



City of Thornton
Colorado

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

\$160,000 - \$189,500

Apply by
September 6, 2021
(First Review, Open Until Filled)

***P*ROTHMAN**



THORNTON, COLORADO



Located in the northeast quadrant of the Denver metropolitan area and comprising 37 square miles, the city of Thornton is Colorado's sixth largest city and home to a diverse and growing population of 146,000 residents. The city is only 10 minutes from downtown Denver, 35 minutes from Denver International Airport (DIA) and less than 2 hours from the Breckenridge and Vail ski areas. The community's location provides an ideal environment for a wide range of businesses to thrive, and the community's natural setting of ridgelines, wildlife, waterways, rolling hills, and undeveloped land provide Thornton residents with amenities and an abundance of recreational opportunities that contribute to a unique and excellent quality of life. Thornton's location also allows for easy access to the region's 28 major resort areas found in the nearby Rocky Mountains, which offers skiing, hiking, rafting, and camping, as well as beautiful and breathtaking scenic wonders, all within a two-hour drive. Cultural activities, including numerous museums, gardens, the opera and symphony, are readily available in Denver and other nearby communities such as Boulder, Fort Collins, Loveland, Greeley and Arvada.

Thornton has aggressively pursued recreation programs with nearly 1,000 acres of land developed or designated for public parks. The city's 18-hole municipal golf course, numerous lighted tennis courts, athletic fields, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, recreation centers and gymnasiums present recreation opportunities for people of all ages and activity levels. Sports fans can also enjoy the region's multiple professional sports teams, including the Denver Broncos, Colorado Rockies, Colorado Avalanche, Colorado Rapids and the Denver Nuggets.

The region's residents are well educated. Nine major universities and colleges are located within a 45-mile radius of the community, along with numerous smaller institutions of higher learning. The larger institutions include the Universities of Colorado at Boulder and Denver, University of Denver, Metropolitan State College, University of Northern Colorado, Colorado State University, Colorado School of Mines, Regis University, and Colorado Christian University.

Thornton is served primarily by two school districts encompassing four high schools, five middle schools and fourteen elementary schools.

To learn more about the incredible opportunities found in and around the city of Thornton, please visit www.thorntonco.gov.



THE CITY

Operating on a 2021 total budget of \$437,053,743 with approximately 1,100 FTEs, the city of Thornton utilizes a Council-Manager form of government. Thornton's City Council consists of a mayor who is elected at large, and eight council members, where two are elected from each of the City's four wards.

The mayor and council members each serve staggered four-year terms. The City Manager, City Attorney, and Presiding Municipal Judge are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the city council.

While the city council is responsible for setting policy for the city of Thornton, the City Manager is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the City, including hiring and supervising city staff.



THE DEPARTMENT & POSITION

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 anywhere between 100 - 300 FTEs and 400 - 500 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. To learn about each division of the PRCP Department, please view the attachment found [here](#).

Under direction of the City Manager, the Parks & Recreation Director leads, directs and manages all activities of the department including park maintenance, open space and construction, recreation, senior services, golf course maintenance and operations, community connections and engagement, and arts and culture. The Director also contributes to the development and support of the approved workplan to address the city and community priorities. For a full job description, please view the attachment found [here](#).

IDEAL CANDIDATE

Education & Experience:

A Bachelor's degree in Parks & Recreation or a related field from an accredited college or university is preferred, along with eight (8) years of management experience in parks, recreation or related field, and five (5) years of supervisory experience. Any equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. The ideal candidate will be an experienced manager in parks and recreation who can keep the department focused on its core mission, complete projects on time and in budget, demonstrate program and capital project management with service delivery to Thornton's residents and stakeholders, and bring people together to concentrate on achieving Thornton City Council objectives for its Park and Recreation system.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills & Abilities:

- Skill in delegating with purpose and clarity and demonstrated skill in effectively managing people.
- Ability to be decisive, knowing when to move forward, and taking ownership of outcomes.
- Political acumen and sensitivity to be effective within a broad range of interests.
- Excellent executive management skills and a comprehensive knowledge of all facets of the park and recreation.
- Strong financial acumen and solid experience in budgeting and long-range financial planning.
- Exceptional written and oral communication skills which will be used to clearly communicate the policies and strategic objectives to staff and citizens in a clear and concise manner.
- Ability to lead by example, setting the standard for all members. Must have a strong and confident presence, be a good listener, be accessible, and understand the importance of maintaining close and consistent communication with staff.
- A track record for delivering results, building accountability for staff at all levels and creating a positive working environment characterized by teamwork and innovation.
- The ability to communicate with community members on a timely basis regarding the mission, needs and goals of the organization.



For more information, please visit:
www.thorntonco.gov

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

- **\$160,000 - \$189,500 DOE**
- Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance
- Life, Dependent Life & Supplemental Life Insurance Options
- Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment Policy
- Flexible Spending Plan
- Retiree Health Savings Plan
- Retirement Plan
- Deferred Compensation Plan
- Short & Long-term Disability Plans
- Paid Holidays
- In-House Training Opportunities
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Employee Assistance Program



The city of Thornton is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by **September 6, 2021** (first review, open until filled). Applications will only be accepted electronically. To **apply online**, go to www.prothman.com and click on "**Open Recruitments**" followed by "**Parks and Recreation Director – City of Thornton, CO**" and follow the directions provided, or please [click here](#).



www.prothman.com

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