



# CITY LINK WINTER 2022

fruita.org | 858-3663 | 325 E. Aspen Ave.

## FRUITA MOUNTAIN PROPERTIES HISTORY AND CHALLENGES

### History of Fruita Mountain Properties

Did you know that the City of Fruita owns land, water rights, and a water supply system on Pinon Mesa, south of Glade Park? The City of Fruita owns four reservoirs on the Pinon Mesa near Glade Park, CO. This is why the area is called the Fruita Division of the Grand Mesa National Forest.

Historically, (prior to 1980) these reservoirs supplied domestic water to Fruita. As Fruita grew, the water from the reservoirs was not sufficient for Fruita. In 1983 (when Fruita's population was only 3,668), Fruita entered into an agreement with Ute Water to become the domestic water provider in Fruita. Knowing that water resources in the western United States were limited, the City of Fruita decided to retain these water rights. Today, it is not possible to bring the water into Fruita City limits and there is not a pipeline from the reservoirs to the City (Fun Fact! The original pipeline

was 23 miles and made of wood. The pipeline was built by hand and laid by hand in the late 1800s from Pinon Mesa and over the Colorado National Monument's terrain to supply Fruita's original drinking water starting in 1907). Even if there was a way to feasibly get the water to Fruita, it is not enough to supply the nearly 14,000 residents who live here, as it was not enough when there were less than 4,000 residents.

Today, these reservoirs are for recreational use and deliver water to the Glade Park area for irrigation. The City continues to maintain the reservoirs and land acquired to protect the City's watershed. Most of the properties are surrounded by U.S. Forest Service properties and allow for dispersed camping, picnicking, hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking, and ATV trails. The only reservoir not within the National Forest area is Enoch's Lake, which is surrounded (CONT p.2)

## CITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT



Aaron Hancey was sworn into the Fruita City Council on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 after the City Council held interviews to fill the vacant Council seat. After

interviewing five applicants, Councilor Hancey was chosen by the Fruita City Council to fill the vacant seat that followed after Heather O'Brien resigned from the Council. Councilor Hancey will fill the remainder of the term ending April 18, 2024.

"I appreciate the trust the City Council has put in me to fill the vacancy of the open City Council seat." – Aaron Hancey.

Aaron believes that the essence of being an elected representative of our community here in Fruita includes enormous responsibility, high expectations, exceptional performance, unparalleled integrity, and unwavering trust. Aaron values the community's voice and aims to magnify all the good Fruita offers, while responsibly contributing to the management of its future growth.

**FRUITA CITY COUNCIL:** If calling City Hall at 858-3663 does not answer your questions, please feel free to contact any of your City Council Members.



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JOEL KINCAID  
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## CONTINUED STORY

# FRUITA MOUNTAIN PROPERTIES

### HISTORY AND CHALLENGES

by private properties. Over the years, Enoch's Lake was open for overnight camping but managing this isolated property (surrounded by private property owners) was too much of a strain on City resources and resulted in many issues for surrounding property owners. Today, Enoch's Lake is only open for day-use recreation.

The Fruita Division of the national forest is located just over an hour's drive south of Fruita and boasts over 7,300 acres of mountain properties with activities for those who enjoy the outdoors.

#### The Challenges We are Facing

The challenge the City of Fruita is facing today is repairing the dam at Reservoir #2, managing land so far from the City, and keeping it accessible to the public. Fruita Reservoir #2 is currently on a "No Fill Order" by the State of Colorado Division of Water Resources. This means the City is losing 168 acre-feet of water storage volume. The City of Fruita's goal is to repair Fruita Reservoir #2, removing the "No Fill" order by the State of Colorado Division of Water Resources to allow water storage in the reservoir. By repairing the reservoir, water storage volume and water quality would increase. The repair would

provide improved delivery of water for agriculture water management, water quality management, and public recreation. To help fix Reservoir #2, the City of Fruita is working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program for planning assistance. Through the NRCS, the City of Fruita will determine how feasible it will be to fix Reservoir #2.

#### Working to Find a Solution

The City of Fruita's number one goal is to provide necessary core services to residents and businesses in the community. As an organization, the City is focused on aligning resources, time, and talent to provide high-quality services while impacting and increasing the quality of place, economic health, and lifestyle of the Fruita community. The Fruita Mountain Properties have provided necessary services to Fruita in the past and today provide recreational opportunities for all. The City of Fruita is working diligently to find a solution and possible partnerships to maintain these water rights and public access for recreational opportunities while ensuring the costs of maintenance to these properties do not impact the quality of services provided to the Fruita community within City limits.



## PREPARE FOR WINTER: SNOW REMOVAL

When it snows in Fruita, you can be confident our street crews are equipped and ready to remove snow to ensure Fruita's transportation system remains safe and accessible. This includes snow plowing and anti-icing operations that prioritize critical arterials for commercial corridors, school routes, emergency services, and City facilities.

#### Residents Responsibility

Property owners are responsible for keeping all sidewalks adjoining their property free of snow and ice. Snow and ice need to be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall.

#### Business Owner Responsibility

Business owners with sidewalks outside their business, must have snow and ice removed within two hours after a storm stops. If the snow occurs at night, snow and ice need to be removed by 10 a.m. the following day.

## HOLIDAY COOKING & SEWER LINES

City crews estimate they remove 1,500 - 2,000 gallons of fats, oils, and grease from sewer lines each week! When fats, oils, and grease (FOG) are poured down the sink, large thick grease collects and blocks pipes. This can lead to sewer backups, overflows, and contamination of local waterways.

