



City of Loveland

Dateline:

LOVELAND

2010 - another challenging year; Loveland's government successful?

Has 2010 been a successful year for the City of Loveland government? Have the city council, city staff and all the agencies and individuals involved with local government maintained or even improved the quality of life in Loveland?

Each Loveland resident, business person, visitor or anyone else who has interacted with the City can offer answers to those questions. As City employees working to provide quality city

services and facilities, we'd like to think the answers are yes.

For the city government, it's been a year of reduced budgets, smaller staffs and furlough days yet without major service reductions. Despite these challenges, as City employees we believe we've accomplished quite a bit this year. The results of this year's citywide survey support our beliefs.

Once again, we provide numbers and narratives summarizing city government's efforts last year. While Loveland will never be perfect, its city government continues to strive to make it a great place to live, work, play and visit.

It's more than a decade since the new millennium and the Y2K scare—remember that?!?—and we hope everyone agrees that Loveland is better than ever.

Signals and signs

Traffic Engineering was involved in a record number of major intersection and interchange projects. The work included traffic signals, signage, striping and a new central computer traffic signal system and controllers for 20 signalized intersections.

Party record

Thanks in great part to the organizational efforts of the police department, neighborhoods enjoyed a record setting 34 block parties for Loveland Community Night Out. This annual public safety event brings neighbors together for block parties visited by police officers, firefighters and ambulance personnel.

Bigger and better

Under construction during most of 2010, the expansion and renovation of the Chilson Recreation Center was completed in December. New facilities include a leisure pool with zero-depth entry, spray cannons, a lazy river, water basketball and volleyball, and a water speed slide. There are new family locker rooms, a party room, multi-purpose gymnasiums and fitness rooms, renovated cardio-equipment areas and an expanded free weight area. Additional parking has also been added.



Flooding prevented

A new stormwater outlet structure was installed at Silver Lake. The existing pipe and structure were almost completely clogged with sediment, preventing drainage flows from leaving the lake during storm events.

Working together

Streets crews from the City of Loveland and the City of Fort Collins

joined forces to reconstruct a badly deteriorated parking lot at the Fort Collins Loveland Municipal Airport. This project included excavating the parking lot, replacing damaged curb/gutter, replacing the road base and repaving the lot with new asphalt.

Going digital

The Building Division launched e-contractor licensing, enabling the acceptance, review and completion of contractor licenses through the use of electronic signatures and e-mail. Both the contractors and the City benefit from reduced time, paper and costs.

Keeping costs low

The City's electric utility saved about \$101,000 in peak demand charges this year thanks to the 3,371 participants in the Partnering with Power program. The program cycles air conditioners to reduce demand for electricity during peak usage times when electricity purchase costs are high. Five Watt Reader kits were placed in the Loveland Public Library for residents to checkout. Watt Readers measure appliance electricity use to help identify the energy hogs. The Great Light Bulb Round Up collected more than 2,000 incandescent light bulbs and the donors received money saving coupons for replacing them with low energy use compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.

Sweeping strategy

The street sweeping program was improved in 2010 by using a new strategy suggested by crew members. A gang-sweeping approach was employed to sweep 1/4 of the city each day, while also avoiding each neighborhood's weekly trash and recycling setout day. With this strategy, a total of 9,500 lane miles were swept this year versus 8,285 in 2009 – a gain of 15 percent.

Assistance to citizens

The Loveland City Council awarded \$875,393 in grants to local nonprofit

agencies serving local citizens in need with shelter, transportation, food, health services, and many other basic needs.

The agencies provided 45 programs and projects to local residents with incomes less than 70 percent of the Area Median Income. The City provided \$450,000 in Human Services Grant funds and another \$425,393 was provided by Federal Housing grants and the Department of Energy stimulus grants.

Crossroads completed

Traffic backups have been eliminated and safety greatly improved with the completion of major improvements to the I-25/Crossroads interchange. Thanks to the new ramps and pair of roundabouts, a single car waiting to turn left no longer delays all the motorists behind. The smoother flow reduces risk-taking and accidents. Funded by federal stimulus and Centermonies, no City funds were needed for the \$6.5 million project.



