



STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES GUIDE 2024



WHAT'S NEW IN NORTHGLENN

New Northglenn City Hall

Construction is underway on the new Northglenn City Hall. Located just east of the current facility, the 32,600-square-foot facility will continue to house much of the City's staff, along with City Council Chambers. New to this building will be community rooms to help make it a gathering place for the City.

Sustainability is a priority. The facility will be Net Zero, meaning it will generate as much energy as it uses. Also, it will have a CORE Green Building Rating - the first municipal building in Colorado to achieve that certification.

The cost for the new City Hall is estimated at \$33.78 million – and the city already has

Artist rendition of the new Northglenn City Hall



the money to pay for it. No new taxes will be necessary. The funds were generated by the ½% sales tax and the 4% Special Marijuana Tax, both of which can only be used for capital projects.

The new City Hall is Phase II of the Civic Center Master Plan. Phase III includes the demolition of the old recreation center and eventual redevelopment.



Vertical construction has already begun on the facility.

120th Avenue Expansion

The widening of 120th Avenue from two lanes to three from Washington Street to York

Street was recently completed – ahead of schedule. This stretch is one of the busiest thoroughfares in Adams County. The City utilized about \$9.5 million in Transportation

Improvement Program (TIP) funds, which were awarded by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and administered by the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Local sources contributed the rest of the funds on this \$17.8 million project.



Karl's Farm Development

Karl's Farm, the last large undeveloped land in the City, is nearing full-build out.

Named after Karl's Farm, a dairy operating on the land before the City incorporated in 1969, the site has 25.8 acres of residential, 14.9 acres of mixed use, 8.3 acres of commercial, 3.4 acres of parks and open space, and 11.6 acres of roadway.

The residential component includes 832 units of diversified housing including townhomes, senior housing, and duplexes.

Commercial developments are now opening along 120th Avenue, including



Raising Cane's and Dutch Bros.

The City received the 2022 Medium Community of the Year Award from

the Economic Development Council of Colorado for this project.



Gender-Silent, Tax Extension Ballot Measures Pass

City voters passed two

local ballot measures in the November election.

One asked whether the language in the City's charter should be amended to

be gender-silent by using position titles such as council members and police officers.

The other asked whether the ½% sales tax should

be extended indefinitely to support public safety, residential streets and parks.



COUNCIL HAS IDENTIFIED SEVERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR 2024 AND DEVELOPED A FORMAL POLICY STATEMENT.

The City of Northglenn was founded in a location that was once the “edge” of the Denver metro region.

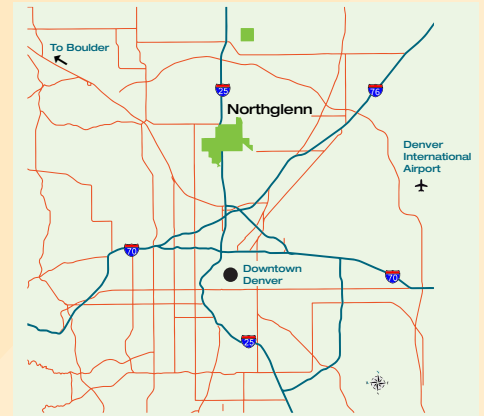
Times have changed and the City now finds itself encompassed by suburban growth but competitively positioned along the Interstate 25 corridor, nearly in the center of the Denver metro region.

This advantageous location provides easy access to most destinations, including downtown Denver, Boulder and Denver International Airport, as well as a variety

of employment centers in all directions.

Its competitive location strategically positions Northglenn for both future residential and new business growth.

This guide can be used by county, State, and Federal elected officials to inform legislative decisions that would be supported by the City of Northglenn.



NORTHGLENN AT A GLANCE



Population

38,055



Median List Price

\$505K



Households

14,608



Household Size Avg.

