Aurora celebrates grand opening of High Line Canal Pedestrian Bridge

A new pedestrian bridge that opened this summer in Aurora closed one of the last remaining and most difficult missing segments of the High Line Canal Trail within the metro area.

City officials—in partnership with the High Line Canal Conservancy—celebrated the grand opening of the High Line Canal Pedestrian Bridge over Interstate 70 just east of Tower Road following years of planning and work.

The High Line Canal Trail spans 71 miles, weaving through the heart of the metro area, connecting diverse communities with natural beauty and recreational opportunities. The pedestrian bridge will enhance recreational opportunities and connectivity by completing nearly two miles of multi-use trail to close the gap between Colfax Avenue and East 32nd Parkway.

Safety has been a paramount concern in the design, with improved at-grade street crossings and railroad crossings along the trail to promote safe interactions between trail users along with vehicular and rail traffic. A continuous 8-foot-wide concrete trail ensures accessibility for all members of the community, promoting safe and enjoyable experiences.

This project was made possible through the support of Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), Adams County Open Space, Conservation Trust Fund, the High Line Canal Conservancy and multiple departments within the city of Aurora.

For information on current Parks, Recreation and Open Space projects, visit AuroraGov.org/PROSPDC.

Upcoming Aurora City Council Town Meetings

This publication went to print in early July. Please call 303.739.7015 or visit AuroraGov.org/TownMeetings to confirm details (hybrid meeting links are available on the web page). To look up your council member and view the council ward map, visit AuroraGov.org/PropertyInfo.

Mayoral Town Meeting
Mayor Mike Coffman
• Oct. 26, 2-3:30 p.m.
  Central Library

Ward I Town Meeting
Council Member Crystal Murillo
• Aug. 22, 6-7:30 p.m.
  Martin Luther King Jr. Library
• Sept. 26, 6-7:30 p.m.
  Moorhead Recreation Center (hybrid)

Ward II Town Meeting
Council Member Steve Sundberg
• Oct. 24, 6:30-8 p.m.
  Central Recreation Center (hybrid)

Ward III Town Meeting
Council Member Ruben Medina
• Aug. 13, 6:30-8 p.m.
  Aurora Central Library
• Sept. 10, 6:30-8 p.m.
  Aurora Center for Active Adults

Ward IV Town Meeting
Council Member Stephanie Hancock
• Oct. 10, 6:30-8 p.m.
  Colorado Early Colleges (hybrid)

Ward V Town Meeting
Council Member Angela Lawson
• Aug. 20, 6:30-8 p.m.
  Central Recreation Center (hybrid)
• Aug. 31, 10-11:30 a.m.
  Heather Gardens Clubhouse
• Sept. 23, 6:30-8 p.m.
  Mission Viejo Library

Ward VI Town Meeting
Council Member Françoise Bergan
• Sept. 18, 6-8 p.m.
  Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Club

At-Large Town Meeting
Council Members Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Danielle Jurinsky and Dustin Zvonek
• Aug. 29, 6-8 p.m.
  Central Recreation Center
Learn “How to Do Business with the city of Aurora”

Businesses are invited to attend the upcoming hybrid seminar “How to Do Business with the city of Aurora,” from 9 to 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 13, at the Aurora Municipal Center (Aurora Room), 15151 E. Alameda Parkway.

The seminar, organized by the city’s Finance Department in collaboration with the Office of International and Immigrant Affairs and the Aurora-South Metro Small Business Development Center (SBDC), will cover essential topics, including where to find the city’s bids and Requests for Proposal, the process of responding to each. City Council reporting requirements as well as examples of goods and services purchased by the city.

Spanish interpretation will be provided for the in-person session. The seminar is free, but registration is required. To register, visit AuroraGov.org/BusinessSeminar. For questions, call 303.739.7055 (English) or 720.372.3792 (Spanish).

Explore the world of agriculture Sept. 14

Celebrate food, nature and agriculture on the high plains at the city of Aurora’s annual Agriculture Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Plains Conservation Center, 21901 E. Hampden Ave.

Learn about where your food comes from and how you can support healthy environments with regenerative agriculture and sustainable eating. Enjoy wagon rides, 1880s homestead and tipi camp tours, farm animal interactions, food vendors and more.

The city of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department and Denver Botanic Gardens are presenting this event for all ages. Admission is $5 per vehicle. Grab a pal and purchase your tickets at AuroraGov.org/AGFest.

Aurora Mini-Con returns Sept. 21

Enjoy gaming, superheroes, comic-themed crafts, activities and much more at this year’s Aurora Mini-Con from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Aurora Municipal Campus, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway. Admission and activities are free.

