



# Growing Pains

"We are worse than Ft. Collins now."

"Please don't make Loveland another Boulder."

"I'm excited about the changes ahead."

"We've lived here for 20 years and love Loveland."

"We're becoming a mini-Los Angeles."

"This is a lovely place to live and is only getting better."

## Resident views show growth is 'elephant' in Loveland's room

Participants in Loveland's annual Quality of Life Survey set all sorts of records in 2016.

They flocked to the opinion poll in greater numbers than in any previous year, with more than 1,200 responses. More than half of those, an all-time high of 660, submitted optional written comments.

Many of those comments, including those shown above, were about the elephant in

our room – the growth rate in Loveland and throughout Northern Colorado that is getting national attention.

An annual data-dump reflecting U.S. Census Bureau estimates in March told this region's residents what most of them already knew. The numbers showed:

- Two of the nation's 10 fastest-growing metropolitan areas are in our region, with fifth-ranked Greeley, defined by the census as Weld County, and No. 10 Fort Collins, including all Larimer County.
- Colorado is the nation's second fastest-growing state – with oil-

booming North Dakota No. 1. We grew 8.5 percent in the six years since the last official census in 2010, adding more than 426,000 new residents to top 5.46 million.

- Loveland's growth rate during the same six years was even higher, 9.9 percent, as the City added nearly 6,700 new residents to push the population to 74,427.

Dicing those population numbers leads to other conclusions about growth in Loveland and Northern Colorado. For example, this year Colorado reached a tipping point it has been creeping toward throughout its history: More than half of Colorado residents were born outside the state.

(see **Growth** page 2)

## Growth (from page 1)

“People suggest that we’re in a situation similar to where California was 50 years ago, and trends that we see validated by real numbers tend to support that,” said Karl Barton, senior planner in the City’s Community and Strategic Planning Division of the Department of Development Services.

Barton’s data leads to a forecast that Loveland’s population will grow about 2.5 percent annually over the next several years, but “that doesn’t mean that communities like ours can’t do things to manage and prepare for that pace of growth,” he said.

### Population shift

The components of Loveland’s population are also changing.

Our median age climbs, with a smaller number of residents younger than 20 living here today than in 2000. Meanwhile, migrating retirees are joining the City’s old-timers to push that median age upward.

### Learn more

The **Annual Data and Assumptions Report**, a quick read of Loveland’s population, housing and economic conditions, is available here:

[CityofLoveland.org/PlanData](http://CityofLoveland.org/PlanData)

**Create Loveland**, the 10-year Comprehensive Plan for the City, is a 239-page document that spans in great detail a range of planning topics that will shape how the community develops in the future. Find it at:

[CityofLoveland.org/CreateLoveland](http://CityofLoveland.org/CreateLoveland)

A current project, the **Development Code Update**, will revise zoning, annexation and subdivision standards to ensure compliance while at the same time improving the development review process to make it more understandable to users and the public. See that process explained here:

[CityofLoveland.org/UnifiedCode](http://CityofLoveland.org/UnifiedCode)

“Those older newcomers bring money in from outside our region through their pensions and investments,” Barton said. “But, they tend to spend less in local businesses than families with children do.”

Barton and others in the City’s strategic planning section, in collaboration with other City departments, annually compile a boil-down of population numbers, housing data and economic measures into the Annual Data and Assumptions Report.

The report – 22 pages for 2016 – is an illuminating snapshot of ways growth shows itself in Loveland and serves as a guide to decision-making by departments and divisions in City government.

### Plan approved

More durable is the City of Loveland Comprehensive Plan, an over-arching document that Barton and a team of outside consultants completed earlier this year and that serves as a land-use and planning guide for a decade to come.

City Councilors in August endorsed the plan, called **Create Loveland**, after a two-year drafting process that involved input from thousands of residents.

