























## Council Priorities 2023-24 Final Report

2021-23 Council Priorities

Initiatives	Status
★ 1. More stringent penalties for animal cruelty and neglect	Staff provided research and analysis on this topic to Council. It was decided to pursue this through a policy statement in the Legislative Policy Agenda.
★ 2. Juvenile diversion	This program has been initiated and the first traffic circle occurred in December 2021. Restorative Traffic Circle targets young drivers (20 or younger) who have serious traffic cases filed into Municipal Court. The program maintains a 90%+ successful completion rate. The Court has enhanced its partnership with the Center for Family Outreach who can provide alcohol/substance abuse treatment and monitored sobriety, age appropriate useful public service options, and peer mentoring and leadership opportunities for juveniles with cases in the Municipal Court.
■ 3. Advance transit initiatives that remove barriers	This Priority included both long and short term tasks. A Funding and Fare Free study was completed, West Elizabeth preliminary design was completed, North College TOD Plan adopted by Council in February 2023, work with PSD and Transfort is underway, team continues to seek funding and land for a North Transit Facility.
■ 4. Improved traffic compliance	Police Services continues to work with Traffic Operations to implement the Vision Zero plan and to identify and remediate/enforce at high-incident intersections. In September 2022, a Traffic Calming budget offer was approved to facilitate and monitor the work of speed vans and red light cameras. Two additional red light cameras have been installed.
■ 5. Advance Regionalism - collaboration regionally while maintaining the unique character of Fort Collins	The broadness of this Priority led to the creation of regional highlights being included in update memos. The main areas covered include: water, air quality, housing, recycling and waste, climate, homelessness/mental health, and talent.
★ 6. Look into changing the April election to November with School Board years to have all local elections at once	The Election committee began meeting in August 2021, Council considered referral to ballot in June 2022, and the measure passed in November 2022.
★ 7. Advance gender equity in City Sales Tax Code	Council adopted the ordinance in October 2021.
■ 8. Attract and retain competitive and diverse talent to meet the needs of the community: provide child care options for City employees.	This Priority is multifaceted and will be ongoing. Actions during the term included: Development of flexible work place practices and hybrid remote policies, implementation of 3-weeks parental paid leave, partnering with the Early Childcare Council to to share provider information, completion of the Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC) Child Care Benefit report.
■ 9. Help bird species recover	<p>The City, Audubon Fort Collins, Audubon Rockies, and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies achieved Bird City designation. This process included an application and a site visit and required meeting criteria across 6 categories: Habitat Creation, Protection and Monitoring, Community, Forest or Grassland Management, Limiting or Removing Threats to Birds, Public Education and Inclusion.</p> <p>The City also hosted and highlighted World Migratory Bird Day events that included walks, bird banding events, and night sky awareness.</p>

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 <b>10. Accelerate composting - (Curbside and business)</b>	<p>This Priority will be ongoing. Staff and Councilmembers continue to participate in the Regional Wasteshed Coalition in efforts to support progress on a composting facility. Council adopted a contract for residential waste services that includes curbside yard trimmings. Contracted hauling will start late September 2024.</p>
 <b>11. Adopt graywater statute to allow graywater systems in new buildings</b>	<p>Staff worked to create a graywater ordinance that aligned with Colorado law and water right limitations. The ordinance was adopted in September 2022. In January 2023 all water and wastewater providers in Fort Collins agreed to allow graywater in their service areas.</p>
 <b>12. Districted system for garbage, recycling and compost</b>	<p>Council reviewed a project timeline in December 2021 and adopted a contract and related ordinances in April 2023. Service is set to start on 9/30/2024.</p>
 <b>13. Explore climate emergency messaging and action</b>	<p>Messaging implementation will be ongoing. Associated progress included work with the Our Climate Future working teams, assessment and analysis of gaps, creation of messaging and and 2023-34 tactical plan (Next Moves), and advancement of climate priorities through numerous partnerships and programs.</p>
 <b>14. Effective soil amendment policies and compliance (water usage)</b>	<p>Policies are complete. Compliance will be ongoing. Staff conducted peer research, analysis, and outreach to develop policies and code language. Ordinance was adopted in October 2023 with a January 2025 implementation. Staff anticipates a request for 1 FTE to build program and focus on compliance.</p>
 <b>15. Protect and Enhance Instream River Flows</b>	<p>This Priority will be ongoing. Areas of support include the development and adoption of 1041 regulations, submittal and approval of BFO offers addressing stream flow, and regional engagements including Northern Water to discuss strategies. In 2023, staff completed repairs to a damaged diversion structure at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) which will preserve an adjudicated instream flow water right.</p>
 <b>16. Reduce Plastic Pollution</b>	<p>Education and awareness regarding plastic bag usage will continue. The overall effort was very successful. Staff has turned attention to the rollout of the State's Styrofoam container ban.</p>
 <b>17. Improved Air Quality</b>	<p>This effort will be on-going. Activity over the past 2-years includes: Coordination of a City/County air quality monitoring group, seeking and being awarded an EPA grant to advance monitoring, continued participation in related rule making activities, work on oil and gas code revisions which were adopted in April 2023, successful programming for lawn and garden equipment conversions.</p>
 <b>18. Make real progress on the road to Zero Waste (with focus on multi-family and commercial recycling and construction and demolition recycling)</b>	<p>Work will be ongoing. A full audit of multifamily dwellings was complete with follow-up on potential violations ultimately achieving 100% compliance. Construction and demolition staff education and compliance person hired conducting research, developing toolkits, and providing recommendations.</p>

