



EAGLE COUNTY

Eagle County

2018 Annual Report

Creating a Better Eagle County for All

Message from the county commissioners



During 2018, we had the opportunity time and again to see first hand just how caring the people of Eagle County truly are. From our biggest challenges to our greatest successes, the strength and resiliency of our communities comes from an unshakeable commitment to each other and our natural surroundings.

A critical need to bring mental health services online quickly was identified by our Public Health team and their partners early in 2018. In its first year, our dedicated Mental Health Fund received \$398,169 in revenue collections, which we augmented with an additional \$500,000 to jumpstart several key initiatives which are now underway.

STRATEGIC GOALS 2015 - 2020



EAGLE COUNTY IS FINANCIALLY SOUND



EAGLE COUNTY IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE FOR ALL



EAGLE COUNTY PROTECTS THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



EAGLE COUNTY PROMOTES A DIVERSE AND RESILIENT ECONOMY



EAGLE COUNTY IS A HIGH-PERFORMING ORGANIZATION

View the entire plan at eaglecounty.us/strategicplan.

One of those initiatives was to welcome the Hope Center to the Eagle River Valley. This model of mental health care, which has been successful in the Roaring Fork Valley since 2010, allows licensed mental health clinicians to co-respond with law enforcement and paramedics to the scene of a mental health call. The program gets people the help they need when and where they need it. While there is still work to do, we are better positioned to care for our community than ever before.

The Lake Christine Fire represented one of the most destructive events in Eagle County's history, and we are in awe of how community members came together in the face of adversity. While aid came from across the state and the country to help battle the fire, it was the actions of our own local emergency responders that saved El Jebel. And, as the fire burned for months, residents and business owners came out in droves to donate, volunteer, care for their neighbors and celebrate firefighting efforts even as they were displaced from their own homes.

Our staff, in collaboration with many other organizations, worked thousands of hours to support the response and are now leading the way to ensure recovery efforts continue. We have full confidence that our communities in the Roaring Fork Valley will rebound stronger than ever.

In November, voters overwhelmingly supported ballot measure 1A, which extended funding for our Open Space Program until 2040. Since its inception, the program has protected hundreds of acres of wildlife habitat and miles of river frontage in both the Eagle and Roaring Fork valleys, while providing access and connections to the outdoors that are vital to our quality of life. We now have the ability to maintain and improve our existing properties while also looking ahead strategically at projects our community and our partners want to see completed.

We are so gratified to serve a community that values caring for ourselves and each other, as well as for this spectacular place we call home. At the end of the day, local action is what keeps us moving forward - all of us working together, creating a better Eagle County for all.

Jeanne
McQueeneyKathy
Chandler-Henry

Meet your elected officials

Mark Chapin
AssessorRegina O'Brien
Clerk & RecorderKara Bettis
CoronerJames Van Beek
SheriffKelly Miller
SurveyorTeak Simonton
Treasurer
Public Trustee

County responds to Lake Christine Fire

This summer, one of the most destructive disasters in the county's history hit the Roaring Fork Valley. Every Eagle County Government office and department played a role in the response to the Lake Christine Fire. The fire, which started on July 3 at the Basalt State Wildlife Area shooting range, burned for three months and consumed 12,588 acres.

It tested the limits of local emergency response capabilities, while also showcasing the strength of our community.

Throughout the incident, the county's Emergency Operations Center was staffed by employees and external partners who provided planning and logistical support. New Google

communication tools were utilized to keep all stakeholder groups informed. And, even before the crisis had passed, plans were being made to ensure recovery efforts would begin as soon as possible.

See Lake Christine Fire - page 4

Eagle County is Financially Sound

Added two new pieces of snow removal equipment, increasing safety and helping to ensure continuity of operations at the airport. Of the \$1.26 million total investment, 90 percent was paid for through Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program funds.

Airport

Discovered, listed, classified and valued all property in Eagle County, resulting in \$3,514,923,370 taxable assessed value. In doing so, the Assessor's Office continues to estimate a realistic, impartial and equitable value on Eagle County properties, while being fair to and respectful of the people who own those properties.

Assessor

Received a \$23,000 grant from the Colorado Electronic Recording Technology Board to enhance the security and preservation of historical images stored in the county's database and improve the searchability of records.

Clerk & Recorder

Generated \$2.22 million in revenue for the county through the issuance of 690 building permits and 1,385 peripheral permits, while fast tracking 40 percent of all building permit applications and performing 7,190 inspections.

Community Development

Successfully implemented a new parking configuration for the Eagle County Fair & Rodeo

participants to allow construction of the Eagle River Park to begin, while exceeding the financial goals for the event by \$26,800.

Fair & Rodeo

Earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for the 19th consecutive year. The award is given to organizations recognized for their accurate and transparent financial reporting.

