

2023 COMMUNITY REPORT



a d a m s c o u n t y



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

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Letter from the *Commissioners*

We dove into 2023 at full speed and have yet to come up for air! What a year so far and there's more to come. Read on to see how you, our residents, are benefitting.

A key priority for the board was to open a brand-new Adams County Health Department. Building a health department from the ground up is a monumental task, but our team did it in just nine months. It's a testament to our commitment to provide you with quality public health services.

We trained nearly 200 employees, launched five locations, and invested in this new department through a \$27 million budget. The new health department focuses on everything from disease prevention to child health, mental and behavioral health, and environmental health. Clinical services at low- or no-cost to the community include immunizations, food programs for women and their children who can't afford groceries, and nurse home visits for families.

On the heels of the new health department opening, the board approved much needed funding to some of our most important groups. \$100.5 million in grants from the American Rescue Plan Act went to local organizations, nonprofits, school and fire districts, and businesses.

A total of 102 grant applications were funded, ranging from \$1,000 to \$1.8 million. The 70 organizations

that benefit can now use the money to provide COVID-19 response and recovery efforts in Adams County, whether that's hosting additional vaccination clinics in underserved communities or reestablishing a small business to provide needed services within the community.

Something else we celebrated in 2023, the long-awaited Veterans Memorial docking at Riverdale Regional Park. The most fascinating feature is a replica of the *USS Colorado*, a battleship that served in World War II. The bow juts into Mann-Nyholt Lake creating a stunning lookout. 96-year-old Ken Jones, who served on the ship, was a guest of honor at the grand opening over Memorial Day weekend. While all community parks provide unparalleled value to the communities they serve, it is rare to find one that holds as much heartfelt meaning as this one. It keeps our country's history alive and honors the sacrifice made by our veterans. We are so proud of it.

As you read through this report, we hope you learn a bit more about your community and what's taking place. We are committed to building a stronger and more inclusive Adams County.



Letter from the County Manager



2022 was a year of transition for Adams County with my county manager tenure beginning in August. From a leadership standpoint, transitions present unique challenges and opportunities. Some common traps are the pressure to reveal a new game plan right away and taking actions instead of taking time to build relationships.

I value the “slowing down to hurry up” approach that began with my 100-day plan. This helped me gain an overall perspective of where we stood as an organization to then chart a path forward. I learned we have a Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) who share a passion for Adams County and its advancement. I continue to be impressed by the many talented and capable team members we have throughout the organization. Together, our board and staff have contributed to a strong foundation that positions us for future success.

As we move forward, my primary focus will be our We Are Adams culture which begins with a 12-month leadership development program for our executive team. The program will be juxtaposed by the challenges presented during the pandemic, along with the many opportunities to become

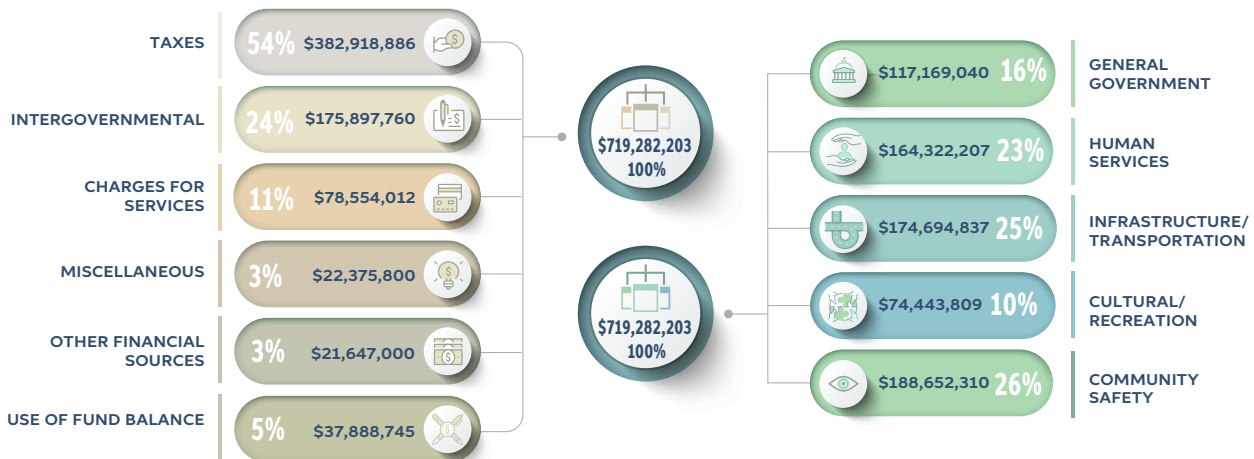
stronger and more resilient moving into the future. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding is continuing to provide a tail wind for investing in critical areas such as housing, homelessness, behavioral/mental health, and community services. These areas will remain priorities for our long-term resilience led by the BoCC’s vision. This comes at a time when 2020 Census results show we’ve become a majority-minority county, requiring us to exercise our vision of inclusivity and innovation for the benefit of all residents.

