

City Manager Report

Kudos

Kudos to the Utility crew led by Brian Morse, the Distribution and Collection Supervisor, and Utility Operators Eric Vaughn, Martin Navarrete, Brett Shockley, and Utility Technician Justin Benson. This crew of 5 is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the city's drinking water distribution and sanitary sewer collection systems so when you turn on your faucet or flush your toilet these are the gentlemen working behind the scenes to make sure you don't have to give these actions a second thought. If something does go wrong when you turn on the faucet or flush the toilet, these guys will respond 24/7/365 to investigate the issue and do whatever it takes to resolve the problem in order to restore service as quickly as possible. When issues do arise, the solution typically requires them to respond at all hours and to work long hours in harsh, cold, muddy, and wet conditions. And, if the issue is with the sanitary sewer, then they're also working directly with raw sewage. The crew's recent response to a sewer main break on 13th Street was yet another example of the exceptional service this crew provides for the community without fail day in and day out. We are grateful for this team and everything they do for our community. Their value cannot be overstated.

Kudos to David Van Winkle for his assistance during the recent sewer main break on 13th Street but this "thank you" is long overdue as David has provided assistance to the water and sewer division on a number of occasions and has been a valuable resource whenever we've needed him. David is always willing to offer assistance no matter how busy or short staffed he may be, and we are grateful for the many times he has helped us out in a pinch over the years. Thanks for always being there when we need you!

From the Departments

Parks and Recreation

Howelsen Ski and Rodeo

- Lift maintenance staff are exploring the feasibility of having a new drive bull wheel fabricated for the Poma lift. The bull wheel had a few cracked spokes earlier in the season that were repaired by the lift maintenance staff. The drive system, gearbox, and motor for the Poma have been replaced recently and those parts

are expected to keep the lift running for many years. The bull wheels, particularly the drive bull wheel, are the only parts of the lift that would be difficult to replace if they experienced catastrophic failure.

- Staff have been negotiating with Steamboat Springs Pro Rodeo Series on a long-term contract. The draft agreement will go before Parks and Recreation Commission on February 8th.
- Howelsen Hill has hosted many events this season with the latest being the Nordic Combined Junior National Qualifiers and the CU invitational Nordic Races at the Rodeo Grounds on February 2-4.
- The Howelsen Park User group met with Parks and Recreation staff for the scheduled quarterly meeting on January 3rd. Topics included the upcoming Howelsen traffic and parking study, the second sheet of ice initiative, and the Pro Rodeo Series long-term agreement.

Parks, Open Space, and Trails

- Parks Workers and Trails Workers positions are advertised. Hiring for the summer season will begin soon.
- Staff will bring recommendations for motions on continuing the e-bike trial period at the February 8th Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.
- The Request for Proposal (RFP) for River Ambassadors to work along the Yampa River for the 2023 season is being finalized and will be ready for advertisement within the next two weeks. Staff have contacted another River Ambassador program based on the Clark Fork River in Missoula, MT to learn more about their program and best practices.
- The Parks Supervisor position was posted in mid-January and will close on February 20th.
- The Holiday Skyline Displays over Lincoln Avenue will be taken down on February 14th.
- The Community Holiday Tree recycling program located at Emerald Park will stop taking trees on March 1st.
- With heavy and frequent snowstorms in January, the Parks, Open Space and Trails staff were busy removing snow. Full-time and seasonal staff are responsible for snow removal at city-owned sidewalks, facilities, neighborhood trails, and the community core trail.

Adult Sports

- We are hosting Ski Ascent Series Race #3 – Emerald Mountain Tour on February 16th at Howelsen Hill. This will be the third race in a six-part series. It is open to all ages and racing ability levels. Come on out to watch this amazing uphill battle!
- Drop-in Volleyball is offered every Sunday night at Sleeping Giant School. Cost is \$5/player and runs from 4-7PM (except on Superbowl Sunday). All skill levels are welcome. Games will be 4v4 or 6v6 depending on the number of players.
- Registration is open for 4x4 Indoor Blind Draw Volleyball Tournament on March 12th at Sleeping Giant School. Register as a free agent or with a partner. Pairs will be randomly matched to create 4v4 teams.

