



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

EXISTING CITY DATA BOOK

DRAFT ♦ March 7, 2019



INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF EXISTING CONDITIONS DATA

This Existing City data book highlights key indicators and background information about Littleton as it is today. Preparing this booklet was step one in the 2019 Envision Littleton efforts to prepare a new Comprehensive Plan and create a first-ever Transportation Master Plan (TMP).

The content of this data book is based on initial background studies to date by the City's community planning consultant, Kendig Keast Collaborative. The intent is to avoid duplication of available, more extensive profiles of Littleton. Instead, the booklet focuses on selected data points that speak to community values and priorities expressed by residents and other stakeholders as input to the Vision Report adopted by City Council in December 2018. Narrative within each section notes how a data point further validates aspects of the Vision Report and/or highlights essential planning considerations for the years ahead.

DATA BOOK CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION

The information in this data book is presented in topic areas relevant to the City's Comprehensive Plan for guiding Littleton's ongoing physical evolution and enhancement as listed to the right. While transportation and mobility are key influences in describing the existing conditions in Littleton, the data relative to transportation and mobility is included in a separate TMP data book and will be incorporated into all of the future phases of Envision Littleton.

The U.S. Census Bureau is the primary source of Existing City data except where otherwise noted in this data book.

Along with the data book focus, another essential activity in the Existing City phase was to complete an inventory of the current land use and development pattern

in Littleton. The resulting inventory map and findings, along with the philosophy behind a character-based approach to land use planning, are contained in a separate report, *Community Character Framework for Land Use*.

DATA BOOK ELEMENTS

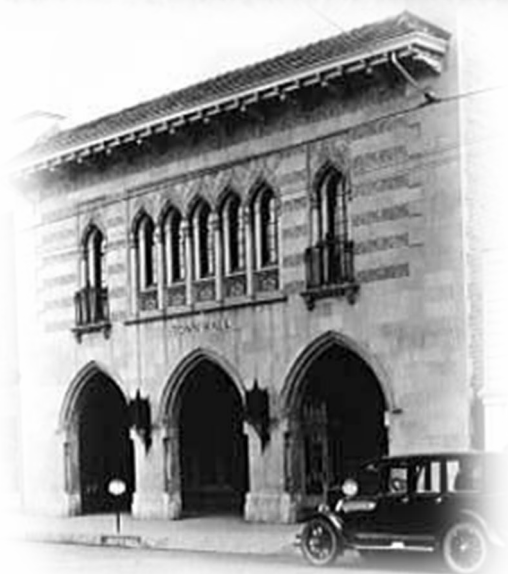
- > Historical Timeline and Growth of Littleton
- > Littleton Recognitions and Overall Satisfaction
- > People
- > Housing
- > Heritage
- > Environment
- > Recreation and Tourism
- > Jobs, Employers and Tax Base
- > Utilities and Public Facilities

WHAT COMES NEXT

After considering current conditions, comprehensive plans are primarily future-oriented and prescribe goals, policies and objectives that are intended to advance a set of preferred conditions. Community needs and desires in Littleton for the next 20 years, through 2040, will be pursued through the upcoming Future City phase of the planning process and include a community-driven engagement process.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 1862** Richard Little files for a homestead and makes land claims; Dozens of farms and ranches established along the South Platte Valley.
- 1864** A school is established in Richard Little's cabin, the precursor of School District No. 6.
- 1869** The first post office opens.
- 1872** Richard Little subdivides property and files a plat for the village of Littleton.
- 1876** Colorado becomes the 36th state in the Union during the nation's centennial.
- 1879** Construction begins on the Highline Canal to supply water to Littleton.
- 1888** Littleton Independent is founded.
- 1890** Town of Littleton incorporated.
- 1904** Littleton becomes the Arapahoe County seat.
- 1920** Town Hall built on Main Street.
- 1938** U.S. Highway 85 is rerouted west of Downtown.
- 1959** Home Rule Charter/City Manager Plan accepted by voters. South Suburban Parks and Recreation District created.
- 1965** Voters approve college district formation. Great South Platte River flood occurs.
- 1970** Littleton Historical Museum opens.
- 1972** Chatfield Dam reservoir begins collecting water.
- 1990** Littleton marks its centennial.
- 1991** Trailmark is annexed into the City of Littleton.
- 2000** Regional Transportation District (RTD) opens the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Line.
- 2008** Littleton celebrated the 100th birthday of the restored Arapahoe County Courthouse.
- 2011** More than \$1 million in improvements to South Platte Park completed.
- 2015** Littleton celebrated the 125th anniversary of its founding.
- 2018** Envision Littleton Vision Plan is adopted.



GROWTH OF LITTLETON

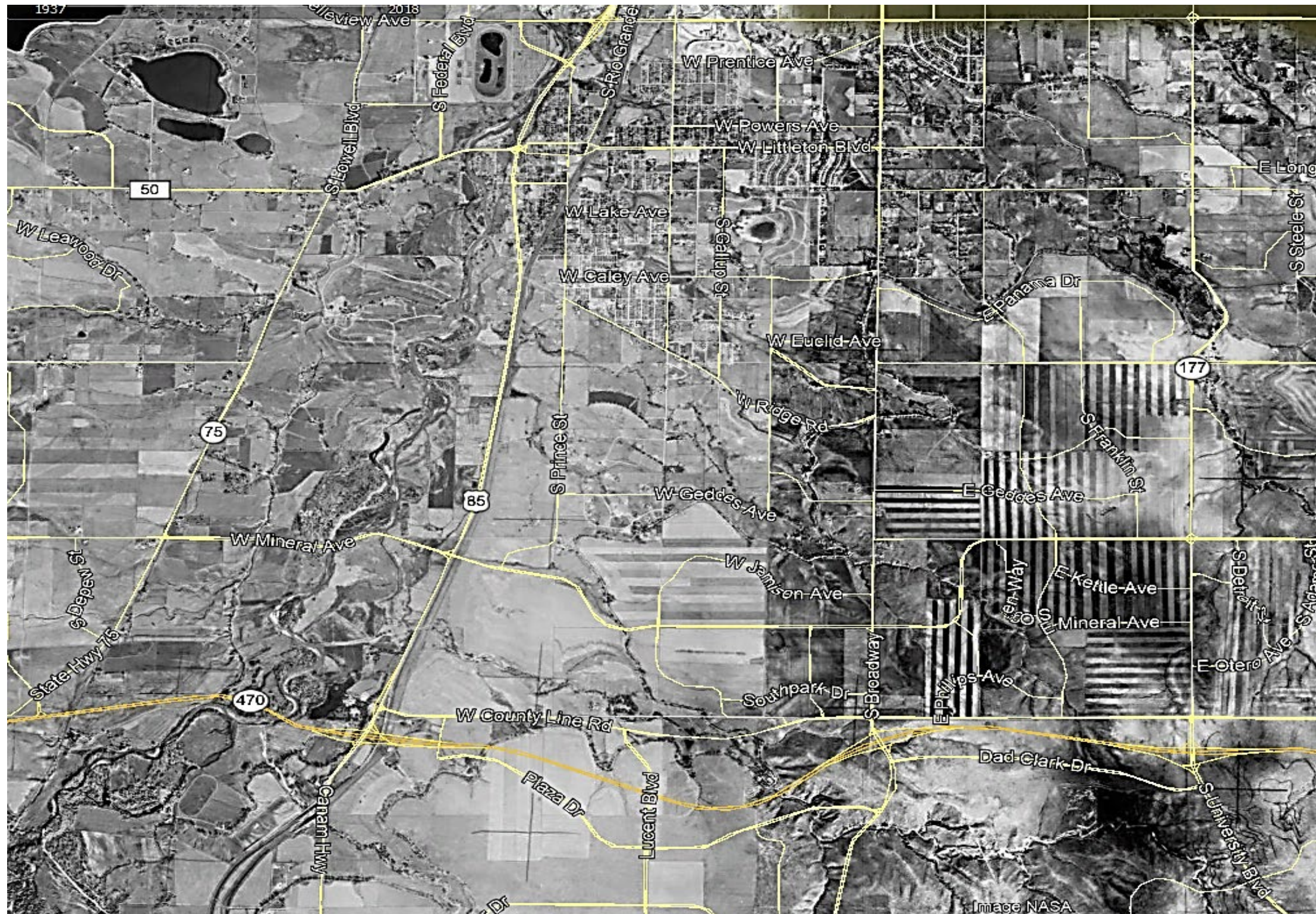
As can be seen in the series of Google Earth aerials, dating back to the earliest available from 1937, Littleton has evolved from primarily open and agricultural land with a small downtown area to a nearly built-out city today. Over each image is the present-day street network, providing scale and context for the extent of change seen in the area over eight decades.

