

# 2024 COMMUNITY REPORT



*a d a m s c o u n t y*





Left to Right: Eva J. Henry, Vice Chair; Charles "Chaz" Tedesco; Emma Pinter, Chair; Steve O'Doriso; Lynn Baca

## Letter from the Commissioners

*Dear Adams County Residents,*

As we progress through 2024, your Adams County Board of Commissioners reflects on our many accomplishments, the ongoing work we are dedicated to, and our aspirations for the future. The past year has been a transformative one for our county, and we are pleased to present this report highlighting the strides we've made to serve you better.

As you peruse this report, you will see the remarkable work we've undertaken to enhance the quality of life for our residents. One of our key achievements in 2023 was the opening of the Adams County Health Department on January 3. This milestone has allowed us to simultaneously provide high-quality public health services and undertake preventive measures to safeguard our community from diseases and injuries. In addition, we secured \$48 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. This significant investment has supported vital initiatives including domestic violence prevention, affordable housing projects, mental health programming, and more. We are particularly proud of our efforts to assist 18 children in finding new families on National Adoption Day and to finalize over 130 adoptions throughout the year.

Our commitment to improving infrastructure and public facilities was evident as we allocated \$17 million to enhance open spaces, parks, trails, and recreation centers. The completion of our new Fleet and Public Works buildings in Commerce City marks the culmination of over

five years of planning and promises to enrich the services we provide and the experiences of those who visit our facilities.

In our pursuit of fostering a vibrant community, we made significant investments in arts, culture, and community events. We were thrilled to celebrate the appointment of Kerrie Joy as Adams County's first Poet Laureate and to host our inaugural Festival Latino, alongside other flagship events such as Pride, Stars & Stripes, and the Adams County Fair.

We are acutely aware of the pressing concerns of affordable and accessible housing and the rising cost of living. Our ongoing efforts are geared toward addressing these challenges head-on to ensure all residents have access to safe and affordable housing and a reasonable cost of living.

This report provides an overview of our key achievements and everyday services, offering insight into how your tax dollars are at work. Each success is a testament to our collective effort and commitment to enhancing the quality of life in Adams County. We hope you find the information valuable and look forward to continuing to serve you with dedication and enthusiasm.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. We are excited about the future and eager to build on the progress we've made together.

*Sincerely,*

*Adams County Board of Commissioners*



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## Dog Rescue

Adams County Animal Management Officers received a call regarding a dog that had fallen into a well about 25 feet deep. The owner made attempts to get him out without success. Our officers responded and coordinated with the Adams County Fire Rescue to save the day. The dog was rescued in great condition with only a minor scratch to one leg and is also a very good boy.

## Coronado Parkway Bridge Repair

You asked. Santa delivered. In December 2023, the Parks team discovered a sign at a trail bridge in the Coronado Parkway neighborhood asking Santa for a new bridge. Parks delivered on that bridge, and they even arranged for Santa himself to make an appearance when it was finished. The Coronado Parkway neighbors must be on the nice list, but next time, maybe leave some cookies?



## Confluences River Cleanup

The Confluences, an Adams County Adopt-A-Spot group, hosted the fourth annual Clear Creek River cleanup at Twin Lakes Park last October. They had a record turnout of 110 volunteers and cleaned up twice as much area around Clear Creek Trail than in years past.

## Mile High Youth Corps Helping Park Rangers

The Mile High Youth Corps were hired to perform cutting, chipping, and thinning tasks to help the Adams County Parks crew maintain our parks, open spaces, and trails. Thank you for helping preserve our beautiful outdoors!



1,141  
ORGANIZATIONS

### Adams County Health Department

Received direct outreach to partner with ACHD to improve community health and well-being.

2,300  
INSPECTIONS

Performed on licensed facilities, including retail food establishments, body art facilities, childcare centers, and pools and spas to ensure healthy and safe conditions.

5,600  
IMMUNIZATIONS

Administered for free or at a low-cost during multiple events.

6,691  
PARTICIPANTS

Healthy farmers markets received nutritious and culturally relevant food in 12 low-income/low-access zip codes.

### Colorado Air and Space Port

2023 was the busiest year of airport operations ever.

115,931  
TAKEOFFS  
AND LANDINGS

New fencing built to surround the airport, the equivalent of 89,760 linear feet.

17  
MILES

### Community & Economic Development

The average building inspection review period was cut down to only three days.

12,108  
BUILDING INSPECTIONS

### Community Safety & Well-Being

Accessed homelessness services in Adams County in 2023.

4,841  
UNIQUE CLIENTS

Of graffiti removed by county staff.

