



Looking@Lakewood

Participate in the Zoning Updates discussion

The Zoning Updates are an important companion to the updates for the Comprehensive Plan, so work is underway to update the city’s zoning regulations. The following Q&A covers some of the most important proposed changes, and for more resources such as presentations, meeting videos and to share your comments, please visit LakewoodTogether.org/ZoningUpdates.

Why are the updates occurring and why are they important?

The Zoning Updates are needed for several reasons. Work to update the city’s Comprehensive Plan has been underway for the last two years, and the plan establishes a vision and sets goals for the city’s future. But it is an advisory document created based on your comments and feedback. The zoning regulations, however, are the enforceable laws that guide land-use development, and these regulations promote the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. To implement the newly created Comprehensive Plan, the zoning regulations are being updated at the same time to support the new plan.

Additionally, several changes to state law require the city to update its zoning regulations, and lastly, the last full update of the Zoning Ordinance was in 2012 when the Comprehensive Plan was also last updated.



What’s changing?

This section goes through the more significant proposed changes that are part of the Zoning Updates.

Adding neighborhood input on proposed developments next to large parks

With any major site plan for future development adjacent to a public park of 10 acres or more, the developer will now be required to have a community meeting prior to the formal submittal of the site plan.

For other projects that aren’t adjacent to a large city park, the development plan will receive points under the city’s Enhanced Development Menu for voluntarily holding a community meeting. The Enhanced Development Menu provides incentives based on a

points system for developers to create more sustainable and better designed projects.

This change is significant because neighborhood feedback isn’t normally part of the review process for site plans, but it can be now with some projects. These plans don’t include neighborhood feedback because property owners have a property right under the law to develop their property as long as it meets the city’s zoning requirements. As a result, site plans are administratively reviewed by staff to ensure they comply with the zoning regulations, and those plans are not subject to public hearings or political review by City Council. Adding community meetings for some projects in the Zoning Updates will allow neighborhoods to provide feedback to developers.

Limiting height of buildings near parks

Multistory buildings adjacent to parks will be required to use a “step back” design to limit the building height adjacent to a park.

Creating new residential zone districts to protect neighborhoods

This change is driven both by new state law and concerns that residents and City Council have expressed about housing affordability and about providing housing options to first-time buyers, teachers, firefighters and young families.

To understand why these changes are proposed, it’s important to understand how the city’s current zoning regulations and a new state law intersect and what potential impacts could result if updates aren’t made.

See ZONING UPDATES page 8

YOUR INPUT MATTERS

2025 community survey underway

Lakewood is conducting a survey to understand community needs, and an independent research firm, Probolsky Research, is conducting the survey on behalf of the city. You might have received a postcard, email, text message or phone call about the survey, and if you have, please participate. Your input really matters, and your responses are completely confidential.

The city conducts a community survey every few years for you to provide feedback on Lakewood’s quality of life, city services, your priorities and more. Following this first phase of the survey in which randomly selected residents are contacted, the survey will be available for anyone to take online. The online survey will be available starting May 30 at a link available at Lakewood.org/CommunitySurvey.

The results of the survey will be provided to City Council and the public. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the City Manager’s Office at 303-987-7050.



Campfire season. We have all sorts of great activities in store for this summer including our Summer Campfire Programs at Bear Creek Lake Park. See all the offerings on Page 5.

Coming in July: A digital-only edition of Looking@Lakewood

For the first time, Looking@Lakewood will be available exclusively online for the July edition. While digital versions have always been available on the city’s website, we’re excited to try a fully digital delivery to help the city reduce paper waste and become a little more “green.”

Looking@Lakewood is the city’s printed newsletter that has been mailed to all addresses in the city several times a year for more than 30 years. We want to test having one digital-only version this year to

see what you think about it, and we’ll have a short poll in July for you to take, so stay tuned.

The digital version in July will be available on the city’s website at Lakewood.org. You will be able to read it as an accessible PDF document by scrolling down through the newsletter or as a full-screen flip version that allows you to turn the pages as if it were a printed document. Sign up now to receive an alert for when the July edition is available at Lakewood.org/JulyEdition.

