



May 2024

New, unique data technology revolutionizes Aurora's public safety responses and decision making

The city recently deployed new technology that enables public safety and community services staff to use data in real time to make more informed decisions when responding to calls for service.

The goal is to better understand community needs, resulting in improved, safer outcomes for community members and public servants alike.

ForceMetrics, a mobile-first platform, combines many separate, existing city databases into a single shared resource, unifying information for rapid access and easy understanding.

"Aurora is one of the most uniquely diverse cities in the nation," said Jason Batchelor, Aurora City Manager. "ForceMetrics opens the lines of communication and empathy for our public safety and community service responders who frequently interact with the most vulnerable community members. We are now able to quickly access a more complete assessment of an individual or property, using our own data."

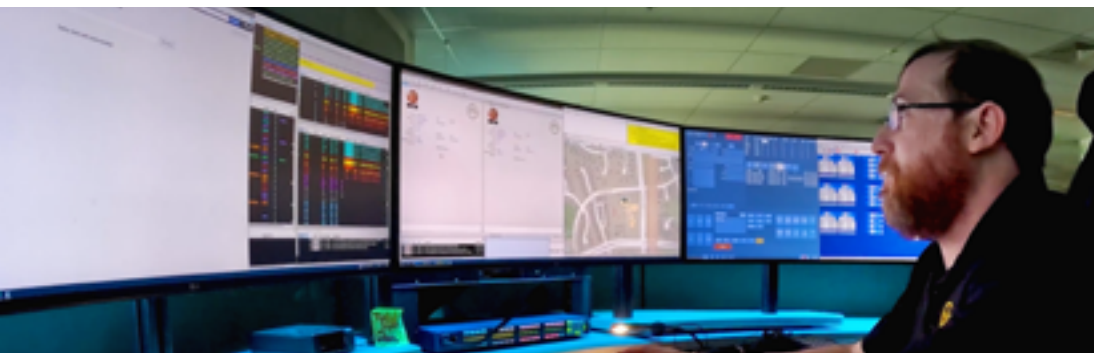
Aurora911, the Aurora Police Department, and the Code Enforcement and Crisis Intervention divisions within the Housing and Community Services Department are all using ForceMetrics.

Aurora911 was the first city department to launch ForceMetrics with its entire staff. Emergency communications specialists can search and access vital safety, mental health and historical information in seconds rather than hours, improving the accuracy and appropriateness of resource deployment. The department also uses the technology to monitor employee exposure to traumatic stress.

Police departments across the country are crediting ForceMetrics for serving warrants, tracking group-motivated crimes via social media, identifying suspects and victims, and generally cutting down on tenuous research time.

ForceMetrics has also helped the police department's Crisis Intervention Team, which collaborates with the Housing and Community Services Department, evaluate its staffing and shift configurations.

The city of Aurora was the first in Colorado to launch the technology, and now Castle Rock, Arapahoe County, Douglas County, and Jefferson County are using ForceMetrics. Its use will continue to expand nationwide, as Greensboro, North Carolina, and Waco, Texas, are also using the technology.



Upcoming Aurora City Council Town Meetings

This publication went to print in early April. Please call **303.739.7015** or visit **AuroraGov.org/TownMeetings** to confirm details (hybrid meeting links are available on the web page).

Mayoral Town Meeting

Mayor Mike Coffman

- July 6, 2-3:30 p.m.
Central Library

Ward I Town Meeting

Council Member Crystal Murillo

- May 23, 6-7:30 p.m.
Moorhead Recreation Center (hybrid)

Ward II Town Meeting

Council Member Steve Sundberg

- July 18, 6:30-8 p.m.
(budget town meeting)
Central Recreation Center (hybrid)

Ward III Town Meeting

Council Member Ruben Medina

- May 14, 6:30-8 p.m.
Aurora Center for Active Adults
- June 11, 6:30-8 p.m.
Central Library

Ward IV Town Meeting

Council Member Stephanie Hancock

- July 11, 6:30-8 p.m.
Colorado Early Colleges (hybrid)

Ward V Town Meeting

Council Member Angela Lawson

- May 18, 10-11:30 a.m.
Heather Gardens Clubhouse
- May 21, 6:30-8 p.m.
Mission Viejo Library
- June 15, 10-11:30 a.m.
Heather Gardens Clubhouse
- June 25, 6:30-8 p.m.
Central Recreation Center (hybrid)

Ward VI Town Meeting

Council Member Françoise Bergan

- May 15, 6-8 p.m.
Tallyn's Reach Library
(budget town meeting)

At-large Town Meeting

Council Members Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Danielle Jurinsky and Dustin Zvonek

- June 20, 6-8 p.m.
(budget town meeting)
Central Recreation Center (hybrid)

You're invited to an **APD District Commander Forum**

Connect with the Aurora Police Department and learn more about what's happening in your neighborhood at upcoming District Commander Forums.

Each police district's commander is hosting a forum to talk with residents about issues they might be facing and answer questions.

