



# Loveland's Mehaffey Park opens Aug. 1

**65-acre park offers plateful of amenities for the City's west side**

Sixty-nine acres of rolling land in northwest Loveland that for 80 years was a dryland wheat farm was so awash in spring rains this year that homestretch progress on the beautiful new Mehaffey Park was delayed.

Set that irony aside. Opening ceremonies on Aug. 1 will bring together planners of the seven-year project, residents of the west side neighborhoods it will serve, and the descendants of the pioneer families who settled the land 150 years ago.

"We might have a few signs up: 'Work in progress,'" Loveland Parks and Recreation Director Elizabeth Anderson said as hot, dry weather settled in in late June, allowing contractors to sprint toward the finish line.

"But Aug. 1 is the day. It will be a great occasion for Loveland."

Mehaffey is way more than a community park. It is a place where the union of art and history are nearly as important as

## Grand Opening Events

Mehaffey Park's grand opening begins at 10 a.m. Aug. 1, and includes a full day of activities. City officials, residents and members of the Mehaffey family will take part in the festivities. Parking areas are accessed from 29th and 22nd streets, west of Wilson Avenue. Look for signs.



**A small army** of stone workers from Colorado Hardscapes Inc. swarmed over Mehaffey Park in mid-June, racing to get the play area ready for the new community park's grand opening.

playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields and tennis courts.

Some of the City's most dramatic new additions of public sculpture are prominently placed in the park, each commemorating the Overland Trail that historians and archeologists agree took early pioneers near the park, if not straight through it.

A world-beating skate park with deep canyons of smooth concrete and a cultured-rock climbing wall that are at once challenging and safe are among the first-in-Loveland amenities Mehaffey offers.

The City's purchase of the park land from the Mehaffey family came with a guarantee that trees would be a main feature, even

(see **PARK** page 2)



**Sculptor Robert Tully's** three-part "Overland Trail Series" features this stone obelisk.





**PARK** (from page 1)  
though the land tract had been treeless for centuries.

Ray Mehaffey, retired district forester for the Colorado State Forest Service, specified that an arboretum be part of the plan.

More than 35 species of Colorado-suited trees are planted and more than a dozen interpretive signs, each containing original artwork, describe the collection.

Orchard plantings pay tribute to the role Loveland played as a fruit-growing center, especially as a cherry producer.

Ray Mehaffey and his wife, Sonja, joined Loveland parks manager Larry Callihan for a spring tour of the developing park.

“I’m very pleased with what they’ve done,” Mehaffey said, “and we’re excited about the park’s opening. We are going to have quite a picnic there when it’s open.”

**The undulating canyons** of Mehaffey’s skate park, above, are sure to become a top attraction. **Below**, sculptor Robert Tully’s “Compass,” part of his Overland Trail trilogy, opens up to the sky in the park’s center and will become its enduring trademark.





# New sustainable practice saves money and rebuilds formerly damaged soil

All things considered, the City of Loveland has recovered pretty well from the devastating flood of 2013. Our bridges have been rebuilt, the roads are repaired and the disaster seems to be fading with time.

However, when a series of heavy rains poured down on Loveland in May, many Loveland residents felt the hairs stand up on the back of their necks as they watched Big Thompson River levels rise. The infrastructure stood up to the rain well, but the devil is in the details. Now that the major repairs are done, the time has come to work on the little things that can make a big difference.

The City of Loveland honors Colorado's beautiful soil in every process we can. When the floodwaters raged through the water treatment plant 22 months ago, it took with it several layers of soil and vegetation along the Big Thompson River. Especially hard hit was the land below the plant commonly referred to as 'the Meadows.' The Meadows bore the brunt of the raging river as it barreled over Chasteen's Grove, exposing three vital water lines that fed the City of Loveland.

Last year, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment granted Loveland Water and Power (LWP) a permit for Beneficial Use of Water Treatment Residuals at the City's water treatment facility.

LWP gathers nutrient-rich residuals left over from the water treatment process, an abundant and natural resource, and applies it to the land adjacent to the plant to regrow plants and native grasses. The naked hill adjacent to the plant is already sprouting grass after only a couple of applications.

The water filtration process bares nitrogen-rich, organic

materials every day. Water flows into the plant from the Big Thompson River and Green Ridge Glade Reservoir for treatment around the clock.

During the process, chemicals are added to the water that force dirt, plant debris and microorganisms to stick together or coagulate. Once those solids coagulate, they settle to the bottom of a sedimentation basin.