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 <b>19. Xeriscape – Increase rebates and education, less green lawns with new development</b>	<p>Ongoing. Staff continues to provide opportunities for high quality education, community events and turf replacement rebates and incentives. New efforts to reduce turf and increase outdoor water efficiency in new development include modifications to Utilities' Water Supply Requirement adopted in October 2021 that incentivize less water-intensive landscapes, and research and outreach to update landscape standards in code. Code amendments that reflect Council direction include updated commercial and multifamily landscape standards that limit turf to 30% of the property, limit the use of artificial turf, dedicate irrigation to trees, and ensure adequate plant coverage across landscape areas. Code amendments are on Council's agenda for March 19, 2024. Nature in the City also supported 130 projects in the Xeriscape Incentive Program between 2021 and 2023.</p>
 <b>20. Enhanced recycling education</b>	<p>This will be ongoing and some efforts have been delayed do to capacity. The following was completed: Through surveying and benchmarking barriers were identified with an emphasis on historically underrepresented groups resulting in consistently providing materials in Spanish, leveraging community partners, more visual storytelling, and partnering with CSU to align recycling guidelines.</p> <p>Staff is also involved in supporting the efforts of the Extended Producer Responsibility bill at the state level.</p>
 <b>21. Improved and accelerated stream (riparian) restoration</b>	<p>This will be an on-going effort. Staff consolidated 70 rehabilitation projects into 25 larger projects and updated the stormwater CIP to reflect accelerated efforts. Work has occurred along Mail Creek at Two Creeks Natural Area and in 2023, a project was completed at the Environmental Learning Center that reconnected 6 acres to floodplain, improved fish passage, and created a refuge pool for the Plains Topminnow, a rare native fish. Design has started on the next stream restoration project along Fossil Creek and Stanton Creek south of Trilby Rd. Staff also provided input on state legislation that supports stream restoration projects.</p>
 <b>22. Raise the minimum wage</b>	<p>Staff compiled research and potential options for local minimum wage consideration. Council considered the items in both 2022 (delayed to 2023) and in May 2023. The proposed ordinance did not pass.</p>
 <b>23. Develop a Circular Economy Plan (EHSP)</b>	<p>A plan was developed in tandem with the Economic Health Strategic plan and is scheduled for Council consideration in December 2023.</p>
 <b>24. Partner with Poudre School District (PSD) for workforce development</b>	<p>Throughout the term staff has partnered with PSD on both ARPA funding and on the future Future Lab Ready space. Out of these efforts the NoCO Works initiative was launched, City Volunteer Services have engaged on work-based learning opportunities and a Jr. Ranger program.</p>
 <b>25. Affordable, Quality and Accessible Childcare Infrastructure</b>	<p>The deliverable for this Priority was continued monitoring of activity and progress made in the community and within the organization. Council was updated periodically through memos.</p>
 <b>26. Create a targeted, specific plan for community recovery</b>	<p>A plan was created and adopted by Council in December 2021. The plan and associated dollars continue to be implemented.</p>
 <b>27. Access funding for parks (maintenance and operations, refresh, and new parks)</b>	<p>Through an 18-month, iterative process, staff developed and Council finalized a funding option to be put before the voters. The measure passed in November 2023 providing Parks a 1/4-cent in funding annually through 2050.</p>

Initiatives	Status
 <b>28. Improve tree policies</b>	<p>This Priority will be ongoing. Achievements to date include Council action to declare trees as important community infrastructure in the Code, funding the first ever Urban Forestry Strategic Plan (completion mid-2024), funding and hiring of an additional tree-focused landscape inspection position, and supporting continued work on the Land Use Code Landscape Standards regarding trees.</p>
 <b>29. Tree planting subsidy</b>	<p>This is both complete and on-going. 1000 trees have been funded, sold, and planted in 2022 and 2023. Another 1000 are funded in 2024.</p>
 <b>30. Implementation of 15-minute community concept</b>	<p>This item is both complete and will be ongoing. Staff worked over the term to analyze existing conditions to inform needed efforts to achieve 15-minute concepts. The plan was submitted to Council in October 2022 and then again via memo with feedback incorporated.</p>
 <b>31. Homelessness Initiatives</b>	<p>These efforts will be on-going. Progress made during this term included expanding the efforts of Outreach Fort Collins, working with regional partners to raise awareness, and tracking efforts for a 24/7 shelter.</p>