

INTRODUCTION

In 2022, Thornton City Council developed and affirmed four Strategic Directions: **Community Building, Gathering Places, Community Aesthetics** and **Shaping Future Development**.

These Strategic Directions are visionary but achievable; have broad community impact; may take significant time to achieve; and while not easy to implement, are critical to advancing community-level goals. The Strategic Directions are long-term citywide goals that are supported by short-term departmental efforts and involve work beyond the ongoing delivery of city services. The implementation plan and accomplishments are reviewed and revisited by Thornton City Council annually at the Strategic Planning Conference, and all this work must fit within current financial capacity and an overarching strategy of financial security.

CITY OF THORNTON strategic plan 2023-2027



COMMUNITY BUILDING PURPOSEFUL WEAVING OF "COMMUNITY"

WHAT



COMMUNITY BUILDING creates social capital and social trust by creating opportunities for neighbors to interact and develop a sense of belonging. This is accomplished through outcome-based events, involvement and volunteer opportunities, and improvements to access and connectivity throughout the community.

WHY

COMMUNITY BUILDING is important because it instills a sense of ownership and pride in shared spaces and neighborhoods, making Thornton a desirable place to live and work.

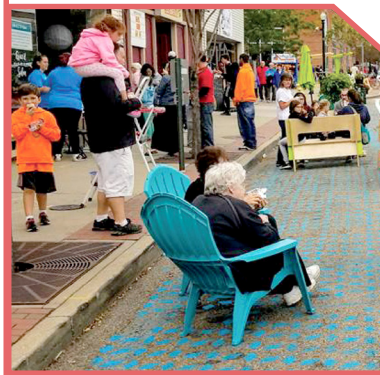
KEY ACTIONS

- » Implement a community-based event and program calendar
- » Enhance the volunteer program
- » Grow the connected network of bike-friendly trails and bikeways
- » Explore programs like a neighborhood engagement program, park ranger program, annual arts festival, text messaging system for community events and programs, and community-led Juneteenth and Pride festivals



GATHERING PLACES ENVISIONING AND CREATING COMMUNITY GATHERING PLACES

WHAT



GATHERING PLACES are interesting spaces designed for socializing and entertainment that create a sense of place in the community. By creating a variety of spaces that are small, large, temporary or permanent, there will be more places for unique ongoing and new events.

WHY

GATHERING PLACES are important because they bring people together to connect with friends and neighbors, creating a sense of community and space to enjoy living in Thornton.

KEY ACTIONS

- » Pursue Eastlake main street festival
- » Pursue short-term maker space fair at Lambertson Farms
- » Pursue long-term marketplace at Lambertson Farms
- » Host a Thornton Shopping Center celebration event
- » Research viability of Eastlake local business district



COMMUNITY AESTHETICS

A VISUALLY INTERESTING AND ATTRACTIVE CITY

WHAT

COMMUNITY AESTHETICS improves the image and quality of public spaces such as streets, landscaping, signage, lighting and parks. Efforts to improve the aesthetic appeal of private development, such as addressing blight and removing graffiti, further the goal of creating an attractive community.



WHY

COMMUNITY AESTHETICS is important because ensuring Thornton is an appealing place reflects positively on the community and instills a sense of civic pride.

KEY ACTIONS

- » Enhance street median, roundabout and right-of-way maintenance
- » Add and improve city landmark signs
- » Enhance trail rehabilitation and maintenance program
- » Include aesthetic improvements in the Development Code update
- » Amend City Code to improve private stormwater detention ponds and tree lawns
- » Enhance public art program to include more smaller scale projects
- » Explore efforts like a uniform residential pavement color program, installation of play features along nature trail and chalk pads in playgrounds, and program to encourage more local art, including potential partnerships with schools and businesses

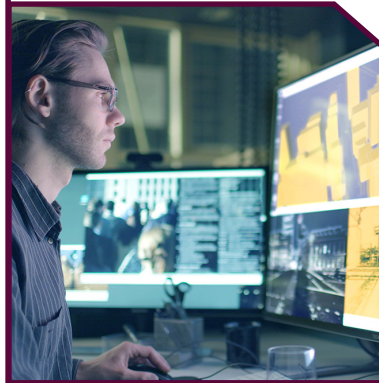


SHAPING FUTURE GROWTH

ENVISIONING AND SHAPING THORNTON'S "BUILT END-STATE"

WHAT

SHAPING FUTURE GROWTH is a "Grand Strategy" that guides the complex process of development toward the vision outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. This requires an understanding of patterns, trends, and data that impact current development and involves reviewing the policies and codes that incentivize high-quality development.



WHY

SHAPING FUTURE GROWTH is important because it targets quality development that will ensure Thornton stays a desirable place to live and work into the future.

KEY ACTIONS

- » Identify, assess and develop a strategy for revitalizing key commercial developments
- » Improve the aesthetic quality of new development through the Development Code update



FINANCIAL SECURITY

FINANCIAL SECURITY is a critical component of the overarching strategy supporting implementation of the Strategic Directions. The implementation plan must compete with the other service demands, legal limitations, and financial capacity. Thornton City Council is required to pass a balanced budget, meaning that ongoing revenues meet or exceed ongoing expenditures and use of fund balance is limited to onetime expenses. While prioritizing and building toward the vision of the Strategic Directions and maintaining current levels of service, financial security requires:

1. Balancing needs versus wants, including sustaining current levels of service.
2. Evolving the workplace to limit personnel growth, while taking steps to retain current employees.
3. Understanding the financial impact of decisions using relevant data.
4. Maintaining reserve financial capacity to address unforeseen challenges and opportunities.