Youth Programs

- Session 4 Registration will open on February 13th for Afterschool Action, School Days Off, and ASSET Clubs. Session 4 will have Learn to Skate Asset club being offered on Tuesdays.
- On February 10th we said goodbye to Anne Preston, Recreation Coordinator. Anne will be staying on as a seasonal employee and you will find her out and about in the community teaching yoga.
- Staffing continues to be a challenge, and we are actively recruiting for both School Year and Summer Programs. We have one full-time Recreation Coordinator position open along with Seasonal Group Leaders, Summer Group Leaders, and Summer Directors.
- Summer Registration will open on March 27th for Asset Clubs and April 3rd for regular Summer Camp. In response to customer requests, Summer Camp registration will be changing over to a weekly registration, Monday- Thursday. Summer Camp will run from June 12-August 10.
- Registration is open for our Mountain Safety class at Howelsen Hill from 5-7PM on February 27th. This is a partnership with Routt County Search and Rescue and is open to kids in both middle and high school. The class will go over basic backcountry safety procedures and includes pizza dinner.
- Registration is open for Kids Night Out on March 3rd. Kids Night Out is a fun, supervised, healthy, and safe way for kids in K-5th grade to spend time with their friends while giving parents and affordable option for a night out. Dinner is included (pizza, fruit, and chips).

Howelsen Ice Arena

- The Ice Arena hosted Senior Nights for female High School Hockey on January 20th to a super supportive

and lively crowd and hosted Senior Night for the Boys Team on February 3rd for a huge group of graduating seniors. Four females and fourteen male seniors were spotlighted on these nights.

- The weather has finally cooperated, and the outdoor ice sheets are now open for play! The large single rink is located next to the Ice Arena in the Rodeo lot. Rink staff tried a new method this year that does not require liners and walls, making for an experience much closer to pond hockey. Rental skates will not be available, but there will be a pool of used skates of limited sizes available for public use.
- If you haven't tried it yet, check out our drop-in curling sessions offered through February. Very basic 30-minute instruction is available at the start of the session and teams split up afterward for some exciting time on the ice.
- Spring curling leagues begin on March 3rd with league play taking place Friday nights from March-early May. Registration is now open.
- Adult leagues are well under way and play most evenings at the rink. Stop on by to watch some of the best players in Steamboat!
- Bumper Cars went through a full fleet replacement for tubes, keeping our fleet up to date and working well.

Parks Projects

- Howelsen Ice Arena Expansion Project: the expansion project is working through the last of the punch list items and hopes to see final completion in March 2023.
- US40 Median Improvement Project: median improvements are complete with the city contract. Yampa Valley Electric Association is stalled with their re-install of the decorative lighting until the snow melts in the spring.
- Ski Town Park Irrigation and Turf Improvements: staff has the final irrigation plans in hand and will wait for the public works storm sewer project to move forward with these improvements.
- Brooklyn Park Improvements: staff is currently working on scoping the playground improvements for the park.
- Howelsen Skate Park: staff, with the help of the skate community based steering community, has finished the final design for the new Howelsen Hill Skatepark. Contracts are being finalized now for an early fall 2023 installation.
- Walton Creek Bridge: this is a continuation of the Core Trail bridge refurbishment project. Staff has selected the low bidder Sloop Painting for this project. Construction is scheduled for early fall 2023.

- Howelsen Hill Solar Parking Lot Lights: staff has ordered the electrical components for the one “test light” that will be install late winter/early spring of 2023. This light will allow the city to explore the option of installing a 100% solar powered lighting system for the Howelsen Hill Ski Area parking lot.
- Poma Lift Unload Retaining Wall and fencing Project: staff has finalized the scoping for the project and is looking to move into the contracting phase for this work. Construction is estimated to be in August 2023.
- Bear River Park Design: staff is finalizing the RFP language for design phase of the park. The RFP is expected to be advertised in February with proposals due early March 2023.

