



2019 | Annual Report

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Erger's Pond Augmentation Station-**Award for Project Excellence-Environment**, American Public Works Association Colorado Chapter
- **Bike Friendly Community-Honorable Mention**, League of American Bicyclists
- **Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting**, Government Finance Officers Association
- Brighton Youth Commission-nominated for **Community Organization of the Year**, Brighton Chamber of Commerce
- **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**, Government Finance Officers Association
- Brighton Youth Commission, **Healing Hearts Award**
- Selected for **National Trust** historic sites tour
- Brighton City Museum-**Reaching In Award**, 27J Schools
- **Sean May Leadership Award**, 17th Judicial District
- The Armory-**Top Brighton Attraction**, Brighton Chamber of Commerce
- Festival of Lights-nominated for **Top Brighton Attraction**, Brighton Chamber of Commerce
- **Tree City USA**, The Arbor Day Foundation

The Brighton-Commerce City Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF) was awarded the **Sean May Leadership Award** by the 17th Judicial District. This award recognizes, "outstanding leadership that has resulted in a measurable difference in services for victims of crime." Learn more about SATF on page 13.



The City of Brighton received an **American Public Works Association Colorado Chapter Award** for its work on the Erger's Pond Augmentation Station (pictured). This award recognizes outstanding project management and construction including excellence in safety, community engagement, environmental protection, and quality. Learn more about the project and award on page 5.



OUR LITTLE, BIG CITY

Brighton is a vibrant, close-knit community that deeply values its history and agricultural roots while embracing progress, innovation and sustainable growth. Located just 20 miles north of downtown Denver and 20 minutes from Denver International Airport, Brighton is ideally located at the crossroads of everything. This connection has helped drive robust population growth, seeing the community nearly double from 21,000 to 40,000 residents in a decade.

Other draws include a strong, well-educated workforce, and an enticing mix of recreation, culture, and entertainment including parkland, trails, a historic downtown, shopping and dining amenities. The City is also home to an array of beloved regional events including Summerfest, 4th of July, Egg Dash, Art in the Park, Brighton BBQ, Turkey Trot and Festival of Lights.



235 acres of parkland
= **178** football fields



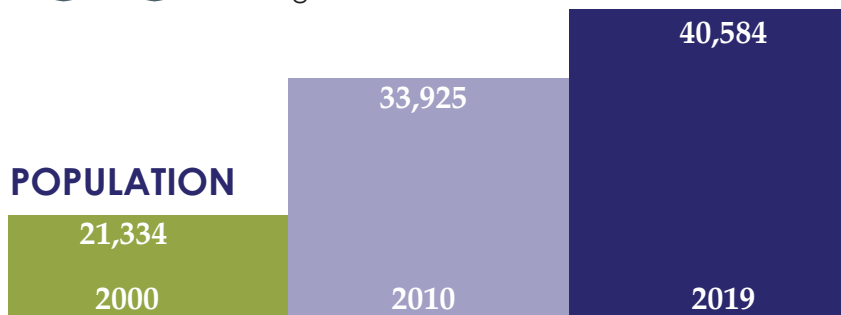
45 buildings
with historic
designation

956 acres of open space and
protected farmland =
724 football fields



Over **27** miles
of biking and
walking trails

POPULATION



Facilities, Amenities, and Open Space



Financially Responsible



Innovative, Data-Driven, Results-Focused City Government



Recognizable and Well-Planned Community



Safe, Active, and Engaged Community



Strong Local Employment Opportunities



Strong Regional Relationships and Partnerships



Supportive Sustainable Infrastructure

A STRATEGIC VISION

In 2018, the City Council adopted its first Strategic Plan, setting priorities and values for the City long-term, including:

- Supportive, Sustainable Infrastructure
- Financially Responsible
- Facilities, Amenities, and Open Space
- Safe, Active, and Engaged Community
- Strong Local Employment Opportunities
- Recognizable, and Well-Planned Community
- Innovative, Data-Driven, Results-focused Government
- Strong Regional Relationships and Partnerships

Council then worked with staff to define a Business Plan with key goals for moving these priorities forward over the next two years. This year's annual report addresses progress made on these goals and the vision as a whole. Council will meet in the spring of 2020 to update these goals for the next two years. More information on the Strategic Plan and the City's progress can be found at brightonco.gov/On-Track.



