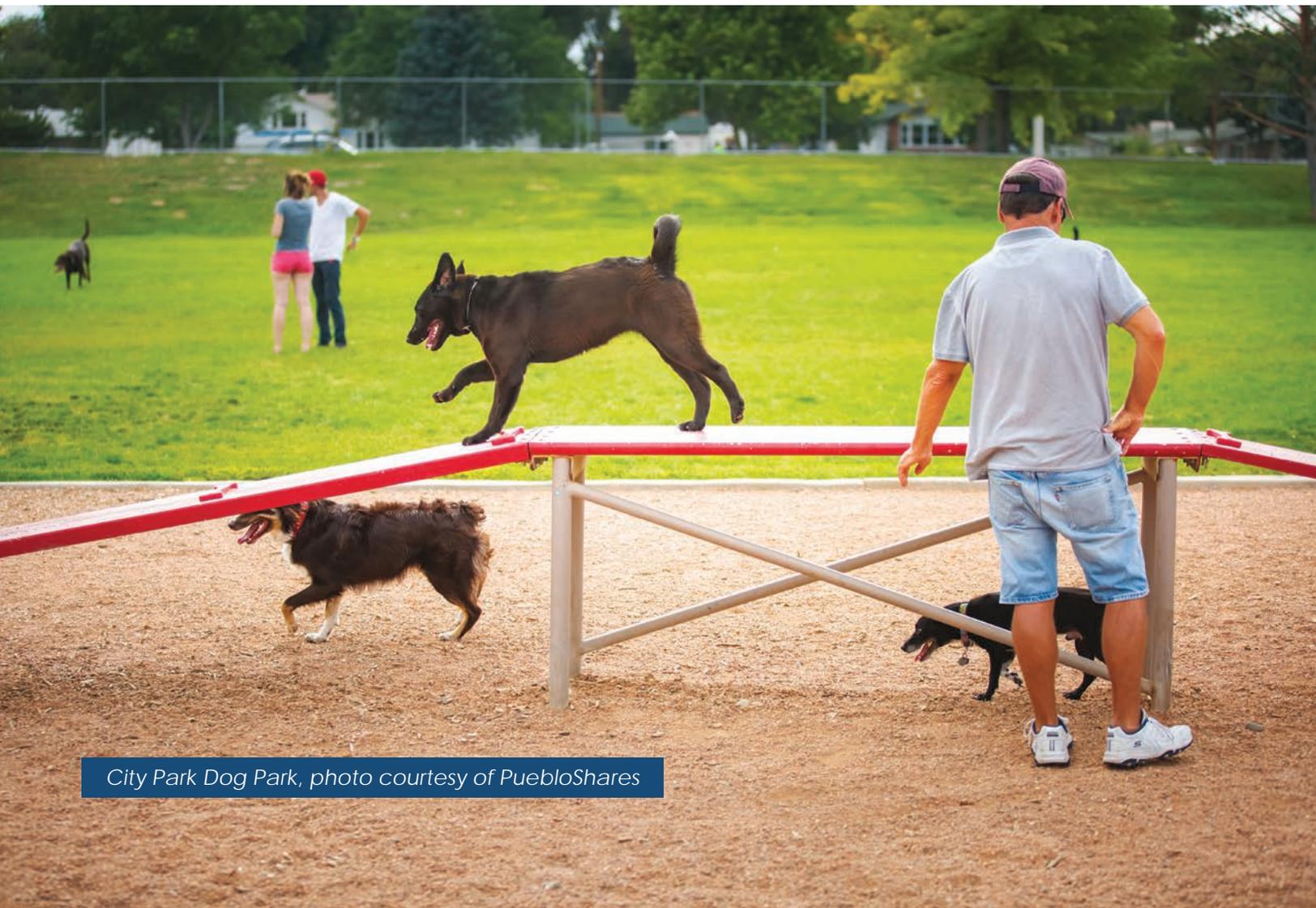
Nicholas A. Gradisar

# Pueblo, By the Numbers

The City of Pueblo is also known as "America's Home of Heroes." Pueblo hosts National Medal of Honor Day and has had as many as four living Medal of Honor recipients living in the community. The Historic Arkansas Riverwalk and Colorado State Fair are landmarks of Pueblo and its beautiful community. With a history in steel and a future in green energy, Pueblo is the backbone of Southern Colorado.

Pueblo is a community known for its proud traditions and cultural diversity. As a full-service City, Pueblo provides many essential services. The 792 dedicated City employees work diligently to provide services to residents of Pueblo in an efficient and effective manner. General services are provided through human, financial, and physical resources of the City's General Fund. Other services are provided by the City through separate enterprise funds such as Street Utility, Wastewater, and Stormwater Departments.

The following departmental information is included in this report: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), City Council, Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, Sales Tax, Finance, Pueblo Memorial Airport, Housing and Citizens Services, Grant and Resource Development, Community Engagement, City Clerk, Municipal Court, Municipal Boards & Commissions, Parks and Recreation, Planning, Public Works, Pueblo Food Project, Stormwater, and Wastewater. The many departments of the City work together for the benefit of all Puebloans under the direction of the Mayor.



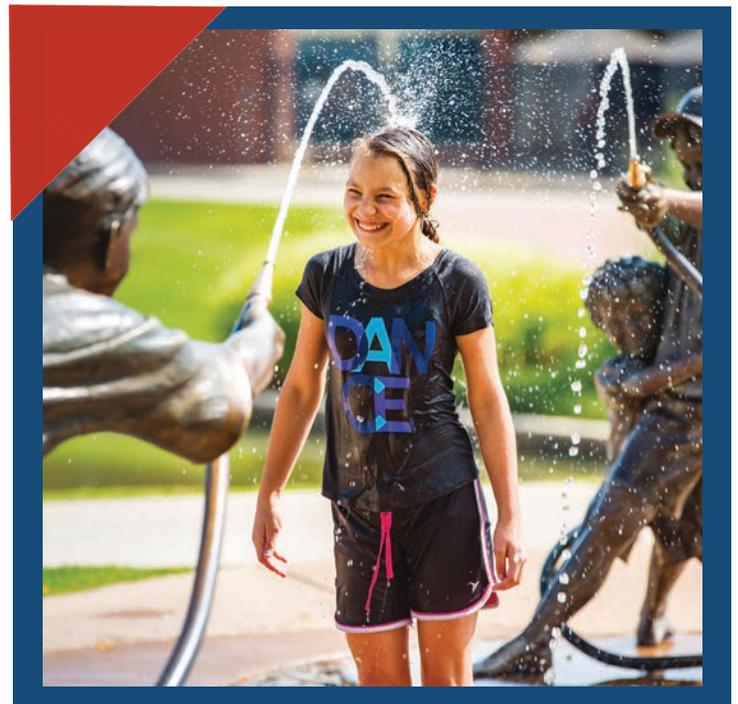
City Park Dog Park, photo courtesy of PuebloShares

# Pueblo Quick Facts\*

Population	113,633 <sup>+</sup>
Percentage of Residents who are:	
School Age Children	16%
Under age 18	22.4%
Age 65 or older	17.5%

Education:	
Percentage of adults age 25+ years with Bachelor's Degree or higher	18.9%
Percentage of adults age 25+ years who did not graduate from high school	12.7%
Economy:	
Median Household Income	\$40,450
Percentage of Population in Poverty	23.5%
Median Gross Monthly Rent	\$799
Total Housing Units	48,427**

Race & Hispanic Origin:	
Hispanic or Latino	51.1%
Non-Hispanic White, alone	43.6%
American Indian & Alaskan Native, alone	5.1%
Two or more races	4.6%
Black or African American, alone	2.7%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0.1%



\*US Census Bureau Quick Facts. Retrieved 2022 from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/pueblacitycolorado>

<sup>+</sup> World Population Review. Retrieved 2022 from <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/pueblo-co-population>

\*\*2019 ACS 1 year estimates

# American Rescue Plan Act



Pueblo was the recipient of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, authorized to address negative impacts caused by the public health emergency of COVID-19. The City of Pueblo received the first half of \$36.7 million in 2021 which must be encumbered by December 31, 2024.

*"When funding came from the American Rescue Plan Act, Mayor Gradisar spearheaded an equity-focused, community-driven process with 65 residents to help determine priorities.*

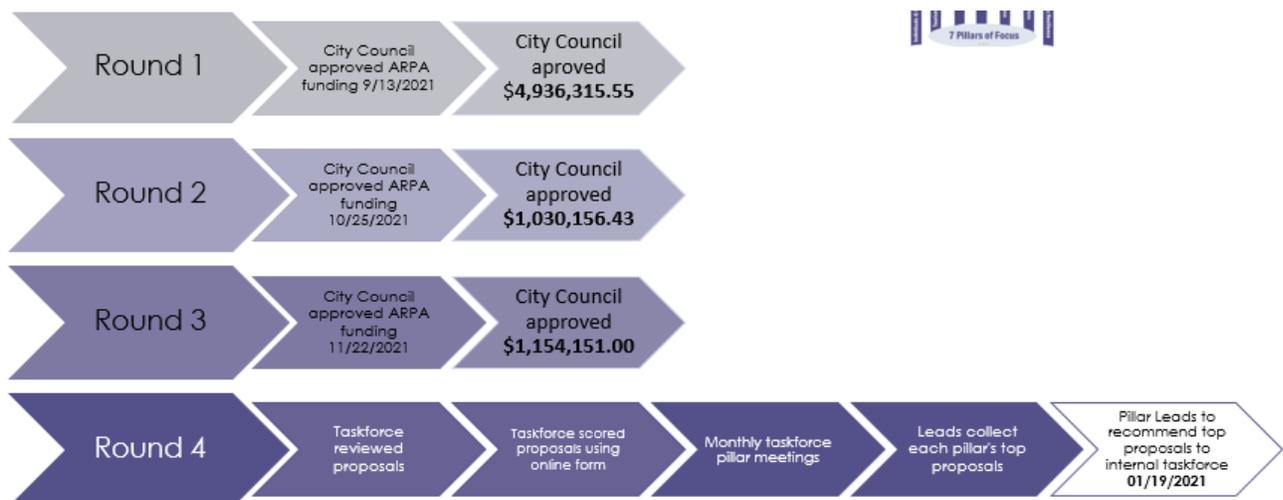
*Through a series of town halls in May 2020, one of which focused specifically on youth, the city identified seven pillars of funding important to the community: individual/household support, youth, nonprofits, small businesses, tourism/hospitality, community resilience and infrastructure. Then the city accepted specific funding requests and organized them under the different pillars. The city invited 65 resident volunteers to represent the seven funding pillars and picked "leads" to head each pillar; for example, the director of the local Boys and Girls club led the youth pillar.*

*The city developed two different equity frameworks: one framework evaluates each program proposal, the second framework measures the outcome of selected proposals and how they benefit the community. The resident volunteers used the first framework to narrow down funding proposals before passing along to Mayor Gradisar for final approval.*

*With that final list in hand, the mayor and city council moved quickly to allocate money. By September, 14 projects received funding, including the summer reading project. Housing provider POSADA received \$395,000 and the Pueblo Rescue Mission got \$77,000 to support a community cleanup program that hires people experiencing homelessness. The city distributed the second round this October, with a total of \$95.5 million going to community-prioritized projects."*

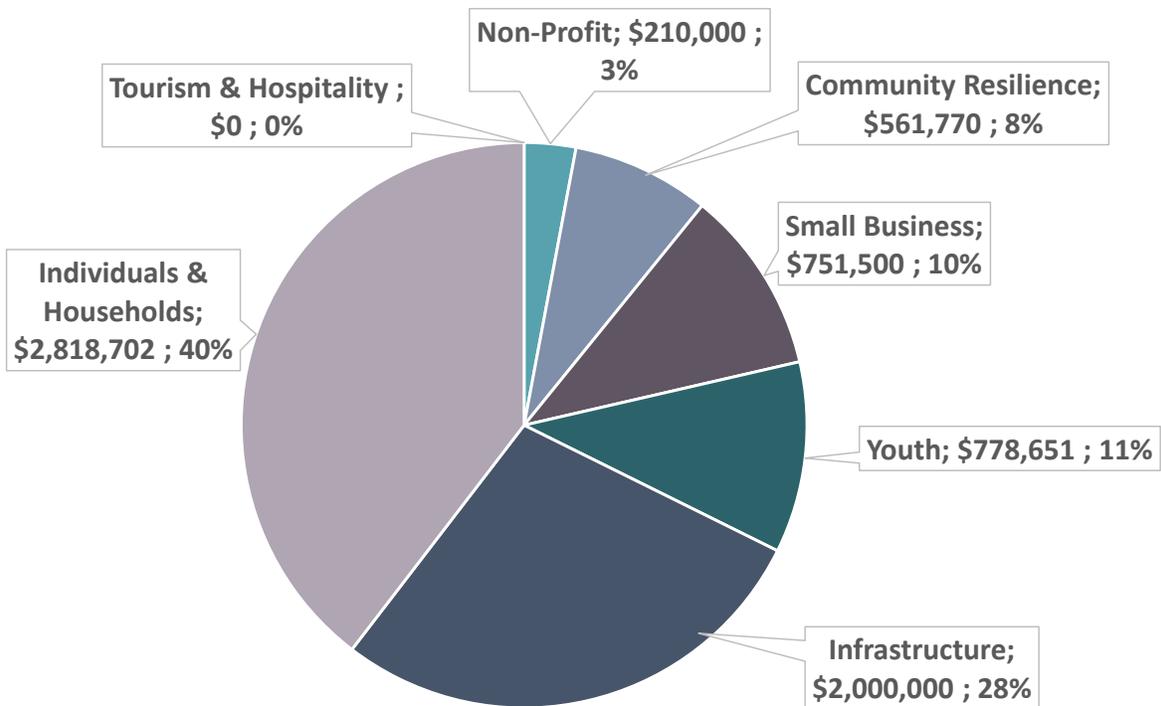
*Excerpt by Emily Nonko, "Pueblo's Libraries Are Thriving Thanks to Equity-Focused, People-Powered Budgeting," Nextcity.com, Dec 2021*

Seventy-five community volunteers reviewed over 200 funding proposals, with 28 projects having been approved for funding by City Council in 2021. The following graphs show how the approved funds for the 28 projects are distributed across the seven pillar groups.



## ARPA Projects Funded by Pillar (Tranche 1; 2021)

Total Funds Awarded: \$7,120,622.98



### Helping Our Community



The Reading Pays program awarded 7,074 Pueblo youths a \$100 prize for their reading activities. 87.5% of participants felt the Reading Pays program increased their child's interest in Reading

"My girl was so motivated to go to the library and pick books. . . she wrote 10 book reports! She was so proud of herself as she felt she had written her 'first book.' I had struggled with homeschooling her so she hated reading. This program was just perfect with getting her motivated to read, she realized that she could!" - Parent



# City Council

City Council is the legislative and policy setting body representing the citizens of the City of Pueblo in the creation and operation of municipal services, functions, and activities.

In 2021, the City mourned the loss of longstanding and respected council member, Ray Aguilera. The City welcomed councilor Zolanye McCulley-Bachicha to fill the vacant position.

## ***Mission Statement***

We, the City of Pueblo, representing a community of diverse culture, character, and history:

- Commit to upholding the City Charter, all City Ordinances, and the highest standards of conduct.
- Commit to promoting and enhancing the well-being and quality of life for Pueblo's residents, visitors, and businesses by providing excellent services in an efficient, respectful, and courteous manner.
- Commit to responsible stewardship of community resources and values and to support all segments of the community.
- Commit to a model of professionalism that ensures respectful and complete consideration of all decisions and decrees; and
- Commit to strategic growth, all facets of economic development, and sustainability.

## ***Vision Statement***

By uniting our energies and working cooperatively with the citizens of Pueblo, we will develop Pueblo, Colorado into one significant, influential, and prosperous community with opportunities for all.

## ***We Value . . .***

- The resourcefulness of each individual
- Entrepreneurship
- Departmental accountability and professionalism
- Integrity and transparency
- Responsive and respectful service to all
- Diversity

1. *Ed Brown, Zolanye McCulley-Bachicha, Lori Winner, Larry Atencio, Mark Aliff, Dennis Flores, Bob Schilling*
2. *Mark Aliff presents an award to the City's Finance Department*
3. *Ed Brown represents City Council on the State Fair Parade Float*
4. *Dennis Flores presents a proclamation to Dorothy Perry with Health Solutions*
5. *Mark Aliff represents City Council on the State Fair Parade Float*
6. *Zolanye McCulley-Bachicha represents City Council on the State Fair Parade Float*
7. *Larry Atencio addresses the crowd at the 100 Year Pueblo Flood Remembrance event*
8. *Outgoing 2021 City Council Members at End-of-Year Reception*



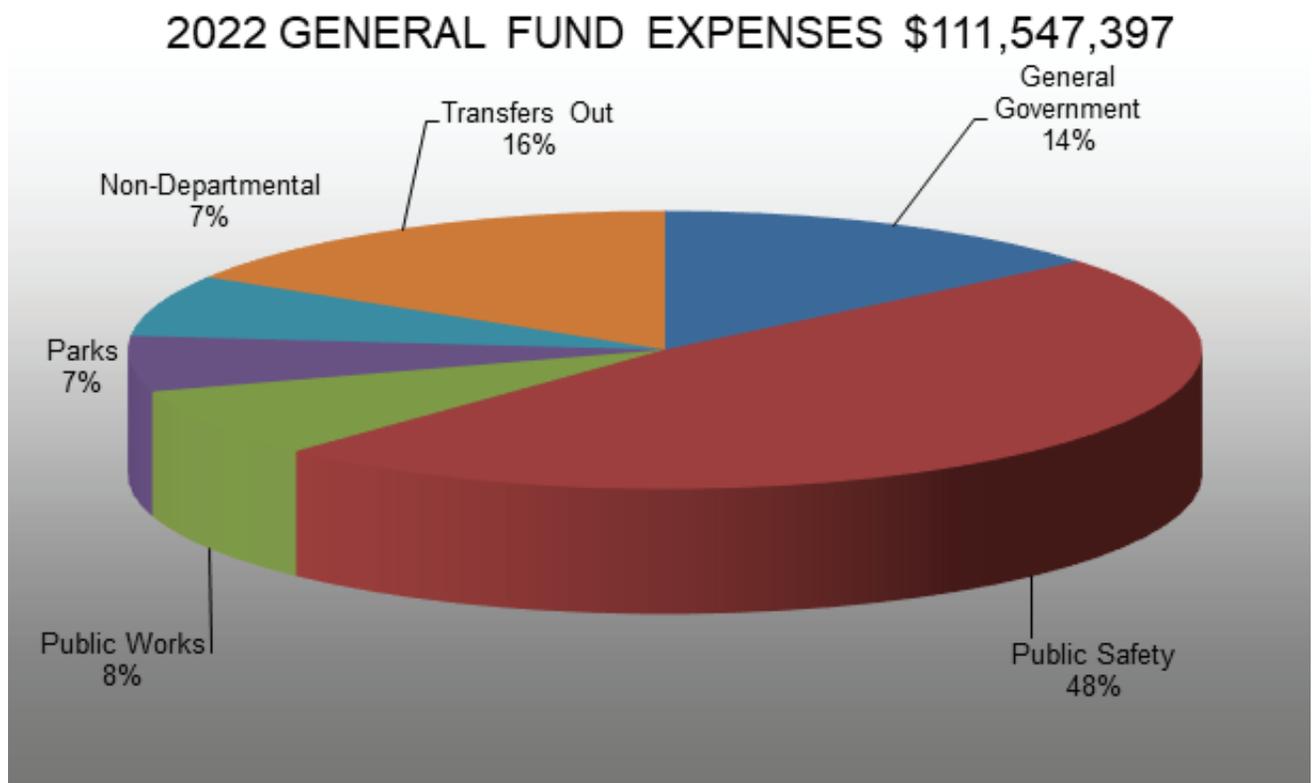
# Finance & Sales Tax

For Fiscal Year 2022, it is projected that the total revenue and other sources of funds is approximately \$111.5 million; an increase of approximately 26% relative to FY2021 adopted budget.

## SALES TAX

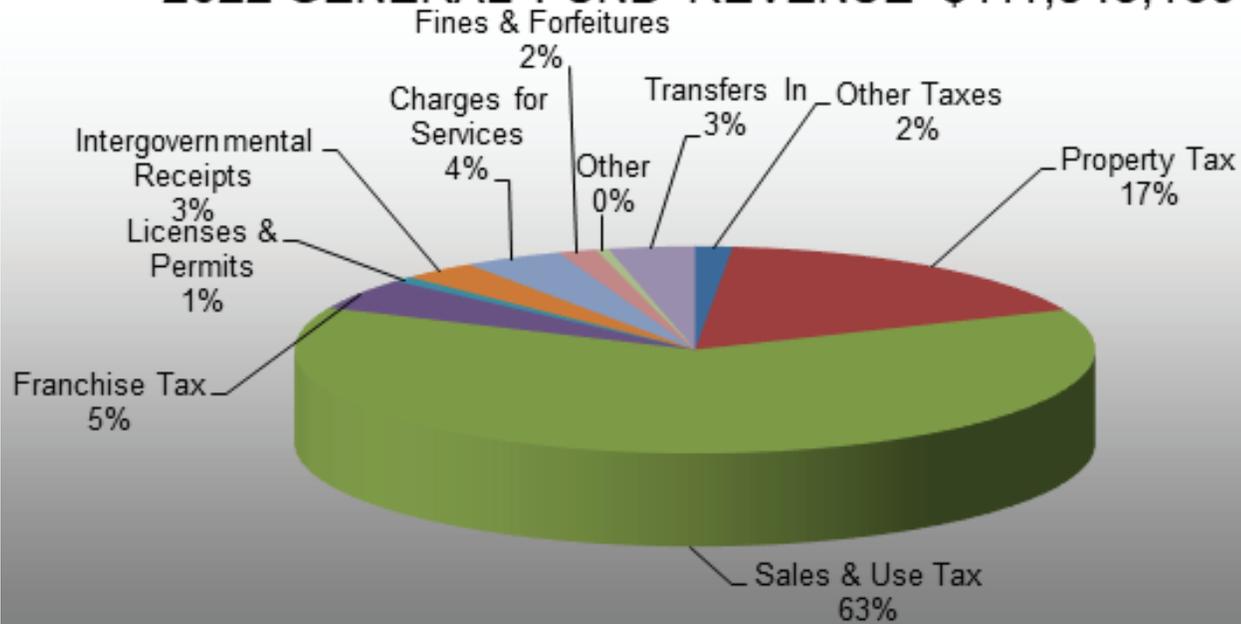
In 2021, there were over 669 new sales tax licenses issued in the City of Pueblo. That signifies increased economic activity which reflects in the increase in sales tax collections. Most of those new applications were from online retailers who remit their City sales tax they are collecting from Puebloans. Approximately 63% of the City's budget comes from sales tax. For the first eleven months of 2021, sales tax collections were up 28.1%. This is a good indicator of economic growth in Pueblo.

At the end of the 2021, the 2022 budget was submitted, and approved by City Council. The budget calls for expenditures of \$111.5 million to provide services to our citizens and the City is committed to providing those services in an efficient, effective, transparent manner.



As you can see in the graph above, Public Safety is a core service provided by city government, and accounts for 48% of the city budget.

## 2022 GENERAL FUND REVENUE \$111,543,169



### General Fund Sales and Use Tax Collection Summary 2017 – 2021\*\*

Gross Sales & Use Tax Receipts General Fund	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Unaudited
January	\$3,543,300	\$3,705,320	\$3,809,969	\$3,899,609	\$4,644,553
February	\$3,625,995	\$3,659,145	\$3,783,801	\$3,867,356	\$4,703,075
March	\$4,578,711	\$4,510,813	\$4,678,440	\$4,152,725	\$6,554,999
April	\$3,820,803	\$3,806,727	\$4,125,045	\$3,796,533	\$6,181,903
May	\$4,088,658	\$4,335,113	\$4,349,769	\$4,592,783	\$5,613,571
June	\$4,415,849	\$4,584,973	\$4,608,230	\$5,144,153	\$6,274,574
July	\$3,966,556	\$4,196,338	\$4,431,027	\$4,736,521	\$5,658,482
August	\$4,519,792	\$4,304,722	\$4,830,567	\$4,801,070	\$5,813,580
September	\$4,371,445	\$4,347,626	\$4,624,476	\$4,972,940	\$5,936,694
October	\$3,957,927	\$3,876,833	\$4,211,280	\$4,527,389	\$5,753,943
November	\$3,925,123	\$4,068,489	\$4,291,501	\$4,540,092	\$5,656,402
December	\$5,205,859	\$4,915,902	\$5,192,944	\$5,794,007	\$6,083,708**
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 50,020,018</b>	<b>\$ 50,312,001</b>	<b>\$ 52,937,049</b>	<b>\$ 54,825,178</b>	<b>\$ 68,875,484</b>

\*\*December 2021 receipts estimated.

# Grants & Resource Development

The City continues to seek Federal, State, and other grants to supplement the general fund budget. The City is fortunate that these entities see the value that Pueblo brings to Southern Colorado. The supplemental grant resources support public safety, infrastructure, and community development that optimizes services to the citizens of Pueblo.

Bloomberg Philanthropies and What Works for Cities selected Pueblo as one of 28 cities across the country to participate in *Cities Budgeting for Equity and Recovery (CBER)*. Included in the initiative were evidence-based strategies addressing priority based budgeting and leveraging American Rescue Plan dollars. These resources included but were not limited to data gathering, cleaning, analysis, infrastructure, management, and transparency, performance management, and outcomes-based budgeting.

As the following graphics indicate, the City of Pueblo was awarded over \$32 million in 2021 with a 91% success rate. The top three funded departments were Public Works, Transit, and Housing & Citizen Services.