The residual solids are removed from sedimentation basins two or three times per day and pumped into de-watering ponds where excess water is removed and returned to the Big Thompson River. When the solids content reaches 15 percent, the residuals are removed from the ponds and wind-rowed onto a sunny hill for further drying.

The application of the residuals not only feeds the nitrogen-starved soil around the plant, but it saves the City of Loveland hundreds of thousands of dollars in hauling and tipping fees for removal of solids to the landfill. The new process is both sustainable and practical.

When the residuals are completely dry, they are applied



**An excavator works** to dig out the original river channel following the September 2013 Flood.

evenly to the reclamation area near the treatment plant at 70 dry tons per acre. The volume is different per acre because the material has been dried to decrease the moisture level. Regular testing at an independent lab guarantees the absence of contaminants that could harm the soil.

As the residuals are returned to the earth, patches of grass are sprouting along the hillside that borders the treatment plant. The Meadows will receive applications of residuals all summer which will replenish ground that has been barren and infertile. By reusing and repurposing a resource that we produce abundantly, the City is saving money and perhaps more importantly, saving our soil.

**Below: New grass** begins to grow in the area known as 'the Meadows' below the Loveland Water Treatment Plant as a result of the nutrient-rich residuals.





## Annual Art Show weekend runs August 7-9

The Loveland Art Show weekend brings three days of world-class art, wine and entertainment to Loveland and northern Colorado. These events attract thousands of art enthusiasts and collectors from across the U.S. and abroad, annually.

The 32nd Annual Sculpture in the Park Show and Sale runs August 8-9 at Benson Sculpture Garden. It is the largest outdoor juried sculpture event in the United States.

This breath-taking sculpture show showcases over 2,000 pieces of sculpture created by sculptors from around the world. Sculpture in the Park 2015 will feature many artists who are participating for the first time.

The 49th annual Art in the Park, also August 8-9, features musical performances, a Beer & Wine Garden, 200 artists and artisans and activities for children.

The Loveland Fine Art and Wine Festival, held August 7-9, features a stunning outdoor gallery showcasing renowned artists from around the country displaying thousands of original works in a wide variety of mediums and subject matter.

For more information please visit:

- [sculptureinthepark.org](http://sculptureinthepark.org)
- [artintheparkloveland.com](http://artintheparkloveland.com)
- [vermillionpromotions.com](http://vermillionpromotions.com)



Photo: Josh Hardin, Colorado Life

## USA Pro Challenge bike race returns to Loveland

The USA Pro Challenge is once again returning to Loveland.

Departing again from the centrally located and accessible Ranch Events Complex in Loveland, racers will reprise much of the first half of the 2013 course, including fast and furious sprints in Downtown Loveland, in addition to a challenging, newly-added loop around scenic Carter Lake.

The Old Fashioned Corn Roast Festival, taking place in downtown Loveland on the same day, will offer great viewing locations as well as a parade, corn shucking competition,

corn eating contest, and all the roasted and boiled corn anyone could eat.

In addition, people of all ages will enjoy a variety of entertainment, great vendors and more. General attendance and all concerts are free and open to the public.

For Pro Challenge information including route, closures, parking and more, please call 962-2015 or go to [VisitLovelandCO.com](http://VisitLovelandCO.com).



Photo: DJR Imaging

### The 33rd Annual

Loveland

# VALLEY 5000

5K RUN / WALK

will be held August 28th

The presenting co-sponsors for this event are The City of Loveland, Banner Health, Madwire Media, and Home State Bank. Other co-sponsors are listed online. The run/walk will start & finish at Loveland's **Fairgrounds Park** 700 S. Railroad Avenue.

Every year a committee chooses a beneficiary; This year it is *The House of Neighborly Services*.

Call Jeanne: (970) 962-2432 for info, or register at: [www.Valley5000.com](http://www.Valley5000.com)



City of Loveland

You will find further information about this annual event online at: [www.CityofLoveland.org/V5K](http://www.CityofLoveland.org/V5K)

## FARMERS MARKET at Fairgrounds Park

700 S. Railroad Avenue - Pavilions 1 & 2

SUNDAYS - June 28<sup>th</sup> thru September 27<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Check out the wide variety of Vendors & Entertainment while enjoying the beautiful Fairgrounds Park setting!

Welcome Back to the Farmers Market at Fairgrounds Park in 2015

**Market Info:**

[www.CityofLoveland.org/FarmersMarket](http://www.CityofLoveland.org/FarmersMarket)

**Park Info:** [www.CityofLoveland.org/Parks](http://www.CityofLoveland.org/Parks)

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## Expansion of Water Treatment Plant in step with City's projected growth

The \$24 million improvement project to expand the City of Loveland's Water Treatment Plant is in full swing. As *City Update* was headed to press, the plant was approximately 45 percent complete. The project is scheduled to be finished in July 2016.