Actual and exercise

The Public Information Office was actively involved in both actual and fictional emergencies during 2010. The public and media were informed and updated during the Reservoir Road wildfire and Museum/Gallery artwork destruction via media releases, website postings, 1610AM radio, 962-2020 Info Line, TV channel 16 and Twitter. Plus, information staffers participated in an airliner disaster drill staged near the local airport.

Crime ring broken

Loveland police interrupted a burglary at a local gun store, arresting two suspects in the process of stealing nearly 50 firearms. The follow-up investigation led to the arrest of a third suspect and broke up a major organized crime ring responsible for more than \$100,000 in thefts. All of the suspects have been sentenced to prison.

Many requests

Upkeep, management, repairs and improvements to City-owned facilities is a full-time job. The Facilities Management team completed about 7,800 work requests in 2010—large and small, indoor and outdoor. The community may have noticed improvements to Foote Lagoon seating and a new flag pole at the Civic Center but will probably never see the special enhancements to the police shooting range.

Planning for the worst

The Office of Emergency Management hopes all their work imagining and planning for worst-case scenarios will go unused. Efforts included hosting classes, working with the school district, updating written plans and conducting exercises. Special attention was paid to weather condition spotting, chemical concerns, interacting with the hospitals and involvement in a full-scale airliner crash drill near the airport.

Citywide blues

The new blue recycling carts were delivered to all Loveland homes in 2010 for every-other-week recycling collection. Residents are able to choose from three cart sizes to best meet their needs. By moving to this cart-based curbside recycling system, now only three instead of five trucks are required for collections. This change has resulted in a significant cost savings.

Paid for by the City of Loveland

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Academy grads

The police department's annual Citizens Police Academy graduated 28 local residents who attended ten weekly evening classes. The students learned about emergency communications, use of force, DUI enforcement, gangs, SWAT response, explosive devices, and police K-9s. The academy will be offered again this fall.

CFI has arrived

Traffic flows more smoothly, left-turns require less waiting and red-light time has decreased at the continuous flow intersection (CFI) at Madison and Eisenhower. The innovative CFI design enables left-turners and through traffic to travel simultaneously. The design also enabled the intersection to be enlarged while minimizing impact to adjacent businesses.

Drugs collected

The community dropped off 195 pounds of unneeded and expired medications at the police department during the first-ever National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The collected drugs were then safely and properly destroyed by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Hydroelectric repairs

Repairs of the cracks and spalling of the concrete were completed at the Idylwilde Dam in the Big Thompson River. The dam houses a hydroelectric power plant. Crews also installed steel hangers on the face of the dam and installed a water aeration device to keep ice from forming on the face of the dam.



Almost double

Work has begun to make the Loveland Public Library almost twice as large and twice as tall. Construction on the 25,000 sq. ft. addition and major renovation of the library building will be completed this fall. Of the \$9.7 million total cost, the Friends of the Library Foundation raised about \$1.4 million in donations, plus another \$800,000 comes from state and federal grants.

If we're thirsty

Loveland now has rights to an additional 1.2 billion gallons of water annually. The City completed two purchases of raw water from the Colorado-Big Thompson Project totaling 127 acre-feet, plus a water court decision enables Loveland to use an additional 4,000 acre-feet from the Big Thompson River. When needed, the water will flow into the treatment plant and then to Loveland's spigots.

Know the code?

In addition to dealing with customary issues including trashy properties, abandoned vehicles, overgrown lawns and much more, the City's Code Enforcement officers dealt with approximately 150 dead/dangerous tree issues. They also instituted e-permitting for temporary signage and helped rewrite the City's graffiti ordinance.

Good grades again

Loveland residents again gave City services thumbs-ups according to the annual Quality of Life Survey. More than 900 households mailed back the 24-question survey with feedback on City services and facilities. The overall ratings were high for 2010 plus the six-year trend line continued upward.