1937



By the 1950s, nearly all significant land development activity in Littleton still had occurred only east of the South Platte River. Improved streets and associated residential subdivisions are now visible in the vicinity of Broadway and as far south as Ridge Road, near Gallup Street. The present-day street pattern is also beginning to emerge around the eventual Ketring Park.

1955



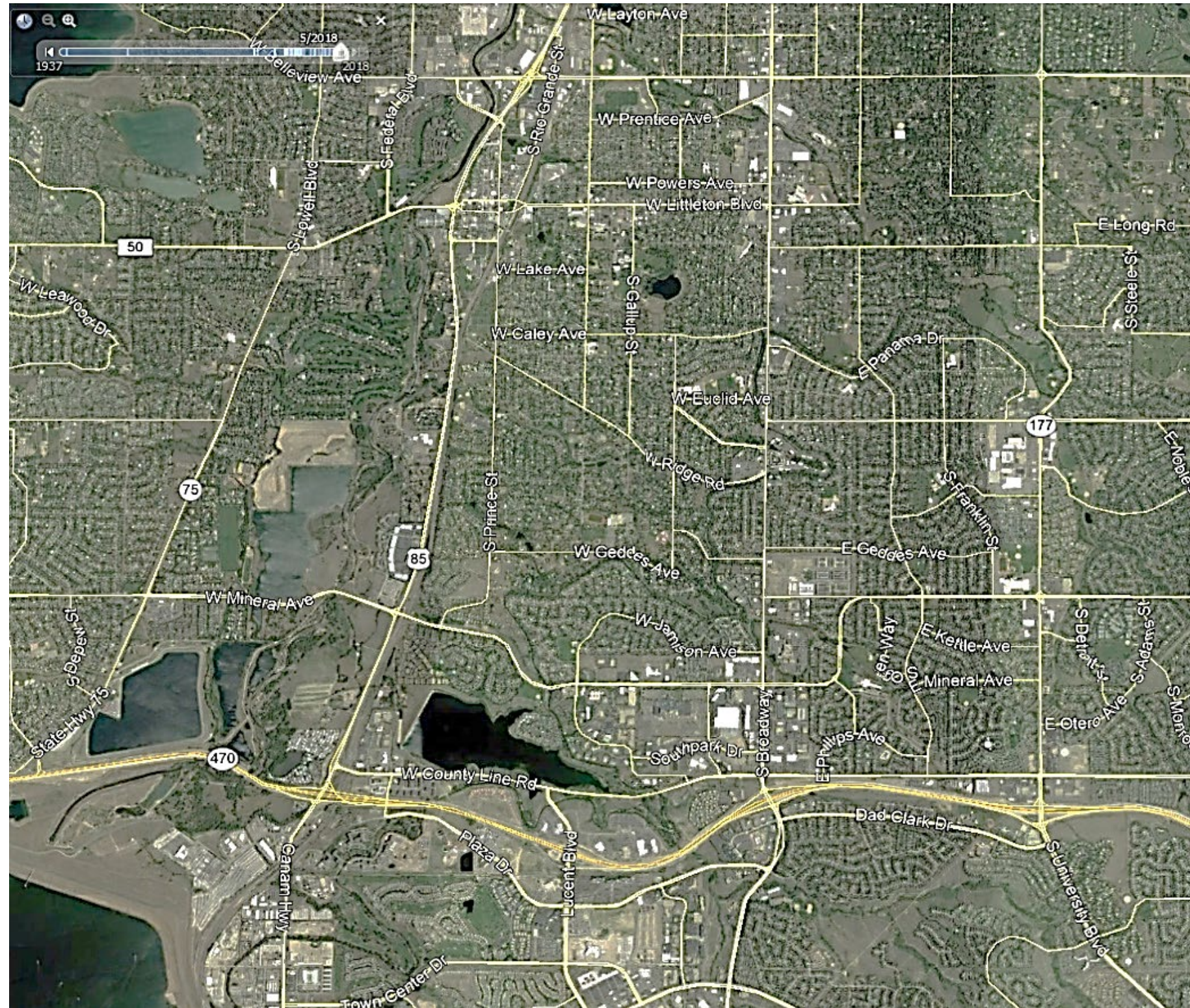
By the early 1990s, the citywide development pattern of today was nearly established, with residential subdivisions and other land uses visible in almost all portions of the present-day city limits. A significant amount of the Southpark commercial area is yet to be developed, along with other open areas near Mineral Avenue, County Line Road and Santa Fe Drive. Initial phases of Highlands Ranch, south of C-470 and east of Broadway, are also in place.

1993



The newest available aerial view, from May 2018, shows Littleton nestled within a broader South Metro suburban development pattern. Yet Littleton from the air is distinctive for the extent of greenway space around the South Platte River, multiple sizable lakes and reservoirs, and the winding route of the Highline Canal and Trail. Nonresidential development is most prominent from the downtown area north to Bellevue Avenue, along Santa Fe Drive and Broadway, and in the Southpark area.

2018



LITTLETON RECOGNITIONS AND OVERALL SATISFACTION

Recognitions and high ratings Littleton routinely receives – for its general livability, small town charm, and appeal for visitors – underscore the community values and features that provided the foundation for a new unifying vision in 2018.

RECENT CITY AWARDS AND RANKINGS

2018

- Ranked #8 in Best Small Cities in America by wallethub.com
- Ranked 7th Most Visited City in Colorado by the Denver Business Journal
- Recognized as the second Greenest City in Colorado by Insurify
- Ranked #42 in the Top 100 Best Places to Live in the U.S. by livability.com
- Named one of the Top 15 Safest Cities in Colorado by the National Council for Home Safety and Security

2017

- Named #1 Small Town in Colorado and 10th Best Small City in America by wallethub.com
- Named one of the Top 10 Hottest Housing Markets in the U.S. by CBS Money Watch
- Ranked #8 in the 2017 Best Places to Retire by Livability
- Ranked 9th Best City in Colorado for Families by SmartAsset

93%

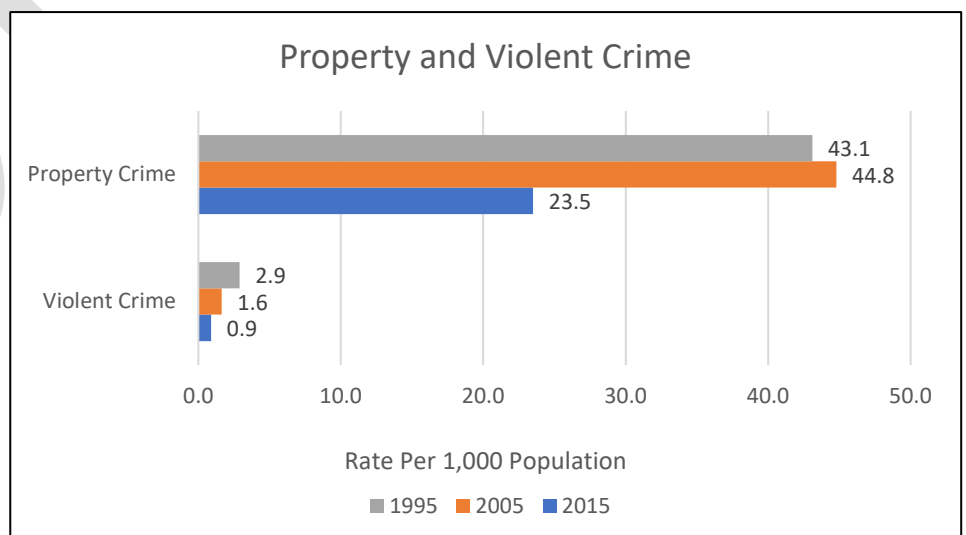
Percent of residents rating the overall quality of life in Littleton excellent or good in the 2018 Resident Survey.

