

# Thornton Community Profile 2012

Thornton is the 6th largest city in Colorado with a population exceeding 120,000 and an ultimate build-out population estimated at 242,000 people. Celebrating its 55th Anniversary, the City was founded as a starter-home community and is expected to continue in this vein long into the future. The City is characterized by its young, family-oriented nature, with 70% of residents younger than 44 years of age. There are just under 44,000 housing units throughout the City, 60% of which are single-family detached homes. As a home rule city with a Council/Manager form of government, Thornton takes pride in governing the community with the best interest of its citizens in mind.

## City Services

The City provides many services, including police and fire protection, parks and recreation, water, streets and infrastructure, trash and recyclables collection, business development, planning, and other city and community development services. In 2010, the City became a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) direct entitlement city.

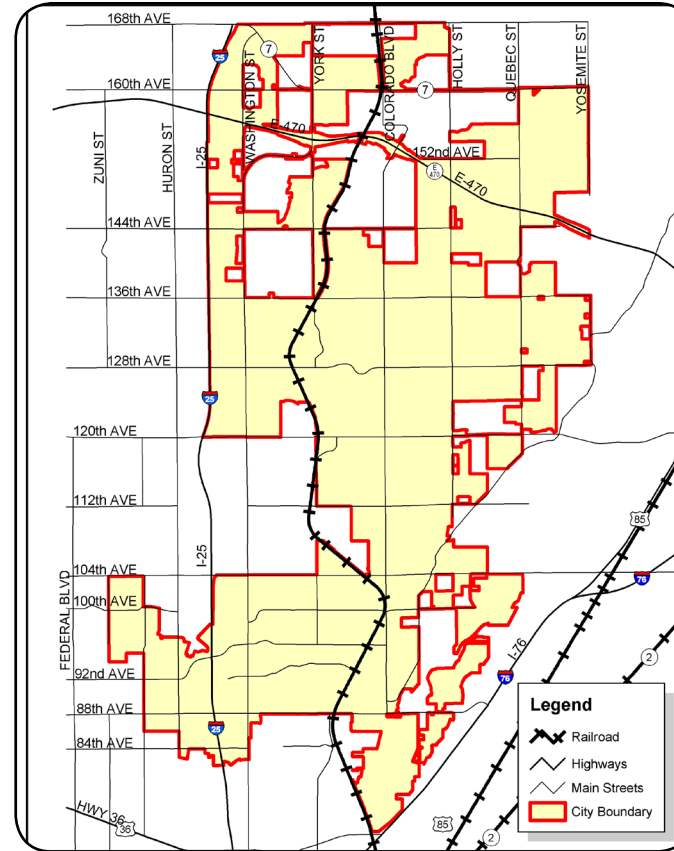
## Community Assets

Thornton prides itself on its abundant education and employment opportunities. Educational facilities are numerous throughout Thornton, with four quality K-12 school districts, Regis University, Everest College, and Kaplan College. Over 25,900 employees work for more than 1,100 employers based in Thornton. Currently, retail trade is the largest sector in terms of employment, followed by accommodations and food service, and health care. Major employers include DISH Network, Wal-Mart, North Suburban Medical Center and T-Mobile.

The City hosts several events and festivals throughout the year including Trunk-or-Treat, Movies in the Park, Fourth of July celebration, Summer Concert Series, and an Easter Egg Scramble. The City's three main festivals - Thorntonfest, Harvest Fest, and Winter-Fest-attract over 85,000 participants annually, fostering a sense of community and providing free, quality entertainment for all ages.

With the coming of FasTracks, transit-oriented development (TOD) opportunities are being planned in three Thornton locations along the North Metro Corridor Line. Redevelopment is also being actively pursued in the City's original commercial areas.

Overall, 2012 will be both an exciting and challenging year for the City. Still, Thornton's future is vibrant, with well-planned efforts to meet the needs and enhance the quality of life for all residents and businesses.



## Thornton City Council

### Mayor

Heidi Williams

### Ward 1

Mack Goodman  
Jenice "JJ" Dove

### Ward 2

Val Vigil  
Eva Henry (Mayor Pro Tem)

### Ward 3

Lynne Fox  
Beth Humenik

### Ward 4

Randy Drennen  
Eric Tade

Ruben Valdez, Lobbyist, 303-995-3602

## Thornton Contacts

Joyce Hunt, Assistant City Manager, 303-538-7226

Allison Dellwo, Intern, 303-538-7691

# 2012 Legislative Priorities



## Transportation

**Background:** The City recognizes and applauds recent statewide efforts to secure funding for transportation, including the passage in 2009 of the FASTER bill. Thornton also recognizes that in this climate of economic hardship and budget shortfalls, it is essential to protect the transportation system on which we all rely. A comprehensive system of roads and bridges, FasTracks commuter rail, a connection to the Front Range rail line, buses, and all-and-ride programs provide the critical connections that allow residents to access employment, health, recreation, and other elements that enrich the quality of life in the region.