2.7



Median Age

32.8



Median Household Income

\$73,163



Have Bachelor's Degrees

21.9%



Property Tax Rate

11.597

RACE/ETHNICITY



White **54.3%** | Hispanic/Latino **34.8%**
Multi-Race **3.9%** | Asian **3.3%** | Black **2.6%**
Native American/Alaska Native **.6%**
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander **.3%**

SALES TAX

Total **8.75%**
City **4.0%**
Colorado **4.0%**
Adams County **.75%**



COUNCIL GOALS

Council has identified eight main goals for the community that guide the legislative policy statement:

High-Performance Government



Public Safety



Housing Opportunities



Sustainability



Business Retention and Growth



Diverse Community



Infrastructure



Community Engagement

These goals will be re-evaluated as a new strategic plan will be under development in 2024.



The City used a combination of internal, local, and Federal monies to cover the expansion of East 120th Avenue from two lanes to three.

TRANSPORTATION

With its position along the metro area's major north-south corridor, the City naturally has a strong interest in State transportation planning and financing.

The City adopted a plan to support the use and infrastructure of electric vehicles. Northglenn will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality through electric vehicle adoption and infrastructure that is inclusive, sustainable, cost-effective, and innovative.

Northglenn aspires to increase environmental and economic sustainability for the community by transitioning to an electric transportation future, reaching 4,200 electric vehicles by 2030, aligned with the State of Colorado EV Plan.

Therefore, the City:

- Supports the completion of RTD's FasTracks N Line commuter rail to end of line as originally planned.
- Supports local control of public roads, public transit, pedestrian paths and

bike lanes to address emerging modes of transportation that serve the entire metro area and Adams County.

- Supports alternative methods of funding transportation infrastructure needs.
- Supports effective implementation of Colorado's vehicle emissions standards and other regulatory and programmatic activities designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from mobile sources.
- Supports implementing the 2020 Colorado Electric Vehicle Plan and other efforts to increase electrification of all motor vehicles.
- Supports increasing funding and policy incentives for multimodal transportation and multimodal-friendly development statewide.



The Northglenn • 112th N Line station is located in the City, while the Eastlake • 124th is right on the northern border.

- Supports fare equity for public transportation.
- Supports State implementation of ozone reduction measures.

SALES & USE TAXES

Like most Colorado cities, Northglenn is highly dependent on sales and use tax revenues, providing 65% of our tax revenues annually.

Under Colorado's constitution, Northglenn and other home rule municipalities are entitled to locally collect and administer this tax.

Therefore, the City:

- Supports efforts that would simplify the tax system for those remitting tax, provided that such measures would not materially jeopardize the revenue

raising capacity of the tax system or its legal basis.

- Supports efforts to facilitate "main street tax equity" by requiring collection of tax on remote sales by Internet or mail-order vendors within the City.
- Opposes legislation that would jeopardize the City's home rule authority over sales and use tax matters, through resultant litigation, or otherwise.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

Public health and safety is a primary responsibility of the City.

The Northglenn Police Department (NPD) has embraced the Community Co-Production Policing philosophy of law enforcement. This is based on the belief that the community should be integrally involved in shaping the policing strategies that affect it.

NPD has invested heavily in technology over the past few years to assist officers and provide transparency in policing. These include body-worn cameras for officers, vehicle dash cameras, and license plate readers.

Like the rest of the area, Northglenn is combating issues such as increased crime.

- In response, NPD joined the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force (C-MATT), teaming with law enforcement agencies in the region. The group was part of a recent car theft ring bust resulting in the arrest of 13 individuals.
- The City continues to have a leading role in the region in the management and distribution of funds from the nationwide opioid settlement. These monies are being used for enforcement, treatment and education.
- Northglenn is working with local municipalities and law enforcement agencies on both a new detox facility and a juvenile center for the area.



- In an ever-competitive market, the City has made strides in compensating new and senior officers.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports State legislation that resolves the issue of medical expenses for individuals in custody with an equitable solution for all parties.*
- *Opposes State legislation that would jeopardize or impair the reliability of the E-911 system.*
- *Supports State and local programs to address the youth vaping crisis and opioid epidemic.*
- *Supports providing communities with resources to address chronic homelessness, supportive housing, mental health, suicide prevention and substance abuse.*



Northglenn police recruits go through extensive training above and beyond what is required by the state.

