

## **THORNTON, CO - PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS (PRCP) DEPARTMENT**

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### **The Parks, Recreation, and Community Programs Department**

The Parks, Recreation, and Community Programs (PRCP) Department provides a wide array of activities and programs to meet the parks and recreation demand in the community. The Parks & Recreation Director is a direct report to the City Manager and oversees a Department of approximately more than 130 full-time equivalents and 450 part-time/seasonal employees, who are responsible for maintaining a parks and open space system of nearly 2,500 acres, including more than 1,500 acres of open space, roughly 90 separate parks, a City golf course (Thorncreek), and more than 130 miles of trails. The Director manages an annual operating budget of nearly \$24M as well as a capital budget of \$25M. Within the Director's authority include the following operations: Parks, Recreation, Active Adult Center, Projects & Planning, Golf Course Maintenance and Operations, Arts and Culture, Community Connections, and Community Engagement.

### **Administration Division**

In addition to the above listed divisions, the Parks & Recreation Director coordinates park and recreation efforts with other leisure providers and applies for and administers grants from other resource areas in parks and recreation. The division also coordinates activities with the Thornton Arts, Sciences and Humanities Council (TASHCO), the Thornton Active Adult Board (TAAB), and the Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC).

### **Parks Division**

Parks is responsible for the general maintenance of all parks, trails, urban forest, and open space areas, as well as City-owned medians, streetscapes, highway interchanges, vacant land, and undeveloped rights-of-way areas. The division also provides urban forestry programs and citizen assistance calls for horticulture related issues.

### **Golf Course Division**

The Golf Operations and Golf Restaurant Divisions are responsible for the general operation of the Thorncreek Golf Course and coordinating a variety of golf programs and services for all ages and ability levels for the residents of Thornton and the surrounding community. There is also a community outreach program intended to promote the golf course in the schools and at other City programs, events and festivals.

The Golf Maintenance Division is responsible for general grounds maintenance of the Thorncreek Golf Course to include irrigation management and maintenance, turf management, mowing operations, bunker maintenance, pin placement and overall quality control of the golf course grounds.

### **Projects & Planning Division**

The Projects & Planning Division is responsible for working with the Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC) in the creation and implementation of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The division is also responsible for the planning and design of the capital improvement projects for the PRCP Department.

### **Recreation Division**

The Recreation Division arranges and coordinates a variety of leisure programs and services for the community through the operation of the Margaret W. Carpenter Recreation Center and Park, Trail Winds Recreation Center, Thornton Recreation Center, Youth and Teen Center, skate parks, ball fields including the batting cage at Riverwalk Ballpark, two outdoor swimming pools, sports fields, tennis courts, and other City-owned park facilities such as the carousel and boating at Carpenter Park. Additionally, the Recreation Division oversees the coordination of a variety of special events, including three large community festivals each year.

### **Active Adult Center Division**

The Active Adult Center Division manages and plans activities and events for the City's older adult population in partnership with other senior service providers throughout the City. This Division provides a broad range of activities and services for older adults and includes activities such as fitness classes, adult education, recreation, leisure services, transportation, and a nutrition program.

### **Arts and Culture Division**

The Arts and Culture Division is charged with programming and promotion of arts and humanities in the community. This includes administration of programming related to grant funding provided by the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) to the Thornton Arts, Sciences and Humanities Council (TASHCO), as well as responsibility for a variety of City-sponsored events & programming. The division is also responsible for managing the City's historical archives.

### **Community Connections Division**

The Community Connections serves as a one-stop resource shop for those that call Thornton home. English-Spanish language team members inventory community-based programs offered by city of Thornton, non-profits, the faith-based community, government organizations, and other partners so that we can best connect community members with the services they seek. From helping our Thornton neighbors to meet their basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter, to linking them with social and mental health supports, we offer a tailored selection of programming and resources to meet individual needs. This team also handles CDBG administration.

### **Community Engagement Division**

Community Engagement is responsible for outreach and education, as well as developing and enhancing relationships within and throughout the community. Responsibilities include promotion of events, programs and the PRCP brand, management of the city-wide volunteer program, supporting divisions' individual engagement needs, guiding efforts in strategic planning and accreditation, seeking and applying for funding opportunities, and fostering collaboration between internal and external individuals and groups.