SUPPORTIVE, SUSTAINABLE, INFRASTRUCTURE

Brighton, Colorado is committed to investing in existing and future transportation, water, wastewater, storm water, and technology networks while planning for sustainable growth.



Crack Seal Repair



Water Tower Rehab



Vision Zero Marking

The City saw its biggest year for capital projects and capital maintenance in 2019 with **\$19.9M** spent on **expanding or maintaining the City's assets**.

The Infrastructure team **rewired four intersections** at Bromley Lane and 27th Avenue, 34th Avenue and Bromley Lane, Prairie Center Parkway and East Bromley Lane, and Prairie Center Parkway and 144th Avenue. Over time, damage to wires can cause lights to not change properly, so the City must regularly rewire them to maintain a safe traffic flow.

\$2.4M was spent on the **largest street maintenance package** in recent memory including resurfacing, crack repair, and sealing.

2019 was also one of the City's largest years overall for capital maintenance.

The City's **8.3M gallon water tank was rehabilitated**, extending the life of this asset **30 years**. The rehabilitation of this tank was significant as the City needed to fully drain the tank for crews to get inside and complete repairs. Additionally, since gravity plays a large role in determining water pressure, several motors had to be installed to ensure continued service to the furthest points in the community.

Two major growth projects for the City also kicked-off in 2019. The **Greensand Water Treatment Plant** expansion is a multi-year project to expand the City's water treatment capacity to meet future demand, and the **Municipal Service Center** is a multi-year project to consolidate the City's construction and maintenance resources under one roof for more efficient operations.



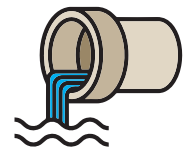
398 Lane miles of road in the City



5M gallons of water consumed daily



1,918M gallons of water pumped



656M gallons of wastewater treated

ERGER'S POND AUGMENTATION STATION

Environmental Excellence, Award Winning Innovation

The Erger's Pond Augmentation Station was developed out of a need to expand the City's water resources to meet growth. Two raw water pumps were constructed to allow the transfer of water between the South Platte River and Erger's Pond, one of the City's water reservoirs. This project was innovative in that it allows water to move both ways. During high flows the City can divert water to its reservoir, and when the river is low, water can be pumped back in to maintain healthy river flows. In 2019, the City was able to fully fill Erger's Pond using 100 percent free river water.

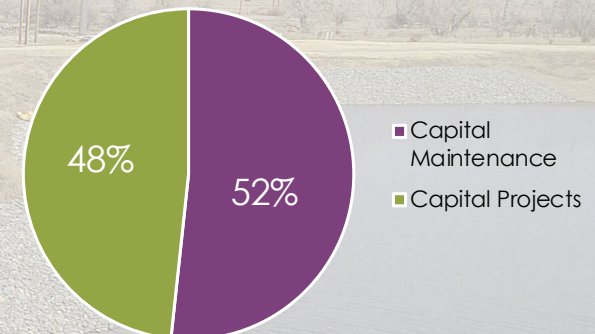


Erger's Pond Augmentation Station

What is Capital?

Capital Projects are one-time expenditures that add new or greatly enhance City assets such as new roads, facilities or equipment.

Capital Maintenance is ongoing repairs and maintenance necessary to keep assets in good working order. When evaluating new capital projects, the City not only looks at the cost to construct or purchase an item, but what it will cost to maintain for the life of the item. The below breakdown shows how the **\$19.9M** in capital was spent for 2019.