- *Supports area and regional facilities for homelessness and substance abuse, as none exist in Adams County.*

UNFUNDED MANDATES

Programs and regulations mandated by the State or Federal government upon local governments without adequate funding force local governments to divert scarce local funding away from pressing local needs.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports protection of statutory and constitutional provisions that protect local governments from being obliged to comply with unfunded mandates.*
- *Opposes unfunded State or Federal mandates.*

LOCAL CONTROL & MUNICIPAL HOME RULE

Colorado has a tradition of local control and decentralized governmental authority.

That is reflected in the home rule provisions of the State constitution and in substantial grants of power to Colorado municipalities in

State statutes.

These provisions reflect a belief that local issues and local needs are generally best

addressed locally. The City strongly shares this belief.

Therefore, the City:

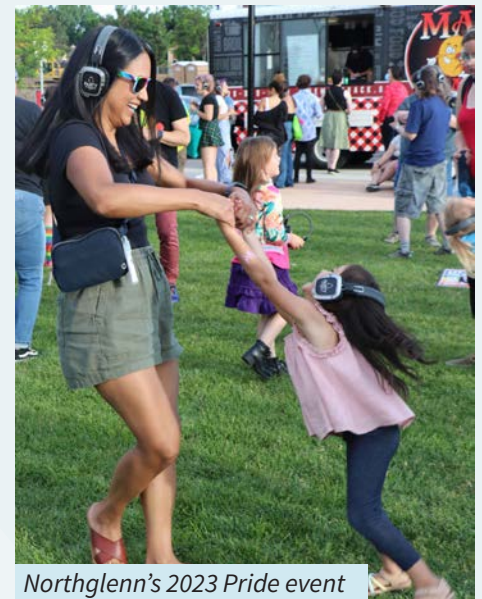
- *Supports State legislation that enables and facilitates the resolution of local issues locally.*

- *Opposes State legislation that would pre-empt or otherwise limit municipal authority, including legislation that aims to diminish or intrude upon the authority of home rule municipalities, such as land use.*

DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Celebrating diversity, advancing equity, and becoming a more inclusive community continue to be a focus for City Council.

- For the City's 11-person Diversity, Inclusivity and Social Equity (DISE) Board, the name is the mission, as it works to influence future decision-making in the City.
- The Northglenn Arts & Humanities Foundation continues to offer programming that reflects the diversity and culture of the community.
- The City hosted the first government-sponsored Pride festival in Adams County a few years ago, and continued that event in 2023.
- The City has started inviting cultural groups to present at Noel Northglenn, its annual holiday event.
- Mayor Meredith Leighty selects numerous proclamations each month to commemorate weeks and months honoring different groups.
- Internally, staff's Northglenn Next Committee strives to foster a sense of inclusion, belonging, respect, and equity within our workplace and beyond.



Northglenn's 2023 Pride event

EDUCATION

Northglenn is a unique community with 13 K-12 schools within a 6.5-square-mile radius.

The City believes an effective education system supplies our municipalities with an educated and well-trained community and workforce that will both allow existing businesses to expand and attract new business investment.

The most effective programs are those partnerships among our educational institutions, local stakeholders and local governments. Due to its importance to our communities, the City supports education as a community-wide value.

The City has worked with Adams 12 Five Star Schools to have School Resource Officers at the public middle school, alternative school and high school in the district.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports State and local policies and initiatives that encourage greater early learning, K-12, higher education, workforce training opportunities and lifelong learning opportunities that allow cities to attract and retain an excellent workforce.*
- *Supports access to information and resources that help parents and caregivers give students the greatest chances to learn and grow in safe and healthy ways.*
- *Supports State initiatives that enhance creative and innovative partnership opportunities with businesses and educational institutions. This includes shared facilities, school resource officers, and enhanced programming.*
- *Supports education funding that is balanced between State and local sources and takes into consideration all sectors of the economy.*
- *Supports funding that would enhance early childhood education opportunities.*

SENIORS

Northglenn advocates for seniors.