As a first-generation immigrant myself, I am humbled by the prioritizing of our most vulnerable populations. I am a poster child for the payoff in human capital investments. Head Start and remedial migrant coursework during my adolescence were game changers in my educational journey.

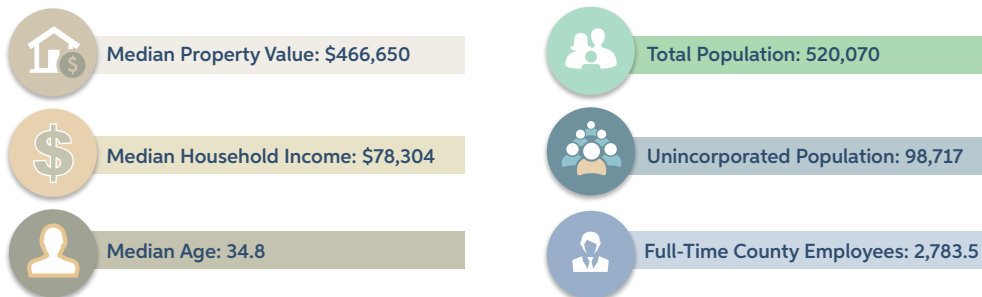
By further investing in our culture and leadership efforts, I am confident we will successfully tackle our challenges and opportunities. It is the human capital within our organization that will be key to us realizing our bold vision for Adams County.

We are Adams!
-Noel Bernal

Your Tax Dollars at Work



Adams At-A-Glance





Art on the Trails



Get outside and check out the art along the Adams County trail system. Discover over 50 miles of trails connecting our neighborhoods, parks, and open spaces with artwork from projects like Murals for Hope, Love Your Trails - Ground Mural Series, Babe Walls, and others.

Up & Adams

Collaborate with Community Safety & Well-Being on Up & Adams—a multiphase, two-year pilot program supporting economic self-sufficiency, long-term independence, and quality of life for residents experiencing homelessness. Up & Adams will serve at least 25 residents experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The Adams County Workforce & Business Center will provide resume-building services, mock interviews, work-based learning opportunities, and employment-focused case management with the goal of obtaining long-term employment.



Tool Shed Program

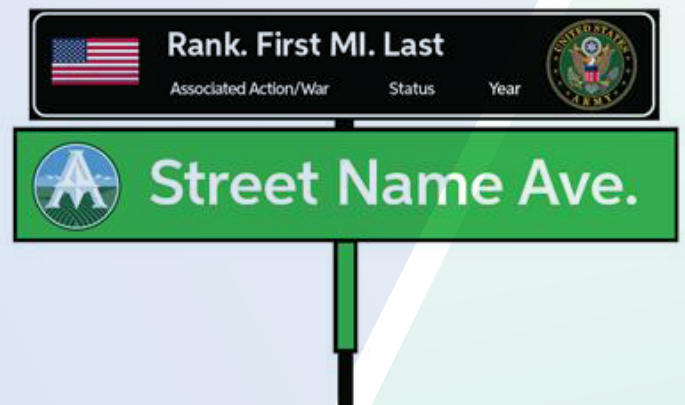


The Tool Shed program provides Adams County residents with FREE access to yard and gardening tools. We are dedicated to supporting residents maintaining their properties and helping others do the same. This program offers two opportunities to use tools in our Tool Shed program – yard cleanups (for individual use) and neighborhood cleanups.



Veterans Memorial Sign Program

Adams County is highly invested in showing support for residents who are currently serving or are veterans of the United States military services. As part of this commitment, the Public Works Department has implemented the Veterans Memorial Sign Program. This program is intended to allow residents of Adams County who are family or friends of military veterans killed in the line of duty to request dedication of a street in Adams County in memory of their departed veterans.



Colorado Air and Space Port (CASP)

Seven miles of taxiway edge lights were installed at CASP.

7
MILES

Community & Economic Development

\$2.8 million was invested in the community as a result of grant funding.

\$2.8
MILLION

Community Safety & Well-Being (CSWB)

16,125 nights of unsheltered homelessness were averted as part of homelessness efforts by CSWB team members.

16,125
NIGHTS

Facilities & Fleet Management

Completed seven projects totaling \$31 million and 33 projects are under construction and/or in the design phase.

\$31
MILLION

Health Department

Hired and onboarded 160 health department employees for the first ever Adams County Health Department.

160
EMPLOYEES

Human Services

Through the Workforce & Business Center, 890 customers achieved their workforce goals by obtaining employment, maintaining long-term employment, increasing marketable skills through work-based learning, or completing a certification.

890
CUSTOMERS

Parks, Open Space & Cultural Arts

118,500 community members attended events at Riverdale Regional Park including Adams County Pride, Stars & Stripes, and the Adams County Fair.