Finance

Assisted department heads in understanding how each department's budget impacts county strategic goals, with an emphasis on budgeting for needs rather than previous years' budgets. The result was a 5 percent decrease in budgeted operating expenses for 2019 as compared to the 2018 adopted budget.

Finance

Created a car share program, allowing county offices and departments to use vehicles more collaboratively and efficiently, allowing for a smaller overall fleet and savings in operating costs.

Fleet Management

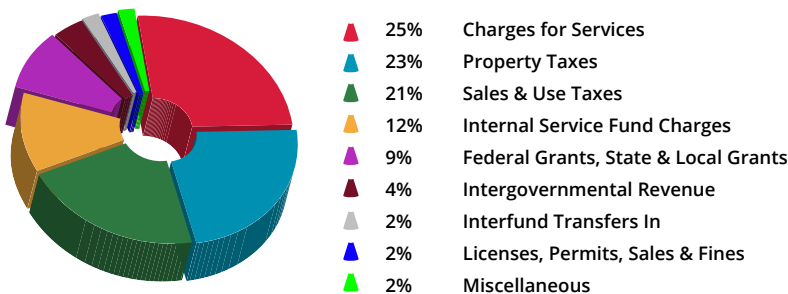
Received over \$20,000 in rebates from the State of Colorado for operating free public recycle drop off centers.

Solid Waste & Recycling

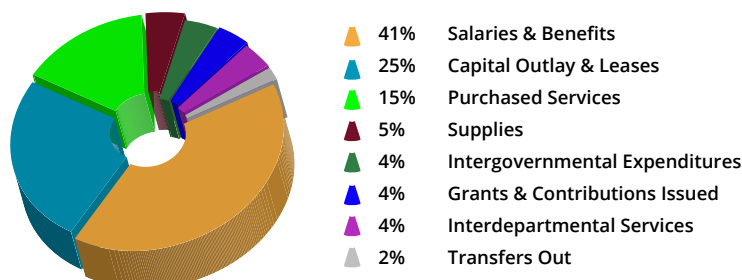
See Financially Sound – page 4

The Board of County Commissioners adopts and provides oversight of all funds included in the county's \$146 million budget. Eagle County's healthy reserve levels, low debt and excellent credit rating illustrate the organization's commitment to fiscal stewardship.

2019 Revenues for All Funds = \$125,007,790



2019 Expenditures for All Funds = \$145,765,702



Expenditures over and above projected revenues are due to the anticipated use of excess fund balances for capital investments.

Eagle County is a Great Place to Live for All



The MIRA bus brings resources and services directly to the neighborhoods that need them.

Increased pet adoptions from 253 in 2017 to 327 in 2018; and transferred in 172 animals from high-kill shelters outside of the county to assist them in finding forever homes.

Animal Services

Began live broadcasting, streaming and archiving of both Eagle Valley and Roaring Fork Valley Regional planning commission meetings, fostering community engagement and transparency.

Communications

Completed the evaluation and update of the Mid Valley Area Community Plan through several public hearings of the Roaring Fork Valley Regional Planning Commission. The revised plan was adopted in June.

Community Development

Graduated 22 participants from the Family Leadership Training Institute, increasing their civic knowledge and literacy, and empowering them to bring about positive changes for their families and neighborhoods.

CSU Extension

Hosted over 850 people at the annual Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry, which benefited the Eagle County 4-H program and provided funding for scholarships, Grand Champion Awards and 4-H clubs.

CSU Extension

Completed the Eagle to Horn Ranch Open Space section of the the Eagle Valley Trail. This was a \$7 million, 7 mile trail construction project in partnership with the Town of Eagle and Great Outdoors Colorado.

ECO Trails, Facilities and Project Management

Completed the Transit Development Plan, commissioned a first/last mile study and began a 10-year project outlook. These planning efforts helped town boards and residents understand existing transit services and envision the potential for future improvements.

ECO Transit

Initiated the local Transit Coordinating Team, which includes existing transit operations in the towns of Avon and Vail, as well as Beaver Creek. The team will enable communities to collaborate on transit issues and develop innovative ideas to connect the residents and visitors of the Eagle Valley to work and recreation.

ECO Transit

Completed the design phase of the Edwards Interchange Phase 2 project. The project will improve the Edwards Spur Road and the U.S. Highway 6 and Edwards Spur Road intersection. Construction is slated to begin in early 2019 with completion in the spring of 2020.

Engineering

Received a right-of-way grant from the Bureau of Land Management for the Colorado River Road, providing additional widths for future safety projects. This grant formalizes the county's Colorado River Road access for 30 years.

Engineering



Free training is offered for all dogs adopted from the Eagle County Animal Shelter.