The City partners with Adams County, DRCOG and local non-profits to ensure access to affordable services and resources to help our seniors thrive.

Northglenn's Senior Center offers programming to support social-emotional needs, physical fitness, companionship, learning for enjoyment and a resource/referral center.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports legislation to protect the Senior Homestead exemption in Colorado and funding to address gaps in services.*
- *Supports funding to support diversity of housing options including assistance to help seniors remain in their homes.*
- *Supports continued State advocacy for Social Security and Medicaid funding.*



The City was honored that Gov. Jared Polis announced funding for lifeguard training across the state from the Northglenn Recreation Center pool on May 15.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

The City supports efforts to maintain its ability to recruit and retain a high-quality workforce.

Some of the City's efforts to achieve this goal include:

- A \$15 minimum wage for all positions
- Expanded its Family and Caregiver Leave program above Colorado's Proposition 118 or Paid Family Leave requirements
- Market-driven increases for civilian staff and sworn officers in response to rising inflation and salaries in the metro area

ATTAINABLE HOUSING

The City is committed to a housing market that offers a variety of options for all residents, in every stage of their life, including those on fixed incomes or of limited financial means.

The General Assembly has enacted laws that have attempted to include remedies for homeowners with construction defects, but are also widely regarded as having caused a dramatic decline in the construction of multi-family, owner-occupied housing (condominiums) in Colorado.

The City adopted a new policy based on the recommendations of a housing assessment completed in 2022 and the newly-adopted comprehensive plan. These were made possible through a \$75,000 DOLA grant aimed at expanding affordable housing opportunities for residents.

The policy updates the City's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), centered on expanding the uses for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) to include short-term

rental and allowing for pre-approved, prefabricated ADUs to potentially reduce the time and cost of construction.

Additionally, the City approved mixed-use overlay districts that will allow for an expansion of uses and opportunities for many areas within the City. The overlay districts include provisions that incentivize affordable and senior housing in hopes of expanding housing options near easily accessible commercial areas.

The new Karl's Farm development has committed housing for seniors that is currently under construction and nearing completion. The housing will allow long-time residents to transition into more appropriate accommodations while remaining in Northglenn.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports a balanced approach to resolving construction defects concerns between builders and homeowners, as exemplified by the City's adoption of a model ordinance on the topic.*
- *Supports increasing local government's ability to regulate, manage or generate alternative sources of funding for attainable housing and public/private partnerships.*
- *Supports leveraging funding through State and local partnerships to provide homeownership assistance.*
- *Supports continuation of a senior homestead tax exemption.*
- *Supports State funding to address housing affordability such as Proposition 123.*



On Oct. 18, the City welcomed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator KC Becker and others during a media event highlighting community-led air quality monitoring projects in Adams and Jefferson counties, funded in part by the EPA. Why did they choose Northglenn to do the media event? Because we have had two air quality monitors, one near City Hall and one in Northwest Open Space, since May 2022. From left, Mayor Meredith Leighty; Jim Rada, Environmental Health Services Division Director for Jefferson County Public Health; Adams County Commissioner Emma Pinter; Andy Kerr, Jefferson County District Commissioner; KC Becker, EPA Regional Administrator; Adams County Commissioner Steve O'Dorisio; Adams County Commissioner Lynn Baca; Adams County Commissioner Eva J. Henry and Brian Hlavacek, Adams County Health Department Environmental Health Division Director.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The City is committed to building a framework for environmental sustainability for the future.

The City has continued to work with Xcel Energy Partners in Energy to implement the Energy Action Plan adopted in early 2020. This includes connecting residents and businesses to opportunities that reduce energy consumption and energy bills. Also partnering with Xcel, the City adopted its Electric Vehicle Plan (see Transportation, page 4).

Northglenn joined Adams County and the City of Westminster to partner with Solar United Neighbors and launch the City's first solar co-op.