Total grant awards of \$32,115,264

- \$19,207,656 ARPA
- \$12,907,609 all others

50 grant proposals submitted (90.9% proposal success rate)

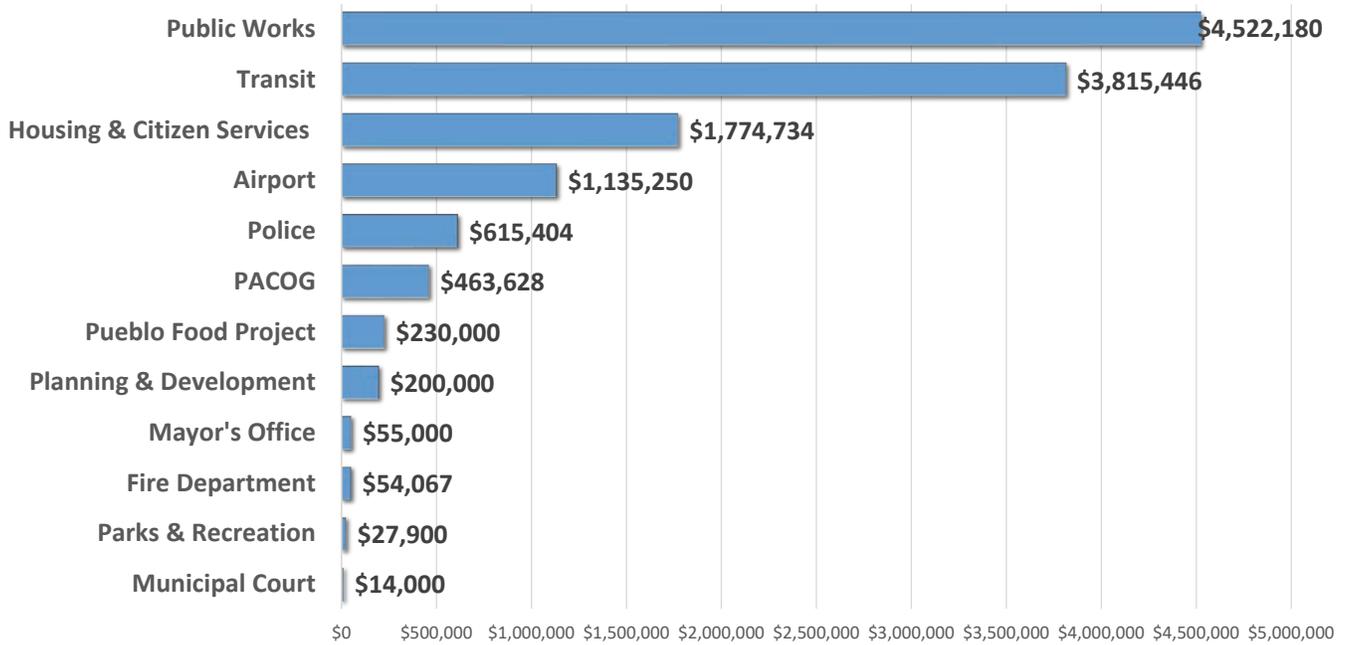
- 40 funded
- 6 still pending
- 4 unfunded

40 grant awards

- 17 Federal awards from 7 different agencies
- 10 foundation awards from 7 different foundations
- 2 local government awards from 2 different local governments
- 21 state awards from 9 different agencies

## City of Pueblo 2021 Grant Awards through October

Total Grants Awarded: \$12,907,609



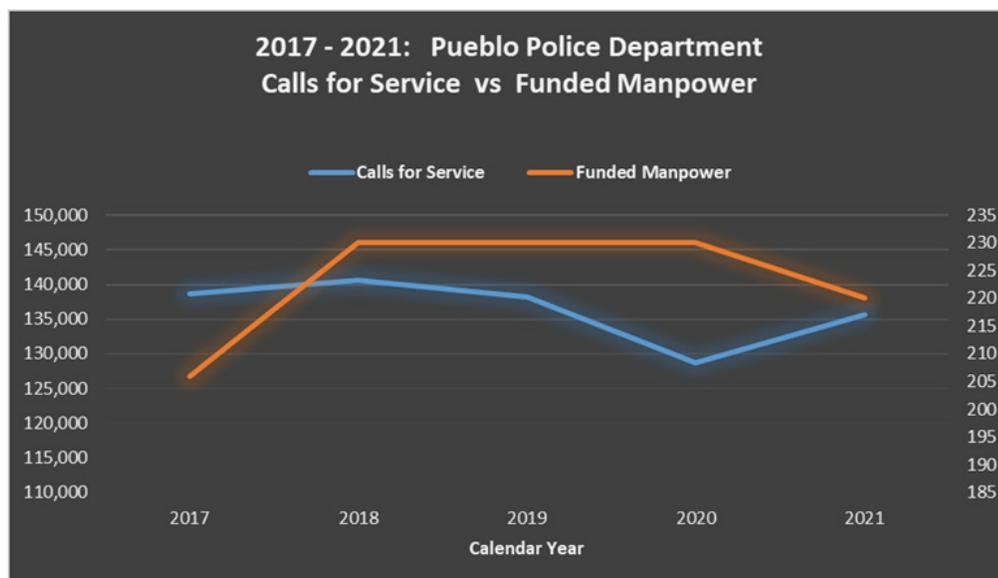
Arkansas River Bridge below Pueblo Dam



# Police Department

2021 has been a year filled with challenges and opportunities for the Pueblo Police Department. The retirement of Chief Troy Davenport and Deputy Chief Mike Bennett in May of 2021 impacted the leadership team of the Pueblo Police Department and has led to the selection of Chief Chris Noeller, two new Deputy Chiefs, and several promotions at the Sergeant and Captain ranks that will occur early in 2022.

Manpower challenges had a significant impact on the Police Department and its ability to engage in community policing efforts as well as focused patrols to address crime issues. Recruiting and retention in law enforcement is at a low point across the country and the Pueblo Police Department has found it is not immune. The ability to recruit has been affected in part by the national sentiment toward law enforcement and legislation related to officer accountability. With injuries and vacancies, staffing levels in patrol and dispatch hit critical levels. On January 1, 2021, the department had 208 sworn positions filled and 22 funded/frozen vacancies.



In December 2021, the department had 202 sworn personnel and 28 vacancies. Of the positions, 18 are funded sworn vacancies and 10 were frozen vacancies during 2021. These positions will be unfrozen in January 2022.

In addition to the funded/unfunded vacancies, the patrol division had 12-14 officers injured who could not work on the street for nearly the entire year. This further complicated the manpower situation giving a manpower decrease of 40-42 officers (approximately 19% of its authorized strength) which was deeply felt in the Department.

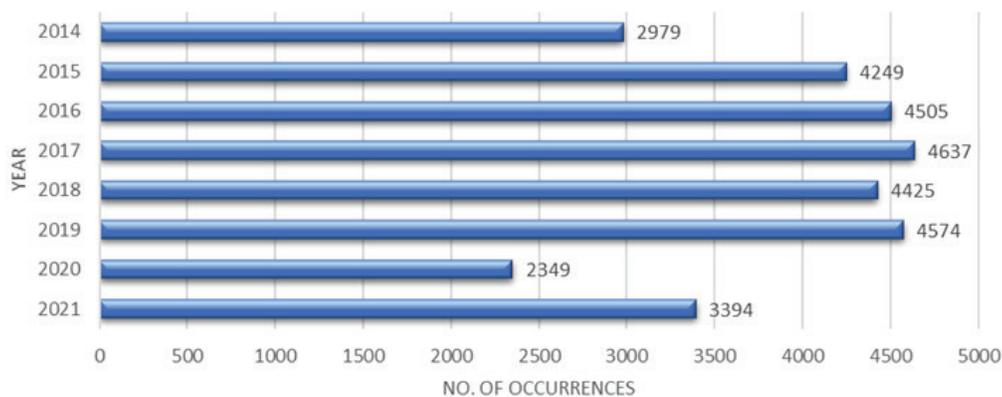
In 2017, the Public Safety Sales Tax was passed overwhelmingly by voters. In the first three years of the tax, the Police department increased funded manpower to 231 officers and actual manpower peaked in 2019 at 217 sworn officers. This increase in manpower allowed the Department to dedicate officers to community policing initiatives and drive part one crime down nearly 23% from 2017 to 2020.

Beginning with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Pueblo County Jail and the Colorado Department of Corrections released large numbers of inmates back into the community and other communities around the state. This, combined with the Colorado Department of Corrections' policy of not revoking parole for parolees who commit technical violations of their parole conditions, results in offenders out on the street that would have normally been returned to jail or prison. In some instances, parolees have been re-arrested for new violent felonies that they have committed while on parole.

In addition, State Legislative decisions related to bond reform and misdemeanor reform to name a few are related, at least in part, to the increase in crime the experienced in Pueblo and throughout the State of Colorado.

There continues to be a marked increase in the number of "possession of a weapon by a previous offender" investigations, arrests, and prosecutions. The number of arrests has risen from 34 in 2010 to 105 in 2021. These are cases in which convicted felons were in possession of firearms. Recently, the State Legislature (SB 21-271), changed the law related to this offense (and numerous other prior felony offenses) making possession of a weapon by a previous offender a felony charge only if the previous offense was a violent crime involving the use of a weapon. Therefore, those convicted of drug offenses, motor vehicle theft, and other offenses where weapons are often involved, but not necessarily used during the crime, receive only a misdemeanor charge for the possession of a weapon.

### ARREST DATA 2013-2020



# Police Department

In the past year, there was a 22% increase in part 1 crimes. Part 1 crimes are crimes required to be reported to the FBI under the Uniform Crime Reporting index. These crimes are broken down into violent and property crimes as follows:

Pueblo Police Department				
Part I Crimes				
Nature	2019	2020	2021	% Δ '20-'21
Homicide	12	14	29	107%
Sexual Assault	185	190	194	2%
Robbery	187	198	250	26%
Aggravated Assault	564	672	758	13%
Burglary	977	870	1239	42%
Theft/Larceny	3647	3362	3721	11%
Auto Theft	834	946	1406	49%
Arson	66	58	89	53%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6472</b>	<b>6310</b>	<b>7686</b>	<b>22%</b>

*This data set includes completed, attempted, and unfounded incidents. All files utilized in the creation of this report are dynamic. Dynamic files allow additions, deletions and/or modification at any time, resulting in more complete and accurate records in the databases. Due to continuous data entry after reports are filed and compiled, numbers may vary in previous or subsequent reports.*



2021 also saw an 107% increase in the homicide rate. The City had 31 homicide victims in 29 separate cases and have made arrests in 15 of these cases. The remaining cases are still being actively worked and suspects developed. The following demographics explain the backgrounds



*Neighborhood Safety Night*

of the suspects involved in these cases:

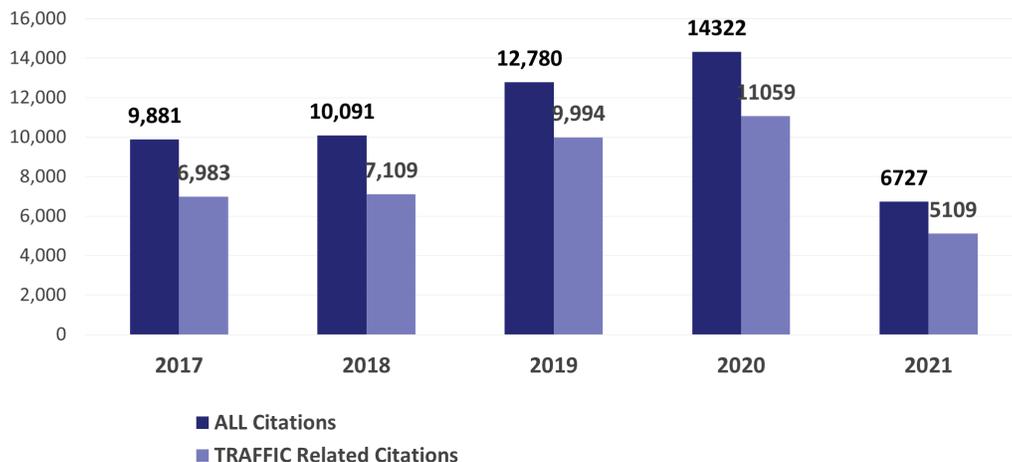
- 13 are known gang members.
- 2 are previously deported immigrants who re-entered the country illegally.
- 5 have no prior arrest history.
- 9 have 5 or more prior felony arrests.
- 2 have 10 or more prior felony arrests.
- 1 has over 15 prior felony arrests.
- 3 were on some sort of release i.e., bond, parole, probation, early release

YEAR-END RESPONSE TIME (Call Received to 1st Arrive)				
	2019 (Year End)	2020 (Year End)	2021 (Year End)	Change between 2020 and 2021 (Year End)
Priority	2019	2020	2021	Response Time Change
<b>1</b>	000:10:18	000:10:20	000:10:46	<b>+ 26 Sec</b>
<b>2</b>	000:15:06	000:16:11	000:18:03	<b>+ 1 Min 52 Sec</b>
<b>3</b>	000:31:30	000:28:25	000:34:14	<b>+ 5 Min 14 Sec</b>
<b>4</b>	000:45:15	000:40:53	000:53:16	<b>+ 12 Min 23 Sec</b>
<b>5</b>	000:54:39	000:43:51	000:59:25	<b>+ 15 Min 34 Sec</b>
<b>6</b>	000:58:53	000:47:55	001:03:00	<b>+ 15 Min 5 Sec</b>

There are several measures police departments use to measure performance, one of these measures is response times to calls for service. This measure is often a significant factor from a customer service standpoint. While response time to calls for service did increase in 2021, these increases were minimal given the manpower and other issues faced this past year.

Traffic safety is another area of significant concern and responsibility for the Police Department and unfortunately this is an area where the department saw a significant decrease in productivity. In years past, patrol officers were detailed to help address traffic issues with the Department's Traffic Unit and volunteered to work extra overtime, which is funded through a National Highway Traffic Safety

### Pueblo Police Department Citations 2017-2021 Comparison





*Local agencies, including Pueblo Police and Pueblo Fire, joined together for the 2021 Heroes and Helpers. They took local kids shopping for Christmas, met Santa and enjoyed snacks. Thanks to local dispatchers, they also had gifts wrapped for their families.*

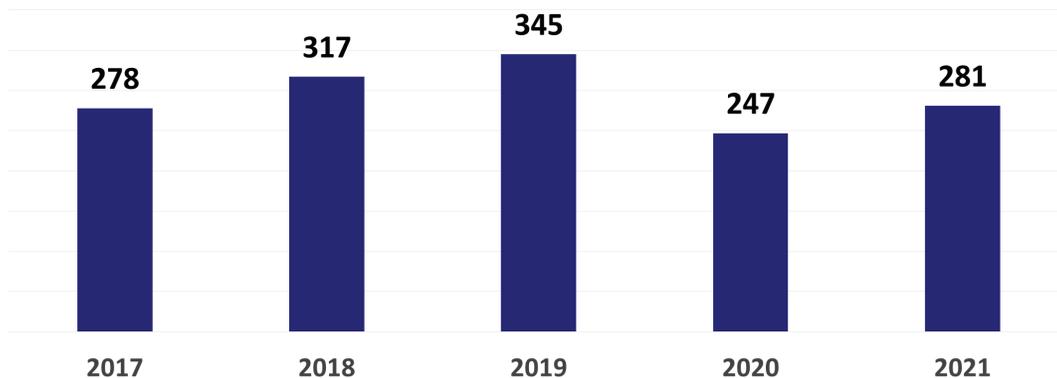
# Police Department

Administration (NHTSA) grant. With the impact to manpower, the Department has not been able to assign patrol officers to work portions of their shift to addressing traffic issues. In addition, the amount of overtime officers are forced to work in the patrol division to cover manpower there has decreased their ability and willingness to work additional grant overtime to address traffic issues.

While traffic accidents in 2021 (3,566) were slightly higher than 2020 (3,147) and lower than pre-COVID-19 numbers in 2019 (3,814), 2021 saw the largest number of fatal traffic accidents (19) in the city since 2018.

DUI arrests increased over 2020 numbers.

## Pueblo Police Department Driving Under Intoxication (DUI) 2017-2021 Comparison



Traditional law enforcement statistics, strategies, and techniques are only part of the picture in a modern police agency. A relationship with the community it serves and embracing community-oriented policing are crucial to success for any city. Frequently, community relations are as important a measure of success for a department as is the crime-response data. Law enforcement officers are ineffective without the community's cooperation, support, and consequently their eyes and ears.

COVID-19 and the manpower situation made community policing and community projects very difficult. However, the Pueblo Police Department remained committed and engaged in several efforts. The department conducted bicycle and foot patrols to the downtown area including the Historic



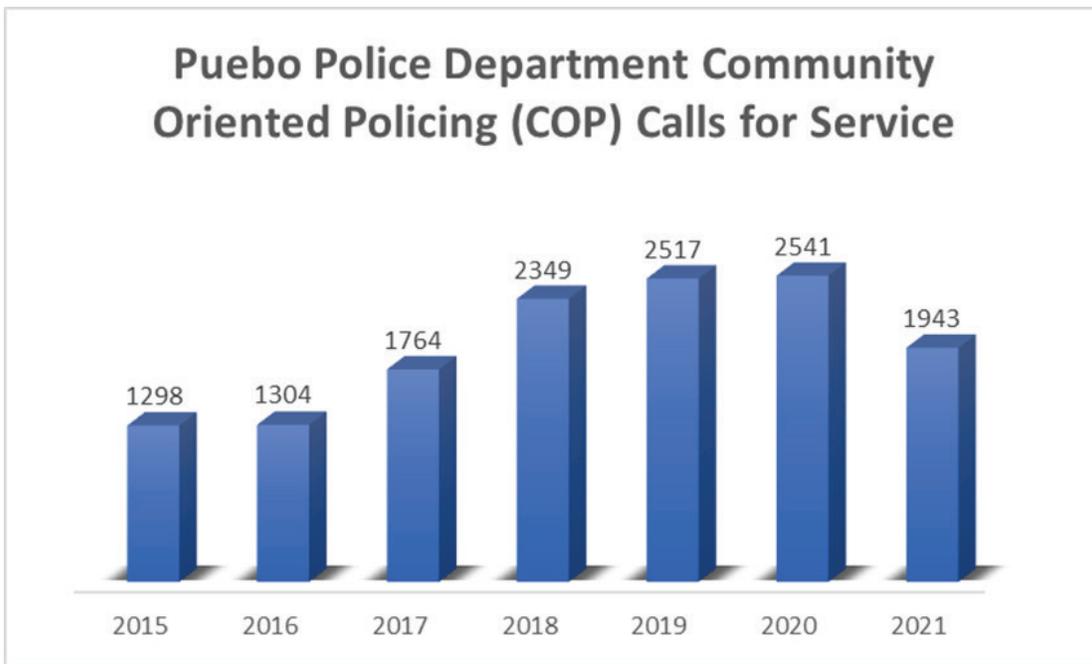
*Thanksgiving Baskets Giveaway*



*Chris Noeller gets sworn in as Chief of Police.*

Arkansas Riverwalk Project, as well as the Highway 50 West/ North Elizabeth corridor, State Fair Grounds, Chili Fest, and other events and neighborhoods. The department continued to engage in several homeless outreach projects in partnership with other stakeholders like the Pueblo Department of Health and Environment, POSADA, and others. These projects delivered vaccines, personal hygiene supplies, wellness checks, and resources and outreach to those who wanted to get into housing or leave Pueblo for their homes of origin.

Investigative units also conducted operations to address shoplifting and theft, motor vehicle theft, arrest wanted fugitives and violent offenders, tackle gang violence, address narcotics trafficking, and other serious crimes.



Police officers also engaged in several projects to establish and maintain positive relationships with the youth of Pueblo, many of these events occurred on the officers' own time. The department continues to support an active "Police Explorer Post" which is now the largest Explorer Post in the State of Colorado. Officers also continued to engage in Operation Blue Santa, where they work with Toys for Tots to deliver over 7,000 toys to every public elementary school student in School District 60. The department also coordinated the "Heroes and Helpers" program where this year, 60 disadvantaged children from the Pueblo Boys and Girls Club were paired up with area law enforcement officials from the Pueblo Police Department, Pueblo County Sheriff's Office, Pueblo County District Attorney's Office, Colorado Department of Corrections Officers from Corrections, Parole, and Probation, and the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife.

In 2020, due to COVID-19, the department was unfortunately not able to hold the annual "Ice Cup" which raises funds for the "Heroes and Helpers". Thankfully, this year the City was able to hold the fifth "Ice Cup" event and raise the needed funds for "Heroes and Helpers".

# Police Department

There is no doubt the events of 2021 have created challenges for the department. However, the men and women of the Pueblo Police Department have accepted these challenges and are turning them into opportunities. One of the biggest opportunities has been the response to improving recruiting and retention.

Beginning late summer of 2021, the Police Department began a process to change how it recruits officers. The City has partnered with several community organizations, to include the NAACP, to improve how it recruits local talent. Another tactic was to advertising the hiring process on TV, social media, and in print, something new for the Police Department. The Department is also increasing its recruitment in the military community and recruiting opportunities such as job fairs, etc.

It generally takes 42 weeks to train a new police officer, which means for almost a full year, the officer, while a full time employee does not bring additional manpower benefits to the organization. With this in mind, the Department sought and was granted approval to hire experienced officers and bring them in at a higher pay scale, requiring less training, and allowing to more quickly fill its ranks.

The Police Department has also begun conducting study sessions for applicants and beginning

## *Explorer Cadet Graduation*



in 2022, it will include conversations about how to prepare and dress for interviews to these study sessions.

Typically, the Department has only been able to conduct one academy class one year, and two academy classes the next year. This is due to the timing of hiring and the length of the academy classes, 26 weeks. However, beginning in January of 2022, the Department will be accelerating this process and operating multiple academies at the same time and allow the Department to put a higher number of officers on the streets each year.

Pueblo Police Department is looking forward to identifying other opportunities to address the crime and quality of life issues the community is currently facing. Working with State Representatives and other professional groups to bring forward legislation that balances criminal justice reform and safety is one area the Department is committed to, but that is only one piece of the puzzle.

To better improve communication with the public and improve customer service; in early 2021, the Department partnered with Spidr Tech, a company that specializes in customer service platforms for law enforcement. This program provides those who call and make reports with updates to their cases, timelines for response, and surveys to see how we the Department is doing and how to improve service.

As manpower increases in 2022, resources will be adjusted to increase the Department's community-oriented policing focus and increase its ability to respond to various issues and crime trends as they continue to evolve.

## Helping Our Community



This Thanksgiving season, a member of the community had her car stolen. In that car was her entire Thanksgiving dinner she was going to prepare for her family. Although the vehicle was recovered, her Thanksgiving meal was gone.

Pueblo Police officers and Northside Walmart pulled together to help this family have a great Thanksgiving! Walmart donated the entire Thanksgiving meal and officers provided Christmas gifts for her children.

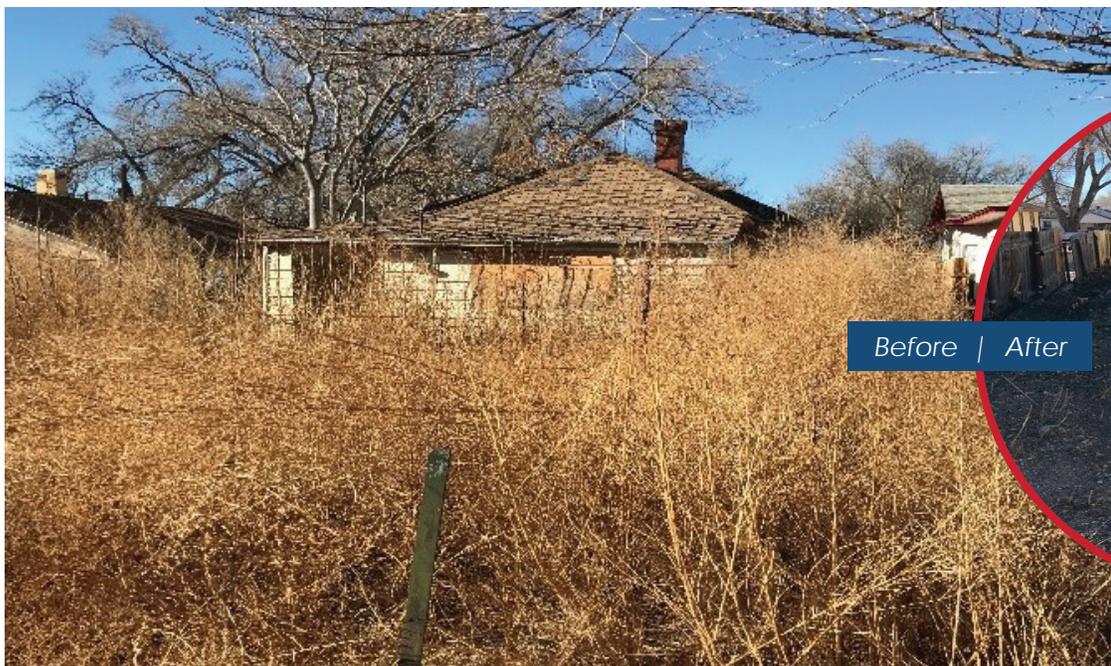


# Code Enforcement

## A Division of Pueblo Police Department

The City of Pueblo Code Enforcement Unit is housed within the Police Department. They deal with the quality of life issues that are important for all citizens, and for a healthy and attractive community. This year, in addition to removing over 430 tons of litter from properties, the unit participated in illegal dump site cleanups and cleanup along the Fountain Creek. They partnered with other City agencies and those cleanups resulted in approximately 20 forty yard roll off dumpsters being filled with litter and removed.

As always, code enforcement does what it can to partner with the community to beautify Pueblo and improve the quality of life for all citizens.