Highlights

21

Lane miles of road repaired or resurfaced. The most ever in one year.

100

Percent of Brighton public schools receiving Vision Zero upgrades to reduce traffic fatalities.

1,500

Acre feet of new water storage completed in 2019.



FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE

The City of Brighton identifies, plans, and utilizes resources in a way that positively impacts the lives of those who call Brighton home today and those who will call Brighton home tomorrow.

In 2019 the City welcomed a **new Finance team**, led by a new Director of Finance, Maria Ostrom. This team quickly got to work on key Council priorities, strengthening the financial sustainability of the City, and bringing an educational and customer-friendly approach to finance.

Customer-friendly changes included **streamlining sales tax licensing** to make it easier for small businesses to operate in our City and combining Utility Billing and Water Meter Reading under a new Utility Billing Customer Service division.

The team introduced a number of new policies to help the City better track revenues and expenditures such as **new procurement, grant, travel, and purchasing card policies. Monthly financial reporting, capital project tracking systems, and a new budget book** format were also created to improve communication between staff and Council regarding progress on key projects and operations. **Ten-year models** for projected revenues and expenditures allow the City to make sustainable financial decisions.

In November 2019, Brighton City Council approved an **eight percent** reduction in water and wastewater rates. The reduced rates went into effect in January 2020.

This reduction aligns rates with future spending needs while allowing the City to continue providing safe and clean drinking water. The average family can expect to see their monthly utility bill decrease by approximately **\$9** in summer months and **\$5** in winter months.

Utility	2020 Fixed Rate
Water	\$14.72 / Month
Sewer	\$11.96 / Month
Storm Drainage	\$5.50 / Month
Water (contract surcharge)	\$4.60 / Month

Utility	2020 User Rate
Water 0-3000	\$2.58 / 1,000 Gal
3001-20,000	\$4.73 / 1,000 Gal
20,001-30,000	\$5.10 / 1,000 Gal
30,001-40,000	\$5.52 / 1,000 Gal
40,000+	\$6.44 / 1,000 Gal
Sewer (3,000 gallon minimum for sewer)	\$4.55 / 1,000 Gal

90+ years
combined financial
experience on the
City's new Finance
team

Certifications in:
Public Accounting
Grants Management
Fidelity & Surety
Bonding
LEAN Black Belt

Clean
audit of 2018
financial
statements

FACILITIES, AMENITIES, AND OPEN SPACE



The City of Brighton prioritizes and balances capital needs and wants of the City, secures and protects open space ensuring it will remain for future generations, and provides desirable amenities that reflect a diverse community.



1



4



2



3

Colorado Front Range Trail

The State of Colorado kicked-off the Colorado Front Range Trail project back in 2003 with a vision to connect New Mexico to Wyoming via a multi-purpose trail. Brighton is excited to announce that after nearly two decades of work, construction of the Brighton portion of this trail was finally completed in 2019.

The Brighton portion spans from **Veteran's Park at Highway 7 all the way to E-470**, and is the longest continuous trail in the City. Combined with portions in neighboring communities, residents can bike from Brighton through Denver all the way to the Chatfield Reservoir in 2020.

2019 was a big year for Brighton's parks and recreation amenities. There were more than **240,000** visits to the Brighton Recreation Center, Eagle View Active Adult Center, and the Brighton Oasis Family Aquatic Park, and countless visitors to our vast network of parks, open space, and trails.

Two new parks were also added: Harvest Park in Brighton East Park and Golden Eagle Park near Prairie Center, bringing us to a **total of 41 parks** throughout the City.

The City also kicked-off construction of a **new downtown plaza**. This will provide a gathering space for visitors and families in the heart of downtown and a central point for events.

Pictured

1. Conceptual drawing of Downtown Plaza
2. Funshine Summer Camp
3. Eagle View Adult Center services
4. Volunteers from the Butterfly Pavilion install an educational pollinator garden at the Mattive Open Space.