Commander Patrick Shaker's District 1 forum is happening from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 4, at the Salvation Army, 802 Quari Court. The forum will include special guest APD Traffic Section.

In District 2, Commander Scott Pendleton will present his forum from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 6, at High Point Academy, 6750 N. Dunkirk St., with special guest APD K9 Unit.

Commander Matt Brukbacher's District 3 forum—featuring special guest APD Internet Crimes Against Children—takes place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, at the Southeast Recreation Center and Fieldhouse, 25400 E. Alexander Drive.

To find out the district where you live, visit bit.ly/APDDistricts.



Aurora Chamber honors two city leaders

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce recently recognized a council member and our city manager for their commitment to the business community and the community at large.

Aurora City Council Member Françoise Bergan is the Chamber's 2023 Woman of the Year Award recipient for her outstanding dedication to the city of Aurora and her contributions to the city's planning and economic development in her role as Ward VI council member since 2015.

Aurora City Manager Jason Batchelor earned the Chamber's 2023 Man of the Year Award for his thoughtful and exceptional leadership that led to the permanent position of city manager in December 2023.

The awards were presented during the Chamber's annual awards banquet in April. For more information, visit AuroraChamber.org.



Learn how to do business with the city

Businesses are invited to attend an upcoming hybrid seminar, "How to Do Business with the City of Aurora," from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 18, at the Aurora Municipal Center (Aurora Room), 15151 E. Alameda Parkway.

See examples of goods and services purchased by the city and learn where to find the city's bids and requests for proposals, along with the process of responding to each and City Council reporting requirements.

RSVPs are not required. To access the seminar remotely on Teams, contact Candice Narajka at [303.739.7055](tel:303.739.7055).



"Give Real Change" campaign supports those in need

The "Give Real Change" campaign, which stems from a 2022 City Council-approved resolution sponsored by Council Members Angela Lawson and Steve Sundberg, has garnered support from Aurora residents and visitors. As of March 2024, it has raised over \$3,000 to support Aurora homelessness programs.

The campaign aims to curb panhandling and encourages donations to Spirit of Aurora—a well-established nonprofit that supports various city and local community programs—rather than giving directly to individuals soliciting money. This ensures that funds are used effectively to promote long-term change and self-sufficiency among those in need.

Campaign signs are prominently displayed at busy intersections around Aurora, serving as a reminder of the community's commitment to providing meaningful support to those in need.

The funds raised through the "Give Real Change" campaign support Aurora's homelessness programs, providing essential needs such as bus tickets, food and water through the city's outreach team. Additionally, the funds help cover the costs of obtaining vital documents like IDs and birth certificates, which are often barriers to accessing services and employment.

To learn more about panhandling and how you can support those in need, visit GiveRealChange.org. Questions? Email communications@auroragov.org.

Recycle your electronics in June

The city of Aurora is offering special event pricing for electronics recycling for residents (no business customers) from June 17 to 28 at the city's e-cycling partner, Techno Rescue, 3251 Lewiston St., Suite 10. The facility will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Most electronic items—desktop computers, laptops, cell phones, tablets, gaming equipment, consumer electronics and similar—are accepted. A fee of \$5 will be charged per vehicle/individual for one standard grocery bag and \$10 per vehicle/individual for any load greater than one standard grocery bag. Additional fees may apply to address the rising costs associated with processing select electronics.

A complete list of fees and items that are not accepted is available at AuroraGov.org/Recycle (go to Electronics Recycling).

Techno Rescue, which is certified for electronics recycling and data destruction, wipes and physically destroys all data storage media to protect the identities of those recycling responsibly.

Host a block party and get to know your neighbors

Are you looking for ways to unite your neighborhood? Consider hosting a block party.

Block parties are a wonderful way to create better relationships with your neighbors and create a stronger-knit community.

- The application portal opens May 24, and two different households on the block must apply for the permit. Permit applications must be submitted at least 14 days in advance of an event.
- Block party permits are only required if neighbors want to block off a city street or cul-de-sac with barricades for a neighborhood event.
- Block party permits are not intended for private parties or events related to political affiliations, commercial or religious organizations, or for neighbors who host a party on their private property.
- Street barricades will be available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis to approved applicants to ensure parties may be held safely. Applicants must pick up the barricades from the contracted vendor, and only a limited number of barricades are available each week.

For 2024, block party season is May 24 through Oct. 31. To apply and for tips on how to host a successful block party, visit AuroraGov.org/BlockParty.

Get ready for outdoor movie nights

The city of Aurora is offering free family friendly flicks under the stars. Bring a chair or blanket and treats, and enjoy musical entertainment at 5:15 p.m., followed by a film showing at 6 p.m. Movies will be announced at AuroraGov.org/Events (click on Park Lights & Movie Nights). The schedule is as follows: May 28, Spencer Garrett Park; May 29, Norfolk Glen Park; May 30, Del Mar Park; June 4, Rocky Ridge Park; June 5, Hilltop Park; and June 13, Larkspur Park.

