

INNOVATE

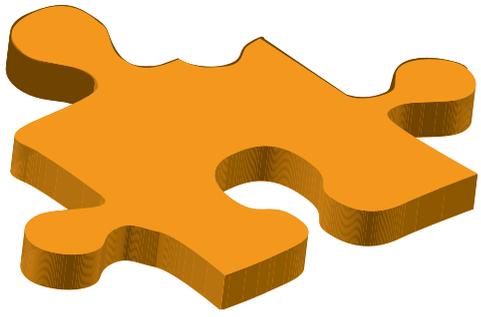


PARTNERSHIP OF DOUGLAS COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

COLLABORATE • INNOVATE • LEAD

ANNUAL REPORT

2007



# LEAD *Lead*

## PARTNERSHIP OF DOUGLAS COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

The Partnership represents 285,000 Douglas County residents in a region that has grown by approximately 15,000 people per year since 2000 and is expected to reach a population of 455,000 at full build-out by the year 2025.

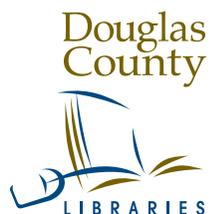
In one-on-one conversations, service transactions and community meetings, Partnership members are face-to-face, listening and responding to constituent needs every single day. We know our communities and their priorities, and we are willing to share what we know in the interest of working with one another as a team, acting in the public interest and focused on the greater good of Douglas County, Colorado.

## *Teamwork* MISSION

On behalf of the citizens and taxpayers of Douglas County and its municipalities, the mission of the Partnership of Douglas County Governments is to build and maintain relationships, foster communication and share information among local governmental entities for the purpose of identifying and achieving cost savings, improvements in operations, programming efficiency and service enhancements County wide.



CITY OF LONE TREE





## IT'S A SIMPLE CONCEPT:

MORE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY A TEAM THAN AN INDIVIDUAL.

The elected leaders throughout Douglas County recognized that standing as individual entities was no longer the best way to serve the needs of residents. The old way of thinking needed to change in order to meet the challenges of the great growth experienced by all areas of the county. From this revelation, the Partnership of Douglas County Governments was born.

2007 marked a productive year for the Partnership. This year, the seven jurisdictions that make up the Partnership continued to advance their goal of working cooperatively together on behalf of the residents they serve. Over the past six years, the group has worked to create a sense of ownership

among its member jurisdictions built on trust, a true sense of partnership and results. This first annual report chronicles many of the tangible, ongoing successes achieved by the Partnership over this last year and since its inception.

The Partnership sends a message about who we are as a community and who we are to become. It sends a message about what we value.

*“It’s a much healthier way of communication with each other. We discuss how we can combine services that will then benefit all of the citizens of Douglas County.”*

MELANIE WORLEY,  
DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*“If we didn’t have the level of trust we have today, I believe some of our projects wouldn’t come to fruition.”*

ELTON WINTERS,  
LONE TREE COUNCILMEMBER

Since its inception, the Partnership has led to several improvements and a streamlining of services:

Parker and Lone Tree save resources by sharing a police dispatch center; affordable senior housing in Castle Rock was preserved thanks to the efforts of the Douglas County Housing Partnership; local youth programs are coordinated through the Douglas County Youth Initiative; and a joint sales tax collection program was established between Castle Rock and Parker. These accomplishments may not have happened had it not been for the Partnership. That’s smart government, and that’s just the beginning.

These early accomplishments buoyed the Partnership members to examine what priorities should be established on an annual basis. In 2007, the Partnership focused on investigating ways to collaborate on Leadership Training and to determine possible Regional Facilities for both public and governmental use and efficiency.

### LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The Partnership committee tasked with overseeing this effort accomplished important work. They identified areas of employee training needs and interest among the Partnership members; established a

*“When we share education and training, that will result in a savings for the taxpayers.”*

RANDY REED, MAYOR OF CASTLE ROCK



system of open invitation to Partnership members of training classes offered by Douglas County; and began creating a broader offering of training courses available to Partnership members in 2008. Members gained from such countywide training as constructive coaching, managing performance, communication skills, negotiation skills and various technology courses. Courses planned for 2008 include time management, resolving conflict, effective communication, managing performance, constructive coaching, business writing, negotiation skills, gender communications and leadership journey. Additionally, the Douglas County School District plans to make available to Partnership members its Web-based e-training program.

To better prepare our leaders for the coming years, Douglas County Libraries brought in a noted futurist to educate Partnership members on trends and issues for which they need to be prepared.

## REGIONAL FACILITIES/PROGRAMMING

The Partnership has begun by taking baby steps but hopes to soon be running in its efforts toward establishing regional facilities. The Douglas County School District and Douglas County have reached an agreement to share a joint data center. Partnership law enforcement agencies have formed a regional SWAT team, hazmat team and major accident investigation team. Douglas County, Castle Rock and Parker, as well as Highlands Ranch, are utilizing a cooperative approach to funding for senior citizen services. While these are small steps, they're huge strides toward more joint initiatives. Partnership members are determining whether it would be beneficial to create such joint facilities as:

- Regional Chief Information Security Office
- Regional emergency/police dispatch center
- Regional recreational and cultural centers
- Integration of emergency management functions

Thanks to the efforts of Douglas County and other Partnership members, the public can keep up with Partnership happenings on the newly created Web site, [www.douglascountypartnership.org](http://www.douglascountypartnership.org).