#### What is FOG?

FOG refers specifically to fats, oils, and grease when poured down the drain in homes, apartments, businesses, restaurants, and public facilities. Typically, FOG is a byproduct of cooking. The following are common FOGs to avoid pouring down the drain.

- Butter, lard, shortening
- Cooking oil
- Fats and oils from cooked meats
- Food scraps
- Milk and heavy creams

#### How You Can Help

When cooking, you can help dispose of FOG by using a can to dispose of cooking grease, wiping pans before washing them in the sink, and throwing away or composting food scraps instead of tossing them down the drain.





# 2023 BUDGET ADOPTED BY THE FRUITA CITY COUNCIL

During the regular City Council meeting on December 6, 2022, the Fruita City Council formally adopted the 2023 Municipal Budget. The City’s annual budget mirrors the priorities outlined in the Fruita Strategic Plan while also providing essential core services and aligning with the City’s core values. The Fruita Strategic Plan outlines priorities for the next two to four years based on the City’s long-term planning documents including the 10-year Fruita in Motion Comprehensive Plan, master plans, and the 2021 community survey results. The plan serves as a guide for City Council and staff in the creation of the City Annual Budget. To learn more about the Fruita Strategic Plan, visit [fruita.org](http://fruita.org). The 2023 Adopted Budget reflects the commitment of the City Council and staff to achieve a balance of a conservative fiscal policy while also allocating time, talent, and resources to defined areas of Fruita’s Economic Health, Quality of Place, and Lifestyle.

In the budget, you will see significant investments in the City’s capital infrastructure. Based on the 2021 Community Survey, the top two goals for the community were to focus on the quality of City streets and managing traffic flow and congestion. In 2023, the City is devoting 10 percent of revenues, combined with fees, grants, and the fund balance to capital projects. Capital projects focused on road improvements and limiting traffic congestion include safety enhancements to South Mesa Street, road overlays, taking the first steps in widening 19 Road, and other projects like chip sealing, sidewalk replacement, and street striping. In addition to these infrastructure projects, the City is investing in Fruita’s quality of place and community wellness by constructing a dog park, renovating Reed Park, replacing the playground at Prospector Park, as well as many improvements to the Fruita Community Center.

These are only a few of the projects and items that are included in the 2023 City of Fruita Municipal Budget. The budget includes \$27.3 million in projected revenues (excluding transfers from other funds and other financing sources), and \$30 million in proposed expenditures between all funds. The City of Fruita is utilizing savings from previous years to help with the costs of some of the large-scale infrastructure projects. The full budget can be found on our website at [fruita.org/budget](http://fruita.org/budget). If you have any questions, please feel free to email them to [communications@fruita.org](mailto:communications@fruita.org).



## UTILITY RATE CHANGE IN 2023

Following the adoption of the 2023 Budget, the following utility rate changes will be effective January 1, 2023.

### Solid Waste Collection (Trash) Services

- Unlimited Residential and Pilot Program Areas - \$17.70/month. Increase of \$2.40/month.
- Unlimited Residential Senior Rate and Pilot Program Areas\* - \$15.50/ month. Increase of \$2.20/month.
- 96 Gallon Cart (excluding pilot program areas) - \$19.20/ month. Increase of \$2.60/ month.
- 96 Gallon Cart Senior Rate (excluding pilot program areas) - \$16.60/month. Increase of \$2.00/ month.

### Sewer Services

- Residential – \$51/month. Increase of \$1/month.
- Residential senior/income eligibility rate\* - \$20.50/ month. Increase of \$0.40/ month.
- Commercial Base Rate - \$58.50/ month. Increase of \$1.15/month.
- Volume Charges
  - 5,000 to 105,000 - \$7.65/1,000 gallons. Increase of \$0.15/1,000 gallons.
  - 105,000 gallons plus - \$4.75/1,000 gallons. Increase of \$0.10/1,000 gallons.
  - Plant Investment Fee for single family residence - \$7,000. No change.

### Irrigation Water

- City maintained irrigation system - \$150/ year. No change.
- Water share rental - \$27.00. Increase of \$1 per year.
- Irrigation tap - \$750. No change.

\*Senior rates – Age and income eligibility requirements apply. Must be 62 years of age and annual income equal to or less than 133% of the federal poverty level or \$18,075/year for single individual and \$24,352/year for a couple.



**FRUITA**  
COLORADO

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PRESORT STD.  
US POSTAGE  
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GRAND JCT., CO  
PERMIT NO. 134

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

1/20	Night at the FCC	7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Fruita Community Center
2/11	Sweetheart 5K/10K Run	10:00 a.m.	Fruita Community Center
3/3	Night at the FCC	7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Fruita Community Center
3/29	Back to Summer Fair	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Fruita Community Center
4/5	Easter Egg Scramble	4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., 5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Fruita Community Center
4/14-4/16	Desert Rats Trail Running Festival	Open Venue	Various Trails Around Fruita
4/29	Fishing is Fun	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Snooks Bottom Open Space
5/5-5/6	18 Hours of Fruita	Open Venue	Highline Lake State Park
5/6-5/7	Adventure Fest	Open Venue	18 Road Trailhead
5/11-5/14	Fruita Fat Tire Festival	Open Venue	Downtown Fruita & 18 Road Trailhead
5/14	CO2UT	Open Venue	Downtown Fruita
6/2-6/3	Mike the Headless Chicken Festival	Open Venue	Downtown Fruita

**For more information, or if you don't see the event you were looking for:**

City of Fruita, [fruita.org/calendar](http://fruita.org/calendar), 970-858-0360

Fruita Tourism, [gofruita.com](http://gofruita.com)

Fruita Chamber of Commerce, [fruitachamber.org](http://fruitachamber.org), 970-858-3894