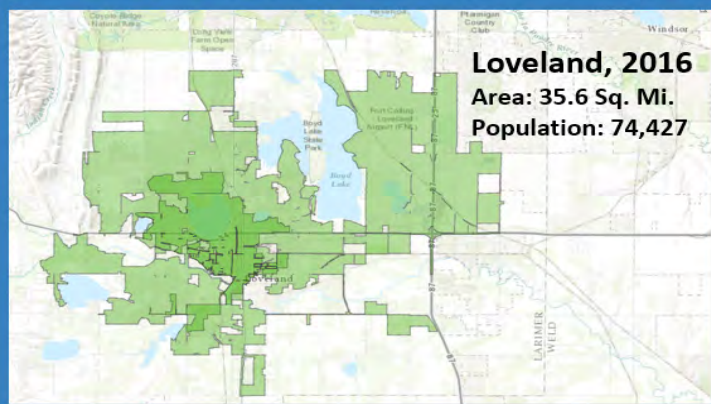
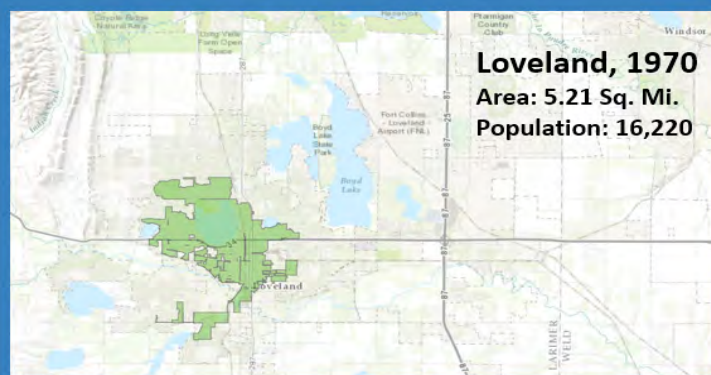
Another example of how annual data gathering guides the City’s response to growth is in a current project to revamp

## How we got here

Historical context goes a long way to understanding how Loveland is growing today.

The City’s Geographic Information Systems Division tells the story of Loveland’s growth over more than a century with an interactive mapping application available in January. Words and pictures combine to tell when, where, how and why land annexations occurred.

[CityofLoveland.org/GrowMap](http://CityofLoveland.org/GrowMap)



Loveland’s zoning, annexation and subdivision codes. The changes are designed to ensure accountability and compliance, while making the City’s development and land-use processes simpler and easier to understand.

### Get involved

**Opportunities for public participation** in efforts to manage and prepare for the City’s inevitable growth are easy to find.

**Loveland’s Planning Commission** often gets the first public look at new development proposals, and conducts hearings in its advisory role to the Loveland City Council. Check meeting agendas here:

[CityofLoveland.org/PlanningCommission](http://CityofLoveland.org/PlanningCommission)

# Long-awaited flood repairs close Recreation Trail from Wilson to Taft

Long-awaited repairs to the Recreation Trail and adjacent portions of the Big Thompson River corridor are underway between Wilson and Taft avenues - work that requires closure of the mile-long zone through late May.

Long delays in securing funds and environmental approvals for the work to repair damage from the September 2013 flood had pushed the project to this winter, taking advantage of low river flows.

The project managed by the City of Loveland Stormwater Utility includes replacement of the pedestrian bridge just downstream from Wilson Avenue that had been picked up and carried downriver during the flood. Other project features include:

- Repair and realignment of several sections of the concrete pedestrian trail between Wilson and Taft Avenue and construction of a trail connection to the west sidewalk on Taft Avenue;
- Repairs, utility line protection, trail realignment, flood-hazard reduction, and erosion protection north of the Cottonwood Meadows Subdivision in an area heavily scoured by floodwaters;
- Work to repair three damaged storm sewer outfalls;
- Repair and restoration of a stormwater quality treatment pond.



**Work zones along** the mile-long stretch of the Big Thompson River between Wilson and Taft Avenues include pedestrian bridge replacement on the west, Recreation Trail reconstruction and flood repair projects in the middle and new access to the trail on the eastern end.

“We know, because we hear, that people are keenly interested in this work,” Loveland Open Lands and Trails Manager Marilyn Hilgenberg said. “They have been waiting very patiently for years for this project to move forward. We are excited to get to work and to have permanent improvements completed within the next five months.”

The combined projects will cost \$928,517, with 71 percent of the total coming through FEMA reimbursement. Other fund sources include City of Loveland funds and partial reimbursement from the

State of Colorado.

Construction is scheduled for completion by late May 2017. The winter closure ensures a safe work zone on the Recreation Trail and throughout the river corridor from Wilson to Taft Avenues, including the Wilson Avenue parking area adjacent to the bridge.

Residents are asked to comply with the closure until the work is concluded.

Specific questions about the project should be directed to project manager Chris Carlson at (970) 962-2774 or by email at [Chris.Carlson@cityofloveland.org](mailto:Chris.Carlson@cityofloveland.org).

## Residents are responsible for shoveling sidewalks after every snow event

Now that Loveland has had a couple of bonafide snow storms, the City wants to remind residents that they are responsible for clearing all snow from their sidewalks within 24 hours after a snow fall ends, in order to comply with City code.

When residents fail to shovel, school children and pedestrians are forced to walk on snow-packed, icy sidewalks or out in the street. Both situations create a high potential for serious injury.

The homeowner or occupant

would be liable for any injuries and property damage incurred by any person as a result of the failure of the homeowner or occupant to clear the sidewalk.

Residents are asked to shovel snow onto their lawns rather than into the street, which can block drainage and create a possible traffic hazard.