The biannual Resident Survey responses have consistently shown a very high percentage of respondents rating the overall quality of life in Littleton as excellent or good (2012-2018). In addition, in the 2018 Resident Survey, 96 percent of respondents strongly or somewhat agreed with the statement that Littleton is a safe community.

67.4%

Percent reduction in violent crime from 1995 to 2015.

Mirroring national trends in crime reduction, both the rates of violent crime and property crime – which were already low in Littleton – dropped significantly in Littleton in the 20-year period from 1995 to 2015. Property crime experienced a 45.4 percent reduction during this time period. As Littleton's population has increased it has not seen an increase in crime. **Residents routinely express their satisfaction with local policing and wish it to remain a core focus of City government.**



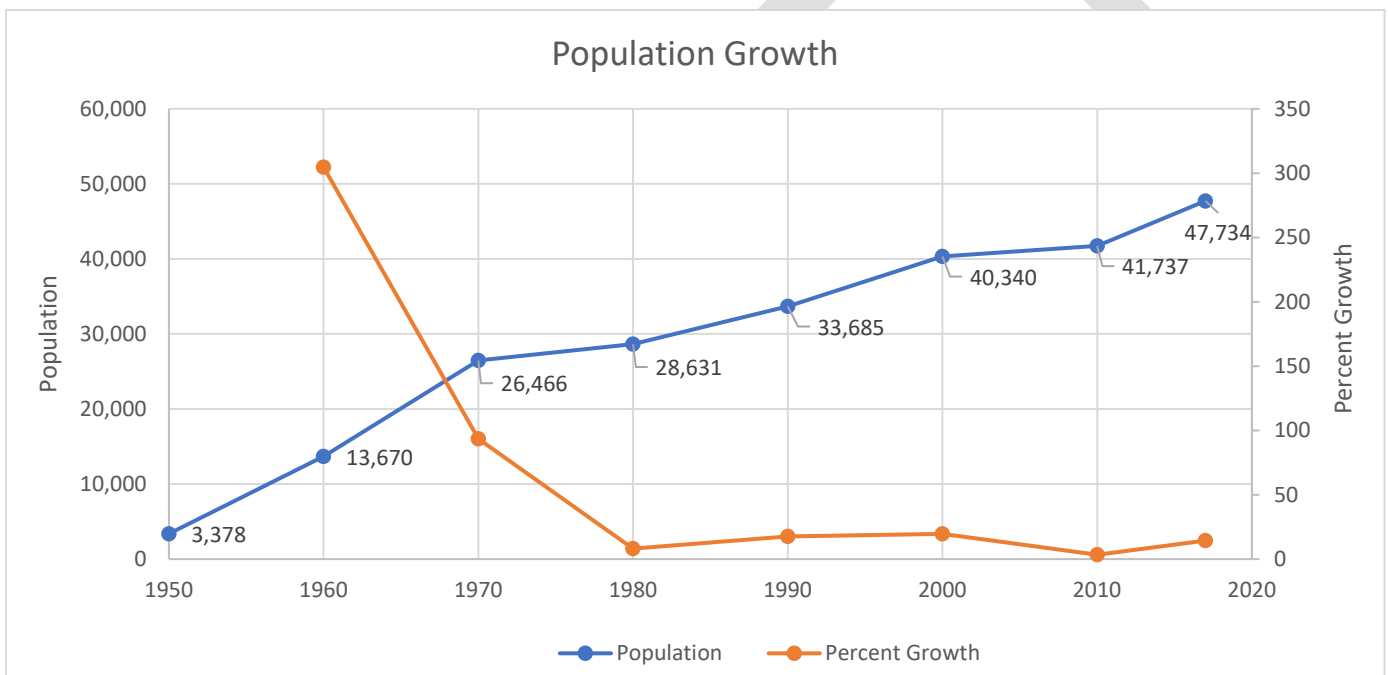
Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report.

PEOPLE

So much of the input that went into the 2018 Vision Report revolved around people issues in Littleton – how best to house them, keep them safe, healthy and active, and support those in need whether due to aging, job status or other challenges.

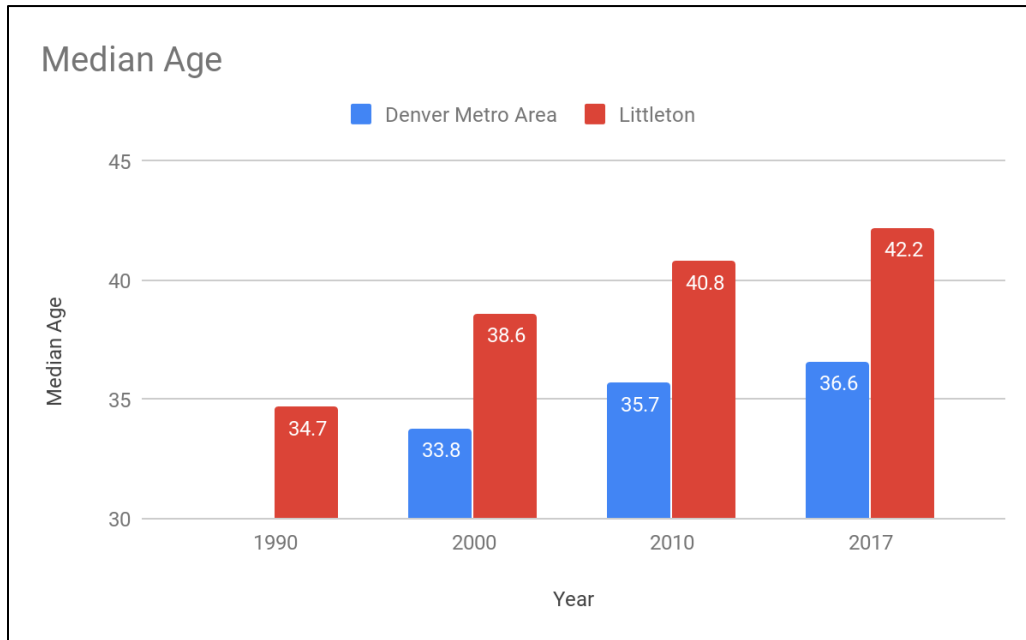
14.3% Increase in population experienced so far this decade, through 2017, which could return Littleton to the growth pace seen from 1980 to 2000, before population growth dropped off from 2000 to 2010.

After a much smaller Littleton grew by 304 percent during the 1950s, from nearly 3,400 residents to almost 13,700, the rate of population growth has decreased significantly in the decades since. The lowest rate was seen from 2000 to 2010 when the city grew by only 3.4 percent. However, a relatively steady growth path has brought Littleton to the point of being nearly built out. **As a result, the Comprehensive Plan must consider Littleton's long-term financial sustainability and the implications of both redevelopment possibilities and how remaining vacant land may ultimately be used.**



42.2 Median Age in Littleton in 2017.

The median age in Littleton is substantially higher than in the Denver Metro Area (36.6 years) and has been increasing each recent decade, from 34.7 in 1990 to 42.2 in 2017. **Potential shifts in Littleton's age composition in coming decades warrant attention as this could have implications across all aspects of the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan, from housing and mobility needs to recreational programming and retail spending patterns.** As of 2017, just under 11 percent of Littleton residents who were not living in institutional housing had some form of disability, with about half of these age 65 or older.