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MAYOR



Wendi Strom

As mayor, I see firsthand examples every day of how a thriving community is built, not by one person alone, but by many of us working together. From local businesses, nonprofits, and educators to volunteers and families, each of us plays such a vital role in shaping Lakewood’s success. Whether it’s lending a helping hand, supporting local initiatives, or simply fostering kindness to those around us, our collective efforts strengthen the bonds that make our community special. When we work toward a common goal of having a great place to live, we’re

able to create a place where more ideas flourish, more residents can thrive, and a greater sense of unity drives us forward.

There are examples every single day across our city of people, businesses and organizations doing great work for the community around them. Seeing these examples has been one of the most rewarding and inspiring parts of my job as your mayor.

Since 2018, every year, the Mayor’s Office has conducted the annual Mayor’s Inspiration Awards to recognize some of this great work. Since its inception, this award has allowed us to shine the light on some truly incredible stories.

For example, when the COVID pandemic hit, local business Ballmer Peak Distillery and its founders, Austin Adamson and Eric Strom (no relation), pivoted their local production of quality spirits quickly to begin making and distributing hand sanitizer, giving out large quantities for free or at-cost to local businesses and organizations at a time when it was hard to find.

Our youth are also doing inspirational work. One of last year’s winners was the Lakewood

High School Theater Company’s Unified Program. This program brings together neurotypical and neurodivergent students in a cooperative and encouraging environment, culminating in an annual sold-out show in the school’s nearly 500-seat theater.

Our faith community has also been an amazing source of inspiration. Lakewood United Methodist Church’s community involvement, including the creation of a community garden and food distribution programs, was recognized in 2023.

And one of my favorites has also been hearing (and seeing!) stories of some of our longtime residents like Maddie Nichols, Mary Hatlestad, Niki Worthan and Ronald and Trisha Cooper, who were all recognized in 2024 for their decades-long hard work that has touched more residents than we’ll ever know.

If you know a person, business or organization that deserves to be recognized for their valuable contributions to our Lakewood community, I encourage you to visit Lakewood.org/MayorsAwards to submit a nomination. We are accepting nominations through July 15.

Thank you to our past award winners and nominees for your contributions to making Lakewood a thriving place to live! Let’s continue to build a community where everyone belongs and plays a role in creating a brighter future.

In closing, with summer around the corner, I am renewing my Mayor’s Park Challenge, where I challenge myself and all of you to visit and enjoy Lakewood’s wonderful array of parks. Consider it a summer reading program for your body! Last summer, I tried to make it to every one of our parks, but with more than 100 it was a daunting task. This year, I’m challenging myself and you to visit at least three parks in every ward in the city. Post selfies of your visit to the parks on the project website, and you’ll be entered into a prize drawing at the end of the summer. I’m still working on the prize, so stay tuned to LakewoodTogether.org/2025ParkChallenge!

Wendi Strom
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WARD 3



Roger Low



Ken Cruz

Now that Council member Ken Cruz has been sworn in following March’s special election, Ward 3’s council delegation is back at full strength. With our 2025 planning session complete, we’re energized about the road ahead.

From council’s actions to investments in our most recent city budget, we’re proud to share real progress across Lakewood: New sidewalks, separated bike lanes, severe weather shelter capacity, park improvements, increased affordability, and sustainability initiatives are all moving forward. Council advanced policies that reflect resident input, like limiting new gas stations and car washes, improving our homeless Navigation Center, and lowering residential speed limits to improve safety.

Another win for Lakewood: City Council just voted to purchase the 17-acre property at Emory Elementary, which recently closed, from Jeffco schools, along with two acres at Vivian Elementary, at a fairly negotiated price. This keeps valuable land in public hands and gives the community a voice in how it’s used. Unfortunately, misinformation was recently circulated, falsely claiming that this vote would turn Emory into a shelter or navigation center. That is simply not true. The April 28 vote was only to secure the land for public use and to ensure it does not go to a private developer.

The Action Center, a Lakewood nonprofit, has expressed interest in acquiring the school building for a campus that would include enrichment activities for children and seniors, summer programs, youth engagement, educational classes for adults, and other family-friendly services. If this were to occur, it would come to council before it could proceed. The city has publicly committed that there would first be a public process with full community input, including a neighborhood meeting. Again, no overnight sheltering will be allowed on the site. We’re committed to hearing every idea and concern. It’s through open dialogue, not misinformation, that we can find the best path forward together.