Before | After



Before | After



Code Enforcement Year in Review

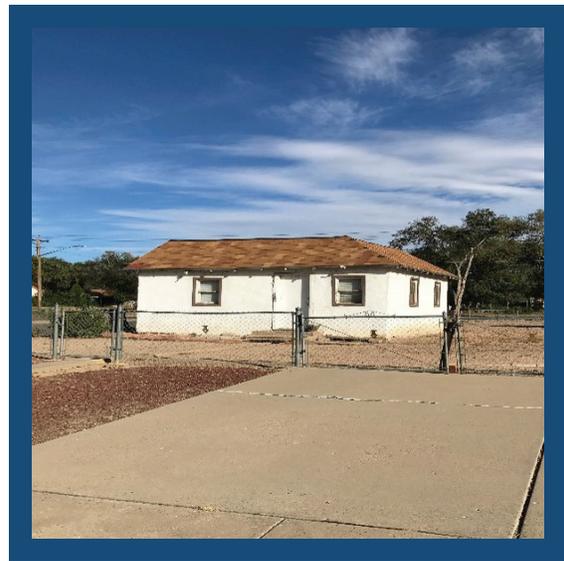
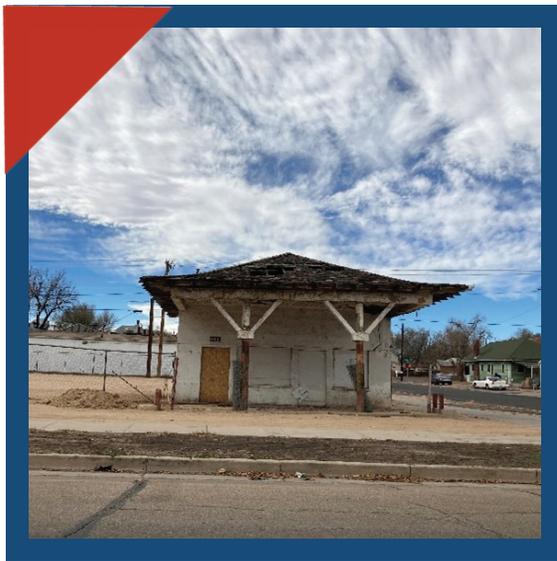
<b>Complaint/Violations Handled</b>						
<b>Type</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Litter	1715	2270	2086	2564	2499	2632
Weeds	1543	2136	1660	2994	2274	3117
Litter removal & storage			231	1441	1587	1640
Junk Vehicles	410	551	561	776	809	764
Zoning	311	443	434	410	474	506
International Property Maint.	158	173	220	286	234	293
Marijuana	89	95	59	54	22	5
Graffiti	5	2	5	26	8	21
Board up	109	172	200	210	207	170
Other	147	315	303	550	671	592
Covid related					2351	194
<b>Total</b>	<b>4487</b>	<b>6157</b>	<b>5759</b>	<b>9311</b>	<b>11136</b>	<b>9740</b>
<b>Inspections</b>	<b>6312</b>	<b>8228</b>	<b>9098</b>	<b>11854</b>	<b>12289</b>	<b>10810</b>
<b>Case Status</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Notice of Violation Issued	1748	2217	2077	3001	2843	2953
Summons Violations Issued	978	746	2129	2467	1160	1095
Closed	2348	2133	2126	2846	3219	2850
Unfounded	230	449	156	213	330	368
Other or In Progress	30	592	174	247	1015	511
<b>Abatements Performed</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Litter	238	194	220	220	249	207
Weeds	257	184	196	196	258	223
Board up	0	24	94	110	75	44
Graffiti						<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>476</b>
<b>Solid Waste</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Tons to landfill	439.95	638.74	827.03	698.5	507.58	491.59
Tires	1196	1524	1826		1353	2499

# Code Enforcement

## A Division of Pueblo Police Department

In 2021 Code Enforcement was tasked with handling the Vacant Property registry adopted by City Council. The following chart shows data from this initiative.

		Reason
# Letters	2599	Per utility records/post office records etc.
# Removed	1408	Occupied
# To verify	919	No contact made after letters
# Active renovation	136	Under construction intended to be rented or sold in 2022
# Sold	61	Sold but County Assessor Records not up to date/unable to send new notice
# Paid	56	Registered
# Appealed	19	
# Appeal granted	14	

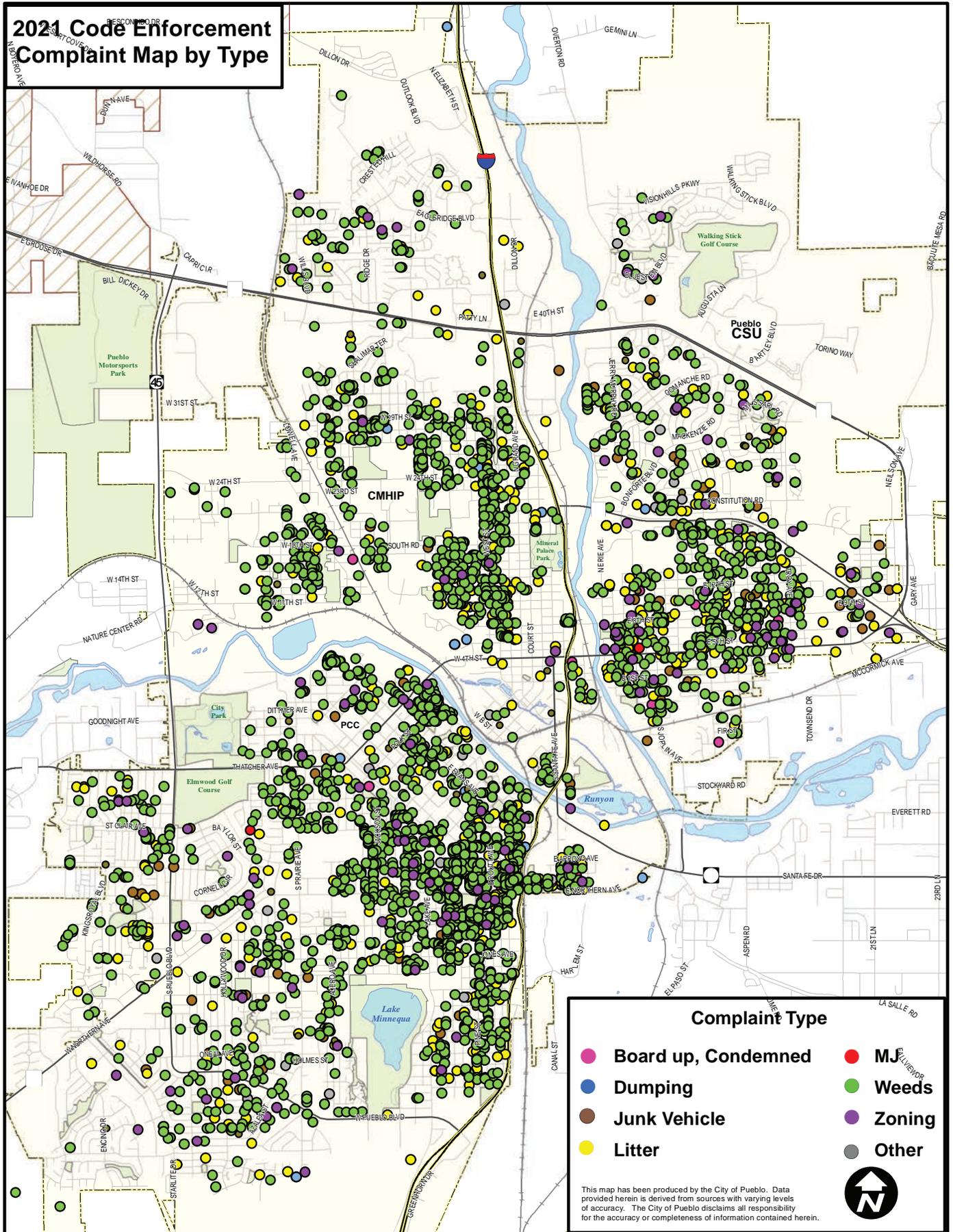


### Helping Our Community



City of Pueblo Code Enforcement is helping the community grow, stabilize and be an attractive place to live and visit. Code Enforcement helps educate citizens about the need to cut weeds, cleanup trash and dispose of it properly. They have participated in several illegal dump site cleanups as well as cleanup along the Fountain Creek and other open lands to ensure low fire danger, clean water along rivers and creeks, and have attractive places for people to recreate. The Code Enforcement team is there to help when citizens need it in their neighborhoods. The environment that citizens live, work, and play in is important and the division strives to keep Pueblo clean and safe for all.

Code Enforcement Complaints by Type and Location



# Fire Department

The Fire Department continues to be an all-hazards response to the community.

In 2021, the department continued to make fluid changes to both responses and assignments due to the ongoing pandemic and community needs. The department provided assistance daily as vaccinations initially rolled out into the community December 2020 through March 2021. Crews from the department assisted with giving vaccinations and post-vaccination observation.



The department continues to work closely with the County and other partners at the local and state level in all areas of Emergency Response, Planning and Management. The Department continues to be a key player in the Chemical Stockpile Preparedness Program. The department continues to support this program both locally and nationally through participation in exercise planning and evaluation. As this program sunsets new avenues for exercise planning and execution will need to be explored.

The department went through an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) rating this year. The City is proud to maintain its status at a 2/2x rating. To maintain or improve this rating, fire stations, apparatus and personnel will be needed in the future.

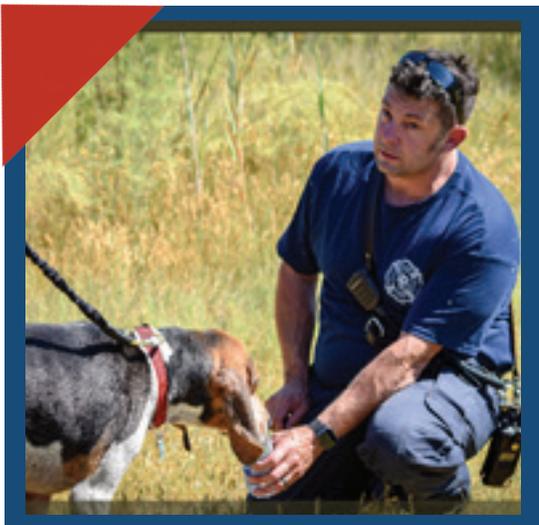
The Community Risk Reduction Unit or Directing Others to Service (DOTS) completed a one-year study of 72-hour opioid responses. Through funding with the Pueblo Department of Public Health and the Environment, a second employee was funded for one year to the community risk reduction division to allow 72-hour response with a peer support person to all overdoses. This program will continue through 2022.

One Focused Response Unit position was reclassified as an Administrative Captain. This third Administration Captain will focus on public education, community collaboration and safety/call mitigation. As part of efficient use of certification levels, two positions on the focused response units were reclassified as firefighter positions; this unit is a basic life support unit (BLS) and did not require personnel trained in Advanced Life Support (ALS).

## Several projects were completed in 2021.

Two stations bathrooms were remodeled (Station 5 and Station 7) upgrading from one bathroom to two in each station. One bathroom in each station is now ADA compliant.

The training tower burn panels were replaced; this will allow the department to conduct live burn training again at the facility for the benefit of the department. This facility is also used by other agencies such as the Pueblo Police Department and smaller fire departments throughout the County.



*Pueblo Fire rescued "Buddy" the dog who had been stuck in the tall reeds and mud around Lake MInnequa overnight. Buddy was happily reunited with his family.*



Pueblo Fire continues its partnership with the American Red Cross by installing smoke detectors in the community's homes. In 2021, over 50 smoke detectors were installed in residences within the City.

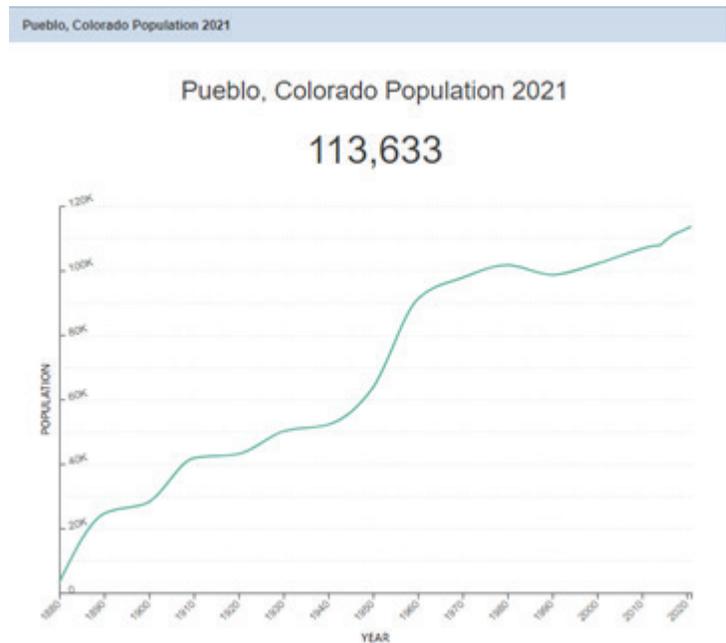
Through the federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) grant, the department purchased, installed, and implemented use of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus washers at two stations. These machines allow for the efficient and complete washing and decontamination of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and other items such as helmets and boots. This is part of firefighter health and safety cancer reduction actions being taken by the department.

The department implemented a local Candidate Physical Agility test. This will provide more individuals the opportunity to test for the department without the hardship of cost (\$150) or travel to obtain the certification.

By the end of 2021, the department will have nine new thermal imaging cameras for apparatus. These thermal imaging cameras assist in firefighting operations enabling the firefighter to find areas of heat concentration and aid in the location of victims. This was made possible with a Micro-Grant from AFG 2021.

*Year by Year Comparison: Call volume continues to increase.*

Year	Total Calls	Percentage Increase
2012	16691	
2013	18167	8.12%
2014	19811	8.30%
2015	21018	5.74%
2016	22537	6.74%
2017	22846	1.35%
2018	23547	2.98%
2019	23631	0.36%
2020	23713	0.35%
2021	25526	7.10%



Population increases may be contributing to increased call volume:

The current population of Pueblo, Colorado is **113,633** based on projections of the latest US Census estimates. The US Census estimates the 2018 population at 111,725. The last official US Census in 2010 recorded the population at 106,595; a **7 % increase** from 2010 to 2020 census.

# Fire Department

Homelessness from 2020 – 2021 saw at least a **4% increase** (from 13% in 2020 to 17% in 2021). This is also a contributor to multiple call category increases for the Fire Department. The Fire Department along with multiple community partners participates in homeless outreach along the river bottom 1-2 times/year to connect individuals to resources in the community. These outreach visits are also an excellent time to provide much needed vaccines such as Hepatitis, Tetanus as well as COVID-19.

## Total Calls through the 31st of October 2021 and Call Types:

Type	Count of Incident Number
ARFF	37
EMS (Airport Rescue Fire Fighting)	12356
EMS High Risk	706
EMS Moderate Risk	1558
HazMat Level I	217
HazMat Level II	1
Low Risk Fires	2666
Other	4137
Structure Fire	150
Tech Rescue High	2
Tech Rescue Low	8
Tech Rescue Mod	27
Wildland Fires	75
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>21940</b>

## Changes noted 2019-2021:

Type	2019	2020	2021	Totals	from 2019	
					% incr 20	% incr 21
Cardiac Arrhythmia	24	31	41	96	1.29	1.71
Code / Cardiac Arrest	64	112	162	338	1.75	2.53
Death	74	142	143	359	1.92	1.93
Difficulty Breathing	205	323	289	817	1.58	1.41
Drug Overdose Accidental	68	136	119	323	2.00	1.75
Drug Overdose Intentional	58	38	36	132	0.66	0.62
Gunshot	9	13	17	39	1.44	1.89
Unspecified Pain	9	17	23	49	1.89	2.56
PANDEMIC EPIDEMIC OUTBREAK		240	676	916		

(dcrs)

Flooding near the  
Whitlock Treatment  
Plant (left)

Brush Fire  
response on I-25 at  
MM 103  
(right)



### **Directing Other to Services (DOTS:)**

DOTS began as a response from the Pueblo Fire Department to the increasing number of non-emergency calls to emergency services. These calls impact the availability of first responders for true emergency purposes and put an immense strain on resources that are already stretched thin across the community while attributing to the rising cost of care.

A person with more than 10 EMS calls in a 12-month time frame is eligible for referral into the program. Referrals are accepted from the Fire Department, American Medical Response and the two local hospitals through the Emergency Department. Through a collaborative approach, each participant works with a navigator and outreach personnel to complete an assessment of the living area and medical history. Barriers are identified on an individual basis and through numerous community partners, resources are secured to address the barriers. Oftentimes, it's something as simple as removing rugs that create fall hazards around the house or installing a bar in the bathtub to ensure safety when bathing. Personnel are able to interact with participants in their home environment, which aids in identifying and addressing issues that arise. It also helps participants to feel more comfortable and that leads to a more open and honest conversation.

A program that started as a wrap-around model with part time volunteers and now is staffed full time is instituted through the use of the outreach personnel that volunteer their time off to participate in the DOTS program. One-on-one conversations are pivotal in ensuring patient goals are clearly identified and barriers to achieving those goals are addressed.

The entire process is geared toward identifying the interventions that make the participant's life a little easier and ultimately reduce the number of non-emergency calls placed to first responders.

*In 2021, Mayor Gradisar appointed Fire Chief Barb Huber as the Deputy Mayor of Pueblo. This appointment makes Chief Huber the first woman Deputy Mayor in Pueblo History. The Deputy Mayor position was previously held by Police Chief Davenport who retired in April 2021.*

*"Chief Huber is a proven leader," says Mayor Gradisar. "She has done a terrific job as Fire Chief and I value the energy, sensitivity, and strategic thinking she's shown in leading the Fire Department. Those skills will translate well to the position of Deputy Mayor."*





## *The Albany Fire*

### **Helping Our Community**



DOTS has an 83-year-old woman who has been with the DOTS program since 2019. This client has received assistance from DOTS after needing help dealing with grief and several other issues after the passing of her husband. DOTS has help this client navigate signing up with Medicaid, helped to get cleaning and food services in the home, and helped her obtain new hearing aids since she was having to use her deceased husband's hearing aids in order to hear. DOTS recently helped her obtain a new furnace be installed for free through the Low Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) and the Crisis Intervention Program. Her furnace was not working, old and passed expiration. She had no heat for the home. The furnace was installed, and she was grateful for the assistance. This client considers DOTS more than just friends.

# Continued: Fire

## Response times:

Accreditation is a continuous improvement process. The Fire Department measures in the 90th percentile of performance measurement. The 90th percentile performance measure indicates performance at the level that 90 percent of the calls are handled at a better level: a higher bar than averages for improved customer service. The goal in 2022 is dispatch time reduction and turn out time reduction.

The Pueblo Fire Department will continue to focus efforts on improved customer service, professionalism, and response. 2022 will be a year focused on the re-accreditation process for 2023, design work on new fire stations, and call mitigation through public education and outreach. The members of the Pueblo Fire Department continue to be dedicated to the continuous improvement of themselves, the department, and the City of Pueblo.

### Time Metric: Emergent Calls

	Urban 1st on Scene 90th	Rural 1st on Scene 90th	Percentage	Average
<b>Alarm Handling</b>				
<b>EMS</b>	0:02:52	0:02:40	67.67%	0:01:36
<b>Non-EMS</b>	0:02:25	0:02:18	51.19%	0:01:12
<b>Turnout Time</b>				
<b>EMS</b>	0:02:11	0:02:17	64.22%	0:01:18
<b>Non-EMS</b>	0:02:22	0:02:09	52.21%	0:02:17
<b>Travel Time</b>	0:06:21	0:10:04	52.95%	0:03:50
<b>Total Response Time</b>				
<b>EMS</b>	0:10:03	0:12:42	63.15%	0:06:58
<b>Non-EMS</b>	0:09:45	0:16:56	55.87%	0:06:35
<b>N: *</b>	12180	101	12180	12180

*\*The row titled, "N" is the number of calls that met all criteria and are reportable (i.e., within the call types that warrant an audit on time performance metrics).*

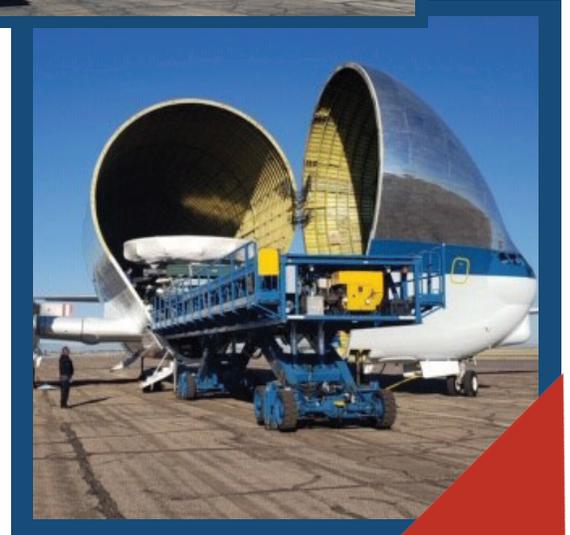
## Helping Our Community



DOTS assisted getting a ramp installed for a 16-year-old boy who has transverse myelitis and is confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. This client is being taken care of by his grandparents who were struggling to get home health and a ramp for him through DHS. DOTS assisted in navigating the process for the ramp and home health to help the grandparents since it was too much for them physically to get their grandson in and out of the house, etc. This client was stuck in his home since his electric wheel chair was too heavy to be moved down steps without a ramp. He was not able to enjoy even the smallest things a kid his age should because he was trapped inside. The ramp was installed with the help of Thornton Medical and Habitat For Humanity.

# Pueblo Memorial Airport

Operated by the City of Pueblo Department of Aviation, the Pueblo Memorial Airport provides safe, secure, and reliable facilities for the transportation of people and materials into the National Airspace System. This is accomplished through professionalism, integrity, a high level of training, and by being responsive to the needs of the community as well as the tenants of the airport. Since 2019, the airport has received more than \$10 million in Federal Aviation Administration, CDOT-Aeronautics, and County 1A grants which helped improve airfield pavement, the continued Master Plan Study, and storm water drainage projects in and around the airport. The airport also received Federal Airport Rescue Funds to assist with operational expenses.



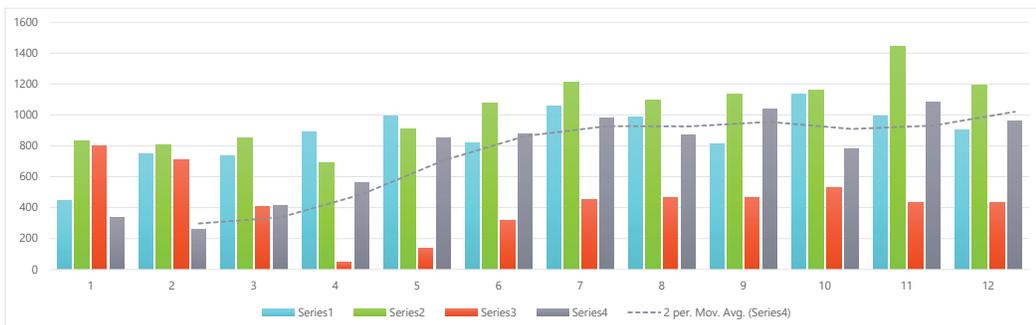
*A Visit from Super Guppy*

The Pueblo Memorial Airport continues to be one of the busiest airports in Colorado, with the potential to see over 200,000 operations this year. CAE Doss Aviation continues to forecast a steady increase into 2022. This forecast coupled with the continued steady military operations and general aviation use, the airport is optimistic that the operational numbers will continue to grow.

The ongoing health pandemic has had a worldwide effect on the aviation industry. However, The passenger enplanements have almost rebounded back to pre-pandemic levels. In 2019, the passenger enplanements total was 12,396. In 2020, the total was 5204. 2021 was busier

## PUB

### PUEBLO MEMORIAL AIRPORT ENPLANEMENT DATA



	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
2018 Enplanement Totals	446	746	736	887	992	822	1059	986	812	1133	990	903	10512
2019 Enplanement Totals	831	810	852	688	912	1074	1211	1093	1134	1159	1442	1190	12396
2020 Enplanement Totals	798	710	406	45	139	320	449	468	466	533	434	436	5204
2021 Enplanement Totals	335	259	413	561	850	877	979	871	1039	778	1083	959	9004
Year to Date Comparison		-914	-546	-1089	-1416	-1527	-1516	-1387	-1293	-1294	-1634	-1762	
Month to Month Comparison	-463	-451	7	516	711	557	530	403	573	245	649	523	3800

The Division of Aeronautics presented the "Colorado Aviation Professional of the Year" award to Greg Pedroza, Airport Director at Pueblo Memorial Airport (PUB), in recognition for his outstanding contributions to the Colorado airport system, the Pueblo Memorial Airport, and the local community.

as passengers are becoming more comfortable traveling again. SkyWest Airlines has been a great partner, providing reliable, daily jet service to Denver and beyond. In November 2019, SkyWest Airlines was awarded the Essential Air Service (EAS) contract to continue operations for another three-year term. SkyWest flies under the United Express brand, offering full integration into the United Airlines network, including its airline partners worldwide. The service has been a significant improvement, allowing the Pueblo community a convenient travel experience. The cost of flying out of Pueblo is offset by free parking, eliminating a drive north, and the convenience of an uncongested terminal that embodies the experience of flying out of a smaller airport.

The above graph illustrates the positive growth the airport has experienced over the last couple of years. Pueblo Airport reached the important +10,000 passenger enplanement number both in 2018 and 2019. Reaching this milestone provides an opportunity to be considered for an additional \$1 million in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding. Our numbers for 2020 and 2021 fell short of this benchmark. However, due to the pandemic, the FAA has not ruled out the possibility of considering the

passenger enplanement trends over the last few years.