118,500
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

People & Culture Services

Onboarded 822 new employees.

822
EMPLOYEES

Public Works

The Public Works Capital Improvement Program delivered over \$30 million in design and construction of public improvements.

>\$30
MILLION

Riverdale Animal Shelter

13% increase in animal adoptions (3,650 total) and a 14% increase in shelter animals and owned pets vaccinated (8,156 total).

3,650
ADOPTIONS





Launched the Adams County Health Department (ACHD)

Adams County officially launched its first ever health department. ACHD is responsible for promoting and protecting the health of all residents in Adams County through a variety of programs and services and believes the successful pursuit of public health requires an understanding of community and a shared future. ACHD focuses on a wide range of public health issues, including social determinants of health, disease prevention and control, maternal and child health, mental and behavioral health, food access, and environmental health. The department also works closely with community partners to address specific health concerns and improve overall health outcomes for residents.



Solar Co-Op Launch

Adams County and the cities of Northglenn and Westminster announced a regional collaboration with the nonprofit Solar United Neighbors (SUN) to launch the Adams County Solar Co-op to help area residents go solar to help achieve local climate and energy goals. The solar co-op is free to join and is open to homeowners and business owners in unincorporated Adams County and the cities of Northglenn and Westminster. Together, co-op members will learn about solar energy and leverage their numbers to purchase individual solar systems at a discounted group price.



Open Space Grant Awards



Aug. OSST



Nov. OSST

In August and November 2022, Adams County Commissioners awarded a combined \$28 million in open space grant awards for 42 projects thanks to the voter-approved Open Space Sales Tax (OSST).



Community Enrichment Grants

Adams County provides financial support to nonprofit programs each year through Community Enrichment Grants. The purpose of the grants is to support programs that assist Adams County residents with basic needs and help people become self-sufficient.

This year there were 63 applications for \$800,000 of funding. The grant requests totaled more than \$2.5 million, and approximately one third of those organizations received their full funding request and were recognized by the Board of County Commissioners.



Back-To-School Bash

Adams County Human Services provided school supplies for 426 low-income Adams County families at the Back-to-School Bash event. 1,073 children received backpacks and other school supplies such as notebooks, binders, folders, sanitizing wipes, pencil boxes, pens, dry-erase markers, hoodies, socks, and more.





Adams County Veterans Memorial

The long-awaited grand opening ceremony for the highly anticipated Adams County Veterans Memorial took place at Riverdale Regional Park on Monday, May 29, marking a significant milestone in honoring the brave men and women who selflessly served our nation. Adams County Commissioners were joined by Congresswoman Yadira Caraveo, U.S. Navy Veteran Ken Jones who served on the *USS Colorado* during World War II, active-duty military, family and friends of veterans, and community members to celebrate this momentous event. In addition to the near life-size replica of the *USS Colorado*, the memorial encompasses various elements, including marble monuments recognizing each branch of the military, sandblasted plaques of presidential quotes, a story wall depicting the life of a soldier with entries submitted by Adams County residents, and a concrete map in the entryway that pinpoints all veterans' memorials within Adams County. The Adams County Veterans Memorial is situated at Riverdale Regional Park and is an architectural masterpiece designed to pay tribute to the valor and sacrifice of those who have defended our nation throughout history.



ADVANCING ADAMS
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Advancing Adams Comprehensive Plan

The Advancing Adams Comprehensive Plan serves as a policy and operations tool that guides the county toward the vision of being the most innovative and inclusive county in America for all families and businesses. The plan addresses future development and code needs, including technical zoning or development standards requirements, as well as overarching policies/statements about engaging the community and addressing economic development, equity, and sustainability in all its forms.





CodeRED

CodeRED is an emergency notification service allowing public safety officials to alert residents and businesses regarding emergency situations by telephone, cell phone, text message, email, and social media. Sign up at adcogov.org/codered or scan the QR code.

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Access Adams Online to take care of many services from the comfort of your own home. Visit adcogov.org for specific office information.

- Apply for Assistance
- E-Permit Center (apply for permits online)
- Get a Ballot
- Look Up Property Information/Zoning
- Pay My Taxes
- Perform Public Records Search
- Renew Vehicle Registration
- Schedule a Building Inspection
- OpenGov
- Pay My Stormwater Utility Fee

EXPLORE ADAMS COUNTY

- adcogov.org
- covidrecovery.adcogov.org
- adamscountyfair.com
- coloradoairandspaceport.com
- epermits.adcogov.org
- riverdaleanimalshelter.org
- riverdaleregionalpark.org
- adamsvotes.com

STAY CONNECTED:

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Public Agencies /AdamsCountyCo

adcogov.org

SIMPLE PLAN
is coming to
RIVERDALE REGIONAL PARK
SATURDAY | SEPT. 9
get tickets at
RIVERDALEREGIONALPARK.ORG

Riverdale
REGIONAL PARK



SUNDAY, OCT. 8