We’re also beginning a multi-month update to Lakewood’s zoning code for the first time since 2012. We’ll work hard to ensure this process reflects Ward 3 voices. That includes making sure we continue to welcome horse properties and preserve what makes our neighborhoods special, while also making Lakewood more walkable and promoting more affordable, attainable housing configurations over time. Share your input! You can track updates and share feedback at LakewoodTogether.org/ZoningUpdates.

As your Ward 3 council members, we believe deeply in due process, fairness, and transparency, values that guide how we lead locally and how we believe all levels of government should serve people. Some residents have asked how potential federal budget cuts or changes to federal offices, including the Federal Center, could affect our community. We share those concerns. While questions remain, we reaffirm our commitment to keeping residents informed and advocating for Lakewood — including for the high concentration of dedicated federal workers who are our constituents.

We’d love to hear from you. You can reach us at our contact information below. With both of us representing Ward 3, we’re focused on listening and being accessible to more residents than ever.

In that spirit, please join us for an informal Ward 3 meet and greet on Tuesday, June 3 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Old 121 Brewhouse (1057 S. Wadsworth Blvd.). Come say hello, ask questions, and connect with neighbors.

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Charities play important role in the local economy

When it comes to giving back, engaging with local charities feels more personal and impactful because they provide a unique opportunity to make a real difference right in your own community. When you commit your time volunteering, advocating, or donating, your input and involvement stay close to home to help people you may know or see every day. By supporting local charities, you also strengthen your community, which is an important component of local economic development. You can use the following guide to become informed about some of the Lakewood nonprofits.

40 West Arts

This nonprofit creative arts district along Lakewood’s historic West Colfax Avenue has a mission to energize and promote the arts through exhibitions, events and experiences for the whole family. The district is home to a variety of unique businesses, including art galleries, boutiques, breweries, music stores, dance studios, eateries, and more. Learn more at 40WestArts.org.



Benefits in Action

This nonprofit supports the community by helping residents navigate the complexity of applying for benefit programs, particularly for health care, delivering food to those who are homebound as well as offering mental wellness support. Learn more at BenefitsInAction.org.

B.I.O.N.I.C. Team

The name stands for Believe It Or Not I Care, and it was created after four suicides at a high school in Lakewood to empower students to support peers and prevent further struggles. The team offers outreach like New Student Breakfasts, care packages, and anti-bullying support, aiming to create a caring school and community atmosphere. Now,

more than 950 schools, businesses and places of worship worldwide have sought to start their own B.I.O.N.I.C. Teams. Learn more at BionicTeam.org.

CASA of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

This nonprofit advocates for vulnerable children in Jefferson and Gilpin counties, and it relies on volunteers and donations to serve as independent representatives for children who have experienced neglect, physical, and sexual abuse. Its mission is to give children a voice and ensure their safety and well-being by providing a dedicated adult who cares. Learn more at CASAjeffcoGilpin.com.

Developmental Disabilities Resource Center

This organization supports over 3,700 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in Jefferson, Gilpin, Clear Creek, and Summit counties. It provides case management, service planning, early intervention therapies, family support, respite care, vocational services, residential support, behavioral intervention, transportation, and more. It also connects individuals to additional community resources to help them integrate into community life, including employment. Learn more at DDRCCO.com.



GiGi’s Playhouse Denver

This Lakewood-based nonprofit offers free, research-driven therapeutic and educational programs for individuals of all ages with Down syndrome. The programs provide foundational learning opportunities for individuals, families, and the community as well as a supportive environment where parents and caregivers can connect, share ideas, and network. Learn more at GigisPlayhouse.org/Denver.

Goat Walkabouts

The mission of this charity is to offer therapeutic support for individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia, Down syndrome, PTSD, and other challenges by fostering meaningful connections with rescued Nigerian Dwarf Goats. Through therapeutic walks, memory care visits, and group events, it promotes mental wellness and healing while ensuring the goats have a safe, natural environment. Learn more at GoatWalkabouts.com.

