

Help Shape El Paso County's Future

Hundreds of our citizens play a major role in impacting the future of El Paso County through their participation in more than three dozen volunteer boards, committees and commissions. Volunteer members lend their time and expertise to provide input and direction regarding County services and operations, in addition to participating in various community-outreach events throughout the year. To learn more about volunteer opportunities with El Paso County, visit:



El Paso County's Citizen Outreach Group

http://bcc.elpasoco.com/Volunteer_Boards



Celebrating 150 Years Serving Our Citizens!

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El Paso County, Colorado

EL PASO COUNTY'S 150-YEAR LEGACY



COLORADO

Celebrating 150 Years Serving Our Citizens!

WWW.ELPASOCO.CO



150 Years in Review

In 2011, El Paso County proudly celebrates 150 years serving our citizens. Our County was established back in 1861 by an Act of Congress that carved out the (then) Colorado Territory from lands that had previously been part of Kansas, Nebraska, Utah and New Mexico. El Paso County was one of 17 original counties established by the territorial legislature in November of 1861, fifteen years before Colorado was officially declared a state.

As El Paso County commemorates this milestone year, known by historians as the sesquicentennial year, we take special note of our rich and illustrious heritage — including the people, places and events that forged our past, along with those that will help shape our future.

Happy 150th Anniversary El Paso County!

Celebrating 150 Years of Service to El Paso County's Citizens



Historic Ute Pass Trail

1861-1911

∞1861: El Paso County becomes one of the Colorado Territory's original 17 counties.

∞1871: Colorado Springs is founded — two years later becomes County seat (formerly based in Colorado City).

∞1873: First El Paso County jail constructed. Prior to the jail's completion, prisoners were kept in private houses by "overseers" at a cost of \$1 per day plus meals.

∞1903: El Paso County's first courthouse opens on Tejon street — building later transformed into the present-day Pioneers Museum.

∞1905: First County Fair conducted in Calhan's country schoolyard by farmers celebrating a bountiful potato harvest.

1911-1961

∞1920: Former Colorado Springs & Cripple Creek District railway was converted into the Corley Mountain Highway toll roll, presently known as Gold Camp Road, a popular local and tourist attraction.



1940 Army Parade

∞1942: Fort Carson established in El Paso County following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

∞1949: Sheriff Norman Scott was elected, who helped establish the County's "Mounted Citizen's Posse" that performed searches in rugged country — predecessors to present-day Search & Rescue.

∞1961: Dedication of County Office Building at 27 E. Vermijo Ave., which housed present-day County office occupants in addition to the Superintendent of Schools, Jury Commissioner, Veterans Services, Welfare Department, Public Health Clinic, Public Trustee and County Extension agent.

1961-2011

∞1971: El Paso County Parks division created to provide outdoor recreation, preservation and education opportunities for citizens.



Night View of Pikes Peak Center

∞1976: Voters approve expanding County Commissioners Board to five elected officials, each representing districts of equal population.

∞1982: Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts opens its doors as regional entertainment and cultural exhibit center.

∞2001: Inaugural "Feed the Children" event, organized by the El Paso County Department of Human Services, provides food, living items and holiday cheer to thousands of economically challenged families.

∞2011: El Paso County opens the Citizens' Service Center at 1675 Garden of the Gods Road — offering centralized, integrated public services to residents community-wide.