Through the Love My Air program with Adams County Public Health, the City installed two air quality monitoring stations.

The City is committed to mitigating the devastating impacts of climate change, while providing the community with excellent parks and recreation services and facilities.

Additionally, the City operates water, wastewater and stormwater utilities in

a financially-sound, reliable, safe and environmentally-friendly manner.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports maintaining or enhancing funds for parks, trails, forestry, horticulture and recreation services and facilities.*
- *Supports equal or greater funding levels of Great Outdoors Colorado grants awarded to municipalities.*
- *Supports municipal and State reuse, composting and recycling programs and exploring incentives for end markets.*
- *Supports collaboration between State and Federal government agencies and Colorado's local governments to advance local climate protection.*
- *Supports equitable strategies to enable and accelerate building electrification.*
- *Supports accelerating retirement of existing fossil fuel generating facilities and their replacement with cost-effective and reliable clean energy supplies, through means that protect both utilities and consumers.*



One of Northglenn's air quality monitors



The electric charging station near the Northglenn Senior Center entrance

- *Opposes legislation that would diminish the authority of local government to regulate environmental impacts to the City.*
- *Supports limitation on plastic and Styrofoam consumption.*
- *Supports funding and partners such as Xcel Partners in Energy to assess and become electric vehicle ready.*



Prost Brewing Company headquarters, brewery and biergarten

URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY

The City's urban renewal authority is an extremely useful and proven tool to remedy urban blight in economically depressed areas.

In 2022, the Northglenn Urban Renewal Authority (NURA) issued \$136,081 in business grants, improved 284,826 square feet of commercial space, and leveraged \$2.4 million in private sector improvements.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a unique mechanism that enables an Urban Renewal Authority to use the net new tax revenues generated by projects within a designated urban renewal area to help finance future improvements.

TIF is a new source of tax revenue, not an additional tax, that would not be available but for new investment.

In recent years, the General Assembly has proposed a variety of bills on this subject, some of which have been enacted.

Therefore, the City:

- *Opposes further watering down of municipal urban renewal authority and/or downtown development authority by the General Assembly.*

Urban Renewal Projects

NORTHGLENN MARKETPLACE

Our original urban renewal development project, the Northglenn Marketplace, is the highest sales tax-revenue-producing shopping area in the City. Located at Interstate 25 and 104th Avenue, staff continues to work with majority property owner Hutensky Capital Partners (HCP) to further its status as an economic hub for the community and north metro area.

As previously announced, Prost Brewery has relocated its corporate

headquarters and brewery while opening its largest biergarten in the Marketplace in 2023. Prost is expected to attract 300,000 visitors per year and generate an estimated \$13M in sales between the brewery and biergarten.

Prost's arrival has re-energized the shopping center, with a number of new businesses opening. A 12,000-square-foot indoor children's entertainment center will be added in 2024 to bring the center's occupancy to 87%.

WASHINGTON STREET PROPERTY

The City will soon have a small multi-suite office/incubator space in part thanks to the work of Northglenn Urban Renewal Authority. NURA originally bought two small, dilapidated parcels at 112th Avenue and Washington Street

in 2021 and sold the property to private developers in 2023. For a land-locked City with little undeveloped land, redevelopment is key to economic progress for Northglenn.



Rendition of the Washington Street property.

2023 CITY AWARDS

- *Preschool Program: Level 5 rating from Colorado Shines*
- *Crisis Response Unit: National League of Cities Capstone Challenge to address homelessness*
- *Public Works Department: American Public Works Association Accreditation*
- *Tamara Dixon, Human Resources Director & Chief Diversity Officer: 2023 Muriel*
- *M. Morse Achievement Award from the IPMA-HR Western Region)*
- *Kate Fisher, Recreation Coordinator – Senior Services: Marianne Logan Professional of the Year Award from the Colorado Parks & Recreation Association*
- *Budget: Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United*
- *States and Canada (GFOA) (14 consecutive years)*
- *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report: Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the GFOA (31 consecutive years)*
- *Tree City USA: 33 straight years*



Northglenn hosted the Bridge Summit to bring together elected officials and city and county leadership with non-profits that serve those who are facing housing instability.