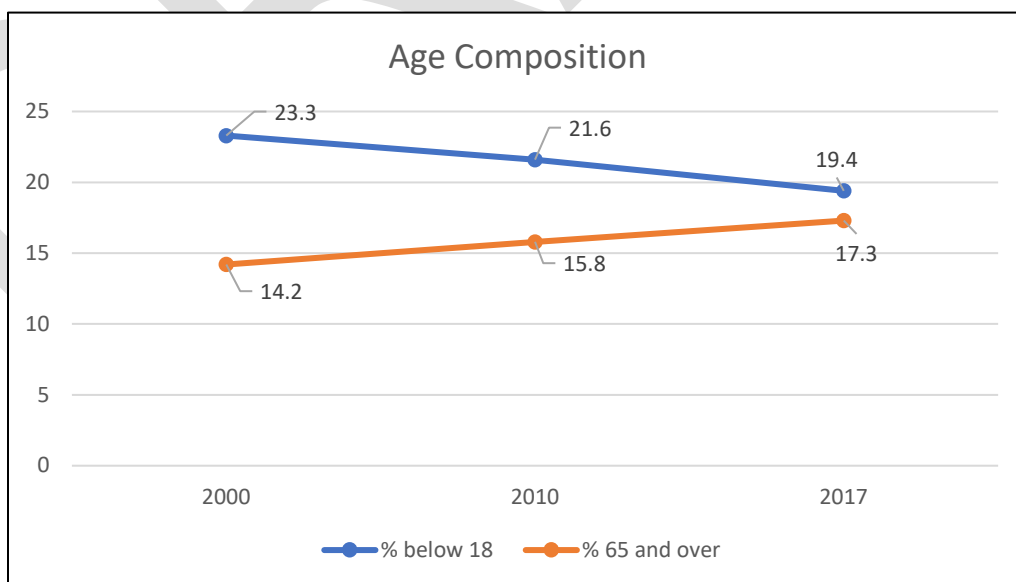


Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

17.4%

Percent of the population age 65 or older in 2017.

The percentage of Littleton's population over age 65 has been increasing since 2000 while the share of population under age 18 has been decreasing. As of 2017 the population age 65 or older had increased to 17.3 percent while the proportion under age 18 had dropped to 19.4 percent. **Those providing input to Envision Littleton often share their pride in being a great community for aging in place. They also recognize its lasting reputation for quality public schools and wish for Littleton to remain welcoming and affordable for younger families.** In 2017, approximately 25 percent of Littleton's households had one or more children under age 18.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

2.29

Average household size in 2017.

Littleton had 2.47 persons per household on average in owner-occupied homes compared to 2.02 in rental housing in 2017. The average household size, overall, was also 2.29 in 2000. The average household size in Littleton is lower than in the Denver Metro Area which had an average household size of 2.57 in 2017. **Variations in this indicator are crucial for anticipating future housing needs in Littleton. Such variations must also be evaluated carefully as an upward trend could indicate more families choosing – and able – to live in Littleton. On the other hand, a lower average household size could reflect not only an aging population of empty nesters, senior couples and widowers, but also the type of housing that is most readily available and affordable (e.g., smaller single-family homes and rental apartments).**

HOUSING

Being an inclusive community is among the core values identified in the 2018 Vision Report, with housing options and affordability cited as a fundamental aspect. The Future City phase will consider policies and strategies for ensuring that Littleton continues to offer residential options for people at various life stages and income levels. This section also provides the newest available U.S. Census Bureau estimates for Littleton relative to the data presented in the 2017 BBC Housing Study, which included data through 2015.

20,691

Total number of housing units in 2017.

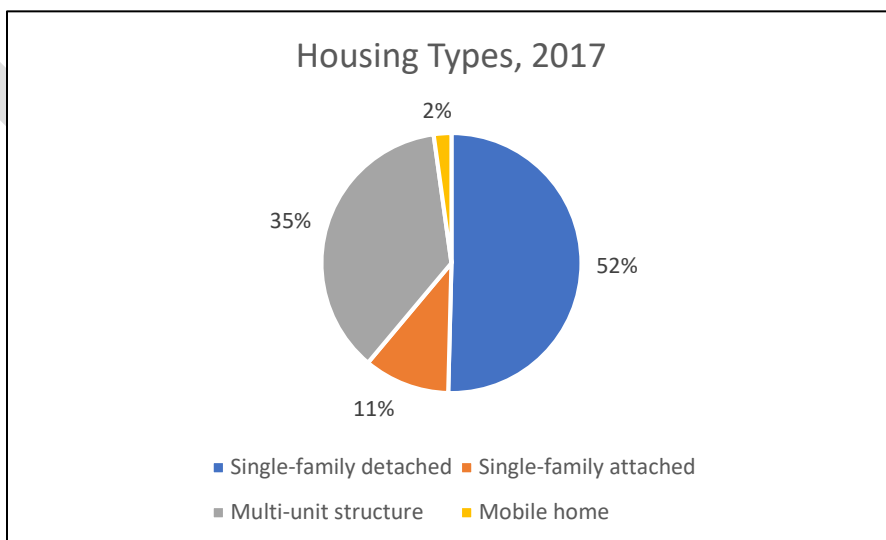
This was an increase of 1,257 housing units since 2010 when Littleton had 19,434 housing units and an increase of 2,607 housing units from the 18,084 units Littleton had in 2000. As a result, total housing units have increased by 14.4 percent since 2000 relative to 18.3 percent growth in population over the same period.

60.6%

Percent of owner-occupied housing units in 2017.

The remaining 39.4 percent of Littleton's estimated 20,691 total housing units in 2017 were occupied by renters. Among the owner-occupied units, 29.4 percent of the homeowners did not have a mortgage.

The housing stock in Littleton is fairly diverse, with just over half composed of single-family detached units in 2017. Aside from the 2.3 percent in mobile homes, the remaining 46 percent was in various forms of attached housing (20 percent in structures with 2-9 units, and 26 percent in structures with 10 or more units). **This provides an array of housing alternatives to single-family detached homes consistent with the inclusive community theme noted above.**

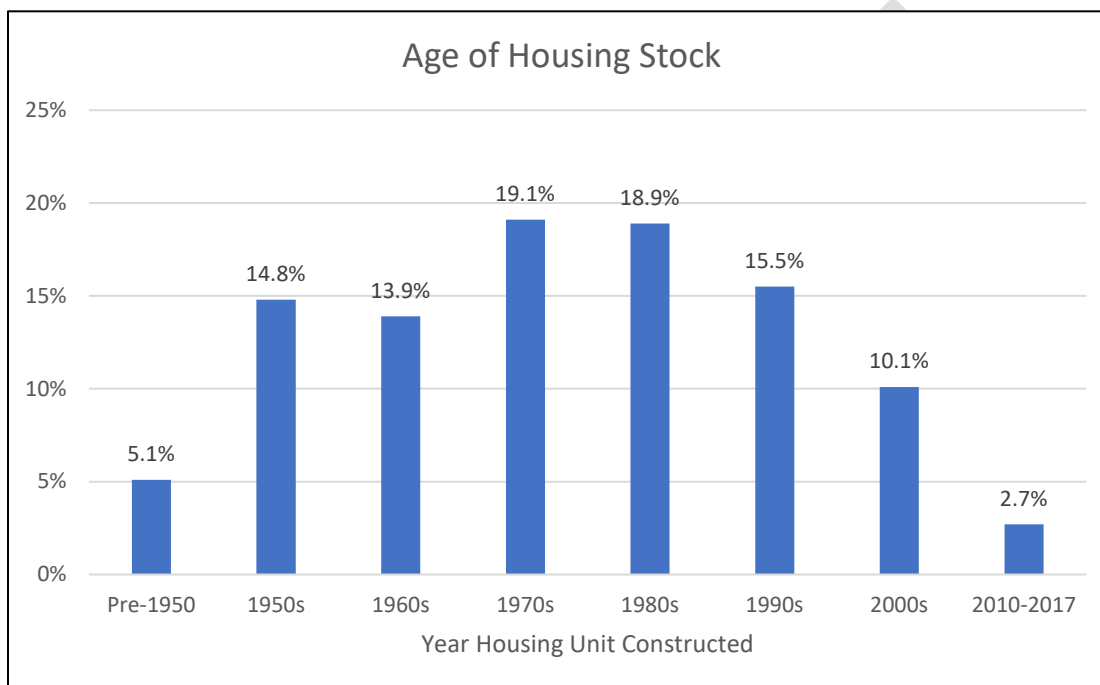


Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

71.7%

Percent of Littleton's housing stock that is at least 30 years old.