**Airport Facts**

	2019	2020	2021
Runways	3	3	3
Taxiways	21	21	21
Total Paved Area (Sq Ft)	6,667,737	6,667,737	6,667,737
Acres of Land	3,534	3,534	3,534
Full-time Equivalent Employees	12	13	13
Federal/State/County Grants	\$4,231,372	\$3,112,490	\$3,419,006

**Helping Our Community**



In the 2020 Economic Impact Study of Colorado Airports, the Pueblo Memorial Airport was responsible for supporting 775 jobs, producing over \$38.66 million in annual payroll, while generating \$103.71 million in overall annual business revenues/output.

# City Clerk

The City Clerk's office continues to provide quality support as the record-keepers for the City Council, City Administration and Departments, and the Citizens of Pueblo, serving as a direct link between the community and their government. In addition to running the 2021 City election in conjunction with the County Clerk & Recorder, the City Clerk's Office maintained its support and service of the liquor, tobacco, and marijuana business licensing needs of the City of Pueblo.

With the retirement of Brenda Armijo in March, Mayor Gradisar appointed Marisa Stoller to lead the office and become the next City Clerk for Pueblo. Ms. Stoller quickly settled in and oversaw the creation of the licensing applications for the new online Pueblo PLACE system, which will allow for online applications and renewals for ease of local business owners in the upcoming year.

The 2021 City election was managed by the Clerk's Office and had five open seats on City Council (District 1, District 3, District 4, and 2 At-Large positions), two open seats on the Board of Water Works, one seat on the Civil Service Commission, and one ballot initiative, 2A: Revenue for Roads. The City Clerk's Office aided 19 potential candidates in their quest to be elected, and fielded a variety of questions and campaign finance requirements along the way.

Also passed by City Council in 2021 was the concept of a Liquor Entertainment District. This will allow for groups of liquor-licensed businesses to apply for the ability to host a common consumption area where customers will be able to purchase liquor from one establishment,



*2021 City Council Candidates choose ballot placements*

then walk around the shared outside space enjoying their drink. 2022 will see the solidification of a map outlining Pueblo's first Entertainment District and the opening of that application process.

Many of the temporary COVID-19 modifications made to liquor-licensed businesses expired in September, but the Clerk's Office worked with many businesses to make those modifications and the use of the City-supplied parklets permanent, giving Pueblo restaurants additional space and a festive outdoor atmosphere that will last long after COVID-19.

The Clerk's Office also instituted Compliance Checks this year for Liquor and Tobacco Licenses, visits meant to help educate and inform businesses to ensure they remain up to date with their license requirements and to prevent any unintentional violation of law.

The State of Colorado chose to revamp its requirements around the selling of tobacco this year, creating a new requirement of a state license for those selling tobacco, and grouping cigarettes into the previous Non-Cigarette Tobacco Licenses issued by the City. Those requirements were put into place in July, and in October, City Council approved an ordinance raising the cost of a

Type of Application Processed*	2019	2020	2021 estimated
Liquor	351	273	297
Marijuana	58	55	72
Tobacco**	122	115	130

Type of Liquor License	2021
Art Gallery	1
Beer & Wine	3
Brew Pub	2
Cabaret	26
Club	7
Hotel & Restaurant	62
Lodging & Entertainment	7
Off Premise Consumption	59
On Premise Consumption	2
Racetrack	1
Retail Store	30
Special Events	23
Tasting	0
Tavern	46
<b>Total Active Liquor Licenses</b>	<b>269</b>

Type of Marijuana License	2021
Retail Grow	6
Retail Testing	2
Retail Store	8
Retail Product Manufacturing	4
<b>Total Retail Licenses</b>	<b>20</b>
Medical Grow	3
Medical Testing	2
Medical Store	3
Medical Product Manufacturing	2
<b>Total Medical Licenses</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Active Marijuana Licenses</b>	<b>30</b>

Type of Tobacco License	Active 2021
Tobacco	125

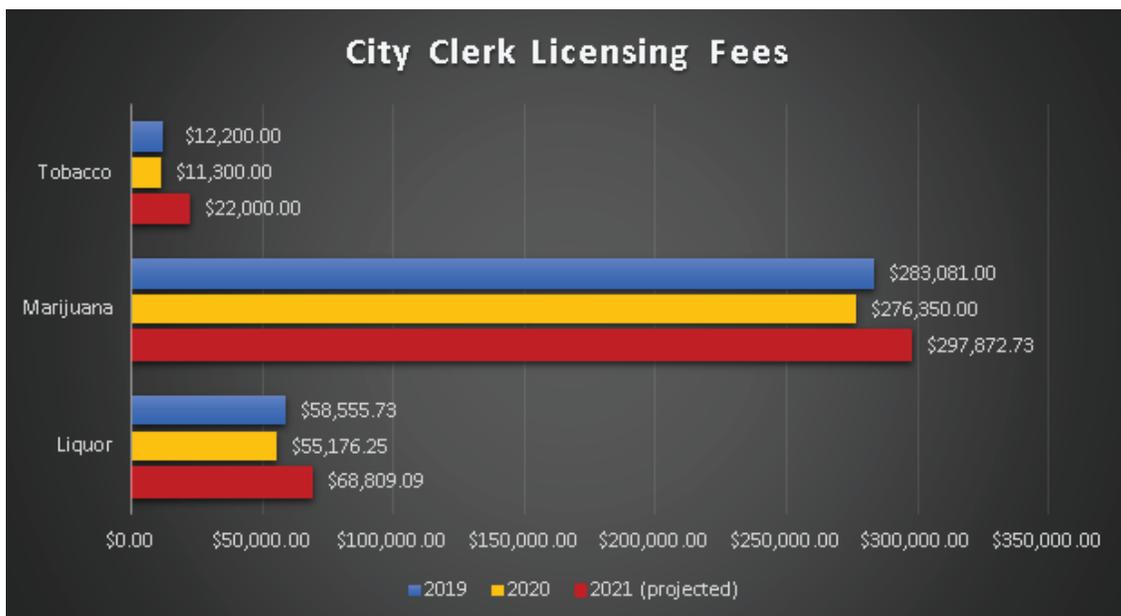
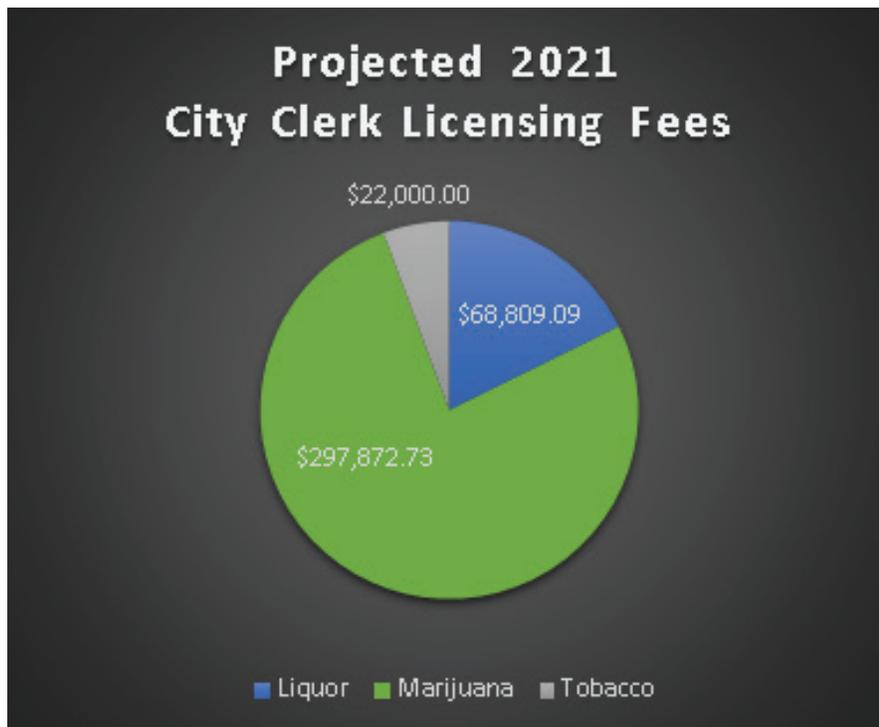
\*These applications include not only new and renewals, but modifications, transfers of ownership, employee updates, and more.

\*\*In 2021, the Non-Cigarette Tobacco License was updated to a full Tobacco License.

# City Clerk

new Tobacco license to \$200 and instituting a late fee for businesses who are untimely with their annual reapplication. These three changes account for the increase of revenue from Tobacco Licenses in 2021.

Marijuana Licensing fees for applications and renewals topped the Department's licensing as usual due to the high cost of Marijuana Licensing despite the low number of businesses. Liquor License applications and renewals were the most numerous, again as usual, and there was a decent increase over the stagnation of 2020 as the economy rebounded somewhat and bars and restaurants once again opened their doors.





*Deputy City Clerk Vince Petkosek speaking to owner Ken Sciacca while conducting a liquor compliance check at The Senate. Compliance checks were a new step initiated this year to assist liquor license holders in staying in compliance with local and state laws.*

# Municipal Boards & Commissions

The City of Pueblo is supported by over 30 Boards and Commissions, comprised of over 250 citizen volunteers and staff. The selection as an active member of a Board or Commission provides a valuable opportunity for genuine public service and a chance to become involved in different aspects of local government. The City appreciates and thank the following members of its Boards and Commissions for their contribution and service.

Board or Commission	Members
<b>Board of Appeals – Building</b>	Matthew Dick Brian Gray Mark Kleven Robert Leverington Chad Pulsifer Steve Weidner
<b>Board of Appeals – Electrical</b>	Seth Boutilier Jose DeLaTorre Daniel F. Henderson Albert Herrera Charles Montera Larry G. Moore Ace Spriggs
<b>Board of Appeals – Mechanical</b>	Louis Fesmire III Steve F. Girodo John K. Krall Pat Noga Robert D. Vigil
<b>Board of Appeals - Plumbing</b>	Dan White Kent Stringer Lance A. Harvey Kenneth R. Gulley John D. Chrisman Dennis Gardner
<b>Board of Elections</b>	Alvin Rivera Sharon Sullenberger
<b>Board of Health</b>	Ed Brown Donald Moore Dr. Michael Nerenberg Garrison Ortiz Eileen Dennis, RN
<b>Community Commission on Housing and Homelessness (CCHH)</b>	Chad Albaugh Mark Aliff DesiRae Armeta Galen Beaver Kim Bowman

<p><b>Community Commission on Housing and Homelessness (CCHH) continued</b></p>	<p>Kathy Cline  Jimmy Duffner  Alexis Ellis  Randy Evetts  Bryan Gallagher  Chris Gladney  Veronica Gold  Heather Maio  Donald Moore  Brittney Moudy  Melissa Nereson  Reah Santangelo  Judy Solano  Dustin Taylor  Caroline Trani  Kelly Urban  Ashleigh Winans  Chris Wiseman  Karen Yescavage  Christine Zeitvogel  Brandi Adakai  Sarina Adame  Richard Burns  Shanna Farmer  Tim Hart  Joe O'Brien  Bart Mikitowicz  Teah Miller  Joshua Montelongo  Miriam Neff  Sara Rose  Tracey Sample</p>
<p><b>Community Services Advisory Commission (CSAC)</b></p>	<p>Dorothy Butcher  Susan Egnor  Joe Latino  Mary Lee  Michael Messervy  Tony Montoya  David "Nick" Potter  Henry C. Roman  Nick Trejo  Theresa Trujillo  Barbara Vidmar  Ashley Wiggin</p>

# Municipal Boards & Commissions

<b>Community Services Advisory Commission (CSAC) continued</b>	James Wiley Nancy Zimmer
<b>El Centro del Quinto Sol Recreation Center</b>	Thomas Carrigan Joseph Latino Maria Lopez Lindsay Reeves Timothy Trujillo
<b>Fire Board of Appeals</b>	Robert Hudgens Michael Carlisle Gary Micheli Frank Nemick Shawn Shelton
<b>Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control &amp; Greenway District</b>	Larry Atencio Jeff Chostner Dennis Flores Nancy Fortuin Longinos Gonzalez Terry Hart Irene Kornelly Greg Lauer Leroy Mauch Garrison Ortiz Richard Skorman
<b>HARP Authority Board of Directors</b>	Mark Aliff David Anderson Don Banner Rita Fox Sam Krage Dennis Maroney Chris Wiseman
<b>HARP Foundation Board of Directors</b>	David Anderson Matt Centner Marty Garcia Beth Gladney Eppie Griego Laurie Kilpatrick Meagan Kroeze-Butkovich Brian Lucas Betty Martinez Larry Ohrdorf Bill Vidmar Ken West Ken White

<b>Historic Preservation Commission</b>	Laurel B. Campbell Jason Falsetto Gregory Howell Megan Moore Anthony P. Perko Angela Rayne
<b>Honor Farm Enterprise Citizens Advisory Board</b>	Kristin Blackburn Christopher Bratnick Matthew Larimore Bob Neumeister Zach Pittman Kyle Rayburn Stephen Worley
<b>Housing Authority of City of Pueblo Board of Directors</b>	Andrea Aragon Melanie Bravo Frank D. Pacheco Jack Quinn Phyllis Sanchez
<b>Liquor and Beer Licensing Board</b>	Steven Cornetta Elizabeth (Liz) Chapman Anthony (Tony) Pullaro Tom Rose Janna Shafer
<b>Planning and Zoning Commission</b>	Patrick Avalos Alexandra Aznar Elizabeth "Lisa" Bailey Mike Castellucci Christopher Pasternak Robert D. Schilling Cheryl Spinuzzi
<b>Pueblo City-County Library Board of Trustees</b>	Marlene Bregar Lyndell Gairaud Stephanie Garcia Dustin Hodge Philip E. Mancha Doreen Martinez Fredrick F. Quintana
<b>Pueblo Conservancy District</b>	Barbara Bernard Matt Cordova Corinne Koehler Dennis Maroney Jerry Martin Roger (Bud) O'Hara

# Municipal Boards & Commissions

<p><b>Pueblo Conservancy District continued</b></p>	<p>Donna Phillips          Ronald Serna          Paul Willumstad</p>
<p><b>Pueblo Depot Activity Development Authority Board of Directors</b></p>	<p>Ed Brown          Patsy Cresswell          Eileen Dennis          Terry Hart          Kurt Madic          Allan McConnell          Jason Schierling</p>
<p><b>Pueblo Energy Advisory Commission</b></p>	<p>Larry Atencio          Kenneth Danti          Gregory George          Laura Getts          Adam Haman          Allison Kipple          Joshua Montelongo          Tyler Surat          John Vigil          Edgie Walrath          Joe Waneka          Martin Adams          Steve Nawrocki          Monica Younger</p>
<p><b>Pueblo Human Relations Commission</b></p>	<p>Kathleen D. Javaneau          Aaron Lucero          Adelia Tripp-Sena          Ed Brown          Thomas Carrigan          Jean Flynn Ray          Gloria Gutierrez          Adelia Hayes          Cody James Rasmussen          Jesse Sena          Callico Vargas          Laura Wiant</p>
<p><b>Pueblo Memorial Airport Advisory Committee</b></p>	<p>Larry Atencio          Ed Brown          Todd Engel          LeWayne Garrison          Alan Nelms          Michael Occhiato          Larry Ohrdorf</p>

<b>Pueblo Memorial Airport Advisory Committee continued</b>	Walter L. (Scott) Ross Jr. Kenneth Sanchez Terrence Terrill Chris Wiseman
<b>Pueblo Municipal Golf Course (Elmwood &amp; Walking Stick)</b>	Karen Conry Tammy Fesmire Michael Ricottone Joseph A. Latino Jerry Thomas
<b>Pueblo Regional Building Commission</b>	Larry Atencio Albert Herrera Mark Kleven Anthony Nunez Diana Oldermeyer John Ribal Ace Spriggs Kent N. Stringer David Vaughn Chris Wiseman
<b>Pueblo Streetscape Advisory Committee</b>	William (Bill) Adams Michael Carlisle Jean Eskra Rebecca Knapp Jean Latka Steve Montez William (Bill) Zwick
<b>Retail &amp; Medical Marijuana Licensing Authority</b>	Kimberly Archuletta Richard Berry Carla Flores Joseph J. Perko Tom Rose
<b>Sangre de Cristo Arts &amp; Conference Center Board of Trustees</b>	Joey Andenucio Kathy Bacino Rosemary Breckenfelder Harvi Callaham Janet Creswell Warren Diodosio Tommy Farrell Pat Gonzalez Joan Hamilton Alice Hill Donielle Kitzman John Lee

# Municipal Boards & Commissions

<p><b>Sangre de Cristo Arts &amp; Conference Center Board of Trustees continued</b></p>	<p>Constance Little Leslie Martinez Chris Milliken Dorothy O'Dowd Levi Olsen Garrison Ortiz Ed Perry Wendy Rapp Andy Sanchez Rosina Sonntag Steven Trujillo Paul Valdez Reid Weber Timothy Zercher</p>
<p><b>Urban Renewal Authority</b></p>	<p>David Abeyta Mark Aliff Patrick Avalos Donald Banner Louie Carleo Dennis Flores Elizabeth Gallegos Jeanette Garcia Betty Martinez Garrison Ortiz Dr. James R. Valenzuela Ralph A. Williams</p>
<p><b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b></p>	<p>Steve Anselmo Elizabeth "Lisa" Bailey Mike Castellucci Yvonne Lujan-Slak Georgia Way</p>



The Pueblo Human Relations Commission sponsored the 2022 Student Art Calendar with the theme of "Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope", in conjunction with National Hispanic Heritage Month. This project provided an exciting opportunity to celebrate Pueblo's Latinx people, their heritage and hopes for the future. The calendar features student artists of the City and County of Pueblo and includes this artwork by Maleena Romero.

# Housing & Citizen Services

The Department of Housing and Citizen Services strives to preserve and enhance the quality and livability of the City's older neighborhoods and preserve the housing stock; to maintain the value of the real estate tax base; and to promote the economic viability and development of city neighborhoods. The department's mission is aided in part by the administration of two federal grants, funding for community services, and an annual private activity bond allocation.



This year, the City reserved its \$6.2 million Private Activity Bond allocation for single-family mortgage capital to be issued through the Colorado Housing Finance Authority. The allocation provides an additional funding source for the residential housing market, and is reserved for families making less than \$126,200, annually. Through this bond financing, CHFA offers a variety of programs specifically targeted to assist veterans, first-time home buyers,

and individuals with permanent disabilities.

The City collaborated with private developers, non-profits, and the State Division of Housing to accelerate affordable housing construction. Eighty-six units of affordable housing were completed in 2021 with 28 units under construction, and an additional 16 units are planned for early in the first quarter of 2022.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were used to rehabilitate 13 owner-occupied homes throughout the City. Projects entailed selective demolition, mold remediation, roof replacement, accessibility modifications, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical repairs and retrofits.

Enlisting the help of local non-profit agencies and service providers, the Community Services Advisory Commission and the Citizens Advisory Committee recommended grant funds to 31 agencies, distributing \$1,117,666 in non-COVID-19 related assistance to the community in 2021. The Department managed \$3 million in grant service contracts providing infrastructure improvements and public services to include homeless prevention, substance abuse programs, victim's assistance, youth recreation programs, mentoring, daycare, senior transportation, museums and cultural events.

The Department completed the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan reviewing the communities needs and establishing goals to meet the needs identified. Also completed this year, was the Strategic Housing Assessment for Pueblo County. The City collaborated with Pueblo County to conduct an extensive market analysis for the City, Pueblo West, the Mesa, and rural Pueblo County. The study is the most extensive housing assessment completed in 30 years, and is a useful tool benefiting local government, developers, real estate professionals, and investors. Providing strategy and direction, the study will benefit renters and homeowners through stabilization of the housing market.

The Department would like to thank all of the agencies and their frontline workers who helped those in need this year.

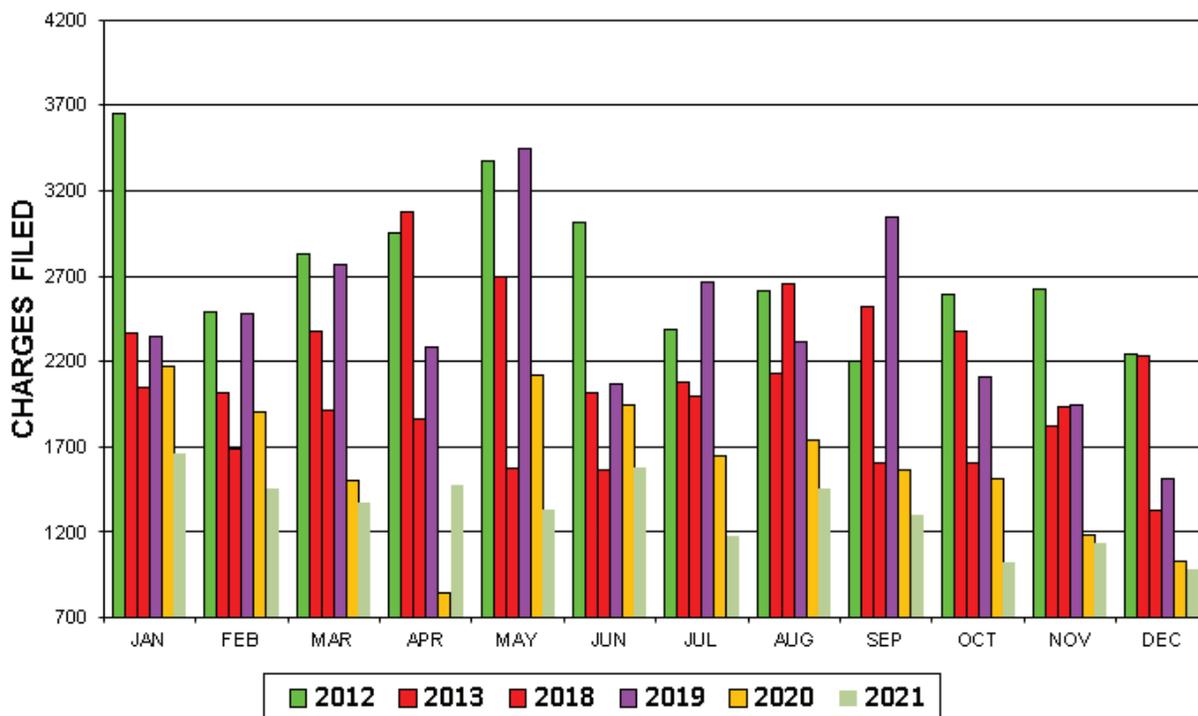
<b>2021 Activities QTRs: 1, 2, 3</b>	<b>Units</b>
Public Infrastructure – Accessibility Improvements	\$594,590 in infrastructure improvements were installed using CDBG funding for streetscape, ADA curb ramps, sidewalk replacement, and demolition in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods.
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	14 low-income households served
Direct Financial Leverage	\$15M Outside dollars invested in affordable housing within the community
<b>2021 Activities QTRs: 1, 2, 3</b>	<b>Individuals</b>
Public Services – Total	\$1,117,666 invested in Public Services
Senior Transportation	The City used \$13,744 of CDBG funding to match State funds for one ADA compliant bus to provide senior transportation.
After School Programs and Youth Recreation	Youth programs served 1,400 unduplicated individuals
Childcare	334 Children were provided daycare service
Healthcare / Women's Services	312 Individuals received healthcare services provided by a funded program
Homeless Prevention	134 unduplicated youth, and 399 families with children received assistance through funded programs. 371 homeless individuals received shelter and case management services. 916 unduplicated individuals received shelter.
Substance Abuse	852 Unduplicated individuals received assistance through substance abuse programs
Food Assistance Programs	The homeless shelter provided 14,452 meals. 71 tons of food were distributed by Care and Share.
<b>2021 Activities QTRs: 1, 2, 3</b>	<b>Individuals</b>
Victim Services	630 Unduplicated individuals received services through funded programs
Disability Programs	921 Unduplicated individuals received job training, employment, and services to maintain independent living.
Education (Tutoring & Scholarships)	114 Unduplicated individuals received assistance to obtain their GED, individualized tutoring, or assistance applying for higher education scholarships.
Cultural/Museum Activities	2,014 Individuals visited a funded museum or cultural event.
Financial Services	1010 Individuals received tax preparation services

# Municipal Court

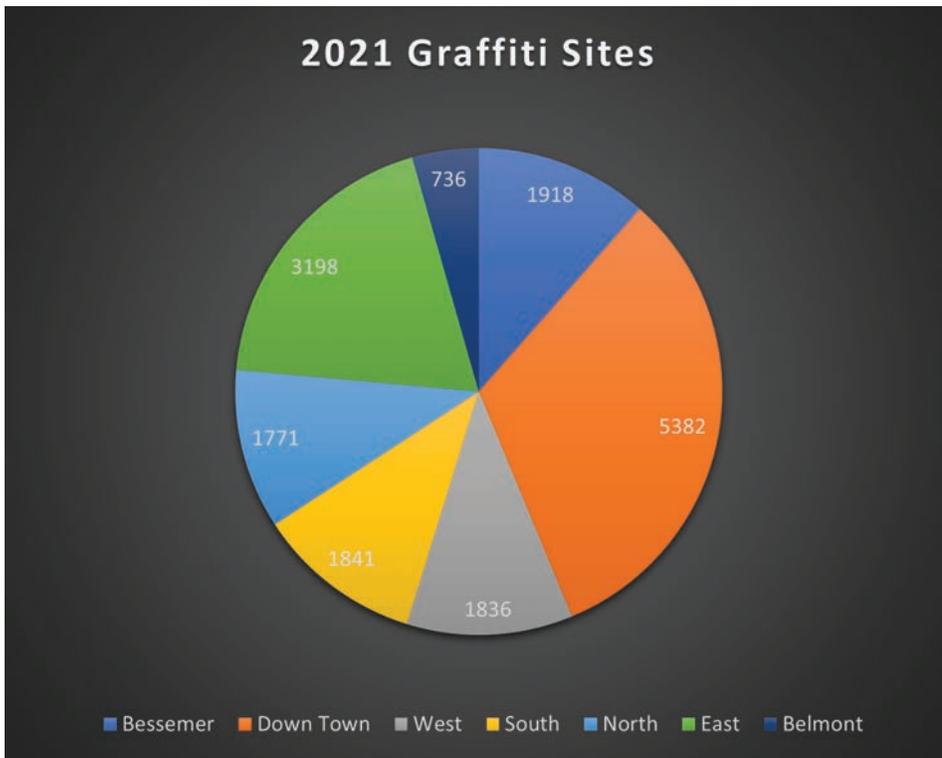
The City of Pueblo Municipal Court's mission is to provide an efficient, equitable, and impartial forum to hear and resolve alleged violations of the City of Pueblo Municipal Code, to impose appropriate consequences, and to effectively and efficiently collect fines, costs, and penalties due the City of Pueblo. Pueblo Municipal Court is a court of record with exclusive original jurisdiction over all causes of action arising under the Charter and ordinances of the City of Pueblo. Municipal Court has concurrent jurisdiction with state courts on certain traffic infractions, traffic offenses and criminal violations.