De-icers, available at most grocery, discount and hardware stores can be applied if sidewalks are still icy after being shoveled.

If city snowplows bury curb-

attached sidewalks on Priority 1 routes during street snow removal efforts, crews will remove the snow at no expense to the affected resident. Crews are not deployed to clear sidewalks until the storm has ended, however.

After contacting the homeowner/occupant regarding the snow-covered sidewalk, the City may levy a snow removal fee and fine if it has to clear the walkway.

To report an un-shoveled sidewalk, please call the Police Department at 667-2151.



## LOVELAND FIRE&ICE FESTIVAL

The heart of downtown comes alive at the Loveland Fire and Ice Festival – the largest Valentine's Day celebration in the nation.

**LEARN MORE AT**  
[LovelandFireandIce.com](http://LovelandFireandIce.com)

**Friday, Feb. 10, 5-10 pm**  
**Saturday Feb. 11, 10 am-10 pm**  
**Sunday, Feb. 12, 10 am-8 pm**

FIREWORKS | ICE SCULPTING  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
BREWING & DISTILLING ARTS  
FAMILY FAIR | SO MUCH MORE!

**WHERE FIRE, ICE  
& ENTERTAINMENT  
COLLIDE**

## Secure your loads!

Beginning January 1 all loads to the Recycling Center must be secured. Staff recommends a tarp with bungee cords or rope to hold loads down.



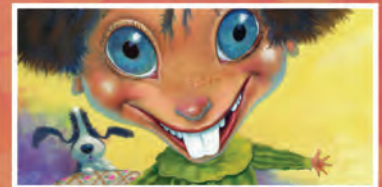
There is a \$10 charge for loads that are not covered/secured.

For more information visit our website at:  
[www.cityofloveland.org/YardWaste](http://www.cityofloveland.org/YardWaste)

Friends of the Loveland Library present

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**WED., FEB. 8, 2017 6:30PM**



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 **Loveland  
Public Library**

## Chilson winter classes

### Tots:

- The 5 Senses/Science Sensations
- Pre-K LEGO Simple Machines/  
Amazing Athletes

- Funshop: We Can Get Along

### Youth and Teen:

- Babysitting/LEGO camps
- Painting & Pastels/Art Camps
- Food for Life: Kids Nutrition

### Adult:

- Journaling for a Better You
- Aromatherapy/Medicinal Foods & Herbs
- Cooking Indian, Thai & Gluten-free

Call 962-2446 or go to  
[www.CityofLoveland.org/Chilson](http://www.CityofLoveland.org/Chilson).



## Get Married or Renew Your Vows on Valentine's Day!

In the Sweetheart City, Loveland CO

**ValentinesDayInLoveland.com**

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ♥ CEREMONY BEGINS @4:30PM AT<br>LOVELAND'S ROMANTIC FOOTE LAGOON | ♥ PHOTO GIFT                  |
| ♥ OFFICIATED BY K99'S TODD HARDING                               | ♥ MARRIAGE OR VOW CERTIFICATE |
| ♥ LIVE MUSIC   | ♥ GIFT BAG                    |
| ♥ CANDLELIGHT  | ♥ WEDDING CUPCAKES            |

*City Update* is a monthly publication of the City of Loveland. Residents receive *City Update* according to their utility billing cycle. Timeliness of the information may be affected by recipients' billing schedule. *City Update* is also available around the first of every month on the City's website at [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org). Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, or [Tom.Hacker@cityofloveland.org](mailto:Tom.Hacker@cityofloveland.org). The City of Loveland is committed to providing an equal opportunity for citizens and does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender. The City will make reasonable accommodations for citizens in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 962-3319.

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# Getting to know those who make up the Loveland Utilities Commission

There are many cogs in the wheel that help make up the inner workings of Loveland Water and Power (LWP).

One very important cog is the Loveland Utilities Commission (LUC).

The LUC is an advisory board that provides information and consultation to the Loveland City Council on all matters pertaining to water, wastewater and electric utility operations and services provided by the City.

The LUC is a unique board in that it is the only board in the City that can award and approve contracts of \$500,000 or more on the behalf of City Council.

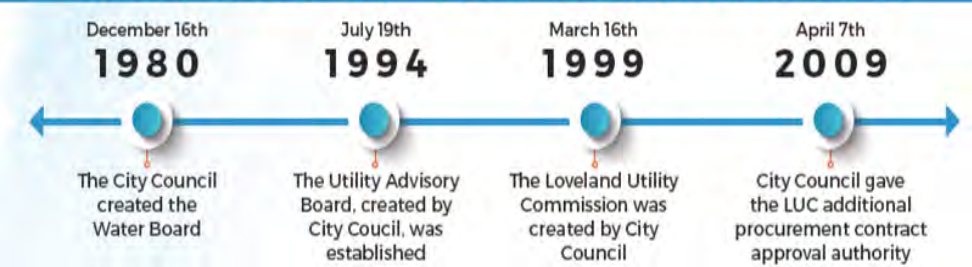
The LUC is composed of nine members appointed by City Council and two non-voting liaison members – a City Council member and a staff liaison.

right) was recently appointed as the new chairman and has served on the board for more than 25 years.