Plans to expand the plant have been underway for many years as Loveland Water and Power (LWP) personnel have anticipated the need to keep up with the water demands of a growing population.

On a normal winter day the plant treats about 6.5 million gallons of water per day. However, during peak demand days that occur during hot summer days, the plant may process more than 27 million gallons of water, just shy of its maximum capacity of 30 million gallons per day. These peak demands, predictions that the City's population will double by 2040, and needed upgrades and improvements to the entire treatment system necessitated the expansion.

"It's one of Loveland Water and Power's top priorities to meet the expected population growth demand, as well as increase the reliability of service to our customers," said Tom Greene, project manager.

### Designed for the future

With the City's population growth in mind, the design team looked at the site to optimize the required buildings and needed infrastructure to expand the treated water capacity from 30 million gallons per day to 38 million gallons per day. This expansion will also lay the groundwork for

additional expansion in the future to 46 million gallons per day.

In addition to capacity issues, the design team has focused on meeting the stringent drinking water standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency that are enforced and monitored by the Colorado Department Public Health and Environment.

Adding redundancy and alarm monitoring for certain drinking water standards are major design considerations. These new automated processes will complement and enhance the monitoring that is already carried out by LWP staff and will increase the plant's overall performance and efficiency.

### The expanded plant will include

- A new 8 million gallon per day filter plant building with provisions to expand in the future
- A new chemical storage building sized to be able to eventually treat 46 million gallons of water per day
- Construction of a new soda ash silo to help staff meet high water quality standards
- A fire pump building to provide fire protection to the entire facility
- New sludge drying beds and a polymer building for processing solids removed from raw water during the treatment process – the solids will be skimmed from the drying beds and used as a topsoil



**The new West** Chemical building at the treatment plant will house a 22,500 gallon tank that holds the solution used water disinfection.

amendment to help re-vegetate city property damaged by the 2013 flood

- A new water sampling station to measure the point of compliance for treated water.

The completed project will have improved efficiency, reliability, consistency and purity of water Loveland customers already enjoy.

This project will also replace the existing disinfection system with a newer and improved technology.

For more information on the water treatment plant expansion project, go to [cityofloveland.org/LWPConstruction](http://cityofloveland.org/LWPConstruction).



Loveland Water and Power's 2014 annual water quality Consumer Confidence Report, is now available on Loveland Water and Power's website at: [cityofloveland.org/WaterQuality](http://cityofloveland.org/WaterQuality). If you have any questions or would like a hard copy of the Loveland Water Quality Report sent to you, please call 970-962-3000.



## Free *Slow the Flow* inspections help maximize efficiency on outdoor watering

Did you know that nearly 50 percent of home water use goes towards outdoor watering? That much water cannot only increase monthly water bills, but even in a year as wet as this, is just not optimal in our normally arid climate.

That's why LWP is partnering with The Center for ReSource Conservation to again offer the Slow the Flow program in Loveland.

If you have an in-ground sprinkler system, you will save water and money by scheduling a free Slow the Flow consultation.

Simply schedule an appointment to meet with a water conservation technician at your home. The service usually takes 90 minutes and involves a visual inspection, data collection and an

in-depth evaluation. The technician will calculate the data and provide a clear and actionable list of suggestions to reduce water use and runoff at your property, while keeping the lawn and landscaping healthy.

Slow the Flow saves an average of 5,000 gallons of water per outdoor watering season for each resident. Collectively, Slow the Flow saved 12.5 million gallons in 2014. That is enough water to fill about nineteen Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Appointments are limited so



don't delay - schedule today. For your convenience, self-scheduling is now available online at [conservationcenter.org/slow-the-flow-2](http://conservationcenter.org/slow-the-flow-2) or by calling 303-999-3824.



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Loveland Water and Power

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## Get info on your energy use with an online account

Most people are eager to make their home more energy efficient and save money, but they're not always sure how. Using the Home Energy Report's *My Web Portal*, customers can gain a better understanding of their energy use.

Just go to [cityofloveland.org/energyreports](http://cityofloveland.org/energyreports). There you can compare your electric bills, explore usage and create an action plan for making your home more energy efficient so you can save money.

For more information email [sustainloveland@cityofloveland.org](mailto:sustainloveland@cityofloveland.org) or call 962-3000.

Join us for the  
**Passport to Water & Power**  
event, 3:30 - 7 p.m.,  
July 23. More at  
[cityofloveland.org/Passport](http://cityofloveland.org/Passport).