The number of charges filed in Municipal Court steadily increased between 2016 and 2019 from 18,964 in 2016 to 28,992 in 2019. The Court saw a decline in the number of cases filed in 2020 to 19,149 and 2021 to 15,938 primarily due to COVID-19.

Every defendant may work community service to work off fines assessed in their case with the exception of traffic infractions which must be paid in full at the time the defendant is found guilty or enters a plea of guilty or no contest. In 2021, adult and juvenile defendants worked off \$63,203.50 in fines and provided 6,320 hours of useful public service to the community. In addition, adult and juvenile defendants received a total of \$22,450 in credits against court fines for completion of over 1,000 hours of drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment.



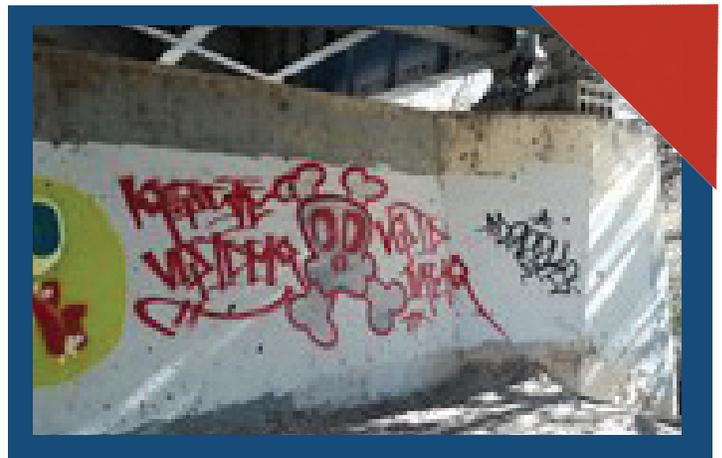
2021	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
TRAFFIC TICKETS	444	300	319	343	506	392	293	401	371	291	332	285	4277
GENERAL OFFENSE-ADULT	126	104	117	122	132	183	135	141	136	115	157	128	1596
GENERAL OFFENSE-JUVENILES	10	7	21	15	10	16	14	9	21	21	17	22	183
ANIMAL OFFENSES	64	33	65	96	81	67	62	55	59	70	83	50	785
MISC. OFFENSES	343	449	422	394	255	379	320	382	322	254	307	241	4068
CODE ENFORCEMENT	416	387	113	67	59	70	91	128	43	60	66	78	1578
PARKING TICKETS	254	179	320	438	287	469	260	336	351	212	171	174	3451
	<b>1657</b>	<b>1459</b>	<b>1377</b>	<b>1475</b>	<b>1330</b>	<b>1576</b>	<b>1175</b>	<b>1452</b>	<b>1303</b>	<b>1023</b>	<b>1133</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>15938</b>



Municipal Court operates its own community service program for juveniles and adults. The program's primary mission is the removal of graffiti throughout the city.

Continued fear of COVID-19 reduced defendant participation in the community service program again this year. Community service staff members completed graffiti removal and other clean-up services when defendant crews were not available. Despite COVID-19, the Court's community service staff and defendant crews have cleaned 16,682 sites in 2021. Graffiti removal occurs citywide.

During 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic made it hard for community agencies to find volunteers, the community service program began helping the Senior Resource Development Agency (SRDA) and Cooperative Care deliver food to those in need. In 2021, the community service program continued to help SRDA and Cooperative Care. This year the community service program made 3065 deliveries of groceries totaling roughly 99.6 tons of food for Cooperative Care's Nutrition on Wheels (NoW) program and delivered 1,305 hot meals for SRDA.





### *Crops from the Community Garden*

The community service program also operates a community garden. The garden is maintained by community service crews and all food grown in the garden is donated to the local soup kitchen or food bank. The garden yielded a fantastic crop again this year. The community program has committed to assisting another community agency Rocky Mountain SER with building and setting up raised beds for its community garden.

Compliance with all diversion programs, including community service is monitored by the Court's probation officers. Pueblo Municipal Court employs a full-time juvenile probation case manager and a part-time adult probation case manager. The juvenile probation case manager continues to work diligently to develop and grow the Court's juvenile restorative justice diversion program.



## Helping Our Community



"We recently had a graffiti incident at our parish and [the community service crew] responded promptly to paint over the walls that were affected. It was very upsetting to our parishioners to see our sacred space defaced. We appreciate your commitment to working with youth to achieve positive results."

-Rev. Stephen B. Olamolu, St. Anne Catholic Church

"Mike and the rest of the graffiti removal crew were extremely helpful yesterday in assisting numerous citizens within the Pueblo community at cleaning off a large amount of graffiti tagged onto their residences in the 300, 400, and 500 blocks of E. Orman Ave and also within the 600 block of Madison Avenue. They did a terrific job and I can't tell you how thankful those citizens were for their help!"

-Det. Bryan Gonzales, Pueblo Police Department

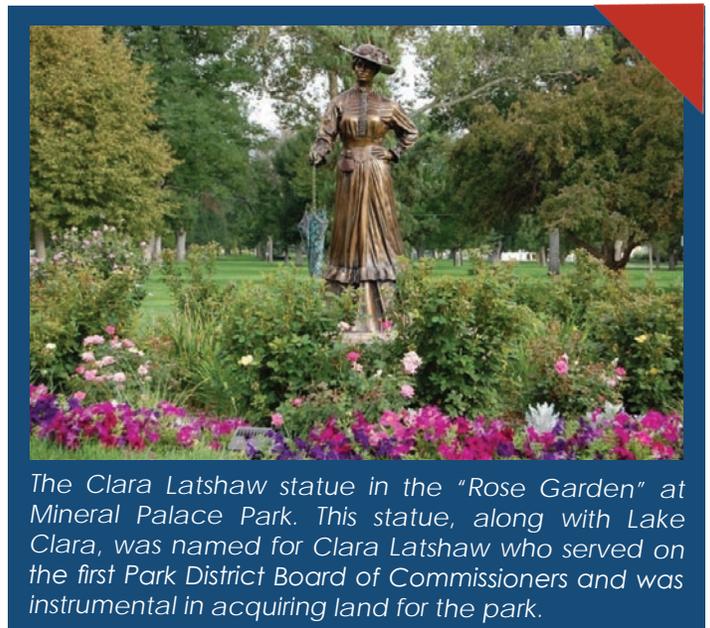
"First and foremost let me tell you how wonderful the [community service crew] is. Throughout COVID-19 they have helped Meals on Wheels to continue to deliver meals to our homebound citizens and we couldn't have done it without them."

-Jane Schifferdecker, SRDA Meals on Wheels Volunteer Recruiter

# Parks & Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department provides diverse recreational and leisure opportunities in safe, clean, and attractive parks and recreational facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department continues to operate their expansive footprint to keep the City’s parks healthy, safe, and green.

The Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department employs 40 full time equivalent (FTE) employees and relies on approximately 300 seasonal and temporary employees throughout the year to maintain Pueblo's parks and oversee the many recreation programs and facilities. Some of the most notable facilities include:



The Clara Latshaw statue in the “Rose Garden” at Mineral Palace Park. This statue, along with Lake Clara, was named for Clara Latshaw who served on the first Park District Board of Commissioners and was instrumental in acquiring land for the park.

<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Number</b>
Developed Parks	80 parks (613 irrigated acres)
Open Space	3,849 acres
Streetscapes, Medians, and Highway ROW	39 acres
Playgrounds	39
Multi-Purpose Sports Fields	38 acres
Walking and Biking Trails	27 miles paved, 5 miles soft surface
Flower Gardens	81 flower beds, 63 rose beds
Tree Maintenance	12,000 plus park and streetscapes
Tennis Court Complex	17 lighted courts
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	32 courts (20 lighted)
The Rides at City Park <i>(Including George R. Williams Memorial Carousel)</i>	11 rides
Softball/Baseball Fields	5 adult, 3 youth
Large Indoor Pavilion (rental)	1
Municipal Golf Courses	2 courses (45 holes)
Mountain Park with amenities	1
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	4
Splash Pads	2
Ice Arena (indoor)	1
Skate Parks	2
Dog Park	1

Facilities	Number
Picnic Shelters and Outdoor Pavilions	11
Whitewater Kayak Park	1
Community Recreation Center (El Centro del Quinto Sol)	1
Zoo	1
Cemeteries	2
Lakes	4
Fountains	5
Statues and Monuments	31
Environmental Education Centers	2
Auto/Motorcycle Sports	3 tracks
Municipal Shooting Range (indoor)	1
Pro/Am Disc Golf Course	1
Concession Sites (in-house)	7

The 2021 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Performance Benchmarks indicate that the nationwide median for annual operating expenditures per capita for parks and recreation agencies are typically \$88.30. The Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department continues to do more with less with \$59.97 per capita annual operating expenditures.

In recent years, the Mayor and City Council have recognized the importance of Parks and Recreation within the community by increasing staffing levels and operating funding to help provide the department with the tools to produce the best parks and recreation experiences that it can possibly offer. The Parks and Recreation Department continues to deliver quality services and programs.

2021 saw the beginning of recovery of the department from the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, which had, and continues to have, a tremendous impact on parks, recreation programs, and facilities. Through the crisis, staff incessantly worked to develop safe opening and user guidelines to get patrons back to enjoying Pueblo's parks and recreational facilities safely. Programs were offered in 2021 but COVID-19 has adjusted the way the department communicates with customers and how it does business.

The department's popular biannual program guide went digital in 2020 and again in 2021. It is important to provide customers with the most accurate program and facility information available in a timely manner. A digital version is again planned for 2022.



The Recreation, Aquatics, and Ice Arena Divisions of the Parks and Recreation Department offered a rich variety of youth and adult programming in 2021. T-Ball, youth flag

# Parks & Recreation

football, youth winter and summer basketball, tennis lessons, adult softball, adult kickball, learn-to-ice skate programs, recreational ice skating and recreational open swimming, and The Rides at City Park just to mention a few of the popular programs that patrons were excited to see offered again this past year. Participation numbers in these and many other programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department experienced a new popularity coming back from the COVID-19 pandemic. The department's goal is to expand on the recreational opportunities and sports programs in 2022.

Below are the participation numbers reflective of the popularity of the City's recreation, sports, ice skating, and aquatics programs:

Recreation Program	Number of Participants/Spectators
Public Ice-Skating Sessions (all ages)	12,005
Figure Skating Free style (all ages)	779
Hockey (all ages)	20,017
Friday Night Laser Lights (youth)	1,476
Learn-to-Skate (all ages)	2,165
Pueblo Bulls Hockey	12,195
Tennis (all ages)	1,297
Aquatics (all ages)	56,842
Basketball (youth)	664
Flag Football (youth)	168
Baseball (youth)	517
Softball (adult)	360
Kickball (adult)	120
El Centro del Quinto Sol Recreation Center	2,692
Rides at City Park	364,862
Movies in the Park	720
Books in the Park	2,048
Park Facility Reservations	6,050

(Left) New lighting at the Goodnight Avenue entrance of City Park  
 (Center) New Horticulture maintenance division  
 (Right) Naming of Ray Aguilera Park





Lake Minnequa Park

Through the COVID-19 pandemic and into 2021, the Maintenance Division of the Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department has continued its dedication to keep Pueblo's parks green and safe. Turf areas still had to be irrigated, aerated, fertilized, mowed, and trimmed; flowers and shrubs still had to be planted and maintained, trees trimmed; playgrounds inspected, repaired, and sanitized; and previously scheduled park projects continued as planned.

***The following are some of the key projects that were started and/or completed in 2021:***

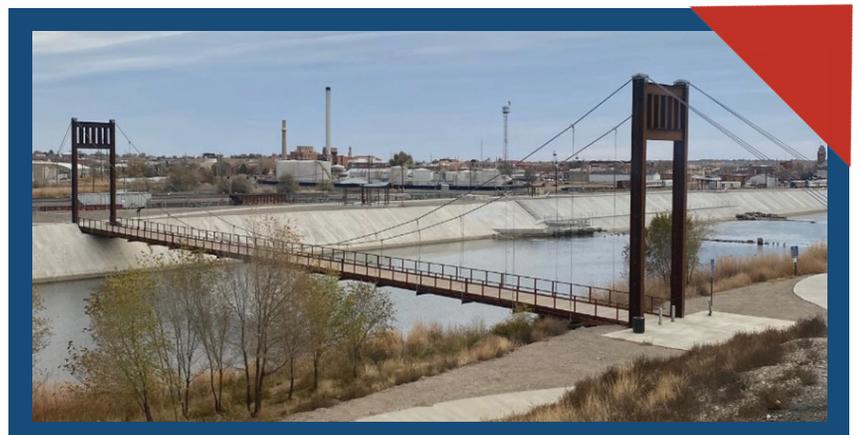
The new ***Horticulture Maintenance Division*** within the Parks and Recreation Department was approved and funded through the 2021 City Budget process. This new division is responsible for maintaining the City's 39 plus acres of streetscapes and medians, which were previously maintained by private landscape contractors. A highly qualified Program Coordinator was hired to oversee this important City beautification program. Also contributing to the program is an Irrigation Specialist, Gardener, and four additional temp/seasonal maintenance workers.

The old historic ***City Park Goodnight Avenue Entrance*** project was completed with the addition of lighting on the south section of the entrance

The ***Lake Minnequa Park – 1A*** Project received \$2.5 million in funding from Pueblo County in FY 2020. Components of the Lake Minnequa Park 1A Project that were completed in 2021 include:

- Concession / restroom / storage building which includes a sheltered picnic area and plaza.
- Landscaped parking lot which will accommodate approximately 240 parked vehicles.
- Outdoor basketball court LED lights which will allow for the basketball courts to be utilized and programmed in the evening hours beginning in 2022.
- 10 acres of irrigated turf area for playing football, lacrosse, soccer, etc.
- 900 linear feet of soft surface, twelve-foot-wide trail.
- Large canvas shelter is currently being relocated from HARP to Lake Minnequa that will provide cover for large gatherings, concerts, and shelter.
- New cross fitness playground equipment has been purchased and will be installed in Spring 2022.

Arkansas River Levee Trail



# Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation advocate and long-time City Councilman Ray Aguilera passed away on May 9, 2021. Ray had a passion for Bessemer Park, including the swimming pool, making sure the neighborhood's youth were not overlooked when it came to recreation programs and activities. On June 14, 2021, Pueblo City Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 14637 which changed the name of Bessemer Park to **Ray Aguilera Park**.



**TREE CITY USA**

Pueblo was named TREE CITY USA for the 41st consecutive year. Only Colorado Springs (44 years), Fort Collins (43 years) and Wheat Ridge (42 years) have been named a Colorado TREE CITY USA Community longer.

The **Bradford Park** Playground Replacement Project began late fall 2021. Parks Department staff will install the new playground which will include two main climbing structures, one for 5-12-year-old children and one for under 5-year-old children. The structure will also include another small climbing section, a swing, and a variety of musical instruments for interactive play. The playground is scheduled to be completed in the Spring of 2022. This will be the fifth playground the Parks and Recreation team has installed since 2018.

Staff continued to remove the highly invasive Russian Olive trees that have infested both the Fountain Creek and Arkansas River bottoms. Crews have been working on removing this fast-growing plant that crowds desired vegetation and native plants regularly since 2018.

Parks Department staff and volunteer efforts continue to clean up trash and debris along the Arkansas River and Fountain Creek Trail systems, and the Lake Minnequa Open Space. In 2021, with assistance from Parks staff, approximately 1,641 volunteers (6,564 volunteer hours) removed approximately 140 tons of trash, over 120 tires, and 2,336 needles throughout the city's parks and trails.

**Arkansas River Levee Trail** Construction Project received approximately \$3.3 million in grant award funding towards the \$6 million project to purchase and install two pedestrian bridges that will connect the existing trail along the Arkansas River to new trail which is located on top of the levee. The completion of this project is anticipated to be early Spring 2022. The project gives access to emergency rescuers along the levee, shelters, and site amenities.

This past year, Parks Department staff with the assistance of local non-profit organization "**TREES PLEASE**" and neighborhood volunteers planted approximately 80 young trees within the Elizabeth Street Parkway between 24th Street and 29th Street. *(Pictured left)*

*Bradford Park*





The City of Pueblo entered into an agreement with Perkins&Will, Inc. for Design Services for the **Pueblo Aquatic Center Master Plan**. The aquatic facility is the final phase of the State of Colorado's Regional Tourism Act (RTA) Grant project. A Department of Local Affairs grant in the amount of \$25,000 was approved by City Council to help fund this project. To date, the progress of the project has seen a market analysis, site tour of the Riverwalk area by the consultant, stakeholders' meetings, the first public meeting, and an on-line survey sent out in October 2021. The project is scheduled to be completed with a presentation to City Council planned for early 2022.

On March 14, 2021, City Council approved a five-year lease and management agreement between the City of Pueblo and South Prairie and O'Neil Enterprises, LLC for the operation, management, and promotion of the 233-acre Pueblo Motorsports Park which included the drag strip and road course. The previous contractor's term of agreement expired December 31, 2020.

## Helping Our Community



As the community faced the fast-changing COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the need to collaborate with other agencies as well as to create opportunities for community engagement became a necessity to begin the work to bring the community back together. The following events and projects are shining examples of successful community partnerships and collaborations:

With support from the Parks and Recreation Department, the Southern Colorado Farmers Market and Craft Fair saw its second successful season at beautiful Mineral Palace Park. The market relocated from the Midtown Shopping Center to Mineral Palace Park in 2020. This successful weekly event was held every Friday morning from early July through the end of September. Vendors at the market accepted Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) for purchase of their fresh food and produce. Typically, there were an average of seven seven food trucks attending this weekly event. The weekly turnout again exceeded expectations, and everyone is looking forward to 2022.

The City of Pueblo accepted a gift of artwork from Betty Esquibel known as "Wind Sculpture" by artist Lyman Whitaker. The beautiful sculpture was installed by the Parks and Recreation Department at the Wally Stealey Garden of Memories Park which is located at the corner of "C" Street and Union Avenue.



# Planning & Community Development

The Planning and Community Development Department completes the review and approval of land use applications and zoning compliance reviews, designated historic building modifications,

development submissions for new and expanded commercial and industrial locations, and conditional use permits for marijuana businesses. The submissions include Planning and Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals applications, and the administrative review of zoning and compliance requests. The number of land use applications and certifications totaled 1,610 in 2021, compared to 1,435 in 2020. In 2021 single-



*Villa Bella Subdivision, East of Colorado State University-Pueblo*

family residential building permits increased to 208 permits, an increase of 41% from 2020. Land use applications for subdivisions and rezoning of properties totaled 52 applications, resulting in an increase of 48% from 2020. The average number of residential units included in the zoning and subdivision approvals dramatically increased from 51 residential units in 2020 to 691 units in 2021. Four Planned Unit Development Zone District residential development plans were updated in 2021 comprising of 1,925 acres. NeighborWorks of Southern Colorado submitted a Planned Unit Development (PUD) plan for a 75-acre affordable housing development in 2021. Residential accessory structure permits and requests for variances/special use permits that previously increased 2020, saw a decline back to pre-COVID-19 averages in 2021.

The new Pueblo Regional Development Plan, which will guide future land use and development, was initiated in October of 2020 and the new plan is anticipated to be finalized in February of 2022. The Regional Comprehensive Plan is a cooperative effort with the City of Pueblo,

## LAND USE APPLICATIONS AND ZONING COMPLIANCE REVIEWS COMPARISON

	2019	2020	2021
Planning & Zoning (Recommendations)	34	35	54
Planning & Zoning (Actions)	8	7	13
Zoning Board of Appeals (Actions)	28	53	34
Historic Preservation Commission	23	17	16
Administrative Approvals	88	98	91
Administrative Certifications	917	773	924
Permit Approvals, COs, Demolitions	431	482	478
<b>Total</b>	<b>1529</b>	<b>1465</b>	<b>1610</b>

Pueblo County, Pueblo West Metropolitan District, towns of Rye and Boone, and is a county-wide effort involving city and county residents' participation in developing the new plan.

The Planning Department, in cooperation with other City departments initiated the start-up of the OpenGov, Pueblo P.L.A.C.E., web-based land use review and permitting software program in September of 2021. The purpose of this software is to improve customer service to citizens of Pueblo by providing a way to manage permitting and workflow that are tied to City permits, licensing, and inspections in a single web-based system and to provide citizens access to interact with the processes and workflow of their project.

The Planning Department, working through the City's Planning and Zoning Commission, is developing proposed amendments to the City's Land Use Code that provide development standards for multifamily housing and accessory dwelling units. These land use code amendments, which are anticipated to be approved in 2022, will address needs that are identified in the Pueblo Housing Assessment and Strategy that was completed in September of 2021.

On June 3, 2021, Governor Jared Polis, joined the Pueblo community, Pueblo Conservancy District, and the City in celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the 1921 Pueblo Flood. As part of the ceremony the Arkansas River Flood Levee Restoration Project was recognized. The new bicycle/pedestrian bridge crossing the Arkansas River was formally opened, along with the other recreational improvements along the reconstructed river levee.

On September 27, 2021 City Council approved the Master Design Plans for Union Avenue and Main Street, and the Eastside Streetscape Study. The Union Avenue/Main Street Plan identifies future improvements to pedestrian access, parking and streetscape improvements. The final master plan, funded with Pueblo County 1A funds, incorporates all elements into two well defined recommendations for complete street buildout of Union Avenue and Main Street. Future funding for Union Avenue and Main Street streetscape improvements will be provided through additional Pueblo County 1A funds and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Revitalizing Main Streets Program funds. The Eastside Streetscape Study identifies parking, streetscape, and pedestrian-related challenges and proposed improvements within the El Centro del Quinto Sol Park, East 4th Street corridor, and Central Eastside Planning Area.



*Crestview Hills Subdivision, Northwest – Eagleridge*

The regional transportation planning, through an agreement with the Pueblo Area Council of Governments, continues to be an important function of the department. The Planning Department Transportation Planning Team coordinated the development and approval of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan which will serve as the 25-year plan for the development of transportation programs and projects within the Pueblo Area. The Plan was adopted by PACOG on May 27, 2021. PACOG Transportation Planning funds continued to be utilized in 2021 for the Pueblo Pedestrian Rail Station Plan. This plan supports local planning in evaluating the feasibility of possible rail station locations, trackage improvements, and recommend amenities that will enhance local passenger rail experiences.

