



## THE COMMUNITY

Just recognized by Outdoor Magazine as one of “The 16 Best Places to Live in the U.S.: 2016” Gunnison is located deep in the heart of Colorado’s Rocky Mountains at 7,700 feet, covers 4.75 square miles and is known for its natural beauty and amazing year-round outdoor recreational opportunities. It is an independent city serving a population of 5,900 and surrounded by the 1.6 million acre Gunnison National Forest. The nearest larger cities are almost 70 miles away over high mountain passes. It is served by the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport, offering commercial airline and general aviation flights. Gunnison averages almost 50 inches of snow annually but is blessed with sunshine, on average more than 300 days a year. The clear night skies are perfect for observing the heavens at the Gunnison Valley Observatory.

Local ranching families have been grazing cattle in the region for generations. Founded in 1880 and retaining that ranching heritage, Gunnison is home to Cattlemen’s Days, Colorado’s oldest and longest running rodeo. This event includes PRCA rodeos, parade, county fair, carnival rides, cowboy poetry, dances and concerts. Western culture is also on display at the I Bar Ranch, a music venue that hosts country and bluegrass concerts. The Gunnison Arts Center earns its name with theater, literary productions, visual and craft art exhibits as well as extensive art classes. Classic car and truck fans as well as history buffs will appreciate the Pioneer Museum’s collection of classic vehicles. Many come from miles away to the annual Gunnison Car Show. Other community events include the 4th of July Balloon Rally and Fireworks, Original Growler Mountain bike races, Gunnison River Festival, the Night of Lights Christmas tree lighting, downtown Farmers Market on Saturdays and Sunday concerts at Legion Park.

The Gunnison River is home to the country’s largest Kokanee salmon run and the biggest concentration of trout in Colorado. Record Rainbow, Brown, and Mackinaw have been caught at nearby Blue Mesa Reservoir and Roaring Judy Fish Hatchery. Blue Mesa Reservoir is the state’s largest body of water and is ideal for boating, waterskiing, sailing, windsurfing, paddle boarding, camping and ice fishing. At the edge of town the Gunnison Whitewater Park offers canoeing, whitewater kayaking and rafting. The spectacular Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is 45 minutes away. Hiking opportunities abound at the nearby Curecanti National Recreation Area, Tomichi Creek State Wildlife Area, Sapinero State Wildlife Area and McIntosh State Wildlife Area. Skiing, ice skating, fat biking and snowshoeing are popular winter activities. Gunnison serves as an affordable base for enjoying the world-class downhill sports at nearby Crested Butte Mountain Resort.

In town the City maintains ten parks, featuring gazebos, picnic pavilions, playgrounds, ball fields, basketball & tennis courts. Jorgensen Park is the City’s largest in-town park with its NHL-sized indoor ice rink and Olympic-sized outdoor, covered rink. Together these host over 600 hockey matches a year ranging from mini mites to

adult men and women teams and the University club team. An old-fashioned skating and fishing pond compliment the official rinks. Jorgensen also sports a world class skateboard park.

The City's 45,000 square foot Community Center features an aquatics center with lap, recreational and zero-entry kiddie pools, indoor climbing wall, basketball courts, a gymnastics room and senior wing with a commercial kitchen.

Only 10 minutes from Downtown the City & County maintain a 160 acre base that accesses the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area which includes more than 8,000 acres of federal lands. In winter it is fat biking, snowshoeing, hiking and Nordic skiing. In other seasons it is mountain biking, camping, hiking, rock climbing, horseback riding, shooting, motorcycling, camping and motocross. Thirty miles out of town is the Gunnison Mountain Park, 160 acres of wilderness in Taylor Canyon for hiking, camping, snowshoeing, Nordic skiing. The Valley is a mountain trail mecca. Western State Colorado University (WSCU) fields a Nordic team that placed second in the National Championships this season with ten All Americans and fields a strong Trail Running team. The League of American Bicyclists has awarded Gunnison the silver level in bicycle friendliness.

Ranked among the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in America, Gunnison Valley Hospital is a Level IV Trauma Center with a 24-hour staffed emergency room. GVH is a 24-bed, short-term, acute care hospital owned and operated by Gunnison County. General surgery and emergency helicopter service is available to the Grand Junction Level II Trauma hospital.