Aurora Mini-Con is a free, family friendly festival featuring comics, cosplay, all things pop culture and unforgettable memories.

The festival is a collaboration among the Aurora Public Library, the Aurora History Museum and the city’s Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department. For more information, visit AuroraGov.org/Mini-Con.

Celebrate art at Colfax Canvas

The Colfax Canvas Mural Festival returns to the Aurora Cultural Arts District in September with global entertainment, games, vendors and more.

The event is happening from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at Fletcher Plaza, 9800 E. Colfax Ave. For more information, visit ColfaxCanvas.com.

Restored iconic Aurora Fox sign shines again

After 40 years of minor repairs and exposure to the elements, the Aurora Fox Arts Center’s neon sign has been fully restored to its original 1946 paint scheme and was celebrated with a lighting ceremony in June.

A State Historical Fund grant, city funds and donations funded the $143,254 restoration investment.

The original Fox Theater was designed by Denver architect Charles Strong in 1946 with a Streamline Moderne style lobby attached to a World War II surplus Quonset hut. It served as a popular destination for children and adults in the 1950s and 1960s. A fire engulfed the theater in 1981, causing extensive fire and water damage. The building was rehabilitated and reopened in 1985 as the Aurora Fox Arts Center.

“The fact that about a fourth of the total renovation cost was covered by donations speaks to the importance to the community of this visual landmark in north Aurora,” said Ginger White Brunetti, the city’s Library and Cultural Services Department. “Similarly to the 1980s when the community, private organizations and government banded together to make sure the Fox building was restored and transformed into a performing arts venue, the community rallied again to give the Aurora Fox a well-deserved facelift to greet people for the next 75 years.”

As part of the recent restoration process, the yellow upper marquee, which made its debut in the early 1960s, was replaced with white panels in keeping with the original design. The historic Snap-Lok letters attached to the aluminum tracks were also restored, and the neon tubing was reinstalled in mid-June.

Interior renovation of the Aurora Fox Arts Center will continue in the next months with new seats, carpet and paint as well as adjustments to the accessible ramps.

The Aurora Fox Arts Center is one of the city’s 34 historic landmarks, which alongside two historic districts and four cultural heritage sites, comprises the Historic Sites Program. To learn more, visit AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites and AuroraFoxArtsCenter.org.

I-70 Picadilly interchange update

Construction on the I-70 Picadilly Interchange project continues. Over the past several months, crews have been hauling and placing loads of material to build up embankments for the future diverging diamond interchange (DDI) connecting I-70 and Picadilly Road.

The new I-70 crossing at Picadilly Road will close a 3.4-mile gap between nearby interchanges. For those commuting, that means a savings of as much as 1,770 miles per year. That’s the length of that river without even having to leave Aurora.

Subscribe to our weekly newsletter to keep track of changing road and construction impacts. To sign up or find out more, visit AuroraGov.org/I70Picadilly.
Aurora joins other jurisdictions to spotlight Colorado Aerotropolis for business growth

The Aerotropolis Regional Committee is shining a new light on the thousands of acres of undeveloped land around Denver International Airport known as the Colorado Aerotropolis, encouraging business investment in the area to drive economic prosperity for the surrounding community.

The city of Aurora, Adams County, the city and county of Denver, Denver International Airport, and the cities of Brighton, Commerce City, Federal Heights and Thornton are collaborating in innovative ways to bring new jobs and opportunity to the area adjacent to the airport.

The land will further economic investment in the metro region and bring together visionaries, manufacturers and industry heavyweights to leverage the region’s economic strength of the region, a workforce of diverse talent and the capabilities of one of America’s most connected airports.

An aerotropolis is a dynamic urban plan in which the layout, infrastructure and economy are centered around an airport, leveraging the connectivity that air travel delivers to people and industries. Although residential development can be included in an aerotropolis, these areas are typically focused more on commercial and industrial development—business parks, industrial buildings, distribution centers, commercial office buildings, and hospitality and entertainment venues.

The Colorado Aerotropolis is designed for purpose-driven organizations in industries such as advanced manufacturing, aerospace, agriculture, renewable energy and healthcare that are interested in calling Colorado home. The aerotropolis is already nurturing innovation in renewable energy, aerospace, transportation, and smart city technologies and hopes to attract additional businesses that rely on time-sensitive manufacturing, given its proximity to the airport.

A new promotional video and website spotlight the benefits of investing in the Colorado Aerotropolis. Visit COAerotropolis.com to find out more and inquire about business opportunities.