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# Planning & Community Development

## LAND USE APPLICATIONS AND ZONING COMPLIANCE REVIEWS

Planning & Zoning (Recommendations)	2019 Applications	2020 Applications	2021 Applications
Property Rezoning	11	13	21
Annexations	9	5	1
Subdivision	8	9	11
R-O-W Vacations	1	5	3
Street Name Changes	2	2	4
Urban Renewal Plan	3	0	0
Special District Service Plans	0	1	12
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>52</b>

Arkansas River Levee Trail Enhancements



<b>Planning &amp; Zoning (Actions)</b>	<b>2019 Applications</b>	<b>2020 Applications</b>	<b>2021 Applications</b>
Subdivision Special Area Plans	3	1	2
Phased Subdivision Master Plans	2	1	3
Development Plan Reviews	1	3	1
PUD Site Plan Reviews	2	2	1
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>Zoning Board of Appeals (Actions)</b>	<b>2019 Applications</b>	<b>2020 Applications</b>	<b>2021 Applications</b>
Variances & Special Use Permits	28	53	34
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>34</b>

<b>Historic Preservation Commission</b>	<b>2019 Applications</b>	<b>2020 Applications</b>	<b>2021 Applications</b>
Certificates of Appropriateness	3	7	12
Certified Local Gov't 106 Reviews	2	5	4
Historic Landmark Nominations	2	0	0
CLG & ADM DET	16	5	0
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>

<b>Administrative Certifications</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Business License Zoning Approval	624	420	545
Single -Family CO Inspections	110	132	132
Single – Family Applications	146	158	187
Zoning/Legal Non-Conforming Certificates	37	63	60
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>924</b>

<b>Administrative Approvals</b>	<b>2019 Applications</b>	<b>2020 Applications</b>	<b>2021 Applications</b>
Commercial/Industrial Site Plan Review	32	28	29
Cell Tower Permits	16	19	21
Conditional Use Permits - Marijuana	27	27	25
Subdivision - Lot Line Rearrangements	7	10	13
Extraterritorial Water	1	8	2
Interim Use Permits	5	4	1
Activities of State Interest (HB-1041)	0	2	0
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>91</b>

# Planning & Community Development

Permit Approvals, COs, Demolitions	2019	2020	2021
Single Family	128	147	208
Single Family C.O.'s	110	132	132
Single Family Attached	18	11	1
Single Family Attached C.O.'s	6	3	8
Resident accessory structure	86	114	79
Resident additions	24	21	28
<b>Demos</b>			
Residential	28	11	9
Mobile Homes	31	43	13
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>478</b>

## Planning & Community Development Department Grant Activities, 2017-2021

<u>Grants 2017 – 2021</u>	<u>Year Grant Awarded</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Arkansas River Levee Project (DOLA)	2021	\$ 200,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Rawlings Foundation)	2021	\$ 10,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Pueblo Rotary 43)	2021	\$ 5,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Vidmar Foundation)	2021	\$ 8,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Clark Jackson)	2021	\$ 2,500
Gateway to the Southwest (Andrea Aragon & Darren Smith)	2021	\$ 1,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Ray Baker)	2021	\$ 7,500
Gateway to the Southwest (Kathy Farley)	2021	\$ 5,000
<b>Sub-Total 2021- \$239,000</b>		
Arkansas River Levee Project (DOLA)	2020	\$1,000,000
Arkansas River Levee Project (MMOF)	2020	\$ 200,000
Brownfields Community Assessment (EPA)	2020	\$ 300,000
City Center/Santa Fe Streetscape (MMOF)	2020	\$ 208,884
Gateway to the Southwest (Lamb Foundation)	2020	\$ 10,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Johnston Foundation)	2020	\$ 20,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Pueblo County Commissioners)	2020	\$ 70,000
Gateway to the Southwest (PURA)	2020	\$ 50,000
Goodnight Barn Restoration (Gersick Foundation)	2020	\$ 5,000
Goodnight Barn Restoration (DOLA)	2020	\$ 530,000
Lake Minnequa Park Improvements (County 1A)	2020	\$2,000,000
Prairie Ave Improvements (MMOF)	2020	\$1,300,000
Prairie Ave to Lake Minnequa Trail (MMOF)	2020	\$ 195,000
SRDA HVAC Replacement Project (County 1A)	2020	\$ 250,000
SRDA HVAC Replacement Project (DOLA)	2020	\$ 800,000
SRDA HVAC Replacement Project (SRDA)	2020	\$ 172,516
<b>Sub-Total 2020- \$7,111,400</b>		

Arkansas River Levee Project (GOCO)	2019	\$1,238,500
Goodnight Barn Restoration Project (DOLA)	2019	\$ 530,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Pueblo County Commissioners)	2019	\$ 50,000
Gateway to the Southwest (El Pomar Foundation)	2019	\$ 25,000
Gateway to the Southwest Legacy Bank)	2019	\$ 24,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Pueblo Bank & Trust)	2019	\$ 5,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Connect School)	2019	\$ 500
Pueblo Downtown Intensive Survey (State Historic Fund)	2019	\$ 20,616
Pueblo Visitor Center (El Pomar Foundation)	2019	\$ 25,000
Troy Avenue Streetscape (Private Donors)	2019	\$ 7,000
Bessemer Academy School Yard (GOCO)	2019	\$ 156,674
SRDA HVAC Project (SRDA Board)	2019	\$ 50,000
SRDA HVAC Project (Gates Family Foundation)	2019	\$ 25,000
EV Charging Stations (Colorado Energy Office)	2019	\$ 27,000
<b>Sub-Total 2019 - \$2,184,290</b>		

Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (DOLA)	2018	\$ 530,000
Gateway to the SW I-25 Art Project	2018	\$ 300,000
Corwin Community Park & Play Yard (GOCO)*	2018	\$ 110,000
Gateway to the SW I-25 Art Project	2018	\$ 50,000
Kaboom Playground – Leidigh Park (KaBOOM!,Inc)	2018	\$ 90,000
Kaboom Playground – Donley Park (KaBOOM!,Inc)	2018	\$ 90,000
<b>Sub-Total 2018 - \$1,170,000</b>		

Arkansas River Flood Levee Pedestrian Bridge (CDOT)	2017	\$ 500,000
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (SHF)	2017	\$ 201,900
Arkansas River Flood Levee Planning (CDOT)	2017	\$ 200,000
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (Pueblo County)	2017	\$ 131,850
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (Goodnight Barn Committee)	2017	\$ 76,500
Inspire Outdoor Strategy (GOCO)	2017	\$ 50,000
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (El Pomar Foundation)	2017	\$ 27,500
Arkansas River Flood Levee Planning (DOLA)	2017	\$ 25,000
<b>Sub-Total 2017 - \$1,212,750</b>		

## Helping Our Community



The Planning & Community Development Department, in cooperation with the Public Works Department, City Clerk and the Mayor's Office coordinated the acquisition and installation of outdoor portable event patios ("parklets") in 2021 that provided outdoor seating within public rights-of-way for eight downtown restaurants. Seven of the parklets were installed along Union Avenue and one in Central Plaza. The parklets allowed the expansion of restaurant space outdoors. The program was established by the City to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 public health measures and provide economic support to restaurants and bars within the City. The Planning Department staff contacted restaurant owners to explain the parklet program and arrange for the installation of the parklets. The cost of the parklets was reimbursed to the City from the Coronavirus Relief - CARES ACT grant funds. The eight businesses amended their liquor licenses to include an outdoor license and entered into revocable permit agreements enabling the installation and operation of the parklets.

# Public Works

The mission of the Public Works Department is to provide high quality, cost effective, and timely infrastructure services to the public and other City departments. The Department's dedicated team of professionals design, construct, operate, and maintain the public infrastructure resources that are entrusted to its care and provide valuable public services that better the City. Public Works ensures quality of life enhancements and economic development for the entire Pueblo community by providing safe, compliant, and reliable public infrastructure solutions in a cost effective and efficient manner.

## Engineering

The Engineering Division has a staff of 15 people and one of their primary functions is leading the City's construction management program which includes planning, design, and construction execution for City projects that maintain, repair, upgrade, and/or construct public infrastructure. In 2021, the Engineering Division oversaw more than 50 capital improvements projects that included both vertical and horizontal construction, supporting Public Works road and facility projects as well as projects for other City departments. Several projects completed this year are:

- Road Repairs and Maintenance
- Lake Minnequa Veterans Memorial Park
- City Center/Santa Fe Streetscape
- Mesa/Santa Fe Streetscape

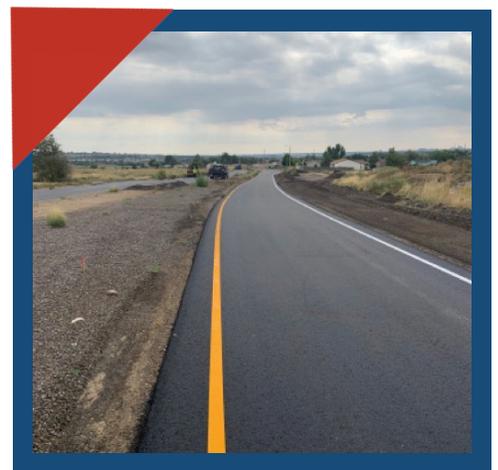
## ***Road Repairs and Maintenance***

The Public Works Department currently maintains approximately 1,300 lane miles (500 roadway centerline miles) in the City of Pueblo. Work on the City's roads completed in 2021 was funded primarily from three sources:

- HUTF/FASTER Funds (State of Colorado)
- Street Repair Utility Enterprise (City)
- General Fund (City)

In the past year, the City spent approximately \$3.8M to resurface over four miles of aging arterial and major collector roadways across the City. Not only were deteriorated pavements repaired, but damaged sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and curb ramps were upgraded as well. Projects completed in 2021 included:

- High Street (between W. 24th Street and W. 32nd Street)
- Paul Harvey Avenue (between US Hwy 50 and United Avenue)
- W. 24th Street (between Pueblo Boulevard and Tuxedo Boulevard)
- Broadway Avenue (between Abriendo Avenue and Adams Avenue)
- Northern Avenue (between CDOT right-of-way and Taylor Street)
- Portland Avenue (south of E. 4th Street to the railroad bridge)



*Repaving of W. 24th Street*

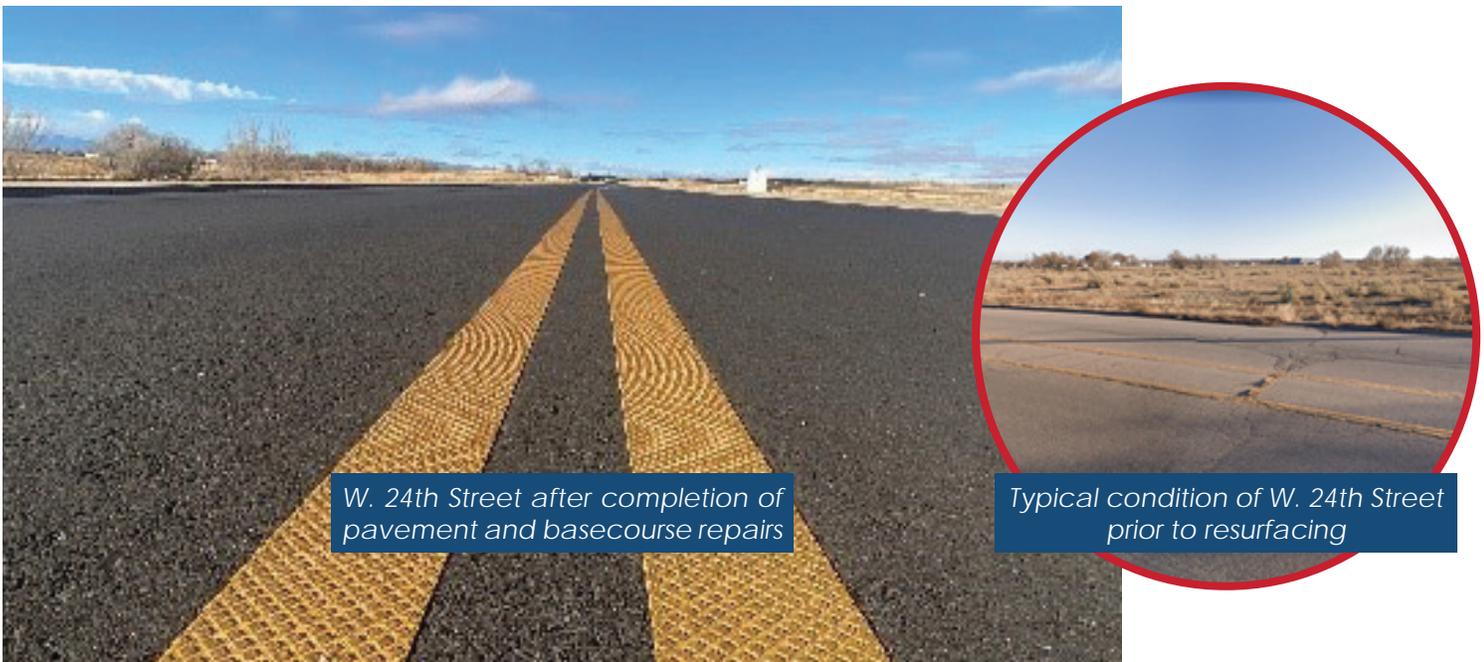
American Disability Act (ADA) curb ramps were also upgraded on W. 15th Street, Hudson Avenue, and Grand Avenue in preparation for road resurfacing work that will take place on those streets in 2022. In addition, Public Works is in the process of designing other 2022 projects including the resurfacing of Prairie Avenue (between Pueblo Boulevard and Northern Avenue), Abriendo Avenue (between Washington Street and Cleveland Street), and other road repair projects.

**Roadway System Inventory**

Year	Miles of Paved Roadway	Miles of Roadways Resurfaced or Rebuilt	Percentage of Paved Roadways Repaired
2017	498.42	1.00	0.20%
2018	498.34	1.36	0.27%
2019	500.22	0	0%
2020	502.07	3.21	0.64%
2021	503*	4.08	0.81%

\* Approximately 1 mile of new roads were added to the City's inventory in 2021. Final acceptance of these roads is pending at this time.

**W. 24th Street Reconstruction (After completion vs. Before)**



W. 24th Street after completion of pavement and basecourse repairs

Typical condition of W. 24th Street prior to resurfacing

# Public Works

## *Paul Harvey Avenue & Portland Avenue Resurfacing*



## *Northern Avenue Resurfacing*



## *Mesa/Santa Fe Streetscape Improvements*

Intersection of Mesa Avenue and Santa Fe Avenue after installation of new curb ramps, traffic and pedestrian signals, street lighting, and landscaping improvements.



## ADA Curb Ramp Upgrades

Typical new ADA curb ramp installation at multiple locations around the City. These upgrades were completed at the intersection of Hudson Avenue and E. 10th Street.



*Lake Minnequa Park  
Concession Stand and  
Restroom Facility*

## **Lake Minnequa Park and Open Space Improvements - Restroom, Concession Stand, and Parking Lot Construction**

The initial phase of the Lake Minnequa Park and Open Space Project was completed in 2012 and has proven to be an asset to the City by providing facilities for team sports. County 1A funding supported a \$2.5 million investment in this park. In 2020, construction began on Phase 3a of the project. The project included the installation of area lighting and the new restroom/concession building with a large patio for park patrons to enjoy a break while visiting the facilities. Parking lot improvements doubled the parking lot's capacity, paved the entire lot in asphalt, and added striping with ADA accessibility.

Phase 3b of the project was also completed which included the construction of a picnic shelter, a new gravel trail, and an additional 4.8 acres of playing field area.

## **Engineering Land Use Reviews**

Another key support function performed by the Engineering Division is the review of applications for new land development. 2021 was an exciting year on this front. The City saw several dormant subdivisions come back to life where development had stalled in the aftermath of the 2008 housing crisis. The Engineering Division reviewed numerous applications for annexations, subdivisions, special area plans, vacation plats, rearrangement of property boundaries, and commercial construction site plan reviews. These facilitate ongoing economic development within the community and ensure that quality infrastructure is provided for public use and enjoyment.

## **Street Maintenance**

The Street Maintenance Division is responsible for ensuring that Pueblo's streets and alleys are safe, clean, and available for the use of residents, businesses, and visitors at all times.

# Public Works

Pueblo's Street Maintenance Division is staffed by 32 full-time, dedicated employees providing a variety of street maintenance, utility coordination, and cleanup services City-wide. Its primary focus is to ensure that pavement surfaces are maintained adequately by providing timely repairs and crack sealing in addition to other surface treatments.



Street Maintenance is tasked with roadway vegetation management during the spring and summer seasons as well as plowing and sanding services on major city streets throughout the community during the winter months. Additionally, the division provides street sweeping services in City roadways. The street sweeping program improves water quality, air quality, road maintenance, aesthetics, and, most importantly, enhances public safety. The street sweeping fleet consists of four street sweepers and four street sweeper operators along with two dump trucks and two truck drivers that accompany the sweepers. These trucks aid in the efficiency of the sweeping program as the sweepers do not have to drive to the collection area to dump.

The Streets Maintenance Division is also responsible for the removal of unsightly illegal dumping from City roadways and assists with occasional mowing of unimproved city properties, as resources permit.



W. 24th Street

## Transportation and Traffic Maintenance

The mission of the Transportation Division is to provide for the safe and efficient movement of vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic on the City's public roadways. This division engineers and maintains all traffic control devices within Pueblo City limits. In addition, the Transportation Division reviews all commercial site plans, subdivisions, and other related planning reviews and activities.

This year the division reviewed numerous new commercial construction site plans, conditional use permits, marijuana license renewal applications, subdivisions, rearrangement of property boundaries, and performed other inspections and reviews. The division also collects traffic data for planning activities.

The Traffic Maintenance Division maintained a total of 163 signalized intersections. This number includes 106 traffic signals owned by the City. Also, through intergovernmental agreements, the City maintains 41 intersections that belong to the Colorado Department of Transportation and six signalized intersections that are located in and owned by Pueblo West.

Other traffic control devices that are maintained include 12 flashing school speed limit signs, as well as one radar speed limit sign on Constitution Avenue. There are also 10 intersections with flashing red lights above stop signs that are maintained by the Traffic Maintenance Division.

In October, the Traffic Maintenance Division assisted the El Camino Homeowners Organization with the installation of four new solar-powered radar speed limit signs that were purchased by

the association. The signs are intended to remind drivers to slow down on the collector roadways within the neighborhood.

**6-Year Look of Traffic Signals, Roadway Markings & Street Signs**

Year	Traffic Signals	Roadway markings applied(approx.)	Street signs installed replaced or removed (approx.)
2017	148	172 miles	1850 signs
2018	149	175 miles	1900 signs
2019	150	175 miles	1900 signs
2019	163	175 miles	911 signs
2020	163	175 miles	991 signs
2021	163	176 miles	782 signs

In addition to the traffic signal maintenance work, Traffic Signal Technicians perform underground utility location services for all traffic control devices within the City. All applications for work within the right-of-way are reviewed for potential conflicts and utilities are marked to minimize the risk of damage to City infrastructure during construction activities.

A portion of the locates performed protect the City's fiber-optic cable network that belongs to the IT Department. The Traffic Maintenance Division occasionally assists with repair to damaged fiber optic cables, as well as other various maintenance on the fiber network.

The Traffic Maintenance Division is responsible for the installation and maintenance of all of the City's roadway signs. The sign shop produced numerous signs to replace those that were faded, peeling, or damaged, and for installation on newly-constructed roads.

The Traffic Maintenance Division is responsible for maintaining the City's roadway markings including striping, crosswalks, arrows, and other traffic control markings. In addition to the lane striping miles, the Traffic Maintenance Division installed approximately 50 crosswalks and 30 turn arrows at various locations around the City during 2021.

**Facilities Maintenance Division**

The mission of the Facilities Maintenance Division is to provide safe, healthy, and comfortable facilities for City employees and the public, and to protect the City's capital investment in those buildings. The current personnel responsible for the maintenance of the City's buildings include one working supervisor and nine highly-trained service technicians and craftsmen.

The Facilities Maintenance Division is responsible for 130 buildings with an average age of 41 years. The insured value of said buildings is over \$140,000,000 and includes over 1.5 million square feet of building space.

Some major projects in 2021 included an interior sewer line repair in the SRDA building and replacement of several roofs on various City facilities.

# Public Works

## Pueblo RecycleWorks and Large Item Drop-off Program

In 2018, the City of Pueblo opened Pueblo RecycleWorks (PRW), a free recycling drop-off center for conventional recyclable materials. PRW has seen a significant increase in the volume of customers and materials each year since opening. In 2019, PRW greeted 13,500 customers, 2020 brought 18,200 customers, and in 2021, more than 27,270 patrons used PRW facilities. This number represents a 50% increase in the number of PRW patrons over the last two years.

Below is the breakdown of the conventional materials sent to recycling companies during 2021 and in previous years for comparison:

	2019	2020	2021
	<i>tons</i>	<i>tons</i>	<i>tons</i>
<b>Plastic</b>	7	44	55
<b>Cardboard</b>	52	91	141
<b>Metals</b>	8	30	18*
<b>Paper/Newspaper</b>	65	74	89

*\*2021 metals report includes tonnage collected between July and December 2021 only*

In addition to recycling, PRW also manages the 'Large Item' drop-off site. This area handles the collection of large items from City residents. Items collected include sofas, mattresses, and other household furnishings. In 2019, PRW took in 1,247 large items. Of that, 105 mattresses and an additional 513 tires were sent to recycling companies. As of November 2020, PRW collected 1,082 large items; 382 mattresses were sent to SpringBack for recycling and 576 tires were sent to GeoCycle for recycling. As with other waste streams handled at PRW, the number of large items collected in 2021 rose to 1,473, including 519 mattresses. On top of those numbers, 745 tires were collected and diverted from the landfill.



## ***Department Organization and Functions***

### Engineering

- Performs all planning, design, and construction work for City facility and roadway projects.
- Develops a recapitalization plan for the City's road network and develops a long-term asset management strategy for all roadway infrastructure. Provides facilities management and engineering expertise to support the continued operation and maintenance of City buildings and other infrastructure.
- Supports the procurement of all architecture, engineering, construction, and environmental services required by the City.
- Coordinates construction planning efforts between City departments, utility providers, and other partners.
- Provides construction management services for City facility and roadway projects.
- Prepares and updates the City's corporate map and maintains files and records for reference by property owners, engineers, and subdivision developers.

### Transportation/Traffic Maintenance

- Provides transportation engineering services to support the safe and efficient operation of the City's road network for all users.
- Analyzes traffic operations and develops projects for roadway improvements and upgrades.
- Reviews applications for construction and development within the City for compliance with established construction standards.
- Reviews temporary traffic control plans for projects that conduct work in the right-of-way to ensure efficient traffic operations and the safety of drivers, construction crews, and the general public within the work zone.
- Reviews applications for oversize/overweight vehicle permits.
- Inspects, maintains, and repairs traffic signals and roadway markings.
- Fabricates and installs all roadway signage.
- Coordinates with the Colorado Department of Transportation for issues involving the state highway network.
- Issues permits for use of City-owned parking facilities.
- In coordination with the Police Department, provides parking enforcement services.

### Street Maintenance and Street Sweeping

- Builds in-house capacity to perform required roadway maintenance activities including pothole repair and patching, crack sealing, mowing operations, snow and ice plowing and treatment, tree trimming, and other activities required to maintain a safe and reliable road network.
- Improves the pedestrian and bicycle transportation system to support a continuous, safe, and desirable walking and biking environment.
- Identifies and implements projects to improve accessibility to City infrastructure located in the public right-of-way.
- Develops service level standards for operation and maintenance activities within City roadways.
- Facilitates upgrades for roads, sidewalks, and associated infrastructure that do not currently meet City standards.

### Facilities Maintenance

- Develops long-term asset management strategy for City facilities and real property.

# Public Works

- Manages a facility preventive maintenance program that optimizes the life cycle costs for City facilities and supports the long-term facility asset management plan.
- Identifies opportunities to achieve operational cost savings where appropriate through cost-effective energy-saving projects and selecting projects based on the long-term cost of ownership.
- Improves accessibility to City facilities to maximize public access to City services.
- Manages facility use agreements between the City and other stakeholders.

## Solid Waste

- Supports the continued operation of Pueblo RecycleWorks and identifies opportunities to broaden participation and program effectiveness through collaboration with outside stakeholders.

In addition to the specific functions above, the Public Works Department (in cooperation with other City Departments) also supports efforts to eliminate blight from economically depressed areas within the City through the vacant property registration program and, where necessary and appropriate, demolishes and abates dangerous properties located within the City. Public Works also provides coordination, labor, and equipment support to City-wide clean up efforts to combat illegal dumping sites.

*Pueblo RecycleWorks*





Multiple windstorms came to Pueblo during the past year – one on October 28 and a larger one on December 15. The storms’ impacts were exacerbated by the extraordinarily wet summer we experienced in 2021. Russian Thistle plants, which normally begin to die in the heat of August and September, continued to grow until early October. The sheer number and size of plants generated by the unusually wet season inundated neighborhoods across the south and west sides of the City with tumbleweeds when winds picked up in the fall. Some homes were buried to their gutters while others had their backyards filled like huge bowls of popcorn. In some cases, homeowners required assistance to get out of their homes. In these cases, the burden to remove and dispose of the tumbleweeds without assistance would have been incredibly difficult for most homeowners. The Public Works Department, in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department, dispatched crews and equipment to the area to assist with disposal.

This phenomenon is not completely unheard of, but it has historically occurred once every 10-20 years. In 2021, it happened twice within a two-month span, placing a huge cleanup burden on affected residents. The first storm in October blew tumbleweeds primarily into the El Camino neighborhood. Crews worked for approximately 10 days to help residents dispose of the nuisance tumbleweeds. The second storm in December pushed tumbleweeds into neighborhoods across the south and west boundaries of the City including Southpointe, El Camino, Forest Glen, Ventana, Regency Crest, and West Lee Hills, among others. Streets crews spent nearly three weeks over the Christmas and New Year Holiday season abating the tumbleweeds using tractor mowers, front end loaders, dump trucks, and street sweepers. During the cleanup, the City utilized an online map to communicate the status of the overall cleanup effort as well as to track residents’ requests for tumbleweed disposal. The system expedited communication and allowed residents to track the progress of work.

The December storm also knocked over trees across the City. Public Works crews were dispatched to clear roadways, remove downed trees, and repair damaged traffic signals. In the days following the storm, the Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments established drop-off points on the north and south sides of the City to allow residents to drop off trees, limbs, and branches that were broken. Residents who took advantage of the service were appreciative of the City’s assistance in making their post-storm cleanup effort a bit easier.



# Pueblo Food Project

Pueblo Food Project (PFP) is a City/County initiative that uses the community's voice to create food system changes. The goal of the Pueblo Food Project is to create a more vibrant, nutritious, and equitable food system for every eater in Pueblo County. PFP welcomes every Puebloan to join the initiative! Pueblo Food Project began in Spring 2019 after a visit from Senator Michael Bennet and Walter Robb, former CEO of Whole Foods. Since then PFP has been awarded several competitive grants to support PFP's mission. PFP's grants focus on the key areas of healthy food access, food systems education, and local food economy.

In Spring/Summer 2021 PFP launched its second season of the edible landscapes project. This time adding a new location at the Pueblo Courthouse. The four locations are Central Plaza, Mineral Palace Park, the County Courthouse, and Sister Cities Plaza. Roncalli Stem Academy and Pueblo Food Project piloted a science based food and farm education program, where all 7th Grade students learned about Pueblo's food system and how to grow their own food.

The PFP community pantry fills orders for hunger relief organizations throughout Pueblo County on a weekly basis. The pantry is stocked with local foods such as Milberger's Green Chile, Double J's Mexican Chorizo, Rusler Pinto beans, Gagliano's sausage, and much more. PFP's pantry is hosted on The Latino Chamber's Supporting Pueblo website. Hunger relief organizations are able to make a 'free' order and fill their pantries with local food. PFP purchased more than half a million dollars in local food in 2021.

PFP's Youth Council, the "Fooducates," had a fantastic year. In February they prepared 500 fruit baskets for their Fruits of Love Project. Then Fooducates wrote and were awarded a \$20,000 grant to spend on hunger relief projects they designed. The group planned meal distributions where they gave ingredients for a meal and dessert. These meals came with a booklet on how to cook the recipe as well as link to videos of the Fooducates teaching a cooking class. So far they have distributed 600 meal kits. They also designed and painted a mural on the levee.