As Littleton is approaching buildout of its remaining incorporated territory, the majority of its housing stock was built during the high-growth decades in which much of the land was originally developed. **As these homes continue to age, Littleton may experience increasing amounts of tear-downs and re-builds, additional new units through higher-density construction, or concerted efforts to preserve and maintain older housing stock through renovations and/or add-ons.**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

\$338,900

Median home value of owner-occupied housing units in 2017.

Nearly two-thirds (65.3 percent) of such homes were valued in a range from \$200,000 to \$499,999 and only 14.6 valued at under \$200,000.

Median home value in 2010 was \$269,500 and \$192,200 in 1999.

The median home value has increased by 25.7 percent in the period from 2010 to 2017 and 76.3 percent in the period from 1999 to 2017. **The combination of trends in home values and buyer income (below) will determine the general affordability of housing in Littleton, as the BBC Housing Study calculated in greater detail (also below).**

\$71,315

Median household income in 2017.

Littleton's median household income of \$71,315 was almost identical to the median household income of the Denver Metro Area (\$71,884 in 2017).

While the local median has increased by 41 percent (from \$50,583)

since 2000, part of the affordability challenge is that the median home value has increased by nearly twice as much – 76.3 percent – since 1999.

15%

Percent of homes sold in Littleton in 2016 that the average Denver Metro worker earning \$60,215 annually could have afforded, 96 percent of which were attached.

The 2017 BBC Housing Study also found that the average worker could have afforded 80 percent of rental units available in Littleton.

7.5%

Percent of Littleton's residents below the federally-defined poverty level in 2017.

This included 7.3 percent of those age 65 years and older and 5.8 percent of families with children under 18 years that were related to the householder. Among all Littleton households, 6.4 percent (1,272 households) had received Food Stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits in the last 12 months. Of the noninstitutionalized civilian population, 7.8 percent (3,551 persons) had no health insurance coverage in 2017. **In the 2018 Vision Report, "caring for those in need" was another part of being an inclusive community.**

HERITAGE

Among the five guiding principles in the 2018 Vision Report, the Authentic principle includes reference to Littleton's historic character and architectural heritage as being among the essential threads that will continue to sustain its community fabric.

5

Total number of National Register Properties and Districts in Littleton, comprised of three properties and two districts.

Arapaho Hills District,
listed August 28, 2012.



Geneva Home,
listed January 21, 1999.



Knight-Wood House
listed October 6, 2004.



Littleton Town Hall,
listed September 4, 1980.

Littleton Main Street District *,
listed April 8, 1998.



*NOTE: The boundaries of the locally designated and nationally designated Main Street Historic District differ. The map below shows the locally designated boundary.

Source: City of Littleton.



Number of locally designated historic landmarks in the City of Littleton.

The landmarks have been designated over a period of years, with the earliest designations occurring in 1973 (for the Denver/Rio Grande Depot, the Santa Fe Depot, the Carnegie Library, and Town Hall), and the most recent in 2016 (for the Quinney Residence). The locally designated historic landmarks range from historic homes (such as the Saar Residence, Kuehn Residence, and Bertollett Residence, among others) to commercial buildings (such as First National Bank and the Batschelet Building, among others), public buildings (such as the Arapahoe County Courthouse), churches (First Presbyterian Church) and rail depots.

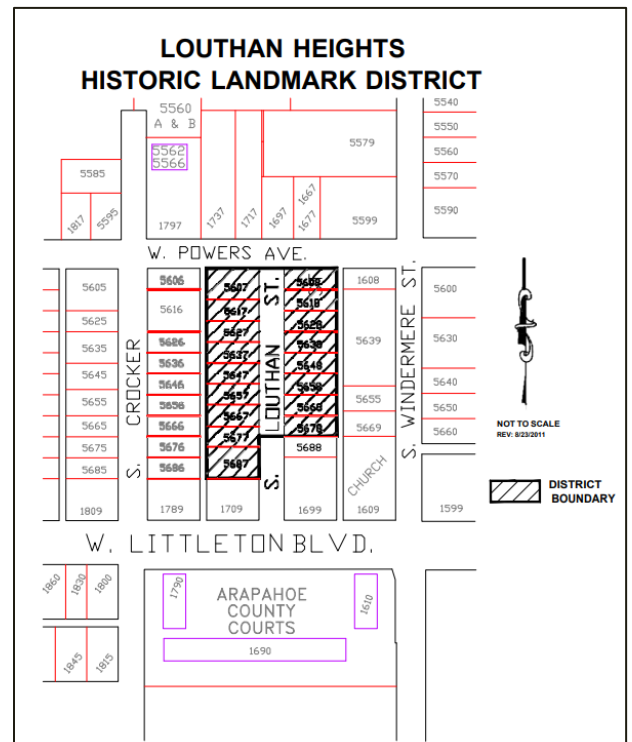
Source: City of Littleton.

Number of homes in the Louthan Heights Historical Landmark District.

In 2002 the City of Littleton established the city's first local historic landmark district in the 5600 block of South Louthan Street to honor the work of master builder and former mayor



Source:
City of Littleton.



ENVIRONMENT

Air and water quality, and the integrity of natural resources and Littleton's open space endowment, are called out as community values in the 2018 Vision Report. However, during the vision phase, the consultant team was surprised that environmental issues were not touched on more often by residents. Perhaps protection of natural resources is assumed to be a basic and ongoing priority, but it will be important to gauge the relative urgency of environmental matters through the Comprehensive Plan process.

Safe Water

Conclusion of the newest annual Drinking Water Quality Report (May 2018) from Denver Water, the source of Littleton's drinking water.

Based on exhaustive testing, no regulated contaminants exceed limits established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment when the water leaves the treatment plant, is in the water distribution system, or reaches the customer's tap.

Air Quality Vigilance

Given a mixed bag of indicators for the Denver region depending on the specific air pollutant in question.

Air quality planning and regulation under the federal Clean Air Act involves complex concepts and terminology. On one hand, the Denver region is currently classified as not fully in compliance for ozone, but not experiencing the severe conditions that occur more regularly in places like the Los Angeles metropolitan area. (The nine-county Denver Metro Area is designated as "moderate non-attainment" for the eight-hour ozone standard of 0.075 parts per million.) On the other hand, the region is in better shape with two other key pollutants, carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter. (The region is considered in "attainment maintenance" for CO and for particulate matter no larger than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter, known as the PM10 standard.) The region has had no violation of the CO standard since 1995, and the particulate matter standard was last exceeded on three days in 1993.