SAFE, ACTIVE, ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Residents of Brighton enjoy peace of mind knowing they live in safe, secure, and inclusive neighborhoods and take advantage of the many active recreational opportunities available to them. We value our neighbors and together work for success.



63,592

calls for service



1,951

arrests made



30,000+

Attendees at City
events



6,000

lights at the 24th
Annual Festival of
Lights Parade

In 2019, Council made public safety enhancements a top priority. Due to the rapid growth of the community, the Police Department had become overstretched. In May, Council directed staff to use Oil and Gas revenues to support enhancements to the Police Department. This included the hiring of **six new police officers** and making sure that all officers had all the safety equipment they needed to respond to calls.

With these funds, the Police Department was able to outfit their operation with **active shooter response kits** which provide the necessary armor to allow officers to respond immediately in an active shooter situation.

They were also able to purchase **laptops for every officer** to be able to use at any job site including in patrol vehicles. This allows officers to do their job more efficiently and be out on the road more as they can update reports in the field and do searches on suspicious vehicles. Previously, many officers would have to return to the station to complete this.

The Police Department also introduced its new **Youth Services Officers program**. Previously, School Resource Officers would be placed

on regular patrol during the summer months, but under this new program they spend their time on bike or foot visiting at risk youth. This allows them to meet and connect with the children they work with during the school year, strengthen relationships, and help kids stay out of trouble.

Like many cities across the nation, the Brighton Police Department has faced challenges in recruiting and retaining quality officers. In 2019, the department streamlined their recruitment process by outsourcing background checks on candidates. Now they are able to get more thorough background information while **cutting the recruitment time for candidates in half!**





4th of July

In addition to a focus on public safety, 2019 was a successful year for the City's various engagement programs, with over **30,000 visitors** to City events including Summerfest, 4th of July, Festival of Lights, Touch-a-Truck and more. All these events were pulled-off without a single incident.

The City's Growing Grads program assisted **75 local students** with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and sent **80 students** through a full-day workshop on completing resumes and practicing one-on-one interviews.



Wreaths Across America

The City was also able to place **nine students** in internships with the City in areas such as information technology, public works, the police department, and finance.

The City's annual **Image Summit** brought **300 youth from across the state to Brighton**. This is a two-day youth leadership conference where youth build confidence, learn how to use their voice to influence policy, and get to meet elected officials from across the state.



Brighton Youth Commission

The Brighton Youth Commission also hosted its annual SPEAK Week and 5k walk to raise money and awareness for suicide prevention. For 2019, educational programs were offered in **14 Brighton 27J schools**, and over **\$5,000 was raised** through the 5k Walk.

The City also hosted its first annual Wreaths Across America event. Volunteers donated their time and



Community Policing

money to help lay **340 wreaths** on the headstones of fallen veterans at Elmwood Cemetery. The City is already planning their 2020 event, where they hope to see that **grow to 1,000**.

The City Clerk's Office had a busy year in 2019, administering the regularly scheduled City Council election, a special run-off election for Ward 4, and certifying the mayoral recall petition. **And the work's not over!** The team is already busy preparing for another special election for the vacant Ward 2 Council seat this April.



Festival of Lights



STRONG LOCAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Brighton is a prosperous community that attracts innovative business and industries that offer economic security to their employees. The community supports educational opportunities that ensure a qualified workforce for local industries.



24

New business
licenses issued



13

Commercial
Permits Issued



3.8%

Unemployment
Rate



240

Jobs added

Brighton Investment Program

The Brighton Economic Development Corporation launched its second year of the Brighton Investment Program. This program assists small businesses in the community with workforce training and interior upgrades or exterior upgrades that facilitate the creation or retention of jobs. **Ten businesses** received funding in 2019.