*(Left) Central Plaza Edible Landscape in June 2021  
(Center) Sun Soil Water Summit held at PCC in November 2021  
(Right) The Pueblo Fooducate's mural on the levee  
(Across) Fooducates members Geonna King and Angel Garcia at a meal kit distribution*



One of Pueblo Food Project's key accomplishments in 2021 was the Sun Soil Water Summit. This event included a Food Business Pitch Competition with \$20,000 in Prizes, the Inaugural Pueblo Food System Leadership Awards, and a day long Conference focused on Pueblo's food system with over 30 different speakers. United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack shared a video message at the conference. The event also featured a local Maker's Market. Pueblo Food Project was grateful to have sold out tickets for both the Awards and Conference with over 250 people joining the event at PCC.

PPF is looking forward to the launch of the Startup Entrepreneur Development Program, which is a 20-week startup semester aimed at growing local food businesses.



# Stormwater

The mission of the Stormwater Utility Division is to provide services necessary to improve the quality of the stormwater in the City's streams and creeks, provide maintenance of the City's drainage facilities, install new infrastructure to reduce flooding problems, and ensure development practices meet all required provisions of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Program.

## Stormwater Staff

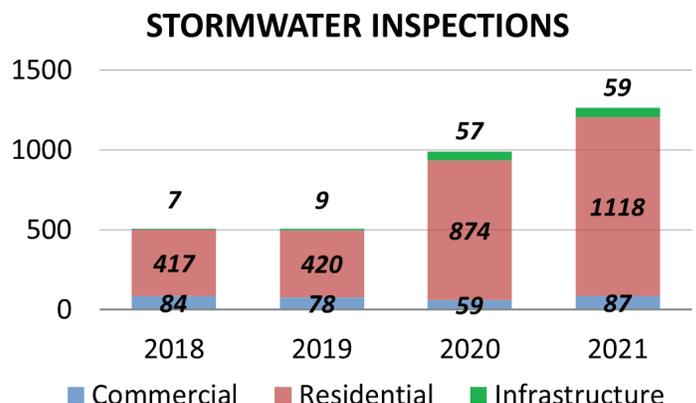
The Stormwater Department is comprised of engineering staff and maintenance staff. The engineering staff members are responsible for:

- Assessing impervious area for all commercial and residential properties.
- Reviewing all drainage submittals for general compliance with established criteria.
- Performing hydrologic and hydraulic analysis of existing and proposed infrastructure and recommending solutions to minimize flooding problems.
- Preparing construction documents, cost estimates, and managing construction projects.
- Conducting stormwater quality inspections on construction projects to ensure compliance with stormwater management plans, environmental policies and procedures, and regulatory requirements under the NPDES General Permit.

The maintenance staff workers are responsible for:

- Performing maintenance and repair of public stormwater facilities.
  - Over 158 miles of storm sewer pipe.
  - Approximately 41 detention facilities.
  - Over 217 Acres of ponds and drainage channels.
- Constructing new stormwater infrastructure.
- Utility locates for construction and emergency purposes.
- Containing and removing illicit discharges.
- Removing trash and debris from waterways.

## Ongoing Stormwater Utility Projects



2021 Stormwater Utility Projects

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	COST
Emergency Point Repairs	Emergency repairs of failed stormwater infrastructure. 14 <sup>TH</sup> St. & Portland Ave Hudson Ave Jackson St. & Evans Ave	\$372,169
Lake Minnequa Solar Powered Mixing System	Three solar powered mixers were installed to provide long-distance circulation and improve water quality, pH, and fish habitat. These machines should prevent surface water stagnation and associated harmful blue-green algae blooms.	\$143,831
29th Street Pump Station Replacement	The existing pump station that serves to remove storm runoff that collects at a low point near the intersection of I-25 and 29th St. has been replaced with a new pump station. The existing pump station could discharge 5,700 GPM of water with one operating pump. The new pump station can discharge 18,200 GPM of water with 3 operating pumps. The new pump station has an emergency power backup generator whereas the old pump station did not. An alert system has been equipped into the new pump station to remotely notify Stormwater personnel of equipment failures. An additional safety measure has been established in the event that the pump station experiences a colossal failure during a rainstorm. Traffic control gate arms have been installed so that emergency personnel can use them to block off 29th Street and prevent citizens from driving their vehicles into the flooded low point. A water quality manhole has been installed at the pump station to reduce trash, oil, and sediment from storm water discharges. This new pump station is expected to significantly mitigate the chance of flooding at this low point in 29th Street which has been a serious public safety issue in the past.	\$2,818,545
Crew Repaired Projects	Inlet repairs, damaged stormwater pipes, erosion control projects.	\$5,239
Total		\$3,339,784

*New 29th Street Pump Station*

State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Projects

The Stormwater Utility Department secured a \$7 million State Revolving Fund Loan with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in November of 2018. The purpose and need for the loan is to accomplish stormwater projects that address flooding and maintenance concerns which pose or could pose a risk to the safety of the public. The monetary collections from the Stormwater Utility service charge are not adequate to cover these high priority projects without a long-term loan.



# Stormwater

*The SRF projects that will be carrying over to FY 2022 are:*

## Boulder Outfall Stormwater Improvements:

The intersection at Lincoln St. and Abriendo Ave. has an undersized storm sewer system that results in frequent flooding from moderate storm events. Improvements will include installing approximately 1,650 linear feet of a much larger capacity storm sewer system. Inclusion of a hydrodynamic separator in this system will help improve water quality. Stormwater engineering staff have designed the construction documents for this project. The project is currently out for competitive bid and construction is expected to be completed in early 2022.

Estimated Cost = \$1,500,000

**Additional projects planned for 2022 include:**

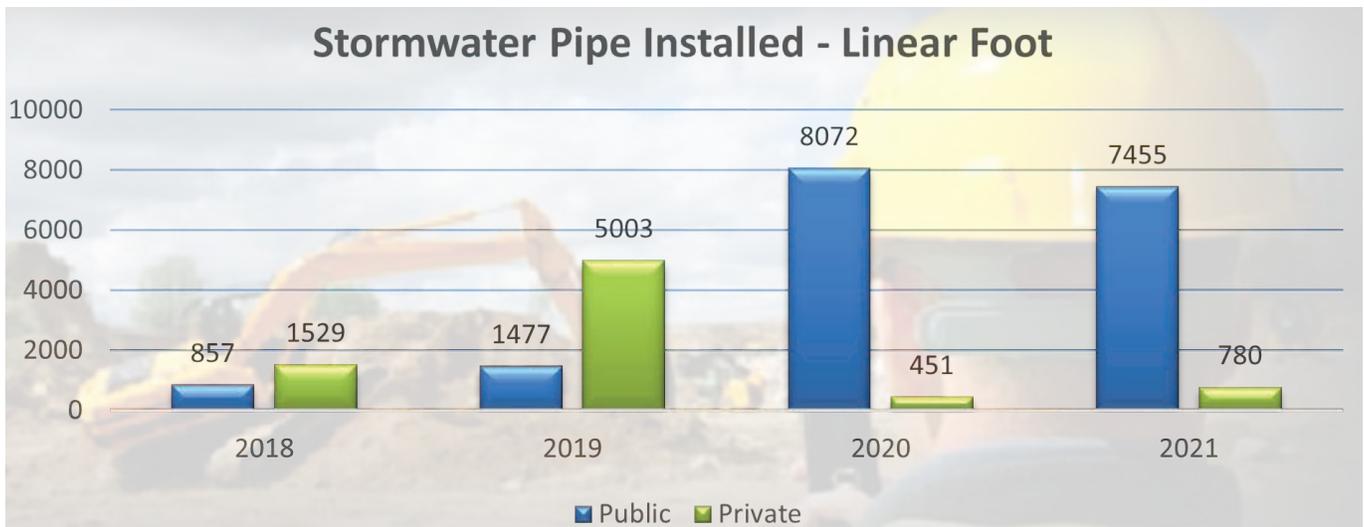
## Stormwater System Upgrade - Summit Avenue

The neighborhoods around the Colorado State Fair Grounds have experienced significant flooding over the years due to an undersized storm sewer system in Summit Ave. This existing system lacks the capacity to handle even a small rain event, and property has been damaged due to the undersized storm sewer system. The Stormwater Utility plans to have a comprehensive hydrologic and hydraulic study performed in this area in order to design and construct a storm system that will minimize flooding. The plan is to construct this storm system in three phases with the first phase starting in 2022 and subsequent phases being completed as funding becomes available.

Estimated cost for all three phases = \$7,000,000

## CO Coal & Iron Subdivision Stormwater System Upgrade

Several residences in this subdivision are in a low point that gets flooded frequently due to an undersized storm system. This project will be completed in multiple phases as funding becomes



*Solar powered mixers being installed at Lake Minnequa*



# Stormwater

available. The existing stormwater system in Routt Ave., Cleveland St. and Abriendo Ave. will be upgraded to where it connects to the improved Boulder Ave outfall system.

Estimated cost for all phases = \$1,800,000.

## McCulley & Abriendo Stormwater System Upgrade

Residences and businesses at the intersection of McCulley and Abriendo Ave. are in a low point that gets flooded frequently due to an undersized storm system. The flooding has been reported to cause damage to the residential properties and poses a safety concern for this high traffic intersection. The Stormwater Utility plans to have a comprehensive hydrologic and hydraulic study performed in this area in order to plan, design, and eventually construct a storm system that will minimize flooding.

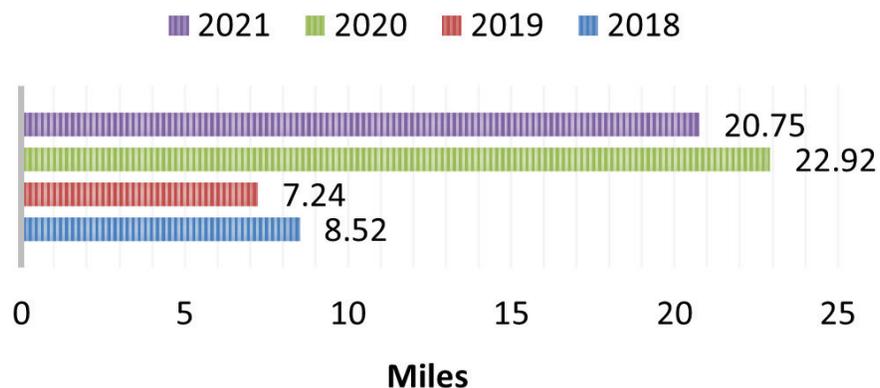
Estimated cost = TBD.

## Routt Ave. Drainage Analysis and Capital Improvement Planning

Residences and businesses in and around the Bessemer area experience frequent flooding that in some cases results in expensive property damage. The Stormwater Utility plans to have a comprehensive hydrologic and hydraulic study performed in this area in order to plan, design, and eventually construct a storm system that will minimize flooding.

Estimated cost = TBD.

## MILES OF STORMLINE CLEANED



### *New Programs for 2022*

- The Stormwater Utility will continue to develop a cleaning and point repair project for several locations within the existing storm sewer system.
- Address requirements of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit.

- New Drainage Criteria Manual. The Stormwater Utility has acquired the services of a professional engineering firm to perform a much-needed update to the City's 25-year old Drainage Criteria Manual. The update is currently being worked on and will be completed in 2022.
- Continue to Geocode the Storm Water system and incorporate electronic detection methods on all new infrastructure.
- Fountain Creek improvements including levee certification and outfall safety improvements.
- Plan upgrades to storm sewer facilities to mitigate flooding in several problem areas.

### Challenges

The Monsoon season this year brought frequent and heavy rains that contributed to weed growth which quickly got out of control. Weeds management was the biggest complaint that the Stormwater Department received. The Stormwater Department maintenance crews had much difficulty responding to all of the complaints and the limited crews are still actively working to address this problem.

Trash in the City's creeks and tributary drainage ways from homeless camps and illegal dumping continues to be a problem that the Stormwater Department maintenance crews work year-round to clean up.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements are getting stricter on every aspect of construction projects. In the case of stormwater management, the main criterion is the amount of pollutant particles discharged in natural streams and the monitoring of those particles. The stricter requirements put an administrative burden on the Stormwater staff to make sure that all construction projects are in compliance with the new requirements. There is also an increased financial burden on the developer to meet these new requirements.

Much of the stormwater infrastructure in the City is very old and undersized and needs to be replaced in order to prevent frequent flooding. The amount of revenue collected from the Stormwater Utility service charge is not adequate to perform very many projects each year.

### Helping Our Community



Each year the City of Pueblo Stormwater Utility sponsors Creek Week as a Creek Champion. The purpose of Creek Week is to increase public awareness of water quality and pollution issues in the Fountain Creek Watershed and to encourage organizations and individuals to get involved in keeping the watershed clean and safe by collecting litter and debris. Stormwater staff volunteer for this nine-day cleanup effort that unites the Fountain Creek Watershed communities from Palmer, Fountain Lake, to Pueblo and beyond. Creek Week began in 2014 and has grown to be the largest watershed-wide cleanup in the State of Colorado. Locations for cleanups in Pueblo include Runyon Lake and along Creek heading south near U.S. Hwy 50.



# Transit

Operated by the City of Pueblo, Pueblo Transit is a private company owned by the City for the purpose of providing safe, reliable on time Public Transportation to the citizens of Pueblo, Colorado. This is accomplished through professionalism, integrity, a high level of training, and by being engaged to the needs of the community as well as the numerous organizations supported through Federally Funded Transportation Initiatives. In addition to operating 13 busses on 11 fixed routes Monday through Saturday, Pueblo Transit oversees a contract with MV Transportation to provide demand-response paratransit to individuals with disabilities that preclude them from efficiently using traditional bus service. After a decade of consistent and stable ridership, Pueblo Transit’s ridership sharply declined in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, Pueblo Transit’s ridership began to recover, increasing 14% between March 20 and November 30, 2021, over the same period in 2020. However, ridership remains 40% below 2019 levels. These trends are on par for public transit ridership across the country.

Transit Facts				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Vehicles</b>	32	33	35	35
<b>Routes</b>	11	11	11	11
<b>Total Miles Driven</b>	867,724	854,269	719,567*	701,643*
<b>Total Passenger Trips</b>	864,270	831,950	496,659*	430,551*
<b>Full-time Employees</b>	40	41	41	41
<b>Federal/State Grants</b>	2,760,862	2,830,665	8,575,098	4,260,080

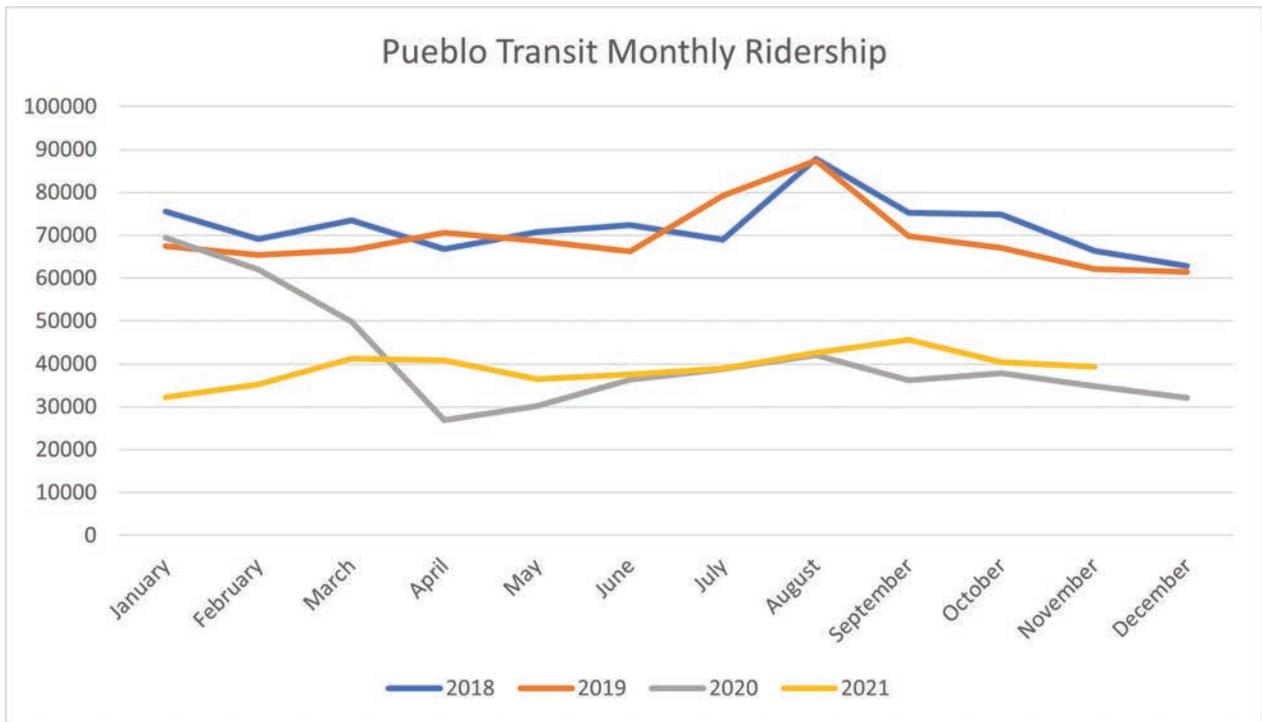
*\*Through November 30, 2021*

Pueblo Transit was one of the first transit agencies in the State to limit riders, go to rear boarding of passengers, and suspend fares to curb the spread of the pandemic in the community. With industry leading decontamination procedures, Pueblo Transit was able to operate with limited impacts to daily service. Additionally in 2021, Pueblo Transit partnered with FEMA to run a vaccine shuttle from the downtown Transit Center to the State Fairgrounds. Utilizing the influx of 2020 CARES act COVID-19 relief grant funding, Pueblo Transit is in the process of replacing the downtown Transit Center HVAC System and automatic doors to ensure proper filtered air exceeding pandemic standards and is in the process to procure two hybrid transit buses furthering efforts to achieve a more renewable footprint. When Pueblo



Transit returned to fare collection in September, it did so while maintaining free fares for K-12 students, funded by a community partnership grant through August of 2022. In November, Pueblo Transit Secured a grant through ARPA funding to expand student free fares to include parents of elementary age children, and continue the funding through August, 2023.

The following graph illustrates the total number of passenger trips provided on a monthly basis, since 2018.



## Helping Our Community



As the community, and nation, continued to adapt to the ever-evolving COVID-19 pandemic, Pueblo Transit worked aggressively to be a resource to keep people safe and mobile. Transit started the year by partnering with FEMA to provide a consistent shuttle bus (free of charge) to the Colorado State Fairgrounds vaccination site and provided another bus for use as a mobile walk-up clinic to further the vaccination efforts within the community.

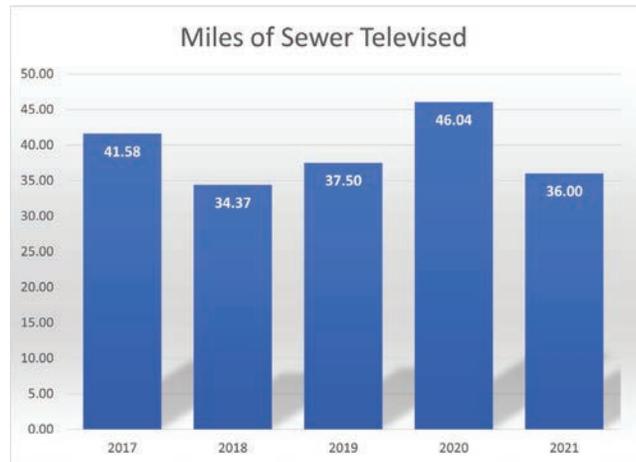
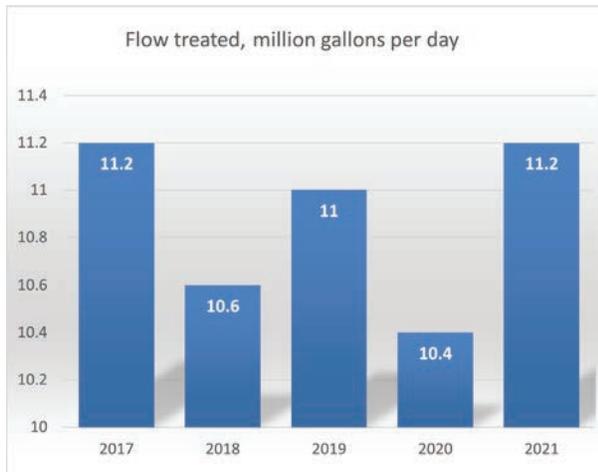
Through a partnership with Communities That Care, and several participating local nonprofits, Transit began providing free service to all Pueblo K-12 students and expanded the program with an ARPA grant to include free fares for parents or guardians of elementary-age children to further this vital community program ensuring safe rides to school for all.

# Wastewater

The Wastewater Department is an enterprise with the mission of collecting and reclaiming wastewater in a manner that is protective of public health and the environment. This is done by collecting sanitary sewage from residences, businesses, and industries; conveying sewage to the wastewater treatment facility safely and efficiently; treating sewage to levels specified by federal and state law; and disposing of residual materials in compliance with legal requirements.



The Wastewater Reclamation Facility has the capacity to treat 19 million gallons per day (MGD) of municipal wastewater. The Pretreatment staff inspect and monitor industries to protect the Wastewater Reclamation Facility from harmful discharges. The Wastewater Collection Division maintains the sanitary sewer collection mains, including cleaning, rooting, televising, sealing, and repairing sewer mains.

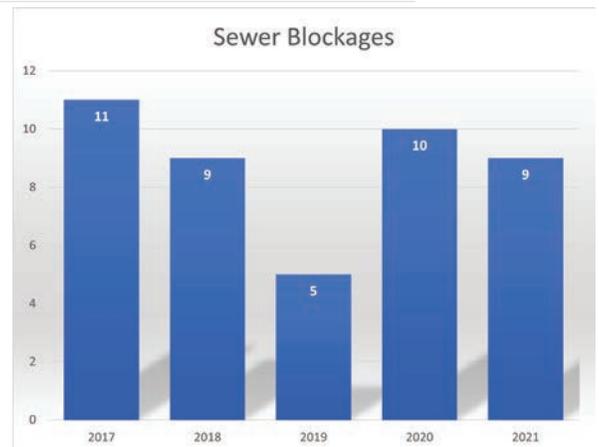
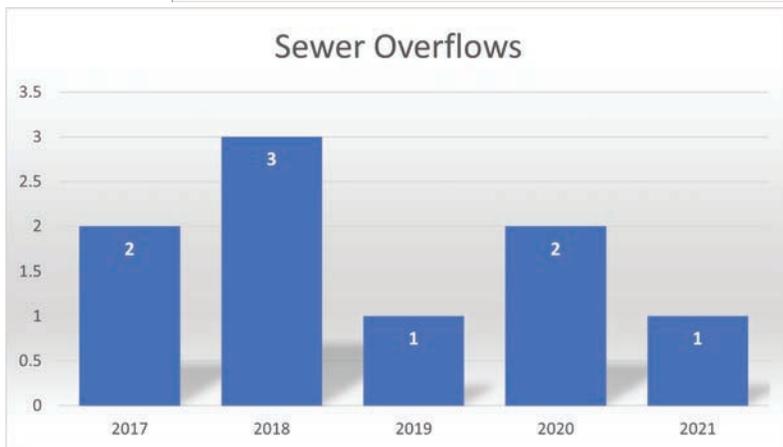
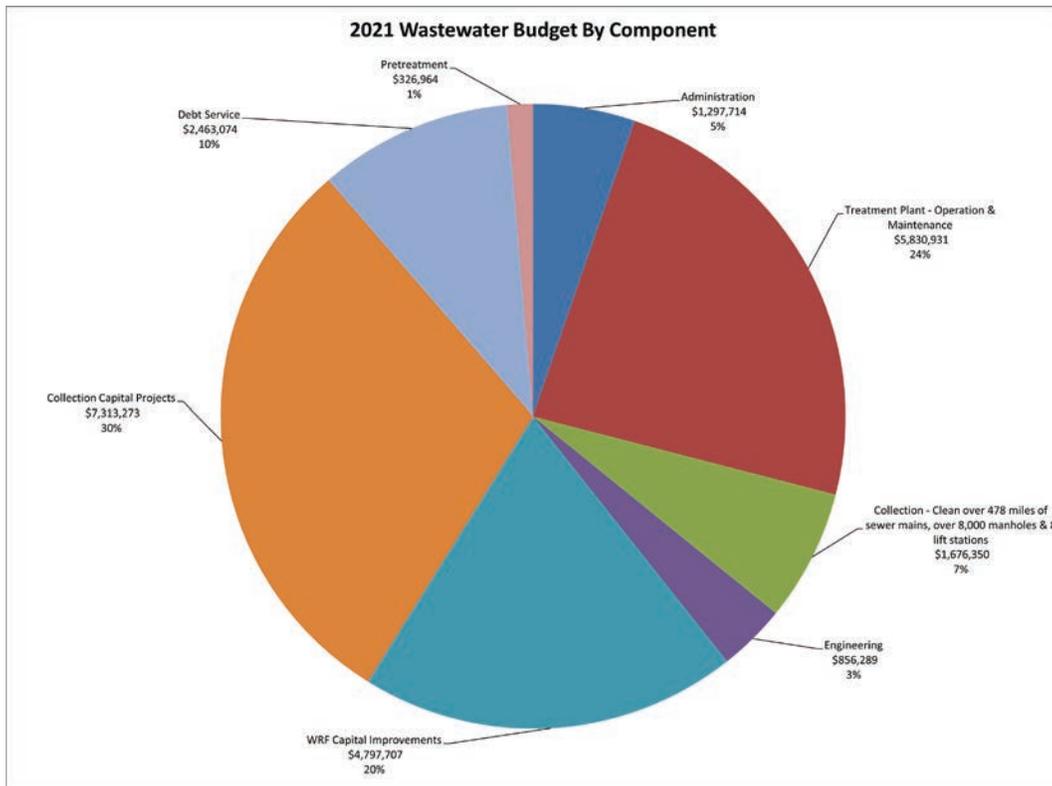




*Title: "Raccoon Rodeo"*

*This image was a proposed submission for The Rocky Mountain Water and Environment Association calendar showing a baby raccoon that was in the sludge. The staff worked and worked to get baby raccoon to come off the sludge, but it crawled right back on since the sludge was warm. Finally, mama raccoon showed up and it followed her out of the sludge beds.*

# Wastewater



In addition, the Wastewater Department has standby crews on call 24 hours a day to respond to plant emergencies or sanitary main blockages.