“As a hometown boy I’ve seen Loveland grow from a small community to a larger one that provides a great quality of life,” said Hausman. “I feel a great sense of satisfaction for being able to be a part of the changes contributing to this quality of life and enjoy helping provide quality services at competitive rates to our customers,” Hausman added.

Hausman’s career in industrial construction management and experience in the US Army brought him to the board. He served as Mayor Pro Tem in the 90’s when he volunteered as the Council liaison to the Water Board, which eventually became

## HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION



Each board member’s term of office is three years but there are no term-renewal limits. This enables board members to continue to build their knowledge of utility issues and share that broader understanding and experience with City Council. “LWP is very fortunate to have over 110 years of combined experience from current board members,” said Gretchen Stanford, acting Water and Power Director.

Gary Hausman (pictured top

the LUC. His favorite part of serving on the board is the friendships he has made with the commission members and City staff.

LUC meetings are held at 4 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month in the Service Center Board Room at Loveland Water and Power, 200 N. Wilson Ave. Meetings are open to the public and interested citizens are welcome to attend.

To learn more about the LUC visit [cityofloveland.org/LUC](http://cityofloveland.org/LUC).

### The Loveland Utilities Commission

**Gary Hausman**  
Chairman

**Dan Herlihey**  
Vice Chair

**John Butler**  
Board Member

**Dave Kavanagh**  
Board Member

**Gene Packer**  
Board Member

**Larry Roos**  
Board Member

**Dave Schneider**  
Board Member

**Randy Williams**  
Board Member

**Troy Krenning**  
Council Liaison  
(Non-voting member)

**Gretchen Stanford**  
Acting Water and Power Director  
(Non-voting member)

# Loveland Water and Power's ten most notable accomplishments of 2016

This year has proven to be a very busy one for Loveland Water and Power (LWP).

LWP staff has worked hard planning for the future in order to continue to offer reliable utilities at competitive rates with a continued focus on a high level of customer service.

LWP has also completed several projects that help it continue to move toward its goals.

Following are the top ten accomplishments for LWP in 2016 – not in any specific order.

## 1. Completion of a \$24 million water treatment plant expansion

This project increased plant capacity from 30 million gallons a day (MGD) to 38 MGD. It also helped improve reliability and increase safety for workers.

## 2. Began design phase of \$37 million expansion and renovation project at the wastewater treatment plant



**Above:** The new “chemical” building at the expanded water treatment plant. **Below:** The wastewater treatment plant set for expansion.



Project improvements will include increased plant capacity, replacing aging equipment and biological nutrient removal to



**The Foothills Solar** and Substation project is the first electricity-generating project to be approved through the FEMA Alternate Process. Photo: Namaste Solar

improve the water quality in the Big Thompson River.

## 3. Embarked on exploration of Broadband internet service in Loveland

LWP staff has begun to explore options for making high-speed broadband internet service available to Loveland residents, businesses and schools.

## 4. Working to complete Foothills Solar and Substation project

In 2016 LWP completed the design and construction of the 3.5 megawatt solar field. Next, staff will be working to complete the design and construction of the substation.

## 5. Using social media to expand and improve community engagement

LWP staff created new outreach events and increased overall customer communications through social media channels and a website redesign.

## 6. Storage added to Chimney Hollow River project

After thorough research and financial analysis, LWP decided to acquire an additional 2,000 acre-feet of storage in the future Chimney Hollow Reservoir Project. This brings LWP's total

ownership up to ten percent of the overall reservoir volume.

## 7. Completed Cost-of-Service study for Power

This study took an in-depth look at our rate structures for each customer class and helped to develop a 5-year power rate track and make overall improvements to our power funds.

## 8. Redefined Key Accounts program

LWP worked to certify its Key Accounts program through the American Public Power Association. This enabled LWP to increase overall program effectiveness. Staff also trained businesses on using the new web portal.

## 9. Assisted in development of Platte River's Integrated Resource Plan

The new plan encompasses resource planning, demand side management and the future of energy efficiency goals.

## 10. Continued rehabilitaiton of Big Thompson Canyon

LWP worked to enhance the resiliency of the electrical lines in the canyon by hardening and repositioning infrastructure to accommodate the new roadway.