76 Commerce Center

The first phase of a **1.8M square-foot**, Class A industrial park broke ground in 2019. The development will be an ultra-modern industrial business center with immediate access to Interstate 76 and include a variety of building types such as warehouse, office, and manufacturing. This project fills a regional market need for industrial space with easy access to Denver International Airport and the rest of the Front Range.



Rocky Mountain Prestress Wells Concrete

The City also welcomed Rocky Mountain Prestress Wells Concrete in 2019. The new 100,000+ square foot plant is expected to **create over 200 jobs** and will open in 2020. The plant will produce structural and architectural precast products, and is one of the top three producers in the nation.

RECONGNIZABLE AND WELL-PLANNED COMMUNITY



Brighton's unique history and culture provides the foundation for a well-planned and authentic community identity. We add economic value by incorporating our distinct identity into our plans for the future.



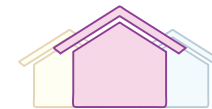
\$1,139,145+
in public art
displayed over
the last decade



751
pieces of local
art displayed in
2019



45
buildings
with historical
designation



500
residential permits
Issued



120+
updates to the
Land Use Code

Land Use and Development Code

In 2019, the City took the next step in implementing its Be Brighton Comprehensive Plan with **updates to the Land Use and Development Code**. This included reviewing existing code to identify conflicts with the new plan and developing amendments so that the code could support the community vision.

This **two-year process** featured several public engagement events including a Development Collaborative open house in June and tours of neighborhoods and facilities that were similar to the Be Brighton vision.

The updates to the Land Use Code sought to coordinate requirements for **streets and connectivity, access, parking, landscaping, signage, lighting, and setbacks** with the Be Brighton Community vision. This included facilitating active lifestyles and multi-modal transportation, protecting our heritage and strengthening the City's identity, and building a sustainable community.

The 2019 Sculpture on Loan Program added **five** new pieces of art to Carmichael Park. This is the third year of the program. The City also awarded **\$155,000** in grants to support the arts.



Bromley/Koizuma-Hishinuma Farm



INNOVATIVE, DATA-DRIVEN, RESULTS-FOCUSED GOVERNMENT

Brighton is a nationally recognized smart City that combines resident engagement with data-driven inquiry and problem solving. Brighton efficiently executes adopted plans and integrates best practices from wherever they may originate in the world.



In 2019, the City rolled out **See Click Fix** (pictured left and right), a mobile tool for reporting potholes, code enforcement issues, and other maintenance concerns. Residents just download the app or go online, snap a picture, and answer a few questions, then staff is notified of the issue. Residents can go online or visit the app anytime to review the status of their request, or to see if a problem has already been reported by their neighbors.

The City created it's first **public dashboard** (pictured right) in 2019 to track progress on its Strategic Plan. The dashboard provides quarterly updates on key initiatives, including steps on-track (green) and steps completed (blue). The full dashboard can be found at brightonco.gov/on-track.



Strong Local Employment Opportunities

Submit a Request
<input type="text" value="Search for Category"/>
City of Brighton
Abandoned Vehicle
Animal Control
Blackout
Code Enforcement Violation
Damaged curb and gutter
Damaged or Dead Trees
Failed Communication
Failed detection

None of the accomplishments in 2019 would have been possible without a talented, dedicated workforce, and in 2019 the City made great strides to help Brighton attract the best and brightest as we enter a new decade. A **market study** on all City positions was completed in 2019 so the City could ensure competitive compensation with neighboring communities and new benefits such as **immediate vesting** were introduced. The **Zero Card** employee wellness program will help reduce out-of-pocket costs for employees to get labs, images, and physical therapy while also reducing the overall medical costs to the City.



Laurie Maier,
Employee of the Year
Jason Bradford,
Supervisor of the Year

STRONG REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Brighton strives to develop strong relationships with our public and private partners.