The Engineering Division reviews subdivision plans, evaluates, and prioritizes sewer system rehabilitation, maintains computerized records, designs engineering plans for construction, and inspects all new and rehabilitated sanitary sewer mains for proper installation.

The Wastewater Administration is responsible for administrative duties, budget management and maintaining compliance with Federal, State and local regulatory requirements.

The Wastewater Department has a long record of compliance and good relationships with the State and EPA. Recently the Wastewater Department won the Peak Performance Platinum Award for seven years full compliance with the Colorado Discharge Permit from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

## Infrastructure Projects

<b>Collection Projects</b>	<b>2021</b>	
Large Main Lining	\$554,643	Line 21, 36 and 42 inch sanitary mains with cured in place pipe and epoxy manholes within the project area.
Small Main Lining	\$1,199,666	Cured in place pipe and epoxy manholes where repairs can be done without digging up the main less than 24 inches. Eliminating the need for removal and replacement of the pipe and manholes as well as repairing the alley approaches, cross pan and road base, if impacted.
Annual Manhole Rehabilitation	\$495,613	Replaced or epoxy coated manholes that were in poor condition.
Emergency Projects	\$277,575	Emergency repairs to fix sanitary mains that have failed or have a blockage.

<b>Water Reclamation Infrastructure</b>	<b>2021</b>	
Phase 4 Electrical Rehabilitation Design 2020-2021	\$1,127,876	Completed design plans started the end of 2020 for project to replace Headworks and Primary Clarifier Area Control Panels and Motor Control Centers
Dump Station Truck Scale	\$146,514	Install a truck scale to allow for accurate billing based on volume of septage from septic haulers
Replace HVAC	\$110,433	Replace several HVAC units at the Water Reclamation Facility
Secondary Clarifier Rehabilitation	\$70,386	Repairs to one of the aging Secondary Clarifiers

<b>Selenium Projects</b>	<b>2021</b>	
Selenium Reduction Project	\$2,639,992	Repair of high selenium area mains and manholes to reduce infiltration.

In addition to the Water Reclamation Facility infrastructure and collection system infrastructure improvements in 2021, additional highlights include:

- Annual reports continue to be submitted to the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission for the Discharger Specific Variance for selenium and sulfate. The next review hearing will be in 2023.

# Wastewater

- All sanitary sewer mains are prioritized per the Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP) that was established by the National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO). Repair and maintenance of the Collection system is addressing the mains with the highest priority annually.
- Maintained a schedule of cleaning sanitary sewer mains at least once every two years to minimize backups and overflows.
- The Collection crew continued working toward televising 100% of all City sewer mains.
- ARPA funds have been awarded to extend the City sewer mains to the north near Wildhorse Creek to allow development in areas that were inhibited by lack of City infrastructure. The \$2 million project is expected to be done in 2022.



## GOALS

- Meet all Colorado Discharge Permit requirements.
- Improve the reliability of the aging water reclamation facility by completing the Phase 4 Electrical Upgrades. Design was completed in 2021 with modifications to reduce cost and will go to bid in 2022.
- Selenium Discharger Specific Variance will provide some regulatory relief or selenium and sulfate removal requirement. The variance allows 10 years to complete \$10 million of infrastructure improvements to reduce infiltration of ground water high in selenium and sulfate and to test pilot treatments that may be necessary to install if groundwater infiltration cannot be reduced enough to meet stream standards. The stream standards have been met for selenium in dry weather for about two years, but wet weather increases groundwater infiltration causing increased levels of selenium and sulfate.

- Work with the Water Quality Control Division stakeholder process to ensure Pueblo's views are communicated to the Division on regulatory changes to limit unnecessary impacts and provide hearing comments on regulatory and policy updates.
- Continue to analyze samples in the Wastewater laboratory to provide data to monitor each process in the Water Reclamation Facility, sample manholes in the collection system, verify compliance with the Colorado Discharge Permit, analyze samples from Fountain Creek and Arkansas River, analyze samples from potential sources of pollutants, and for special studies.
- With the passage of the 2021 Infrastructure legislation, potential funding for projects through grants and 0% interest loans will be requested if the program developed by the state is a viable source of funding for Pueblo's projects.

## CHALLENGES

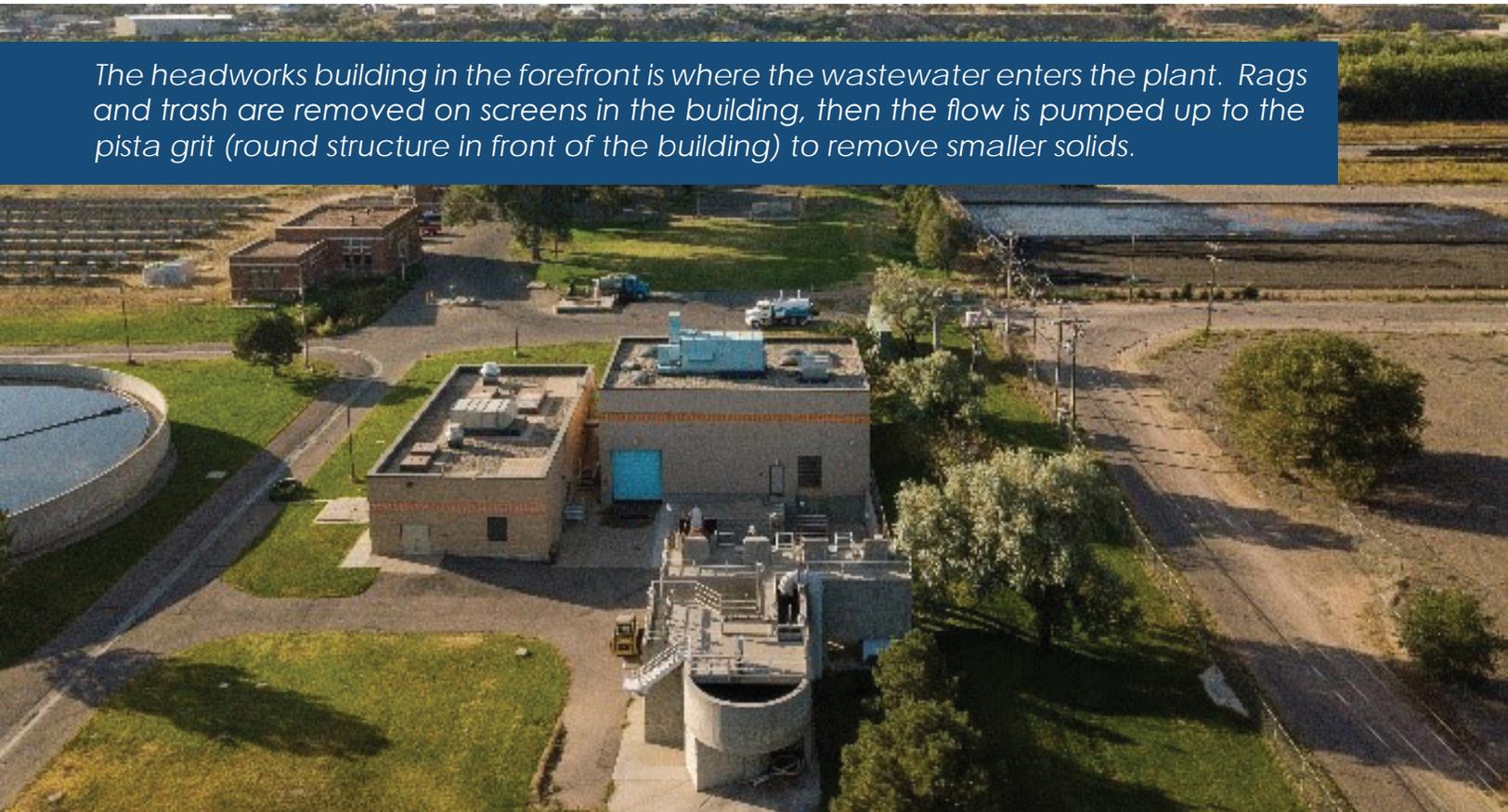
- The groundwater picks up selenium and sulfate as it flows through the natural Pierre Shale layers that underlies the City of Pueblo. Infiltration of this groundwater into the sanitary sewer system causes high concentrations of selenium and sulfate that must be removed by the Water Reclamation Facility to meet stream standards. The City does not own the private service lines, but they can be a major source if the homeowners do not maintain them. Also, sump pumps that are illegally connected to the sanitary system can increase the selenium and sulfate concentrations. Extremely expensive treatment of the wastewater will be required if elimination of groundwater infiltration is not effective.
- The Wastewater Department continues to work on energy efficiency and upgrading the infrastructure. Cost of repairs/replacement makes it difficult to catch up with the needs.
- The Water Reclamation Facility is over 30 years old, equipment and infrastructure are needing repairs and upgrades. Some equipment is to the point that parts and service are not supported. The processes that have been required to meet regulatory changes have been upgraded but the rest of the facility is aging rapidly.
- The sanitary sewer system is very old. 17.6 % of the sanitary mains are over 100 years old and 47.5% are 51-99 years old. Only 34.9% are under 50 years old.
- Significantly lower nutrients standards will be finalized by the Water Quality Control Commission in 2027 and will require an estimated \$20 million addition to the Water Reclamation Facility to reach the next level of required treatment.
- PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) have been determined to be a pollutant of concern by the Water Quality Control Commission. Monitoring will be required to identify sources and requirements are expected in the next discharge permit. It is unknown at this time if treatment will be required.



# Wastewater

- The improper disposal of wipes and other consumer products cause extensive problems for wastewater utilities. Wipes are not engineered to quickly break down or dissolve when flushed down the toilet. They can adhere to other improperly flushed products such as fats, oils and grease or tree roots forming major blockages that can result in sewer overflows and environmental harm. Wipes also clog home plumbing and may damage wastewater treatment equipment, such as pumps. Many wipes are also made from plastics that can release particles into the environment and harm aquatic ecosystems. Improper labeling on disposable wipes products can result in substantial costs to wastewater utilities and the ratepayers they serve.
- The Collection crew responded to 123 emergency call outs in 2021 to check sanitary mains and clean them if blocked to assist the citizens. If the main is not blocked the affected homeowner is notified that there is an issue in their service line. This saves the homeowner from calling a plumber until it is verified that the issue is not in the city system. In addition, crews have a very aggressive requirement to clean all lines at least once every two years to make sure to limit the number of issues. Most of the North Range cities have a standard of once every three to five years.
- The Water Reclamation Facility will begin to evaluate ways to reduce the environmental impact of treatment by energy reduction and resource recovery through hydropower, biogas production, solar, nutrient recovery, and chemical reduction to determine the most cost-effective improvements that can be made.
- Significant turnover in staff is anticipated within the next five years due to the age of the work force. Training new staff and incorporating new leaders into the organizational structure will present staffing challenges.

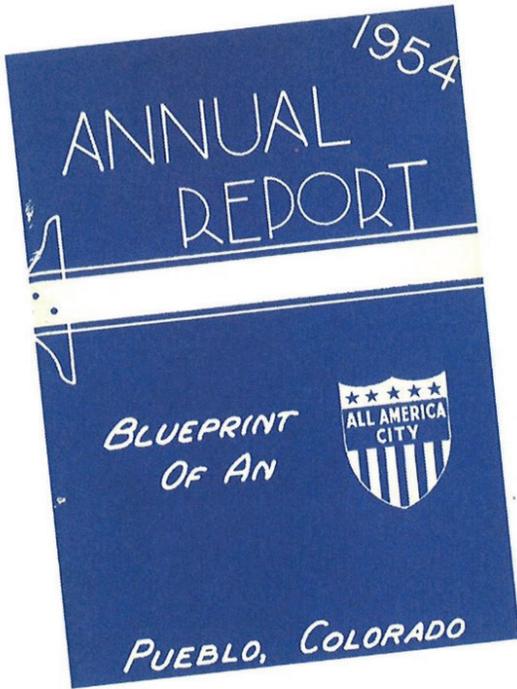
*The headworks building in the forefront is where the wastewater enters the plant. Rags and trash are removed on screens in the building, then the flow is pumped up to the pista grit (round structure in front of the building) to remove smaller solids.*



Excerpts from the 1954 Annual Report for the City of Pueblo:

## The Good Ole Days in Wastewater Treatment

# SEWAGE TREATMENT



IF RIP VAN WINKLE WERE TO AWAKE IN 1954 THE THING THAT WOULD IMPRESS HIM MOST IN THE MODERN CITY WOULD BE THE SMELL, OR LACK OF IT.

BACK IN THE DAYS OF OLD,  
KNIGHTS IN SHINING ARMOR,  
THEIR NOSES HAD TO HOLD.

WITH APOLOGIES TO OGDEN NASH

THE REASON, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T SNIFFED IT, WAS BECAUSE THE STREETS SERVED THE EFFICIENT BUT OFFENSIVE DUAL PURPOSE OF PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE AND SEWER. TECHNICALLY THE STREETS AND ALLEYS ARE STILL USED TO CARRY SEWAGE BUT NOW THE STUFF IS IN PIPES UNDER THE SURFACE.

QUITE A BIT RUNS IN THE PIPES, TOO. IN 1954 A TOTAL OF 5,400,510,000 GALLONS OF SEWAGE WERE TREATED IN THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT. VIRTUALLY HALF OF ALL THE WATER USED IN THE CITY FINDS ITS WAY INTO THE SEWERS AND THENCE TO THE PLANT. THE ABOVE FIGURE WHEN DIVIDED BY 365 DAYS GIVES AN AVERAGE OF 14,769,000 GALLONS A DAY, AN INCREASE OF 569,000 OVER 1953---ANOTHER INDICATION THAT PUEBLO IS GROWING.



THIS INCREASE WOULD HAVE BEEN GREATER HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR GOOD SLEUTHING BY U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ENGINEERS WORKING IN THE CITY. THEY FOUND SOME 800 ARCHAIC PLUMBING DEVICES CALLED "HOPPER TOILETS". ASIDE FROM THE FACT THESE HANGOVERS FROM THE GAY NINETIES JEOPARDIZED THE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY BECAUSE THEY WERE CROSS-CONNECTED, THEY WASTED PRODIGIOUS QUANTITIES OF WATER. THIS STORY HAS A POINT HERE BECAUSE THE ELIMINATION OF THE "HOPPERS" HAS REDUCED THE FLOW TO THE PLANT BY ABOUT 1,000,000 GALLONS A DAY. PRECIOUS WATER IS BEING SAVED AND THE LOAD ON THE TREATMENT PLANT IS LESSENER.

SEWERS ARE LIKE THE CUSPIDOR THAT WAS MISSED AFTER IT WAS GONE! SEWAGE HAS DEVELOPED THE HABIT OF OBEYING THE LAW OF GRAVITY AND HENCE RUNS DOWNHILL. WHEN A SEWER STOPS UP SOMETHING HAS TO HAPPEN WHEN FOLLOWING THAT URGE AND THE "DOWNHILL" OFTEN TURNS OUT TO BE YOUR BASEMENT. IN ORDER TO STOP STOPPAGES BEFORE THEY HAPPEN THE SEWER DIVISION RAN CLEANING EQUIPMENT THROUGH 43 BLOCKS OF SEWERS AND FLUSHED ANOTHER 119 BLOCKS.

BUT WE CAN'T ALWAYS KEEP AHEAD OF THE PROBLEM ESPECIALLY WHEN ROOTS GROW INTO OLD LINES AND PEOPLE THROW ARTICLES AS LARGE AS BED SHEETS INTO THE SEWERS. WHAT WE'RE GETTING AROUND TO TELLING YOU IS THAT THE DIVISION OPENED 805 SEWER STOPPAGES.

# Community Engagement

The City of Pueblo supports many programs and outreach events throughout the year. This section is just a sampling of the types of things each Department is busy with all year long!

The inaugural Pueblo Classic bicycle race drew over 600 collegiate and pro competitors to Pueblo in April. The long-distance Steel City Road Race was just outside of town followed by the Pueblo Chilly Criterium in which competitors zoom around the historic Union Avenue district.

Local race organizer and emcee Steve Liebel said they can hit speeds above 35 miles per hour.

"You can feel the wind coming off of them. It's NASCAR on bicycles. They're drafting off of each other, inches away from each other in this huge group," he said. "It's just exhilarating to watch them really turn it over."

This event was presented by the City of Pueblo and the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Cycling Conference and included a Community Bike Ride led by Mayor Nick Gradisar and Police Chief Troy Davenport.

In tandem with the race, the City partnered with the Pueblo Arts Alliance to hold a poster art contest with a \$1,000 award to the winner. The 2021 winning artwork was created by Laura Acevedo who is a student of graphic design at Colorado State University Pueblo.

Plans have already begun to host the Pueblo Classic Race in 2022.





*Continuum Race photos by Explore with Chris*

# Community Engagement

Mayor Gradisar participates in many student activities throughout the year from reading to students to giving awards. When the pandemic hit, he even read to classrooms virtually!



The City of Pueblo regularly participates in the Corporate Cup at the YMCA of Pueblo. This event is a community competition between local organizations and businesses, promoting fitness, health, and wellness in the workplace.

Corporate Cup includes a "togetherness project" which is the best part! This year, the City of Pueblo chose to clean up the Sister Cities Plaza during their lunch hour.



1. City of Pueblo Corporate Cup 5K participants

2 & 3. City employees clean up the Sister Cities Plaza for their "togetherness project"

# Community Engagement

The City utilized ARPA funds to enable the three-month long Homeless Outreach Providing Employment (HOPE) Project initiative which was coordinated by the Pueblo Rescue Mission to pay those experiencing homelessness to help clean up blighted areas of the town. Participants receive \$50 for four hours of labor. The program runs four days a week, meaning people could earn up to \$200 per week for beautifying the city.



Airport community members, family, and teddy bears portrayed "victims" during Pueblo Memorial Airport's Triennial Full-Scale Emergency Exercise held in May.



From @dannycatzbc

"Great mtg in Pueblo today on financial empowerment. @CityofPueblo Mayor Gradisar spoke about City programs w/ leaders like United Way, NAACP, Neighborworks. Thanks @COAttnyGeneral @pweiser for your leadership to create a state Office of Financial Empowerment #consumerprotection"





During the month of November, officers participated in "Beards for Christmas" which allowed them to wear a neatly trimmed beard or goatee. Officers that participated donated money to the Heroes and Helpers program which allows youth in the community to go Christmas shopping with first responders. Officers raised over \$3,000.

Mayor Nick Gradisar and Public Works Director Andrew Hayes test out the new Bird Scooters on Union Avenue. Bird Scooters allow more equitable transportation access and every Bird Scooter on the road results in about 1,500 pounds of avoided carbon emissions each year.



Title: "IT in the time of COVID-19"  
City Information Tech staff member, David, helps a fellow City employee via Zoom.

The 2021 Special Olympics Torch Run took place in May which included athletes from Colorado and first responders from Pueblo Police, Pueblo Sheriff and Colorado State Patrol.



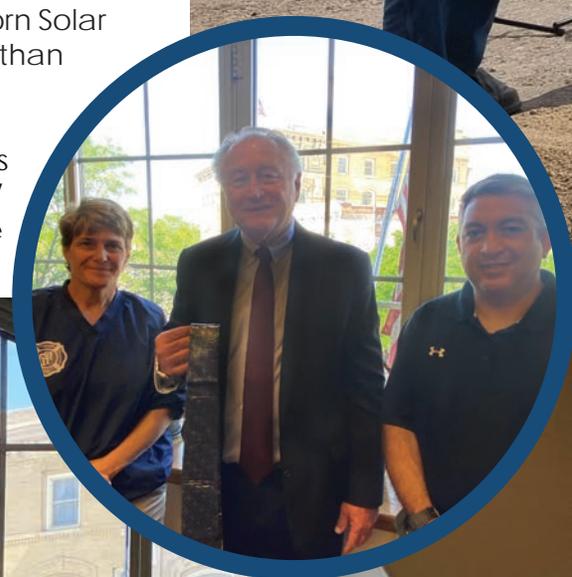
# Community Engagement

Members of the Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico Department of Public Safety arrived in Pueblo to visit. The relationship between Chihuahua and Pueblo was developed through the Sister Cities program. Since the inception of this relationship, Pueblo Police and Fire departments have collaborated to plan several officer exchanges, equipment donations, and training programs. These events have had positive effects within each respective agency along with each communities they serve. **(Pictured below)**

Throughout the year, Mayor Gradisar supports many grand openings, groundbreakings, anniversary celebrations, and other special occasions for local businesses.

**Pictured right** is the groundbreaking of the EVRAZ North America Long Rail Mill in Pueblo. The \$500 million long rail mill will employ about 300 people when complete, and have the capability of make ¼-mile long sections of rail. The complex will be powered by the Bighorn Solar project which will generate enough electricity to power more than 90% of the EVRAZ Rocky Mountain steel mill, officials said.

Other events throughout 2021 included the opening of Ybarra's Boxing Club, Mount Carmel Veterans Services, Chavez/ Huerta K-12 Preparatory Academy, and the Arkansas Levee Pedestrian Bridge.





1.



2.



3.



4.

1. Governor Polis, Mayor Gradisar, and Council President Atencio joined EVRAZ executives for the groundbreaking of the Long Rail Mill in Pueblo.
2. Mayor Gradisar presents a proclamation during Gagliano's 100 year anniversary
3. Tour and grand opening of the Care and Share Sunnyside Market
4. Executives from CS Wind visit the Mayor's Office after announcing they will take over the Vestas wind tower factory in Pueblo and create more jobs.

# Community Engagement

Originated by Mayor Gradisar, the 2021 Reading Pays program allowed young readers to earn more than \$700,000 during the \$1 million summer reading challenge with the Pueblo City-County Library District which was the City's first project using American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA) funds.



A total of 7,074 kids earned \$100 by the challenge's end. To successfully complete the challenge, registrants, ranging in age from 0 to 17, were required to check out 10 library materials then submit a response to what they borrowed.

Twenty-two schools in both Pueblo City School District 60 and Pueblo County School District 70 as well as private and charter schools added Reading Pays into their curriculum, ensuring that those students have the opportunity to earn their \$100 as well as to reengage or, in some cases, to introduce them to the library district's resources.

A total of 2,178 students completed the September cohort. Among them were students enrolled at District 70's South Mesa Elementary. The school recorded a 100% finishing rate, with all 322 students successfully completing. Officials from Pueblo County, District 70 and the library gave the students their \$100 vouchers or gift bags during an assembly. **(Presentation to Irving Elementary School pictured left.)**

The \$1 million funding for Reading Pays is part of the American Rescue Plan to help Pueblo rebound from the effects of COVID-19. All funds will directly impact area youth, the library district will not keep any of the funds for administrative fees. Registrants opting to open a savings account with Bank of the San Juans will receive an additional \$10, so long as their account maintains a \$50 balance during the next six months. Unused funds will be returned to the City and County of Pueblo, as required by an inter-governmental agreement.

Participating Schools included Avondale Elementary School, Bessemer Elementary School, Bradford Elementary School, César Chávez Academy, Columbian Elementary School, Dolores Huerta Preparatory Academy, Eva R. Baca Elementary School, Franklin School of Innovation, Irving Elementary School, St. John Neumann Catholic School, Liberty Point International School, North Mesa Elementary School, Minnequa Elementary School, Parkhill Christian Academy, Park View Elementary School, Prairie Winds Elementary School, Rye Elementary, South Mesa Elementary School, St. Therese Catholic School, Villa Bella Expeditionary School, and Vineland Elementary School.

*(Right) Monique Marez holds her "40 Emerging Leaders under 40" award.*



The Latino Chamber's 40 Under 40 Emerging Leaders Award recognizes up-and-coming leaders in their chosen field who show a strong commitment not only to their chosen field, but to the Pueblo County community. Monique Marez, Director of the Pueblo Food Project, was recognized for her outstanding progress with food systems and strategy within the Pueblo community.

# Community Engagement

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council provides input on issues facing Pueblo's youth today. The council is comprised of high school and college age students excited to make a difference in the community and engage in civic affairs. One of the projects the council co-sponsored in 2021 was a back-to-school backpack drive providing school supplies and necessities for fellow high schoolers who are experiencing homelessness.





The Pueblo Police Department has a School Resource Officer (SRO) section with an officer assigned to each of the four high schools and six middle schools. The officers are responsible for crime prevention efforts within the schools and neighborhoods, law enforcement within each of their assigned schools, and traffic enforcement.

City of Pueblo's Police Department hosts its annual "Trunk or Treat" event each year during the Halloween season. It is free and open to the community.



The Pueblo Food Project hosted its second annual Sun Soil Water Summit in November. Participants gathered to learn, share, inspire, and catalyze community food systems change. The Summit hosted a Pitch Competition, the Inaugural Pueblo Food Systems Leadership Awards, a community-led summit, and even a Makers' Market and Idea Fair.

For the pitch competition, Businesses pitched ideas to judges such as Walter Robb, the former co-CEO of Whole Foods Market, Bill Jordan, current president of Whole Foods Market in the Rocky Mountain Region, Carlotta Mast, senior vice president and market leader at New Hope, and Mark Retzloff, co-founder and president of Flock Regenerative.





City of Pueblo Mayor's Office

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