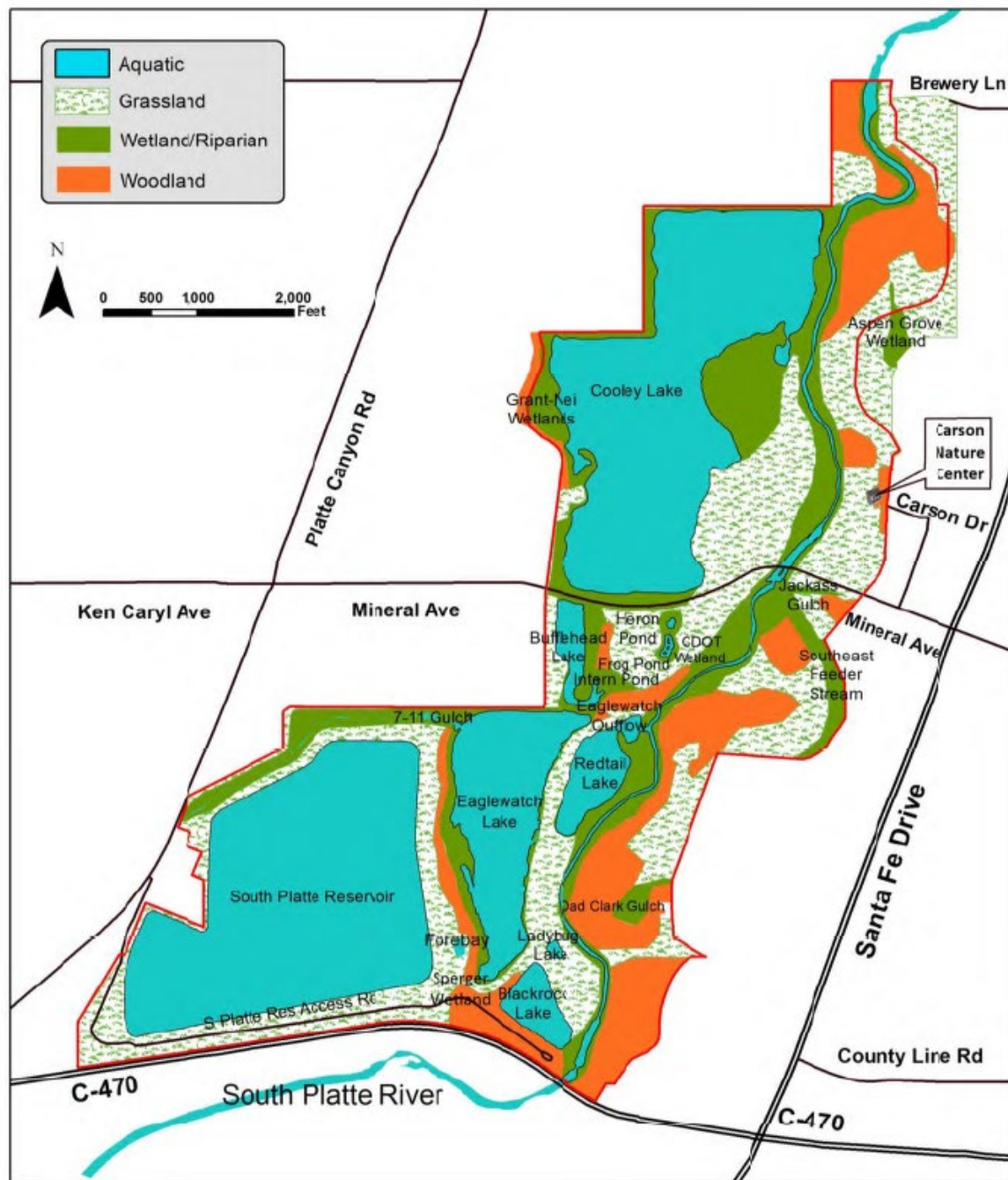
Source: Denver Regional Council of Governments.

927

Acres of parkland in South Platte Park, comprising four major ecological communities.

South Platte Park is Littleton's premier natural resource and includes 375 acres of aquatic resources (43 percent of the park's acreage), 216 acres of upland grassland (24 percent), 165 acres of wetland and riparian area (19 percent), and 124 acres of upland woodland (14 percent). **Based on the extensive community engagement completed during 2018, the adopted Vision 2040 states that Littleton "will remain a place where nature and city living intersect, can both be enjoyed, and are guarded with a fierce sense of stewardship." The Comprehensive Plan process will consider objectives and strategies for continuing to advance this core community sentiment.**

Source: South Platte Park Management Plan, South Suburban Parks and Recreation District, 2017.



Map Source: *South Platte Park Management Plan*, South Suburban Parks and Recreation District (2017).

RECREATION AND TOURISM

One of the five guiding principles in the 2018 Vision Report – Active – is devoted entirely to the notion of enabling Littleton residents to “make the most of their city’s cultural and natural resource abundance.” The same principle emphasizes that Littleton will always seek to elevate its position as a “dream community” for outdoor recreation and nature enthusiasts, and as a destination for visitors also wanting to enjoy the city’s many and varied amenities.

165%

Percent growth in visitors to South Platte Park from 1994 to 2015.

As noted in the 2017 *South Platte Park Management Plan*, the 1994 visitor estimate of 219,168 visitors was for the entire park while the 2015 estimate of 580,000 visitors was for trail use alone, not including fishing, river use or program participation. Therefore, the actual 2015 total park visitor number is assuredly even higher. In 2016, trail counters recorded 530 visitors in one hour using the Mary Carter Greenway Trail. As the *Management Plan* further details, increased visitation is due to numerous factors, including the opening of the Greenway Trail, the RTD Mineral Light Rail Station, the Aspen Grove Lifestyle Center, residential development in the area, and the Breckenridge Brewery.

Visitor management has been a major focus to prevent irreparable damage to the park’s natural character, including loss of vegetation cover and wildlife diversity. Policies and strategies in the City’s Comprehensive Plan might further reinforce this emphasis, building on the community value of protecting the integrity of natural resources and Littleton’s open space endowment.

30.9

Park acres per 1,000 population in Littleton.

The 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan documented a total of 1,477 acres of parks and open space within the City of Littleton, across a variety of park types, which translated to 30.9 acres of parks space per 1,000 population. This exemplifies why Littleton stands out among communities on this point as the national median for cities with a population between 20,000 and 49,999 is 9.6 acres per 1,000 residents as reported by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) in its 2018 *Agency Performance Review Park Metrics*. The Colorado median is roughly the same at 9.2 acres per 1,000 population.

South Platte Park, at 927 acres, is by far the largest park within the City of Littleton. This and all other parks within Littleton are managed by the South Suburban Parks and Recreation District. **The Comprehensive Plan can help clarify and reinforce the role and commitment of the City of Littleton relative to the District and other public agencies and non-profit partners involved with parkland acquisition, enhancement and ongoing management.**

Source: 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and NRPA.

\$66 million

Estimated total spent locally by 270,000 visitors who stayed in Littleton hotels during 2017.

Based on Colorado tourism and economic impact statistics, 139 local jobs in lodging support 115 jobs in other industries.

Although Littleton is only a small portion of Arapahoe County, the State of Colorado Tourism Office tracks the economic impacts of tourism at the county level and reported an increase in travel spending dollars in Arapahoe County from \$606 million in 2002 to \$1.03 billion in 2017. This illustrates the tourism potential already in the vicinity of Littleton.