Yampa River Botanic Park

- The Botanic Park is actively recruiting gardeners for the 2023 season and is attracting qualified candidates.
- Garden renovation plans in the Botanic Park are underway for 2023 and include improvements to the Bulb Garden, Windigo Garden, and an addition of a Crevice Garden in the upper Waterwise Garden.
- Progaming is being scheduled with community partners to include Music on the Green, Piknik Theatre, and Storytime.
- Passport Through the Botanic Park will be held June 17th.
- The Botanic Park is participating in The Garden Conservancy’s Open Days program to be held July 8th which promotes garden-based tourism nationwide.

Haymaker Golf Course

- The Audubon International Signature Sanctuary annual report has been submitted for approval. A recertification site visit will take place in 2023.
- Haymaker staff, with support from the Golf Management Committee, are considering ways to improve sustainability efforts by adding additional single-stream receptable locations on the golf course grounds.
- Haymaker Golf Course is set to host the 37th CGA Mid-Amateur Championship September 29-October 1.

Public Works

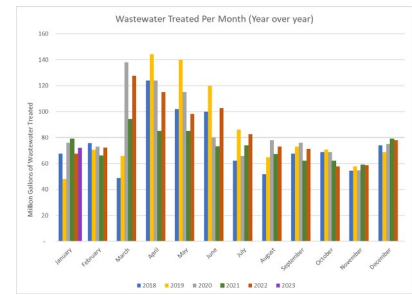
Wastewater

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant treated 72 million gallons of wastewater in the month of January. This is up 6% from January 2022 when 68 million gallons of wastewater were treated.
- The plant has instituted a new method of quantifying coliform which has greatly improved efficiency.

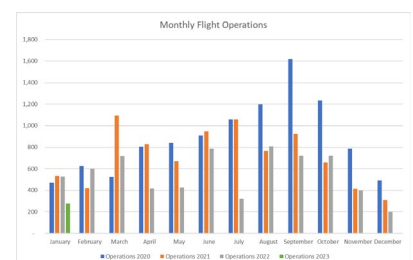
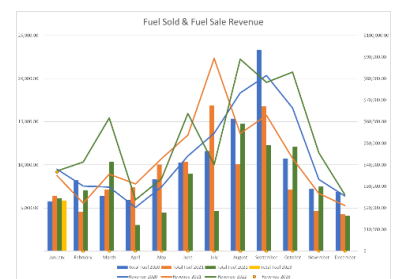
- A mandatory pre-bid meeting for the pre-treatment building HVAC project was held at the end of January.

Airport

- Lieutenant Colonel Gia Petz and Major Timothy Merhar of the Rocky Mountain Liaison Region CAP-USAF Detachment 7 provided a presentation to the Civil Air Patrol as well as presented several awards to the cadets. Cadet Commander Eli Moon received the coveted Amelia Earhart Award, the highest award a CAP Cadet can receive.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife was based out the airport for the first week of January while they conducted aerial animal surveys in the region via helicopter.
- A Beechcraft Starship stopped into the Steamboat Springs Airport to pick up passengers on Friday, January 13. The Starship 2000A is one of only four still flying of this limited-edition production aircraft (only 53 made).



- The Airport Manager and Garver Engineering had a productive meeting with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) in Denver. The FAA was updated on the remaining two tasks of the Runway Rehabilitation project – the snow storage and culvert at gate 12 to allow for vehicle access from County Road 44. In addition, the 60% design of the Terminal Area Improvements project was presented; the FAA and CDOT were pleased with both projects.
- At the Colorado Airport Operators Association Conference, the Board approved a Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant of \$300,000 to the Steamboat Springs Airport to move the fuel truck parking area and install



the self-serve fuel station, parts of the larger Terminal Area Improvement project.

- The RFP for hangar development closed and the Airport did not receive any bids for private/commercial hangar development.
- The airport team is spending a lot of time clearing snow.