Arapahoe County is offering Pictures on the Plains at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 E. Quincy Ave., with activities at 5:30 p.m., followed by the movie at 7:30 p.m. "The Secret Life of Pets" is scheduled June 22, followed by "Moana" on June 29. Tickets are \$5 (children age 2 and under are free). Visit ArapahoeCountyEventCenter.com/PicturesOnThePlains for tickets.

Reserve your preschooler's spot for the 2024-25 program

The city of Aurora offers a continuous preschool program during the school year for children who are ages 3 and 4 as of Oct. 1, 2024. All Colorado 4-year-olds qualify for 10 to 15 hours a week of free preschool tuition.

Our preschool programs focus on school readiness, language, literacy, and math skills, along with self-help, social-emotional development and fine/gross motor skills. Fall 2024 preschool classes will begin Monday, Aug. 12, and run through May 2025. Participation in a pre-K environment rich in play, activities, learning and positive social interactions helps students transition to elementary school with a solid foundation. The city offers a variety of classes at five preschool locations—Beck, Lowry, Meadowood, Summer Valley and Village Green—with both free and tuition-based options to meet the needs of families.

Visit AuroraGov.org/Preschool or call **303.739.6878** to learn more about our preschools.



Summer Jams and Storytime

Enjoy a storytime from the Bookmobile and live performances all summer long! Storytime starts at 6 p.m., with performances at 6:30 p.m.

- Friday, June 21, Generals' Park, 1561 Quentin St.
- Friday, July 12, Homestead Park, 23945 E. Florida Ave.
- Friday, Aug. 2, Mission Viejo Park, 3999 S. Mission Parkway

For more information, visit AuroraGov.org/Concerts.

Check out the new Summer Vibes event for teens

Teens are invited to attend a new city event just for them this summer.

Summer Vibes 2024 is happening from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 20, at Triangle Park, 1600 Espana St.; Thursday, July 18, at Wheel Park, 2465 S. Chambers Road; and Thursday, Aug. 1, at Appaloosa Park, 5575 S. De Gaulle St.

The event will feature a variety of fun activities. Visit AuroraGov.org/Events to find out more.

JUNE WATERING SCHEDULE | TWO DAYS PER WEEK

POP-UPS

ROTOR HEADS

ROTARY NOZZLES



8
MINUTES



14
MINUTES



23
MINUTES

CYCLE AND SOAK TECHNIQUE

Depending on your sprinkler head type, water for the suggested number of minutes above, wait an hour, then repeat two more times.

QUESTIONS? 303.739.7195

Ongoing conservation measures in effect

Throughout the year, residents may water no more than three days a week, but from May 1 through Sept. 30, watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. is not allowed.

Aurora Water's seasonal watering guidelines mailer will arrive by the first week of May. Customers may find it helpful to tear off the seasonal watering schedule and place it near their irrigation clocks to easily reprogram the systems each month.

News Aurora will also include the guidelines for the following month. For more detailed watering information, enroll in Know Your Flow. From April to October, participants receive weekly emails with recommended watering times for their sprinkler systems. Each month, you'll also receive a detailed summary of water use, like what Xcel Energy currently sends. For information and to enroll, visit AuroraGov.org/KnowYourFlow.

New to Aurora? Learn about landscaping best practices

Moving into a new home and learning how to care for your landscape can be intimidating, especially if you've never had a yard or you're new to Colorado. Our weather conditions and landscaping techniques can vary greatly from different parts of the country. Aurora is a semi-arid region and receives only 15 inches of precipitation, which is about half of the national average. For new landscaping, consider water-wise materials.

If grass has been recently installed, be sure to adjust your irrigation clock at the beginning of each month. New sod or seed requires more water in the first 20 to 30 days than your lawn will need for the rest of the year. If you don't adjust your sprinkler system, you'll be over-watering your grass, which could kill your lawn. Over-watering will also create shallow root systems that cannot withstand drought or extreme heat, both of which are common in Aurora. Your water bill will also be much higher than necessary.

When installing seed, sod or an automatic sprinkler system in the back, front and side yards, a permit application is required, no matter what time of year.

If you're interested in getting rid of your lawn and not worrying about the issues mentioned above, check out our Grass Replacement Incentive Program at AuroraGov.org/GRIP.

For more information on caring for your water-wise landscaping, including rebates and classes, as well as permit information, visit AuroraGov.org/Conservation or call 303.739.7195.



Free outdoor water assessments

Schedule a free outdoor water assessment to save water and money and ensure your sprinkler system is working properly.

With an assessment, Aurora Water's conservation specialists identify any items that need to be repaired or replaced and usually find ways to improve your sprinkler system. If your system needs to be fixed or requires updates, you may be eligible for rebates. Visit AuroraGov.org/WaterAssessment or call 303.739.7195 for information and to sign up.



Flood insurance provides extra layer of protection

Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flood damage. To assist Aurora residents, the city participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, which the federal government created to provide additional protection. Consider obtaining flood insurance to protect the contents of your home. To purchase insurance, do it right away as there is a 30-day waiting period before the policy goes into effect. For more information, visit FloodSmart.gov.