Gold Crown Foundation

Founded in 1986, this foundation in Lakewood serves over 15,000 youth annually through basketball, volleyball, golf and enrichment programs. It offers camps, clinics, leagues, tournaments, and scholarships for kids ages 6 to 20. It also supports community partners like Special Olympics Colorado and Colorado Wheelchair Basketball. Learn more at GoldCrownFoundation.com.

Jefferson Center for Mental Health

This nonprofit offers mental health, substance use, and wellness services, providing support to individuals and families. Its mission is to inspire hope, improve lives, and strengthen the community through mental health services, all while creating a community where mental health care is accessible to all. The center provides programs for adults, children and families, as well as emergency and crisis services. Learn more at JCMH.org.

Joy's Kitchen

The kitchen’s mission is about more than alleviating hunger. It's about a community-driven effort to fight food insecurity and waste. In Colorado, 42 percent of retail food is wasted, contributing to 80 billion pounds discarded annually in the U.S. That translates into a significant environmental impact on resources, water, and farmland. Joy's Kitchen rescues and redistributes food to help more than 20,000 families, and it is currently looking for a new home — all practical ideas are welcome! Learn more at JoysKitchen.org.



Porchlight Family Justice Center

This center offers legal, emotional, and support services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking. Uniquely, the center provides a safe, one-stop environment with on-site services from local agencies, law enforcement, and community partners. Learn more at PorchlightFJC.org.

SpayToday Healthy Pet Center



This is a nonprofit veterinary clinic that provides low-cost and no-cost essential vet services for pets. It focuses on providing basic necessary care, such as spay/neuter surgeries, vaccines, and microchips, for families who may not otherwise be able to afford it. Learn more at Spay.Today.

The Action Center

A trusted and established institution in the Lakewood community for nearly 60 years, the center helps individuals and families achieve stability in times of need. From providing essential services like food and clothing to offering financial assistance and family support programs, the center demonstrates the power of community support in fostering resilience and positive change. Learn more at TheActionCenter.org.

The Jefferson County Library Foundation

This foundation has supported Jefferson County Public Library since 1966 through advocacy and fundraising. Its mission is to enrich and expand the library’s resources, programs, and services for the benefit of the entire Jefferson County community. It also operates Whale’s Tale Books & Gifts, which sells new, gently used, and ex-library books (and more). Learn more at JeffCLF.org.

Wings Foundation

This foundation builds systems of support for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse by combining health expertise with the healing power of community. It provides education, customized therapy referrals, peer-centered support groups, and community initiatives. The foundation works to transform systems of silence into systems of support. Learn more at WingsFound.org.

These nonprofits each have a unique vision and effective model that addresses specific needs. They also offer meaningful opportunities to help, whether through donations, volunteering, or advocacy. (For nonprofits missing here, please visit Lakewood.org/ShopLakewood to add a nonprofit’s information.)

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Lakewood
Full of Possibilities.

City Manager
Kathy Hodgson
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Join us for a community celebration of Independence Day!

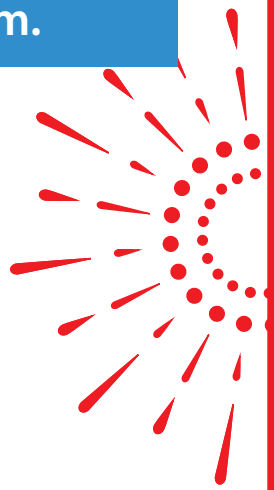
July 3

Event Begins: 5 p.m.
Drone Show: 9:15 p.m.

Celebrate Independence Day in Belmar, Downtown Lakewood for a night to remember at a vibrant community celebration. Enjoy live bands, kids activities, local vendors, food trucks and more!

The highlight of the night will be a spectacular drone light show, taking place at approximately 9:15 p.m., rain or shine.

Tune into Mix 100.3 FM on your radio or smartphone to listen LIVE to the soundtrack of the show.



Visit Lakewood.org/BBB for complete event details!



ARTS, PARKS & Recreation

ARTS & HISTORY



INSPIRE ARTS LAKEWOOD

Lakewood Cultural Center and Heritage Lakewood
May 30-July 3

Explore a diverse array of free and low-cost arts and cultural experiences at over 20 galleries, cultural centers, shops and other venues showcasing Lakewood's vibrant arts scene throughout the month.