Streets

- Statistics regarding snowfall, snow removals, sweeping, asphalt, equipment hours, scoria, locates, ticketing, right of way permits, employee hours, and more can be found in Attachment 1.
- Nearly all of the crew's time has been spent on snow plowing and removal.
- The Streets team is gearing up for Winter Carnival; a traffic control company from Grand Junction will assist with road closures for the new traffic reroute during the street events.

Water and Sewer

- Infiltration Gallery Expansion: the consultant has provided final engineering design drawings and specifications for review prior to submittal to Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to obtain construction permits.
- Frozen Pipes: the cold snap at the end of January resulted in a number of calls from homeowners to report water outages, all of which were caused by frozen pipes within the homeowners' plumbing. However, since we tend to see an increase in water main breaks during these cold snaps, the water crew typically responds to investigate all water outage reports. Whether indoors or outdoors, water service lines are the homeowners' responsibility, and the city water department is unable to assist homeowners with frozen pipes. Homeowners who have experienced frozen pipes in the past and homeowners of mobile home units are particularly susceptible to freezing pipes and should take steps to prevent their pipes from freezing such as placing insulation around water pipes, using caulk or insulation to seal openings to keep cold air out of areas near indoor pipes, and on very cold days opening kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors, especially if they are against an exterior wall, to allow the air that heats your home to also keep your pipes warm. Homeowners needing assistance with frozen pipes should contact a local plumber or handyman for assistance.
- Fire Hydrants: this winter's heavy snowfall has also prompted a number of phone calls and emails from property owners to report fire hydrants buried in snow. With over 600 fire hydrants within the city's

distribution system, it can be a challenge for our field crew of 6 individuals to clear every fire hydrant after each snowfall in an average year. Given the heavy snowfall that we have received this year, it's no surprise that the crew has not been able to keep up. If you are aware of a fire hydrant in your neighborhood that is currently buried with snow, we would appreciate your assistance in clearing the snow so that it is accessible to the fire department in the event of an emergency. Citizens should also avoid placing snow near or around any fire hydrants that may impede emergency access to the hydrant, and anyone found placing snow around a fire hydrant may be subject to a citation and fine.

- 13th Street Emergency Sewer Repair: the Water and Sewer division was alerted to a near sewer backup at the city's transit operations center on January 31st. Upon investigation it was determined that the sewer line was damaged within 13th Street near the centerline of the road. The proximity of the damaged sewer pipe between 2 high pressure gas lines as well as multiple other underground utilities required a great deal of coordination, primarily with Xcel Energy, to plan and complete the repair. The presence of between 3' to 5' of frost required the placement of ground thawing equipment over the area to be excavated for at least 2 days. The utility crew was able to place the equipment to begin thawing the ground on February 3rd in the afternoon. Excavation began February 6th and the damaged pipe was repaired in the late evening of February 7th. The excavation was filled in and 13th Street was reopened the afternoon of February 8th.

Water Resources

- Staff assisted the Colorado Water Trust in preparing a summary of the impacts of the multi-agency partnership to boost flows in the Yampa River during the 2022 irrigation season. For 64 days, between August 12 - October 14, the Colorado Water Trust purchased and released 3,603 acre-feet of water from Stagecoach Reservoir to boost flows during critical low flow periods to help reduce exceedances of water quality standards for temperature in the river at the wastewater treatment plant outfall and protect the health of fish and aquatic wildlife. The boosted flows accounted for more than half of the Yampa River in downtown Steamboat Springs for 10 days and for more than one-third of the river's flow for 28 days. Without the added water, the Yampa River may have dropped to as low as 34 cubic feet per second (cfs) in downtown, and for as many as 24 days, flows may have been below 85 cfs, one of several critical

thresholds for determining river closures. The full summary can be found here:

<https://coloradowatertrust.org/2023/01/colorado-water-trust-led-local-partnership-that-boosted-flows-in-the-upper-yampa-river>.