Increased housing stock in the county through several public-private partnerships, including 6 West Apartments, with 120 for-rent resident occupied deed restricted units; and Spring Creek Apartments, with 282 for-rent units with rents restricted at 60 to 80 percent of area median income rates.

Housing

See Great Place – page 4



Eagle County Protects the Natural Environment

Replaced seven vehicles with more efficient models including two Chevy Volts, which save 35.84 metric tons of CO₂; and expanded the county's internal fleet to now include eight electric bicycles for employee use.

Fleet Management Sustainable Communities

Successfully passed ballot measure 1A with support from community members and partners across the county. The measure extends funding through the year 2040 for the Eagle County Open Space Program.

Open Space, Administration, Attorney, Communications, Finance

Adopted the management plan for Brush Creek Valley Ranch & Open Space, formerly Hardscrabble Ranch, with support and engagement from the public and partners including Eagle County Open Space Advisory Committee, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado State University Extension, Eagle County Historical Society, Eagle Valley Land Trust, Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Town of Eagle.

Open Space, Administration, Communications

Finalized a conservation easement to permanently preserve the Minturn Boneyard

Open Space in collaboration with Town of Minturn, Eagle Valley Land Trust and Great Outdoors Colorado. This was the culmination of an effort that began in 2013.

Open Space

Implemented two waste diversion programs at the Eagle County Landfill. The facility now includes a construction and demolition diversion site, as well as textile recycling.

Solid Waste & Recycling

Completed the Safe Passages for Wildlife Plan through a robust stakeholder process, which identifies priority areas and future projects and recommendations to maintain or improve wildlife habitat connectivity across major roadways in Eagle County.

Sustainable Communities

Completed LED lighting and controls improvements throughout county facilities, which save \$70,000 annually and reduce carbon pollution.

Sustainable Communities

Installed two new public electric vehicle charging stations, bringing the total in Eagle County to eight and facilitating the use of alternative fuel vehicles within the county and along the I-70 corridor.

Sustainable Communities



Eagle County Promotes a Diverse and Resilient Economy

Increased airline seat capacity by 25 percent and enplanements by 9 percent over 2017, enhancing accessibility to and from the area and improving passenger convenience.

Airport

Broke ground and reached 50 percent completion on the \$34 million terminal expansion project. The project includes jet bridges as well as expanded passenger space and concessions, contributing to a better traveler experience.

Airport, Facilities & Project Management, Innovation & Technology

Purchased the 502 Capitol Street property in Eagle, providing for the potential expansion of county services while maintaining The Learning Tree child care

operation. The investment preserved the only facility within the Town of Eagle that accepts infants, a critical need for working families.

Facilities & Project Management, Administration

Supported new businesses and jobs by facilitating over \$500,000 in grant dollars from the state to the Northwest Loan Fund. The fund makes loans to start-up businesses in Eagle County and other northwest Colorado communities.

Finance

Distributed more than \$1.75 million in food assistance benefits, resulting in a \$3.15 million positive economic impact in the county through groceries and goods purchased.

Human Services



County officials celebrate the groundbreaking of the airport terminal expansion project.



Eagle County is a High-Performing Organization

Launched a new method of tracking strategic plan progress and completed the rollout of an improved internal communications system through the county's new Innovation & Strategy program.

Administration

Successfully hired a new county manager, bringing high-level talent, experience and local leadership to the organization.

Administration



The new Facilities workshop provides expanded space for county operations, plus includes solar panels and a recycled oil heating system.

Increased field staffing, allowing a shift from reactive enforcement to a more proactive approach to animal control in 2018. As a result, contacts increased by 24 percent and patrols increased by 445 percent over the year, enhancing safety for both pets and people countywide.

Animal Services

Successfully passed the final report for the 2018 Colorado Property Assessment Study. According to this yearly audit conducted by the state, the Eagle County Assessor's Office was found to be in compliance with all valuation requirements as mandated by Colorado law.

Assessor

Successfully administered the 2018 General Election, with a record 74 percent active voter turnout, and completed the third ever post election Risk Limiting Audit with 100 percent accuracy.

Clerk & Recorder

Completed year-long training and preparation in support of the conversion to the new statewide DRIVES motor vehicle system, while conducting over 90,000 individual transactions and fielding over 18,000 individual phone calls.

Clerk & Recorder

Revamped the county's annual report format and distribution method, resulting in increased circulation and cost savings while decreasing the use of paper.

Communications

Implemented an internal weekly wrap-up video, improving the visibility and accessibility of the County Manager's Office.

Communications

Successfully moved operations into a newly purchased property, ensuring appropriate space for professional and respectful interactions.

Coroner, Facilities & Project Management

Facilitated the growth of over 500 pounds of fresh produce by Eagle County employees in garden beds located at the CSU Extension Office. All vegetables grown through the Garden Produce Challenge were donated to the Golden Eagle Senior Center, helping to provide healthy food to our senior community.