Sponsor a wreath for annual museum fundraiser

Feeling crafty? Then stop by the Aurora History Museum starting Tuesday, Sept. 15, and purchase a $10 wreath to decorate and donate to the Aurora Museum Foundation’s 25th annual Festival of Wreaths.

Local businesses, organizations and individuals throughout Colorado sponsor wreaths for this yearly fundraiser benefiting the Aurora History Museum. This year, donated wreaths will be on display at the museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, from Nov. 5 to Dec. 6. Wreaths on display are sold to the highest bidder either through an online auction or live auction Saturday, Nov. 16, at a celebration event.

Sponsored wreaths must be decorated and returned to the museum by 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1. The $10 sponsorship may be paid by cash, check or credit card. Donors also may provide their own wreath to decorate and donate. More information is available at AMFCO.org/Wreaths.

Sign up for emergency alerts

Alert Aurora
You can select what alerts you want to receive and how you would like to receive them, but you have to opt in if you want to be reached by cell phone or email.

@AuroraPD
@AuroraFireDept
@AuroraGov
FB.com/AuroraCOPD
FB.com/AuroraFireDept
FB.com/AuroraGov

Aurora Ready Community Preparedness Class

Are you ready for an emergency or disaster? Join our one-hour disaster preparedness class from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3, at the Central Recreation Center, 18150 E. Vassar Place, to build your skills to be more resilient.

Seating is first come, first served (up to 25 people). To sign up, email afd_oem@auroragov.org or scan the QR code and complete the online form.

Select online services moving to new portal

As part of the city’s launch of DevPortal.AuroraGov.org this year, some additional services are being phased into this new platform through September, including temporary use permits, temporary sign permits, filming permits and block party permits. For details, visit AuroraGov.org.

City seeks input through Older Adults Needs Assessment

Are you an older adult, aged 60 years or older, living in Aurora? Or do you have a relationship with an Aurora older adult (caregiver, relative, friend, etc.)?

The city of Aurora is conducting an assessment to understand the needs and experiences of older adults (60+ years) in Aurora. The goals of the survey are to understand:

- The most important needs of older adults in Aurora
- How existing programs and services help to address these needs
- What additional programs and services may be added to meet these needs

Your answers will help us determine future strategies to help this population thrive in the city. Complete the survey by Sunday, Sept. 1, at EngageAurora.org/OlderAdults. Printed surveys are available at all city of Aurora recreation centers and Aurora Public Library locations.
Don’t trash your pipes with wipes

Aurora Water’s youth education program, which provides interactive lessons to K-12 students, covers what can and cannot be flushed. Students love the information as it provides an opportunity to discuss a topic that is normally regarded as taboo: the three Ps - pee, poop and paper. The three Ps are the only things that should go in the toilet. Everything else goes in the trash can. This, however, is a topic we should all be discussing.

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPES) Act on June 11, 2024. This bipartisan legislation, which has moved on to the Senate for consideration, aims to address the problem of wipes clogging sewer systems. Under the WIPPES Act, the Federal Trade Commission will create a standardized “Do Not Flush” label for wipes packaging. These labels will apply to a wide range of wipes, including baby wipes, bathroom wipes, household cleaning wipes, and personal care wipes. Incorrectly labeled as flushable, these wipes currently cost U.S. utilities up to $1 billion annually.

As a bit of background, drains in your home eventually exit through a single pipe from your home to a sewer main in the street. Flushing the wrong things down the toilet (or down sink or bathtub drains) can cause sewage backup in your home, which is expensive and disgusting.

Protect your pipes, your home and the environment by following these rules:

• Do not flush wipes.
• Do not use the toilet as a trash can for anything other than the three Ps.
• Oil and grease should be poured into a sealable container and placed in the trash.
• Scrape pans and cooking residue into the trash.

Aurora looks to expand storage

Aurora Water is proposing to build a new reservoir in Park County, about six miles west of Spinney Mountain Reservoir. Wild Horse Reservoir would store up to 93,000 acre-feet of water, making this the largest wholly owned reservoir in Aurora’s system. Wild Horse is needed to improve Aurora Water’s system reliability and resiliency, help expand its potable reuse to meet future water needs and provide water management flexibility during droughts or system emergencies.

Aurora stores water in 12 reservoirs spread across three river basins. Water storage is a critical part of the city’s long-term, comprehensive plan that includes ongoing conservation and reuse and more flexible management of water rights. Wild Horse Reservoir is currently in the pre-permitting phase and, pending approval, will come online in the 2030s. You can learn more at WildHorseReservoir.org.