Lakewood.org/Inspire

ROCKIN' BLOCK PARTY **FREE!**

Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park
Saturday, June 7, 5-11 p.m.

Celebrate an inconceivable evening of pop culture royalty with a performance by Prince Tribute Band, Paizley Park, and a screening of the cult classic, "The Princess Bride" in an idyllic, outdoor setting, the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Amphitheater.

Lakewood.org/RockinBlock

SOUNDS EXCITING! SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park
Wednesday nights, June 18-July 30, 5-9 p.m.

Summer concerts at the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Amphitheater are the perfect Wednesday evening escape. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy live music, tasty food truck fare, a relaxing beer garden and stunning sunset views from June 18 through July 30. Tickets start at \$10 and gates open at 5 p.m.

Lakewood.org/SoundsExciting

LCC PRESENTS 2025-2026 SEASON

Lakewood Cultural Center
Ticket sales open July 1

The 2025-2026 Lakewood Cultural Center Presents season offers vibrant, multicultural programs from national and international touring artists. Save when you create your own season ticket package, starting July 1, or purchase single tickets beginning Aug. 1.

Lakewood.org/LCCPresents



PARKS



CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS **FREE!**

Bear Creek Lake Park
Saturdays in June and July, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Learn about animals, ecosystems and conservation during weekly programs by our park naturalists at the amphitheater. Events begin June 21. Enter FREE with a park pass, and enjoy s'mores at the campfire after the event.
Lakewood.org/Register

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY **FREE!**

William F. Hayden Park
Saturday, June 7, 8 a.m.-noon
Support Lakewood parks with a volunteer project at William F. Hayden Park. Open to ages 10 and up. Tools and lunch will be provided while working on-site.
Lakewood.org/BCLPEvents

LEARN ABOUT CAMPING AND FISHING **FREE!**

June 7 and June 20
• June 7, learn fishing basics during a free event for beginners at Cottonwood Lake.
• June 20-21, join a fun weekend at Bear Creek Lake Park geared toward first-time campers who want to learn the ropes. (Limited availability.)
Lakewood.org/BCLPEvents

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Bear Creek Lake Park **FREE!**
Saturday, Sept. 27, 8 a.m.-noon
Celebrate the largest national day of service dedicated to public lands. This year's project involves mitigating flood damage and replanting at the Fisherman's Trail by the boat ramp. A light breakfast and lunch are included.
Lakewood.org/PublicLandsDay

RECREATION



POOLS AND SPLASH

Memorial Day Weekend
Dive into one of Lakewood's three outdoor pools or cool off at a splash or spray park! Check the website for details on schedules and costs.
Lakewood.org/Pool

FITNESS IN THE PARK **FREE!**

Lakewood Parks
Saturday mornings, June-Aug., 7:30 a.m.
Escape the gym and embrace the outdoors! Join free weekly fitness programs, from yoga to cardio, in rotating park settings. Bring a friend and make it a social workout.
Lakewood.org/SummerFitness

FAMILY FUN DAY **FREE!**

Carmody Park
Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Celebrating fitness for all ages, this free, fun-filled event will showcase activities to keep your family healthy and active. Bring a picnic and stay for a while. Come prepared for messy fun at the Color Run!
Lakewood.org/FamilyFun

TRAIL RUNNING SERIES

Bear Creek Lake Park
Wednesdays, Sept. 3-24, 6 p.m.
Race on the trails at Bear Creek Lake Park on Wednesdays in September. Compete at varying distances and on a new trail each of the four weeks. Build endurance, learn new trails and meet new friends.
Lakewood.org/TrailRunning

Save the date... FOR FALL REGISTRATION!

Registration opens
July 15 at noon
Nonresident registration opens
July 17 at noon
REGISTER AT
LAKEWOOD.ORG/REGISTER

To ensure easy access, please create an account, check residency, and confirm an email address before registration day.

P For financial assistance, apply for 2025 funds at:
Lakewood.org / PossibilitiesFund

Host your next event at a Lakewood venue!



Whether you are looking for a location to have a beautiful wedding or reception, performance, fundraiser, business meeting or family event, we have a variety of unique spaces to suit your needs.

Let us help you find the perfect venue.