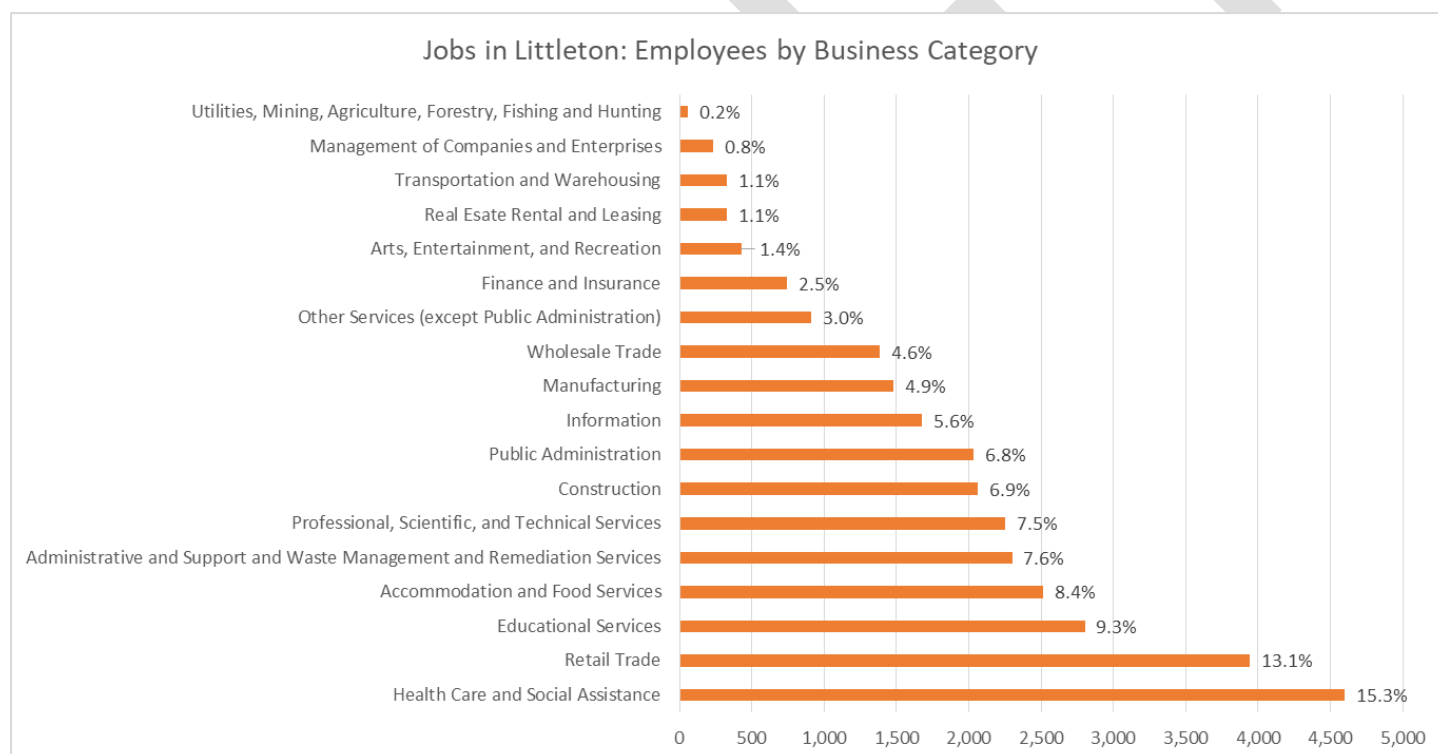
Source: Arapahoe/Douglas Works (estimates extrapolated from statewide data) and State of Colorado Tourism Office.

JOBS, EMPLOYERS AND TAX BASE

Commuting data evaluated in more detail for the Transportation Master Plan shows that most working residents of Littleton travel outside of the city for their employment. Local businesses and institutions also provide varied job opportunities for both city and metro area residents. Understanding these economic patterns and flows of people is important for both land use and transportation planning. Tax-generating activity within the city is also crucial to monitor consistent with the adopted Vision 2040, which states that Littleton must secure the long-term sustainability of its municipal finances to continue providing its citizens the best in public services.

15.3% **Percent of jobs in Littleton in the Health Care and Social Assistance category, which provides the largest share of local jobs after Retail Trade at 13.1 percent and Educational Services at 9.3 percent.**

The table below shows that the top employers within Littleton include several large telecommunication companies. As Littleton is the county seat for Arapahoe County as well as City government, this explains why Public Administration is also among the top 10 categories generating employment in Littleton, accounting for 6.3 percent of all jobs.



Source: QCEW for 2nd quarter 2018.

Top 10 Largest Employers in Littleton (February 2019)

Employer	Activity	Total Employees
CenturyLink	Telecommunication	1,663
Dish Network	Satellite company; call center	1,543
Littleton Adventist Hospital	Hospital	1,242
Littleton Public Schools District #6	School	830
Arapahoe Community College	Arapahoe Community College	706
Arapahoe County	Administration for Arapahoe County	522
Republic National Distributing Co	Liquor, wholesale	425
McDonald Automotive Grp Volkswagen/Audi	Auto Sales and repair	360
City of Littleton	City of Littleton offices	330
Center Point	Arapahoe/Douglas Mental Health Network facility providing art, wellness, technology, vocational skills training	320

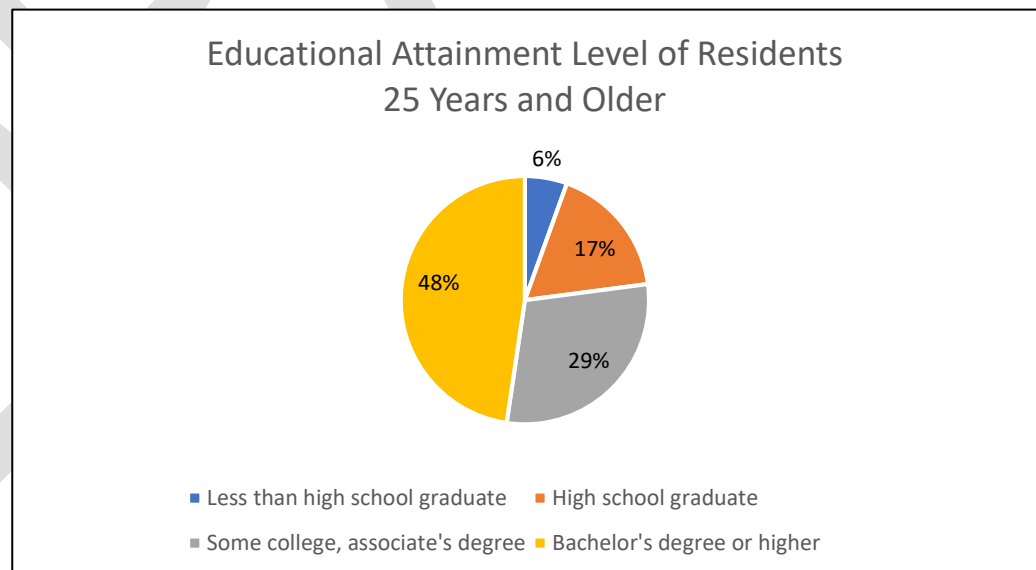
Source: City of Littleton Economic Development & Business Services Department.

77%

Percent of residents, aged 25 years or older, with at least some level of college education in 2017.

This compared with 70.3 percent in the Denver Metro Area in 2017. In 2017, 5.5 percent of residents aged 25 years or older did not have a high school level education and 17.4 percent had high school or equivalency as their highest level of educational attainment. **These statistics underscore that Littleton has a substantial share of adult residents who are likely suited for a variety of skilled**

employment, whether these positions are available locally or elsewhere in the Denver Metro Area. At the same time, Littleton has nearly a quarter of its population that may need a boost to achieve greater economic security through continuing education or job training resources.



52%

Percent of the City's 2018 general fund revenue from sales and use taxes.

The 2019 adopted budget projects that sales and use taxes will increase to 71 percent of the City's general fund revenue. In dollar terms, total revenue from sales and use taxes is expected to increase only slightly in 2019. However, this revenue will account for a much higher percentage of the City's total 2019 revenue, which will be down due to the discontinuation of the fire partner contract reimbursements.

Property taxes are the second largest revenue source, estimated at 12 percent of revenue in the 2019 budget. The property tax mill level remains at 6.662 mills per \$1,000 of assessed value and has not changed since 1991.