Lodging Tax

The City's lodging tax was approved by voters in 2011 for the purpose of supporting **economic development, events, arts, and other tourism activities**. Each year, the Lodging Tax Board reviews applications for grant funds, and makes a recommendation to the City Council on how to distribute those funds to community organizations. The breakdown of who received funds in 2019 is pictured right.



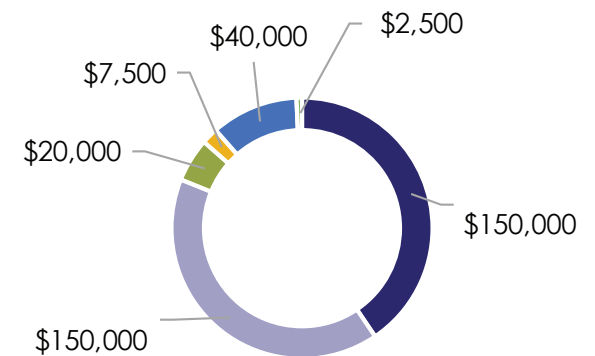
Farmland Preservation

Historic Splendid Valley is the moniker adopted in 2019 to promote a roughly **5,000 acre** area in the City of Brighton and Adams County that holds significant historical and agricultural value. In 2016, a joint-plan to preserve this land was adopted. The Historic Splendid Valley identity will be used to connect various initiatives that encourage local food production and promote agritourism.

Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF)

The Brighton-Commerce City Sexual Assault Task Force was formed in 2018 as an innovative partnership for addressing sex-related crimes. The SATF uses a victim-centered approach for investigating sex crimes and managing sex offenders. In 2018, the SATF handled 225 investigations, **69 percent** more than what each City did in 2017 combined. This is largely attributed to outreach and the **You Have Options Program** for reporting. In 2019, SATF was awarded the **Sean May Leadership Award**.

Funds Awarded



- Brighton Economic Development Corporation
- Brighton Cultural Arts Commission
- Office of Youth Services "Image Summit"
- Brighton Youth Commission "SPEAK Week"
- Brighton Chamber of Commerce
- Adams County



REVENUES

By Source

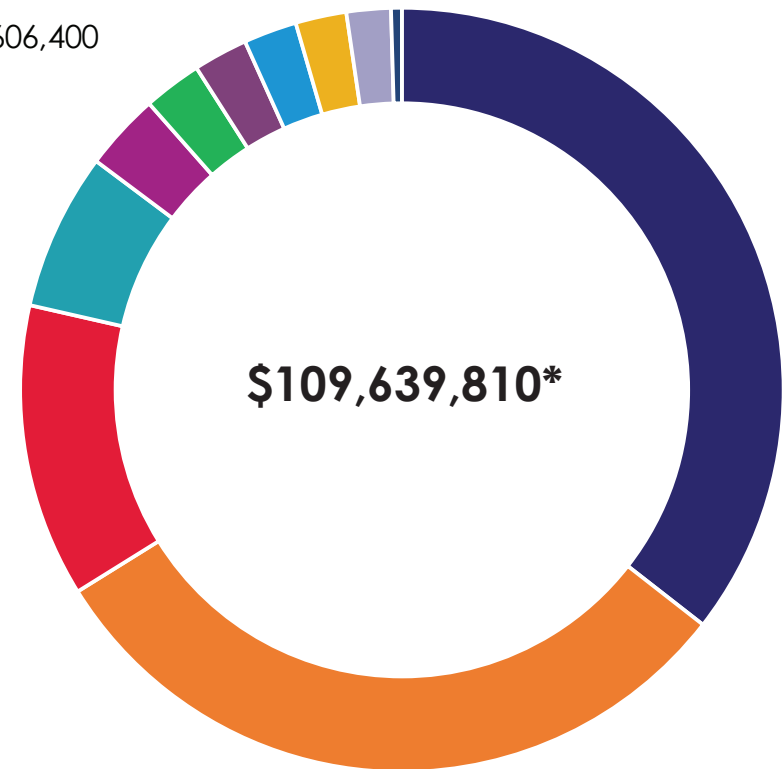
The primary source of revenues for the City of Brighton is sales tax. It is used to fund general operations and capital projects and maintenance such as streets, parks, and sidewalks. In 2019, the City saw a 10.1 percent increase in sales tax revenues over 2018.