CSU Extension

Completed the construction of a new Facilities workshop in Gypsum, consolidating staff and freeing up space at both the Eagle County Building campus and at county-owned property on U.S. Highway 6 in Eagle. The move helped improve county operations as well as facilitate potential redevelopment in West Eagle.

Facilities & Project Management



Financially Sound

– From page 2

Completed the county's first year of operating under a narrow network contract for the organization's health care services, with costs ending at approximately 15 percent under budget. Additional local health care providers have contacted the county regarding this arrangement, representing an increase in local competition and the potential to help control rising health care costs in the high country.

Human Resources

Reduced the cost of data services by approximately 40 percent. This has enabled IT to significantly increase broadband speeds at the main campus in Eagle, and will enable IT to bring speeds at all remote offices up to minimum standards with no net budgetary impact to the county.

Innovation & Technology

Completed 5.8 miles of overlay projects on paved roads, 10.5 miles of gravel replacement on unpaved roads, and 243 linear feet of shoulder restoration on the Frying Pan River Road, improving safety while protecting county infrastructure.

Road & Bridge

Took advantage of increases in short term interest rates and actively managed short- and long-term county fund balances, yielding \$1.6 million in interest income for the year. This represents a 60 percent increase over projections and the highest annual interest earned since 2010.

Treasurer & Public Trustee

Lake Christine Fire

– From page 1



Photo by Barry Stevenson with Outside Adventure Media.

Now, Eagle County is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Town of Basalt, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and private property owners on flood protection and forest restoration projects. First Bank has awarded a \$50,000 grant to support Lake Christine recovery and wildfire mitigation efforts.

An after action report and improvement plan has been developed, and organizations across the county have implemented enhancements to emergency operations procedures. By capitalizing on lessons learned, the county and the community are able to recognize a job well done while also being ready to better respond to the next disaster in Eagle County.



Great Place

– From page 2

Provided a one-stop shop through The Valley Home Store for the purchase and sale of all deed restricted housing inventory in Eagle County, facilitating 30 deed restricted home purchases. In addition, staff provided five free first-time home buyer classes serving 87 participants.

Housing

Posted a record year for down payment assistance programs. The Eagle County Loan Fund provided 50 loans to home buyers, with a dollar volume of over \$750,000. The locally operated Colorado Division of Housing's down payment program provided seven loans to Habitat For Humanity home buyers with a dollar volume of \$105,000. Eagle County's own Employee Home Ownership Program provided three loans to employees purchasing homes in 2018.

Housing

Ensured continued access to quality care and early childhood development opportunities by subsidizing the operating cost gap for quality infant and toddler care, supplementing early childhood professionals' salaries, and incentivizing professionals to join the early childhood workforce.

Human Services



The final design for the Edwards Spur Road improvement project was completed in 2018.



High-Performing

– From page 3

Completed the 2018 internal culture survey, with an 80 percent response rate. The county's net promoter score rose from 14.3 to 21.9 in the latest survey, with the top rated questions illustrating that Eagle County employees have meaning and purpose in their work, that employees feel valued and recognized, and that the county is moving in a positive direction. Departmental goals for 2019 will be tied back to the culture survey to drive results and enhance the county's culture.

Human Resources

Promoted 13 internal county employees, highlighting Eagle County's commitment to career development and succession planning while cultivating a local leadership pipeline.

Human Resources

Received the state's Distinguished Performance Award for exceeding Colorado Department of Human Services' standards across 23 performance measures for the third

consecutive year. Eagle County is performing as a top-ranked mid-sized county in the state.

Human Services

Expanded programming to vulnerable populations by implementing a self-sufficiency pilot project through the Women's Foundation of Colorado, receiving the Two-Generation Opportunity award for \$100,000, and joining the state pilot program for Child Support Services.

Public Health & Environment

Launched the Mobile Intercultural Resource Alliance (MIRA) in July. MIRA aims to serve as a single-stop, comprehensive, integrated and culturally sensitive approach to resource connection and service delivery. The MIRA bus travels throughout Eagle County to provide medical, dental, food assistance and other services based on neighborhood needs.

Public Health & Environment, Innovation & Technology

Developed and implemented an internal strategic plan, identifying current opportunities and setting a direction for the future.

Human Services

Presented nine Life Saving Awards to personnel whose actions went above and beyond the call of duty in saving the life of another person.

Sheriff

Successfully conducted the annual tax lien sale, with the lowest number of delinquent real properties in at least 20 years. Lower tax lien sales mean taxing authorities such as school districts, municipalities and others receive their revenues in a timely manner, resulting in an improved ability to provide their services.

Sheriff

Treasurer & Public Trustee

Connect with the County



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