Lakewood.org/Rentals



It's easier than ever to sign up for emergency alerts

Thanks to a new telephone assistance line, it's never been easier to make sure that you and your household can receive emergency notifications through LookoutAlert, the official system for first responders in Jefferson County, including the Lakewood Police Department.

LookoutAlert provides emergency notifications to keep you safe and informed during critical situations including flooding, severe storms, wildfires, evacuations and shelter-in-place orders, and the easiest way to sign up is online at LookoutAlert.co.

If you need help registering for these alerts, you can use the LookoutAlert Assistance Line by calling 720-230-2270. You will hear a brief recorded message and can then leave your name and phone number. Someone will return your call within 24-48 hours to complete your registration.

Even if you have a landline phone, which is already included in the LookoutAlert system with no registration required, there are several good reasons to take the time to register and add your information into the LookoutAlert system:

- You can provide critical information about your household, including medical needs, pets or mobility concerns that will assist first responders.

- You can opt in to notifications like severe weather alerts or community messages.
- You can add alternative phone numbers, including if you later have a cellphone, to your registration.
- You can set alert preferences and add additional locations, including family members' residences or a vacation home.

Lakewood.org/Emergency

In addition to LookoutAlert, Lakewood has Lakewood.org/Emergency, a dedicated webpage that will be regularly updated in the event of urgent emergencies such as wildfires, floods or evacuation orders. The webpage also has links to emergency preparedness information so you can get ahead of the curve. Click "subscribe to this page" to ensure you get email alerts when the page is updated, meaning there is an active emergency.

By leveraging the latest technology, Lakewood and partner agencies are working to ensure that you get the lifesaving information you need by phone call, text message or email when you need it.

LookoutAlert
EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

When an emergency happens,
be the first to know.

**SIGN UP FOR
LOOKOUTALERT AT**

SCAN HERE



Receive immediate emergency notifications for:

- Natural or human-caused disasters
- Severe weather
- Evacuation or shelter-in-place orders

LookoutAlert.co



WHO INSPIRED YOU?

There are remarkable people and organizations in Lakewood, and it is time to recognize their inspiring work and commitment. The Mayor's Inspiration Award recognizes youths, adults, businesses and organizations who have made a significant impact in the community.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD?

- **Youth:** any individual under the age of 18.
- **Individual:** any individual age 18 or older.
- **Business:** any business with a Lakewood sales tax license.
- **Organization:** any association, service organization, nonprofit, team or group.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION

Nominations will be accepted until July 15 at Lakewood.org/MayorsAwards. Winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony this fall.

QUESTIONS? Contact Dan Stoutamire at **303-987-7050** or dstoutamire@Lakewood.org.



Building a more resilient Lakewood

Lakewood is already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate, from hotter summers and more frequent wildfires to sudden storms and flooding. These challenges are expected to grow in the coming decades, affecting homes, health, and infrastructure across the city. To better prepare for these risks, the city conducted a Climate Hazard and Social Vulnerability Study to understand which hazards pose the greatest risks and who in the community is most vulnerable.

The study assessed 10 climate-related hazards and identified five top priorities: hailstorms, extreme heat, extreme cold, flooding, and wildfires. It also incorporated a detailed Equity Index to understand how social factors such as age, income, language, and disability affect residents' ability to respond to climate events. The study found that areas in eastern Lakewood face higher social vulnerability and might need targeted support.

Through public surveys, focus groups, and workshops, hundreds of community members shared their concerns and ideas for the study. Residents emphasized the importance of better emergency planning, energy resilience, cooler public spaces, safer infrastructure, and stronger community outreach.

In response, the study outlines 61 potential actions including expanding emergency preparedness education opportunities, planting shade trees, incentivizing wildfire-resistant buildings, and increasing green infrastructure systems for stormwater runoff. The results of this study provide a road map for future planning and decision-making to ensure Lakewood remains a safe, sustainable, and climate-resilient community for generations to come.

Read the final Climate Hazard & Social Vulnerability Study report, available in both English and Spanish, online at LakewoodTogether.org/ClimateRisks.