2,882  
INSTANCES



**Human Services**

Connected to services like Medicaid and SNAP.

**132,464**  
UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits provided to almost 11,000 participants, a 26% increase from 2022.

**\$11.3**  
MILLION

**Parks, Open Space & Cultural Arts**

Attended Pride, Stars & Stripes, Adams County Fair, and the inaugural Festival Latino.

**170,000+**  
PEOPLE

Of open space maintained, including 60 miles of trails with 58 pedestrian bridges.

**2,500**  
ACRES

**3,251**  
MILES

**Public Works**

Of roads maintained, which includes 1,658 miles of gravel surfaces and 1,593 miles of paved road.

**7,637**  
ANIMALS

**Riverdale Animal Shelter**

Provided 115,385 days of shelter to 7,637 of our furry (and occasionally scaly and feathery) friends.

**8,911**  
VACCINATIONS

Provided to animals, a 9% increase from 2022.

**850**  
EMPLOYEES

**People & Culture Services**

Onboarded over 850 employees to start their Adams County careers.

**\$90**  
MILLION

**Budget & Finance**

Amount included in the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan starting in 2024.





# ADAMS COUNTY

*Rising Through Resiliency*

## \$48 Million in ARPA Funding

Adams County is proud to have secured \$48,550,500 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in March 2023. This was the county's second round of ARPA funding and was used to support a wide range of initiatives, including domestic violence prevention programs, affordable housing projects, initiatives to assist people experiencing homelessness, mental and behavioral health programs, early childhood health services, and more.



## Adams County Names First Poet Laureate

The Parks, Open Space & Cultural Arts Department and Anythink Libraries announced Kerrie Joy as the inaugural Adams County Poet Laureate, part of “Sincerely” – a joint initiative designed to connect the Adams County community through poetry. A singer/songwriter, poet, storyteller, and educator, Kerrie is halfway through her two-year residency, providing an opportunity to advance her art, advocate and promote her literature and work, and serve as a public face and idea ambassador for Adams County. Keep an eye out for future events featuring Kerrie over the next few months.



## \$17 Million in Grants for Open Spaces

In two waves – one in June, the other in December – the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) awarded

more than \$17 million in grants to cities and organizations across the county for projects for open spaces, parks, trails, recreation centers, and more. These grants were funded by the Adams County Open Space Sales Tax, which was passed by Adams County voters in 1999, and in perpetuity in 2020.



## National Adoption Day

On Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, 18 children in Adams County welcomed a new start on National Adoption Day. The new families began their lives together at a special celebration at the Adams County Justice Center in Brighton. The BoCC, Human Services Department, and the 17th Judicial District hosted the adoptive families. Adams County projected a total of 130 adoptions will be finalized by the end of 2023. As the adoptive community in Adams County continues to grow, families can learn more about fostering and adopting by visiting [adco.gov.org/adoption](https://adco.gov.org/adoption)



## New Fleet and Public Works Buildings

Adams County officially opened its new Fleet and Public Works buildings in August 2023 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The buildings in Commerce City are the culmination of five years of planning, design, and construction on a total budget of \$42 million. The complex has more than doubled the space staff previously had with 52,000 square feet dedicated to Fleet, plus a 9,000-square-foot auto wash area. The Public Works building is 23,000 square feet, and another 44,000 square feet is dedicated to covered parking.



## Adams County Pride

Our Pride festival was such a big hit in its first year, and there was no question the day of love, diversity, and equality would become an annual event. A full summer day of fun with food, entertainment, Marriagepalooza, and volleyball all led up to a performance by headliner Bebe Rexha.

## Stars & Stripes

Adams County's annual pre-Independence Day celebration at Riverdale Regional Park was a patriotic night featuring country singer Thomas Mac and a festive display of fireworks with the newly opened Adams County Veterans Memorial as a backdrop.



## Adams County Fair

The entire Adams Fairfamily gathered together in August for this beloved annual tradition. Performances by country stars Priscilla Block, Frank Ray, Jordan Davis, and Callista Clark highlighted the first two days while the demolition derby, truck pull, and Dia de La Familia closed out the weekend.

## Festival Latino

Adams County's inaugural Festival Latino was a giant success, featuring a celebration of Latino culture with live music, art, food, and more!





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# ALL IN For Adams County.

We're committed to putting our community first — and your tax dollars are a huge part of how we do it. We want cleaner streets, more jobs, victim support, better access to benefits, and more, just as much as you do, so let's get to work.

Using tax dollars, **all for you.**



[ALLINADAMSCOUNTY.COM](http://ALLINADAMSCOUNTY.COM)

## STAY CONNECTED:

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 Public Agencies

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