Gunnison Watershed School District provides quality education to almost 2,000 Pre-K-12 students on six campuses. Community support for education is strong with a bond issue for building new schools recently passed along with a mill levy increase.

Western State Colorado University is a four-year, liberal arts institution with outstanding undergraduate, pre-professional and graduate programs. Its many distinctions include Forbes Top 100 Colleges in the West, Top 100 Most Affordable Colleges in America and Top 5 Environmental Science Schools in the U.S. Many residents are graduates who fell in love with the small town, high energy life style and chose to stay or return "home."

The university, public schools and hospital are major employers in Gunnison along with the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. The median household income is \$39,462, and the median home value is \$234,900.



## GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATION

The City of Gunnison operates under a home rule charter with a Council-Manager form of government. The City Council is comprised of the Mayor and four City Council members, elected at-large and serving staggered two-year and four-year terms with two-term limits. The City Council appoints a professional City Manager

who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization. The City Council also appoints the City Attorney and Municipal Court Judge.

The City employs 84 full-time and 76 seasonal/temporary employees. The City's FY2016 budget is \$19.9 million. As a stand-alone City of 4.75 square miles, Gunnison provides full municipal services including police, fire, administration, finance, planning, parks and recreation, water, wastewater, solid waste collection and electricity. Gunnison holds abundant senior water rights to support future development demands and operate well within the prior appropriation policies of Colorado. The City operates its volunteer fire service jointly with the Gunnison Fire Protection District. The Gunnison dispatch center serves the communication needs of all emergency services agencies in Gunnison and Hinsdale counties, an area of almost 4,400 square miles and high mountain terrain.

Sales tax revenue, projected at \$5.8 million for 2016, is the City's largest revenue source followed closely by electric sales of \$5.4 million, then \$1.6 million for water & sewer services and intergovernmental revenue contributes \$1.0 million. Capital outlay is budgeted to be \$2.2 million. Gunnison has a successful track record obtaining significant grant funds for capital projects.

The City is involved in a regional initiative, the One Valley Prosperity Project, which after a community-wide dialogue from Gunnison to Gothic has developed strategies to create a more prosperous future for the Valley. The One Valley Prosperity Strategy guides economic development in Gunnison County, the City of Gunnison, the Towns of Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte.



## IDEAL CANDIDATE

The new Public Works Director will be a hands-on leader with a bias toward action, a strategic thinker with success in managing multiple services and projects. The Director will be a people person, excelling in working with others, field crews, citizens, contractors, media, elected officials. The Director will be a team player internally and externally. The Director must have a lean orientation and the analytical skills to guide public works budgets with a long term outlook. The Director will be a trusted, competent advisor to the City Manager and City Council especially informing the City's infrastructure, development and long range planning processes.

This position exercises executive level judgment, initiative and discretion over all aspects related to public works and utilities. This is Gunnison's largest department with 35 of the City's 84 permanent employees and 45% of its \$20 million total budget.

The Director will work with an experienced management team which leads departments of police, community development, parks & recreation, finance, IT and city clerk. The candidate selected will directly supervise five seasoned superintendents and an administrative assistant. Superintendents oversee streets, alleys, refuse, recycling, water, ditches, sewer treatment, electric and fleet maintenance.

## EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

A bachelor's degree and several years' supervisory/management experience including construction, maintenance processes and utility operations are required. An engineering degree, ability to register in Colorado and familiarity with Colorado water law are preferred. Any combination of education and experience may be substituted if it has provided the skills to be an outstanding Director.

## COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

The City offers a competitive salary with a range of \$84,500 to \$114,100. A liberal benefits package includes health, retirement, deferred income, leave, professional memberships and development.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Submit resumes by September 19th to City of Gunnison Human Resources, 201 W Virginia Avenue, Gunnison, CO 81230. For additional information see [www.gunnisonco.gov](http://www.gunnisonco.gov) or call the City Manager (970) 641-8171. This position is open until filled. Finalists will be subject to a comprehensive background check. The City of Gunnison is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity in its workforce.