*“Being a member of the Partnership has really put Larkspur on an equal playing field with the other members of government in Douglas County.”*

SHERILYN WEST,  
MAYOR OF LARKSPUR

*“Anytime you can communicate with the people outside your immediate jurisdiction, you can partner with them in solving challenges that may come up.”*

DEBBIE LEWIS,  
PARKER COUNCILMEMBER

*“The Partnership wanted to come together in a collective way to pool resources to address issues for teens and children of our County – issues perhaps one entity couldn't address alone.”*

KRISTINE TURNER,  
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
VICE PRESIDENT

# SPRIT OF COOPERATION

While working toward the realization of the major priorities established for 2007, the Partnership provided additional advantages. This spirit of cooperation carried over into other areas to the benefit of our residents.

Taxpayers will save money as the Partnership members' purchasing officers have established a joint purchasing program to get the best possible price on products and services that all jurisdictions use.

The views of Quarry Mesa will remain unspoiled and the land open for public use, thanks to the collaborative efforts of Castle Rock and Douglas County.

Parker and Lone Tree are both collaborating with Douglas County Libraries to build new libraries/cultural art centers in their communities.

The relationship among Partnership members has enabled Larkspur to more effectively advertise staffing needs and receive guidance on vendors and professional services.

The Douglas County School District worked with Castle Rock to bring that community a new middle school while working with Parker and Lone Tree to bring their residents new elementary schools. A new high school also will be built in Parker.

Partnership members Lone Tree, Parker, Castle Rock and Douglas County are working together to enhancing cultural opportunities through the ArtVentures sculpture program.

Parking in downtown Castle Rock is getting easier, thanks to the new parking structure paid for by the County and Castle Rock.

Larkspur and Douglas County worked cooperatively to rebuild the Larkspur bridge.

The Town of Castle Rock and Douglas County Open Space preserved 716 acres of land known as Hidden Mesa in a joint effort. Their swift actions eliminated the chance for more than a thousand houses to be perched above the rocky outcrops between Castle Rock and Franktown. The property has more than 5 miles of trail that is open to hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders.

The Douglas County School District, Castle Rock and Douglas County worked in concert to provide area residents a computer sale and recycling event. All three jurisdictions combined their expired computer assets to sell to the public.

*“We’ve begun to reach this point of political institutional maturity where we recognize that none of us is in this alone.”*

JAMIE LARUE  
DOUGLAS COUNTY LIBRARIES DIRECTOR

---

School children will have more options for walking to school as Douglas County works with the Douglas County School District to build trail connections to school sites.

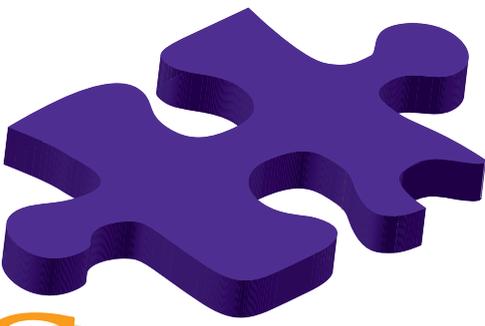
Douglas County and Castle Rock have entered into a joint licensing agreement for Pictometry, a spatial imagery analysis and collaboration tool.

Committees of the Partnership are exploring “green” building practices and avenues to improve higher education and enhance cultural arts opportunities.

Douglas County Libraries organized a Green Summit, where a panel of experts spoke to Partnership members about strategies to incorporate green building practices into their facilities programs. By practicing green building, Partnership members would therefore encourage residents and developers to look at methods of environmentally friendly construction.

Douglas County coordinated a GIS Summit where IT managers met to develop recommendations on potential cooperative ventures designed to reduce costs, increase coordination and improve services. As a result of the GIS summit, the participating organizations found a time-saving method to share new street addresses. The old process involved paper copies, faxes and sometimes a spreadsheet. In the near future, Douglas County will provide these updates to other organizations electronically over the Internet.

The Douglas County Sheriff’s Office is leading a task force to establish a regional response to the growing problem of graffiti activity.



# COLLABORATE

*Collaborate*

## PARTNERSHIP OF DOUGLAS COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

[www.douglascountypartnership.org](http://www.douglascountypartnership.org)

### DOUGLAS COUNTY

Melanie Worley, Douglas County Commissioner  
Jack Hilbert, Douglas County Commissioner  
Steven A. Boand, Douglas County Commissioner  
Douglas DeBord, County Administrator  
303.660.7401

[www.douglas.co.us](http://www.douglas.co.us)

### TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK

Randy A. Reed, Mayor  
Douglas B. Lehnert, Mayor Pro Tem  
Mark Stevens, Town Manager  
303.660.1374

[www.CRgov.com](http://www.CRgov.com)

### TOWN OF LARKSPUR

Sherilyn West, Mayor  
Matt Krimmer, Town Manager/Clerk  
303.681.2324

[www.townoflarkspur.org](http://www.townoflarkspur.org)

### CITY OF LONE TREE

Elton Winters, Councilmember  
Sharon Van Ramshorst, Councilmember  
Jack Hidahl, City Manager  
303.708.1818

[www.cityoflonetree.com](http://www.cityoflonetree.com)

### TOWN OF PARKER

Debbie Lewis, Councilmember  
Scott Jackson, Councilmember  
Jeannene Bragg, Town Administrator  
303.841.0353

[www.parkeronline.org](http://www.parkeronline.org)

### DOUGLAS COUNTY LIBRARIES

Mark Weston, Board Secretary  
James LaRue, Library Director  
303.791.READ

[www.douglascountylibraries.org](http://www.douglascountylibraries.org)

### DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kristine Turner, Board Vice President  
Jim Christensen, Superintendent  
303.387.0123

[www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org)