HOMELESSNESS

Like the rest of the metro area, homelessness has increased over the past few years in Northglenn.

People are living in situations that are unsafe, unsanitary and away from needed resources.

In response, Northglenn's Crisis Response Unit (CRU) works with area and regional municipalities to provide services and address issues that stem from homelessness. This helps alleviate the strain on the City's law enforcement, parks and public works staff.

The CRU works with referrals from the Northglenn Police Department (NPD), Neighborhood Services (code enforcement), Northglenn Municipal Court, community partners and individuals to help focus on a pathway out of crisis to stability.

The CRU continues to build relationships across Adams County and the Metro Area to assist those needing support in basic needs as well as mental and behavioral health. Northglenn hosted the Bridge Summit to bring together elected officials and city and county leadership with non-profits that serve those who are facing housing instability.

Therefore, the City:

- ◆ Supports state funding for behavioral health services including crisis stabilization units, walk-in crisis centers, and mobile mental health.

By the Numbers CRU accomplishments from Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 2023 include:

- 17** Individuals moved out of homelessness into permanent housing (55 overall since inception of the program), with a projected nine more by the end of the year.
- 787** Times NPD requested CRU assistance, with 360 having mental health concerns as the primary reason for the request.
- 13** Individuals referred by Neighborhood Services that resulted in 88 calls for service. All referrals except one became code-compliant without citations.
- 16** People referred by the Northglenn Municipal Court, which resulted in 39 case management sessions. All became compliant.
- 267** Times community partners requested CRU services.
- 50** Encampments responded to.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Access to reliable, high-speed and affordable broadband and cable programming is a priority for the City.

Therefore, the City:

- ◆ Supports the retention of municipal regulatory authority over broadband and cable television systems.
- ◆ Supports affordable access by all municipalities to state-of-the-art telecommunication and information services.
- ◆ Opposes Federal or State restrictions on local control of municipal rights-of-way

or on the authority of local governments to develop or acquire their own telecommunications infrastructure.

- ◆ Opposes Federal or State restrictions on municipal franchising, regulatory and taxing authority over telecommunications systems.

SUPPORT/OPPOSE

The City took positions on these measures in 2023:

SUPPORTED

- **HB 23-1101:** Ozone Season Transit Grant Program Flexibility, Reps. Vigil and Bacon, Sen. Winter
- **HB 23-1202:** Overdose Prevention Center Authorization, Reps. Epps and Willford, Sens. Priola and Gonzales
- **SB 23-022:** Possession of Weapon by Previous Offender Crimes, Sen. Hinrichsen and Rep. Bird
- **SB 23-097:** Motor Vehicle Theft and Unauthorized Use, Sens. Zenzinger and Gardner, Reps. Bird and Soper
- **SB 23-150:** Require Labeling Disposable Wipes, Sens. Roberts and Will, Reps. Froelich and Frizell

OPPOSED

- **HB 23-1169:** Limit Arrest for Low-Level Offenses, Rep. Bacon
- **SB 23-213:** Land Use, Sen. Moreno, Reps. Jodeh and Woodrow

AMENDED

- **HB 23-1057:** Amenities for All Genders in Public Buildings, Reps. McCormick and Vigil, Sen. Jaquez Lewis
- **HB 23-1255:** Regulating Local Housing Growth Restrictions, Reps. Lindstedt and Dickson, Sen. Gonzales

MONITORED

- **HB 23-1090:** Limit Metropolitan District Director Conflicts, Rep. Weissman
- **HB 23-1115:** Repeal Prohibition Local Residential Rent Control, Reps. Mabrey and Velasco, Sen. Rodriguez
- **HB 23-1190:** Affordable Housing Right of First Refusal, Reps. Boesenecker and Sirota, Sen. Winter
- **SB 23-111:** Public Employees' Workplace Protection, Sen. Rodriguez and Rep. Woodrow
- **SB 23-254:** Search Warrant Procedures, Sens. Fields and Gonzales, Reps. Epps and Weissman