Utility charges including wastewater, drainage, and water fees for service are the next highest source of revenue and can only be used to fund the operating and capital costs of the City's Utility Funds.

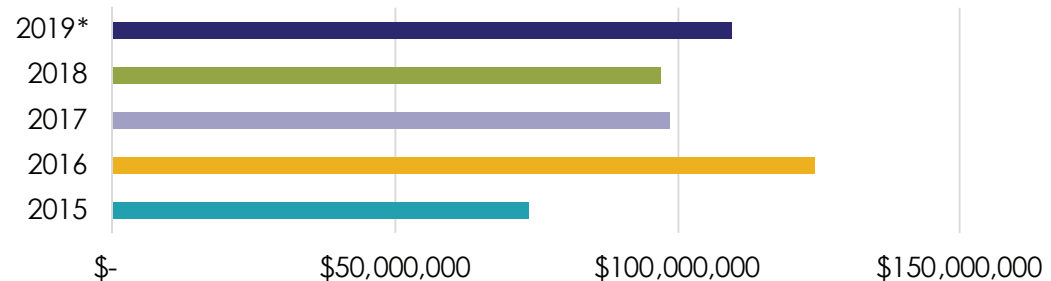
Charges for services reflect revenues from the City's recreation facilities, One-Stop Shop, and other miscellaneous fees.

Grants and Intergovernmental are monies awarded to the City by the federal government, state of Colorado, Adams County, and others for work on specific projects.

- Sales, Use & Other Taxes, \$38,960,587
- PIF & Impact Fees, \$13,606,400
- Grants and Intergov't, \$7,300,168
- Transfers In, \$3,576,777
- Property Tax, \$2,713,072
- Investment Earnings, \$2,525,323
- Miscellaneous, \$2,471,263
- Licenses and Permits, \$2,363,010
- Oil & Gas, \$2,057,039
- Fines & Forfeitures, \$499,292
- Charges for Service, \$33,566,879

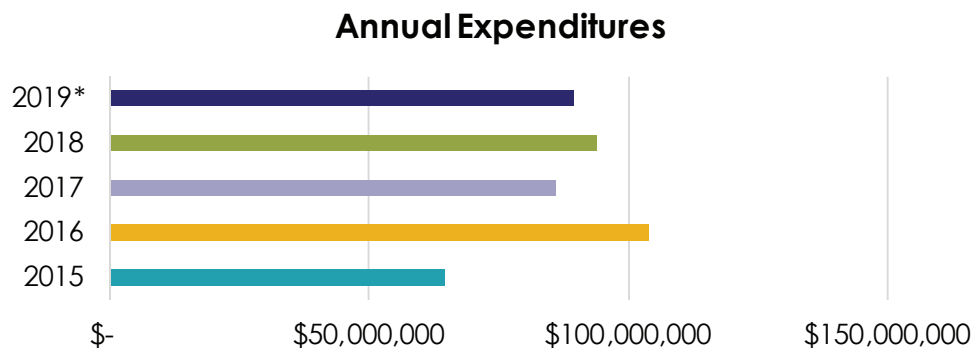
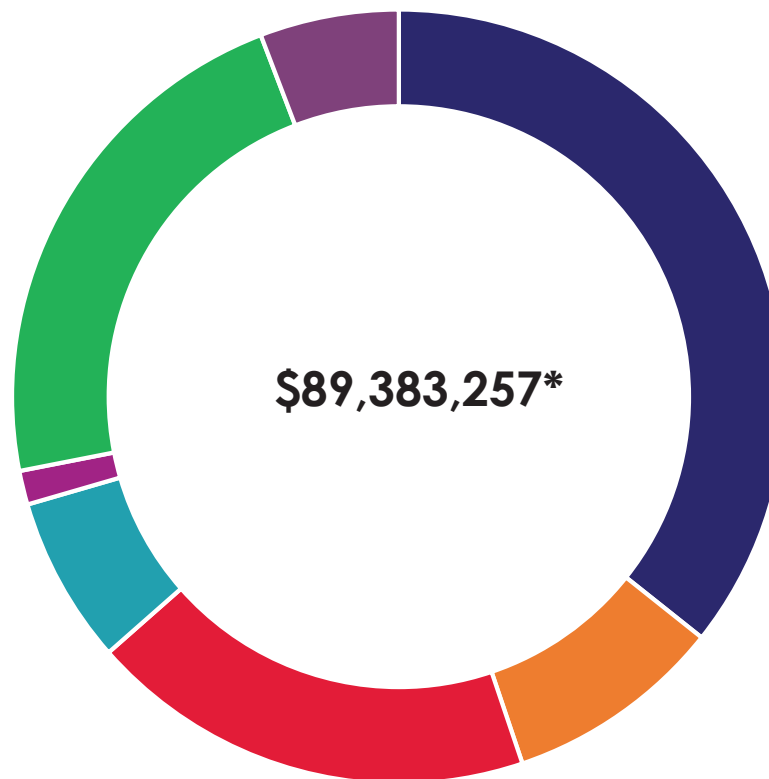