SHOT SPOT VACCINATION & DOG LICENSE CLINIC

**Saturday, June 7
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**O'Kane Park
7101 W. First Ave.
First & Newland Street
in the East Pavilion**

Lakewood.org/ShotSpot



Lakewood residents lead the way in strengthening a community’s spirit

How would you describe your neighborhood? Is there a strong sense of cohesion and identity? Do you know your neighbors, and can you turn to them in times of need? What small or simple gestures could you make that would leave a positive mark on your community? These are questions that countless Lakewood residents answer by hosting events, organizing service projects, and simply making an extra effort to connect with their neighbors.

Take the remarkable example of Green Mountain residents Leah and Julian Gonzalez, who love connecting with their neighborhood in creative ways. Last autumn, on a Saturday afternoon, they brought more than 100 of their neighbors together for an unforgettable block party, complete with a chili cookoff, live entertainment courtesy of local musicians, an educational visit from the city’s Animal Control Unit, a piñata for the kids, and even s’mores just after sunset.

While a lot goes into planning and running such a big production, Leah and Julian had help from many of their neighbors, which went a long way in building community spirit and strengthening relationships. One tip they have for other organizers is to apply for the city’s Block Party Permit to close off a neighborhood street for the day. They are available through the City Clerk’s Office, with applications online at [Lakewood.org/BlockParty](https://lakewood.org/BlockParty). That gave them enough space for so many attendees and allowed children the opportunity to safely play in the street without worrying about cars.

Another city resource they would recommend taking advantage of is the Neighborhood Get-Together Grant. This \$100 to \$500 stipend is available to neighborhoods, and Leah and Julian used the funds for some of the food and beverages enjoyed by the community that day. In fact, they are hardly alone in their use of the grant. Last year, there were 80 unique



Residents in a Green Mountain neighborhood enjoyed a block party as part of the city’s Get-Together Grant program.

events around Lakewood that received a stipend for their block parties and neighborhood volunteer projects.

This year’s Neighborhood Get-Together season started this month and goes until Oct. 31 (or until funds for the year are expended). For more information about the grant and to see whether it is a good fit for your neighborhood event, visit [Lakewood.org/GTgrant](https://lakewood.org/GTgrant). While you’re there, please check out the other Neighborhood Support Team programs and resources that might benefit your neighborhood.

Thanks again to Leah and Julian for spearheading an exceptional neighborhood event, and the Neighborhood Support Team looks forward to collaborating with more Lakewood residents who want to make a lasting impact in the community.

TAKE A VIRTUAL
History Tour

Enjoy Lakewood’s local history with the Lakewood Historic Preservation Commission’s virtual tour at Lakewood.org/PreservationMonth.

May is the perfect time because it’s Historic Preservation Month.

Lakewood preservation:
LANDMARKS | HISTORIC DISTRICTS
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



- 1

How many lane miles of city-owned streets will be repaved this year?

A

21

B

52

C

9

D

32
- 2

How many lanes miles of roadway does the city have to maintain?

A

2,324

B

1,400

C

292

D

745
- 3

How much does it cost per mile to repave the average two-lane street?

A

\$140,000

B

\$62,000

C

\$235,000

D

\$25,000
- 4

How many lane miles of concrete curbs and gutters will be repaired this year?

A

13

B

75

C

41

D

92

Test your knowledge of street maintenance!

Take this quiz to find out how much you know about street maintenance and learn which streets will be worked on this year at Lakewood.org/StreetRepair. When you see crews at work this spring and summer, slow down to help keep them safe. After all, they are taking care of streets so you can take care of what’s important to you. **Answers are below, but don’t cheat!**

- 5

How much will the city spend in total on street maintenance this year?

A

\$12.8 million

B

\$2.4 million

C

\$934,000

D

\$6.2 million
- 6

What does sealcoating streets accomplish?

A

Makes the drive smoother

B

Fixes potholes

C

Extends the life of the asphalt
- 7

Does the city hire contractors to repave, sealcoat and repair concrete each year?

A

Yes

B

No
- 8

Do city public works staff repair potholes?

A

Yes

B

No

STREET MAINTENANCE QUIZ ANSWERS: **1. D)** A lane mile is one mile covering one, 12-foot lane width on one side of the road. **2. B)** 1,400 **3. A)** \$140,000 **4. C)** Streets scheduled for concrete only repairs in this year will receive asphalt repaving next year. **5. A)** \$12.8 million **6. C)** Sealcoating is a barrier to moisture, deflects UV rays, helps prevent cracking and is applied to a street generally four years after it has been repaved. **7. A)** Lakewood hires private contractors to repair concrete, apply seal-coating and repave streets throughout the city **8. A)** The Public Works Maintenance Division performs pothole patching, street sweeping, gravel street and shoulder maintenance and a limited amount of asphalt pavement patching and paving.