- The city Stream Team is an interdepartmental team that meets every other month to coordinate on city plans, projects, and policies that impact stream health. The January meeting focused on Stream Team priority topics for collaboration in 2023, which include balancing river health, recreation, and the tourism economy and opportunities for open space property acquisition in floodplain areas.
- Staff completed work with the WaterNow Alliance on the Steamboat Springs Water Resiliency and Infrastructure Funding Strategy as part of a 2022 Project Accelerator Program technical assistance grant. The strategy aligns city water resiliency goals and projects with specific funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The outcomes included a funding roadmap for six primary and eight secondary projects recommended in city-adopted long-range plans. The two highest priorities for funding as identified by the city's Water Team are large-scale improvements at the Fish Creek Water Treatment Plant for wildfire resiliency and a multi-objective stream and wetlands restoration project near the confluence of the Yampa River and Walton Creek.

Engineering

- As of February 7th, 41 development applications have been submitted with a review due date in 2023. Of the completed reviews, 81% met the review deadlines and were delivered an average of 3 days ahead of schedule.
- A FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant application for Butcherknife Creek Floodplain Improvements was not selected by the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM). However, the application will still be forwarded to FEMA as an alternate for consideration in case one of the DHSEM-selected projects fails to achieve FEMA approval.
- Appraisals for needed right of way and easements on the Downhill Drive/US40 project have been completed. They are currently under review by CDOT prior to being provided to the affected property owners.
- A pre-bid meeting was held for the Soda Creek Bridges project which was attended by six interested bidders. The bid opening will be held on February 17th with construction planned for fall 2023.

- Design work is complete on the Ski Time Square Drive project and final easement agreements are being secured, paving the way to allow for the project to go to bid. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in late April and continue into fall.
- Conceptual design continues on the Gondola Transit Center (GTC) project. The next stakeholder engagement meetings have been scheduled for February 16th. The meetings will include a presentation of several design options for stakeholders to provide input on. A peer reviewer has been hired to assist in reviewing traffic studies associated with the ski area expansion and the GTC project.
- An Urban Redevelopment Authority Advisory Committee (URAAC) meeting was held on January 26th and was well attended. Major discussion topics centered around negotiations associated with easement acquisitions for the Ski Time Square Dr. project and cost-sharing scenarios for the GTC project. An update will be provided to the Steamboat Springs Redevelopment Authority (SSRA) at their March 21st meeting. There are currently two open URAAC positions which have been advertised to the public. Interviews of applicants to those positions will be held during the March meeting.
- The contract with Gates Gooding was extended, allowing him to remain serving as the SSRA project manager for 2023.
- An RFP has been released for the design of the Pine Grove Road reconstruction project. This project will reconstruct Pine Grove Road from US40 to Mt. Werner Road and will incorporate sidewalks and a controlled pedestrian crossing. Proposals are due March 3rd.
- A Development Plan application has been submitted for the Public Works Washout Facility. The project is expected to be presented to both Planning Commission and City Council in March. The project is expected to be advertised for bid in February.
- Engineering staff is providing site design services for the Fleet storage building. The building is proposed to be built off 13th Street on the Public Works campus. A kickoff meeting was held, and design work has begun.

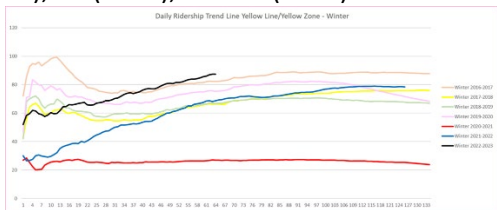
Transit

- Winter season ridership is up 38% (98,454) over the same period last winter. Year to date, Steamboat Springs Transit (SST) ridership is up 48% (74,912).
- SST is operating at 76% on time with 24% of the buses arriving late or not at all. The best on time percentage for January was 92% on time and the poorest on time

percentage was 49%. Last winter, SST operated at 76% on time and 24% of the buses arriving late. The biggest challenges are volume of passengers and corresponding number of stops, afternoon traffic, Mt. Werner Circle, and the Gondola Transit Center.