Annual Revenues



*2019 revenue numbers are unaudited. Final audited numbers will be available in the 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) this spring.

- Personnel Services,
\$31,899,076
- Purchased Services,
\$8,166,399
- Operating Expenditures,
\$16,701,710
- Capital Outlay,
\$19,901,414
- Reimbursements,
\$1,266,229
- Interfund Transfers Out,
\$6,253,858
- Debt Service,
\$5,194,572



*2019 expenditure numbers are unaudited. Final audited numbers will be available in the 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) this spring.

EXPENDITURES By Type

Personnel Services accounted for the greatest share of expenditures in 2019 and includes salaries and benefits for the City's 363.6 full-time employees, part-time employees, and seasonal employees.

Capital Outlay is the next highest expenditure in 2019. An overview of Capital Projects v. Capital Maintenance may be found on page 5.

Operating Expenditures reflect day-to-day operating expenses such as utilities, supplies, and equipment.

Purchased services are third-party contracts for work that the City does not have the staff or expertise to conduct in house, such as specialized legal services or engineering review.

COUNCIL

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GMills@brightonco.gov

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Mark Humbert, Ward 4
303-655-2269
MHumbert@brightonco.gov

GET ENGAGED

meetings of the City Council and
City boards and commissions are open to the public.

Council Meetings

7 p.m.
First and third Tuesday of each
month
First Floor Council Chambers
City Hall
500 S. Fourth Avenue
Brighton, CO 80601

Council Study Sessions

6:30 p.m.
Second and fourth Tuesday of
each month
Sixth Floor Study Session Room
City Hall
500 S. Fourth Avenue
Brighton, CO 80601

City Hall and Carmichael Park



BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Becoming a member of a Board or Commission is an excellent way for residents to become active in the decision-making process of City government by providing expertise in areas of individual interest.

Visit brightonco.gov/Boards-Commissions to learn more about current vacancies.

Historic City Hall



BrightonSM

City of Brighton
500 South 4th Avenue
Brighton, Colorado 80601
303-655-2000
brightonco.gov

STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected with the **City of Brighton**! Be the first to get all the latest news by signing up for our notifications on our website. Visit us on social media, or watch our programming on KBRI-8.

Never miss what's happening in your community.
WWW.BRIGHTONCO.GOV

The Brighton
CONNECTION



The Brighton **WEEKLY**