**City Position:** Oppose any legislative attempt to repeal FASTER.

- Support state maintenance of state roads and highways; don't shift the burden of maintaining the roads to local governments without an appropriate level of compensation; when the state replaces bridges, don't shift the burden to construct additional capacity in compliance with the MPO's (DRCOG) Regional Transportation Plan to local governments.
- As individuals, support the concept that all residents and businesses currently shouldering taxation for FasTracks receive the full, promised benefit of completion of the entire system by 2020, as provided in RTD's 2010 Annual Report to DRCOG on FasTracks dated May 2011 and RTD's Financial Plan Update dated April 2011.
- As individuals, support the concept that if adequate funds are not secured to build-out the remaining corridors by 2020, that the remaining corridors be extended in phases out to logical stations to provide ridership access in each of the corridors.
- Encourage the Executive Branch and CDOT to join with RTD and local governments to lobby Congress to support funding of a Transportation Bill; to support modifying New Starts funding language so more corridors can be eligible to apply for funding; and to modify requirements in the various loan programs, such as TIFIA, to provide more flexibility in the loan agreements.
- Support any highway jobs stimulus package to provide for transit and transportation projects in the North Metro corridor.

## Water Supply

**Background:** Thornton has been responsible and proactive in developing its water supply over many decades, including the investment of over \$100 million in the Cache la Poudre Basin. The City has carefully followed and met all the State-mandated requirements to date to transfer water rights and protect the rights of existing water rights holders. The City faces significant costs to use the water it has acquired. The City opposes additional requirements that would limit its ability to develop and use the water it already owns, or make development of the water rights more expensive. To do so would penalize the customers we serve and would be grossly unfair. The region faces significant water supply challenges now and in the future, and water suppliers need more tools, not more hurdles, to help meet those challenges.

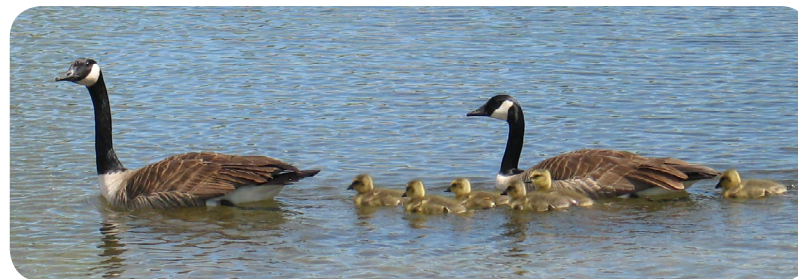
**City Position:** Oppose changing the established rules or adding new restrictions pertaining to the development and transfer of water supplies, including the transfer of water between basins.

- Support providing tools that allow water providers, including agricultural interests, to share water supplies.

## Water Quality

**Background:** The City's water services provide drinking water for more than 130,000 people from the South Platte River and Clear Creek drainages. In order to continue to provide safe, high quality water to our customers, we need to protect the quality of our water supplies.

**City Position:** Support measures that ensure water quality by requiring those who discharge into rivers and streams have the burden of keeping them clean.



## Home Rule — Local Control

**Background:** The citizens of the City of Thornton adopted the Home Rule Charter in 1967 which establishes the power of local self-government to the city pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Colorado. As such, Thornton has the responsibility and authority to adopt rules and regulations that govern the operation of this community in the interest of its citizens.

**City Position:** Oppose efforts to diminish municipal Home Rule powers.

- Oppose unfunded mandates to the local level.

## Urban Renewal

**Background:** Following the sunset of the Original Thornton Urban Renewal Area (URA) in 2008, the City currently oversees one active urban renewal project area north of 144th Avenue. However, the City's work in original Thornton is not yet complete and the requisite studies are being undertaken to create a new URA in original Thornton. This is important because URAs provide many tools that aid in the redevelopment of properties that are in distress and/or disrepair. These tools currently include property acquisition and assembly, assistance in financing infrastructure and utility improvements needed to adequately serve the property, preparing property for redevelopment, and providing relocation assistance within areas that meet specific criteria. The responsible use of these tools is essential for Thornton to maximize quality redevelopment throughout the City.

**City Position:** Support efforts that create successful partnerships that utilize tax increment financing for the overall benefit of the community. As an example, the City entered into Intergovernmental Agreements with both Adams County and Adams 12 Five Star Schools establishing this partnership.

- Oppose anything that reduces our ability to successfully redevelop Thornton.