- Cost per passenger this winter is down 5%. This winter's average cost per passenger is \$1.99.
- The Yellow Line is trending at 87 passengers per day. This compares with 69 (2022), 267 (2021), 75 (2020), 67 (2019), 66 (2018), and 82 (2017).



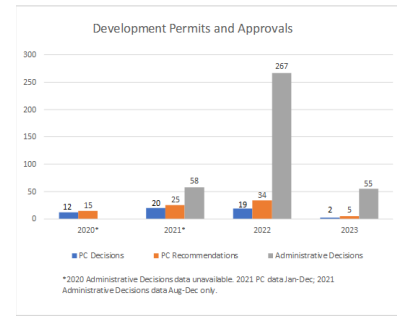
- Local ridership produced one of the top 3 busiest Januarys in SST history. Buses were quite active all month. This count was taken with about 20% less service than the top two busiest Januarys.
- By January 23rd, the Regional Bus had already eclipsed the ridership mark from last January, and by January 29th had passed the all-time one-month ridership mark. The regional bus broke the previous one-month ridership record by 997 passengers with 5,647 passengers carried – the first 5,000+ ridership month ever. This January's ridership showed a 31% increase over last January.
- Additional data on local ridership, regional ridership, and paratransit ridership in January can be found in Attachment 2.
- Our Safety, Training and Recruitment Supervisor, Shane Gassaway, has started training a new driver to join the staff of Regional drivers. Currently we are short one Regional driver.
- Shane and Tyler Kern, Operations Supervisor, are actively recruiting full time and summer seasonal drivers. There are six openings for the SST summer staff.

Planning

- Development Review in 2023:
 - There are approximately 326 projects currently in the development review process (including 97 Short Term Rental (STR) Legal Nonconforming Registrations).
 - Planning Commission has had public hearings on 2 projects for final decision and 5 projects

for recommendation to City Council.

- 55 applications have been decided administratively.



- Code Compliance in 2023:
 - 38 code enforcement cases have been opened this year.
 - There are 129 open cases pending resolution, including 2 STR-related cases.
- Short-Term Rentals:
 - Granicus has identified 2,869 short-term rental units in city limits currently being advertised. Physical addresses have been located for 85.9% of the units.
 - Paula Ross has been hired as a Temporary Permit Technician to assist with processing STR License applications.
- Historic Preservation:
 - On January 17th, the Planning Department submitted a grant application to receive Certified Local Government (CLG) funds to create a historic preservation Education, Engagement and Outreach Strategy with comprehensive staff and Historic Preservation Commission training. If awarded, the strategy will benefit policies and goals within the Community Area Plan. Specifically, the project will focus outreach efforts toward four target audiences: 1) homeowners; 2) realtors, developers, architects, and design professionals; 3) existing city partners and tenants, and; 4) the general public. Funding award notification is expected around March 1st with prospective contracting for consultant work commencing around June 2023.
 - At the January 9th Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meeting, HPC members unanimously voted to designate 743 Oak Street as a Historic Resource to our Steamboat Springs Register of Historic Places. The former Photo Express building is significant for its historical and social associations and is the 29th property to be added to our Local Register. Additional information about the home's significance can be found in Attachment 3.
 - The Planning Director and Historic Preservation staff are coordinating alongside Parks and Recreation staff and the Mineral

Springs Committee to outline preservation-based options for future protection of our Mineral Springs. Options currently being looked into include designation at the local, state, and national levels. More information will be presented through both departments as the committee and staff further define support for preservation-based protection of our springs. This work is occurring parallel to the existing USGS survey being conducted through the work of the committee and Parks and Recreation.

- The city has executed two contracts with consulting firms to assist with evaluating affordable housing strategies ([Community Planning Collaborative](#) and [Root Policy Research](#)) and revisions to Community Design and Landscaping Standards in the Community Development Code ([Code Studio](#)). Staff recently held project kick-off meetings with both teams and work is underway. Initial project priorities include a housing needs assessment, housing demand projections, and an initial review of the City's Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) zone district in terms of usability and anticipated outcomes.