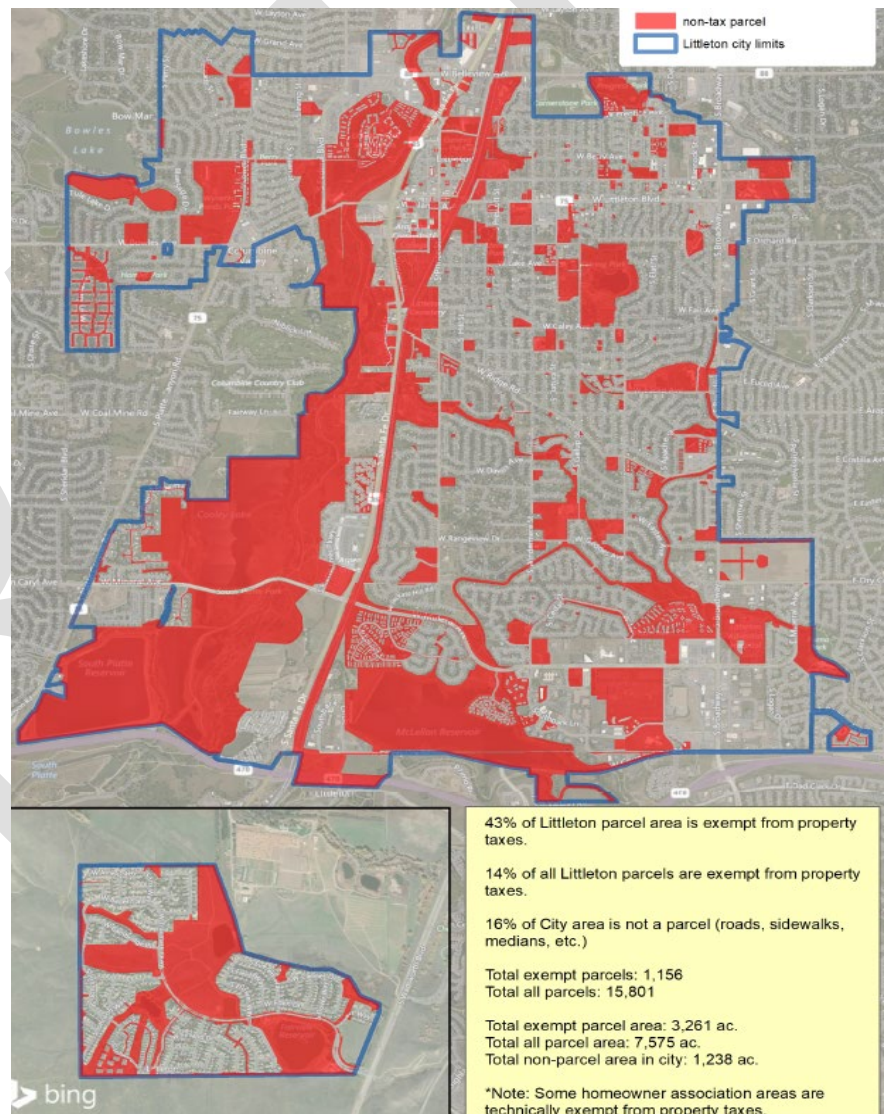
Source: City of Littleton Annual Budget, 2019.

43%

Percent of Littleton's parcel area exempt from property tax.

Out of 7,575 total acres within parcels in the city, 3,261 acres are exempt from property tax. Approximately 16 percent of the area within Littleton's city limits is not within a parcel, including roads, sidewalks, medians, etc. Parcels exempt from property tax include City-owned properties, park space, and some homeowner association areas, among others.

Source: City of Littleton.



UTILITIES AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

While the City of Littleton does not directly maintain the parkland and trails within its jurisdiction, and it recently ended its direct operation of municipal fire services, the City still must devote significant resources to public infrastructure and facilities to serve its residents and visitors to the community.

23+ million

Gallons of wastewater treated each day at the regional wastewater facility co-owned by the cities of Littleton and Englewood.

The facility is operated through the entity South Platte Waste Renewal Partners (SPWRP). **Along with parks/trails, fire services, and water supply and treatment, this is another example of an arrangement whereby the City of Littleton is not directly engaged in a function that many other municipalities must deal with daily. Partnerships are among the City's short list of Strategic Imperatives, and the Comprehensive Plan will reinforce all such opportunities that promote cost and operational efficiencies through economies of scale.**



The daily treatment volume statistic cited above reflects that, in terms of its size and sophistication, the SPWRP facility is the third largest water renewal facility in Colorado. It serves an area with approximately 300,000 residents in both cities plus 19 other connecting districts that maintain their own wastewater collection systems. Wastewater enters the facility through an interceptor pipe from Littleton (66 inches in diameter) and one from Englewood (60 inches in diameter). The SPWRP plant is located within Englewood, northwest of the intersection of Santa Fe Drive and Dartmouth Avenue, along the east bank of the South Platte River, which is the ultimate destination for its treated effluent.

Renewed water makes up a large part of the South Platte River flow most of the year. Plant effluent actually exceeds normal river flow during certain times of the year. In this situation, wastewater effluent, storm water runoff, and irrigation return flows have a major impact on river water quality.

The SPWRP facility operates in compliance with a Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS) permit which must be renewed approximately every five years through the Water Quality Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The permit includes stringent numeric limits for a wide range of pollutants to ensure the protection of downstream water quality, even when river flows are very low. The facility removes approximately 99 percent of total suspended solids and organic matter. SPWRP is preparing to meet more stringent limits for nutrients and temperature to further benefit downstream aquatic life.

The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission establishes overall regulations and numeric standards specific to individual water bodies and stream segments (the SPWRP facility discharges to Segment 14 in the Middle South Platte River Basin). As part of overall water quality protection, such standards are also intended to ensure protection of water uses downstream from wastewater treatment facilities, including water supply, recreation, aquatic life and agriculture. **As the 2018 vision process reconfirmed the Platte River as among the “crown jewels” of Littleton in the eyes of its residents and officials, the long-term integrity of the river corridor is expected to be a core focus of the Comprehensive Plan.**

Source: South Platte Waste Renewal Partners.

75%

Percent of water users in Littleton that are efficient with their water use.

All water accounts in Littleton are supplied by Denver Water through a total service relationship, which is unusual for suburban cities in the region, most of which get water from multiple water districts. Denver Water defines efficient water use as less than 12 gallons per square feet of irrigated space per year. **Long-term water prospects for both Littleton and the entire Denver Metro Area are expected to be highlighted within the Comprehensive Plan.** As most water accounts in the city are single-family residential, the best potential for water conservation will be through landscaping conservation.

Source: Denver Water.

298,513

Total square feet of buildings owned and maintained by the City of Littleton.

The buildings range in age from 142 years old to six years old and range in square footage from 72,000 square feet to 49 square feet. The City's buildings include the Bemis Public Library, the Belleview Service Center, City Center, the Museum, and the Municipal Courthouse, among others. **Community facility needs is a traditional component of local comprehensive plans, especially to the extent that critical maintenance issues or renovation/replacement needs may create greater competition for limited public resources.**

Source: City of Littleton.

\$8-10 Million

Projected cost to renovate and maintain Littleton Center (versus \$300,000 past annual capital spending).

Currently the City lacks asset management assessments to determine asset condition, life expectancy and replacement schedule to factor into the City's capital planning and budgeting. The Public Works Department is currently completing asset reviews and developing plans for the City's fleet, facilities, infrastructure (e.g., transportation, sanitary sewer, storm water, etc.), information technology, and public safety assets. **This is perfect timing for highlighting "big picture" issues and needs within the Comprehensive Plan and prioritizing ongoing asset management among other essential municipal activities.**

Source: City of Littleton.