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To learn more about City Council, visit [Lakewood.org/CityCouncil](https://lakewood.org/CityCouncil)

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Zoning Updates

Currently, Lakewood’s zoning regulations allow homes as large as 10,000-18,000 square feet, with up to three stories, to be built in residential areas. For context, houses most commonly found in Lakewood are about 1,200-2,000 square feet in a single story, so a 10,000-18,000-square-foot house would be 8 to 14 times larger and two times taller at 35 feet high. These supersized homes haven’t been built because there has been no demand for that size of house for one family. But that could change based on state law.

A new state law, HB24-1007, prevents cities from regulating the number of people living in a house. As a result, the state law abolishes Lakewood’s current zoning regulation that limits to five the number of people living in a home. Under this law, those massive homes could be built, and they could be occupied by dozens of residents, potentially containing numerous individually rented bedrooms within the house. These massive homes, with numerous residents living in them, would create significant changes in Lakewood’s neighborhoods.

To ensure that houses built in the future are compatible with the existing homes in Lakewood neighborhoods, the Zoning Updates propose to combine the current eight residential zone districts into five and then limit the size of future homes within each of those districts. Additionally, homes would be limited to 2.5 stories at 25 feet in all the districts but one:

- **R-L-A:** Home size limited to 3,250 square feet.
- **R-L-B:** Home size limited to 3,000 square feet.
- **R-L-C:** Home size limited to 2,500 square feet.
- **Mobile Home District:** Home size for mobile homes.
- **Mid-Form Residential:** Multifamily structures allowed up to 45 feet high.

These changes will significantly limit large multifamily buildings while also accommodating a sizable single-family home of 2,500 square feet or more. The new districts, however, would no longer limit the number of units built within the square footage. As a result, more duplexes, town homes and affordable options could be built under the proposed updates that would foster housing affordability.

Addressing parking requirements

Another state law, HB24-1304, prohibits cities from requiring parking at future developments if they are within a quarter mile of a transit stop or bus corridor. This does not mean, however, that parking can’t or won’t be provided at new developments. To meet financial requirements for securing financing (a bank loan) to build a project, developers are generally required to provide parking in excess of Lakewood’s current minimum parking requirements for proposed future development.

While the state law abolishes the city’s minimum parking requirements, it doesn’t abolish parking. It essentially abolishes the rule. Because developments generally voluntarily provide

parking, city staff does not expect to see a significant impact from this state law in the near future.

Requiring more space not to be built on within new developments

Future developments in mixed-use zone districts near transit stops would be required to have 10 percent of the property as open, meaning without having a building on it. This is known as the “open space” requirement in developments, which refers to incorporating plazas, open areas or common gathering areas in the development. This requirement, however, does not have anything to do with the requirement to dedicate land to the city for future parks or open space, which is in addition to these requirements.

Adding several other changes:

- Allowing older buildings to be reused for residential uses regardless of the zoning district limitations.
- Adding facilities such as food pantries, nonprofit organizations and support services as a permitted use in all zone districts.
- Updating where accessory dwelling units can be built as required by state law HB24-1152.
- Providing new regulations for electric car charging stations.
- Combining nine residential uses into three: residential dwellings, accessory dwellings and temporary dwellings.

- Updating the Enhanced Development Menu to make energy-efficient lighting, water conservation and recycling enclosures required in all future developments while providing additional incentives for developers to build sustainable and better designed developments.
- Adding incentives for building affordable housing; energy-efficient buildings known as a LEED certified building; buildings that use 50 percent renewable energy or that use only electricity for energy.



What are the ways to participate?

The easiest way to participate in this discussion is to visit LakewoodTogether.org/ZoningUpdates:

- Post ideas and comments and respond to other ideas and comments.
- Review the redlined and clean versions of the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.
- Get the schedule for upcoming public meetings and public hearings.
- Attend and provide public comment during the upcoming public hearings at LakewoodSpeaks.org.