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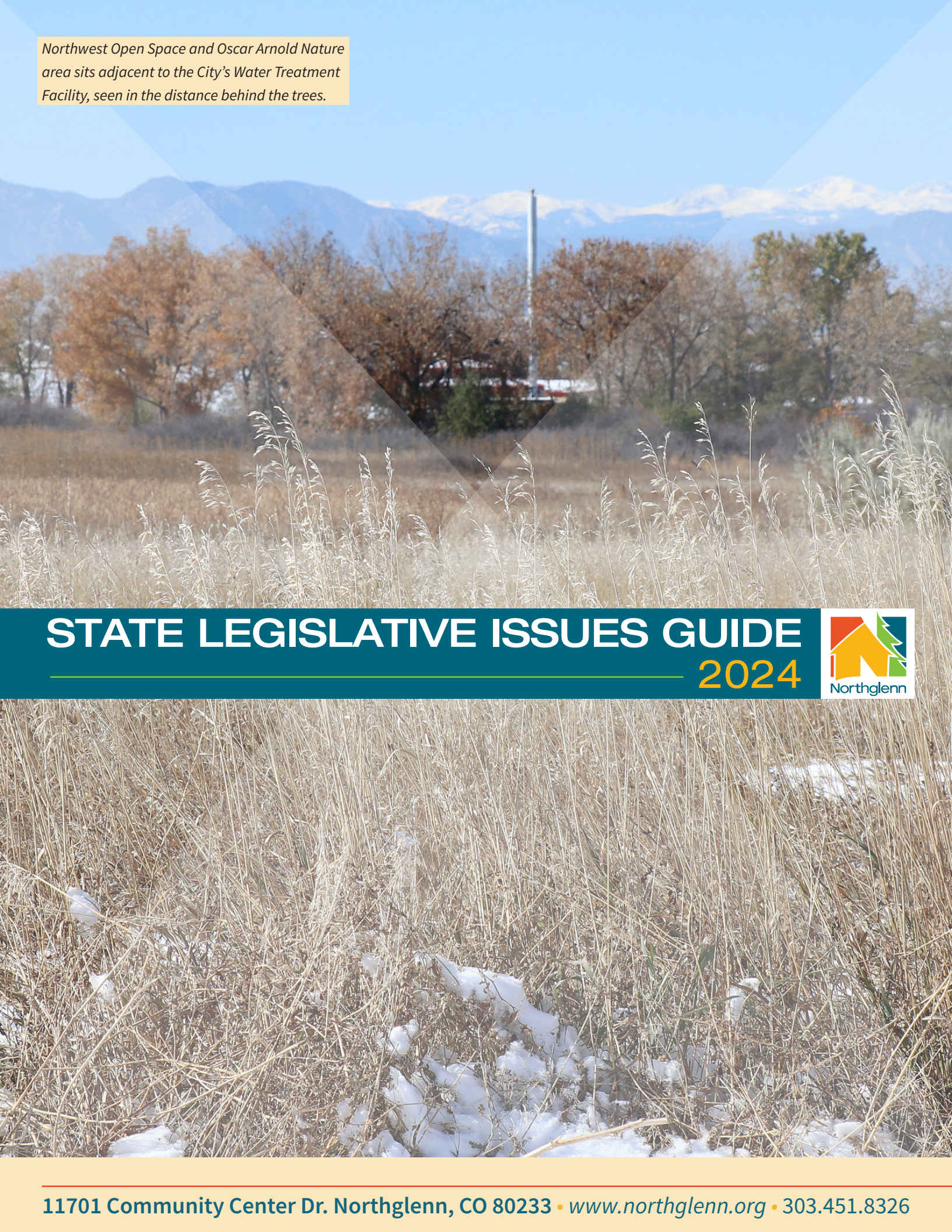
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Northwest Open Space and Oscar Arnold Nature area sits adjacent to the City's Water Treatment Facility, seen in the distance behind the trees.



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2024

