



EDWARDS QUARTERLY

WHERE LOCALS LIVE FALL | 2024



We Want to Hear from You!

Effective communication is a two-way street, and your voice is important to us at Edwards Metropolitan District. Whether it's sharing your thoughts, ideas, concerns, or celebrating what makes our community special, we want to stay connected with you!

In addition to newsletters, e-blasts, and District events, we're excited to invite YOU to contribute to our upcoming newsletters and website by submitting your own photos! Do you have a favorite scenic shot of Edwards, a fun community moment, or a project that showcases sustainable living? We'd love to feature your pictures!

Please send your photos, along with a brief description, to Magdalena Gembal at magdalena@mwcpaa.com or submit them through our contact page.

For any other thoughts or feedback, you can also reach us by phone at 970-926-6060 ext. 107. Your input and creativity help us serve the community better and highlight what makes Edwards such a great place to live!

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing your beautiful photos!

INDEX

- A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD, PAGE 3
- EDWARDS BOULEVARD SIDEWALK, PAGE 4
- EDWARDS CHIPPING PROGRAM, PAGE 5
- HILLCREST ROUNDABOUT AND CROSSWALKS, PAGE 6
- PLOTTING WATER SAVING VEGETATION, PAGE 7
- REBATES FOR A GREENER EDWARDS, PAGE 8

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Left: Riverwalk in Edwards is beautiful on a perfect Autumn day.

COURTESY MICHAEL BEACON

— EDWARDS METRO DISTRICT BOARD —

A Letter from the President

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Edwards Quarterly, an e-newsletter about the Edwards Community.

In this letter, I would like to highlight some of the services provided by Edwards Metropolitan District (EMD). EMD serves as the de facto government for part of the unincorporated Edwards area and its approximately 11,000 residents. Unlike incorporated communities that typically have a town board or council, metropolitan districts are common in Colorado and are established to finance, design, acquire, install, construct, operate, and/or maintain public improvements that may not otherwise be provided. Other metro districts in Edwards

include Arrowhead, Berry Creek, Cordillera, and Lake Creek.

In our district, we levy property taxes that fund capital improvements, maintenance, and operations, alongside a sales tax. Together, these taxes generate approximately \$2.1 million annually. A five-person board is elected to make policy decisions regarding operations and expenditures.

As you drive through Edwards, you'll notice several roundabouts designed to improve traffic flow. These were funded in part by the sales tax and other funding partners. Additional EMD projects include the new Hillcrest Road Roundabout, the Miller Ranch

sidewalk lighting project, the replacement of the Edwards Village Boulevard sidewalk, crosswalk pedestrian beacons, and the Waterwise garden at Riverwalk. For more information, please visit our website at www.edwards-colorado.com.

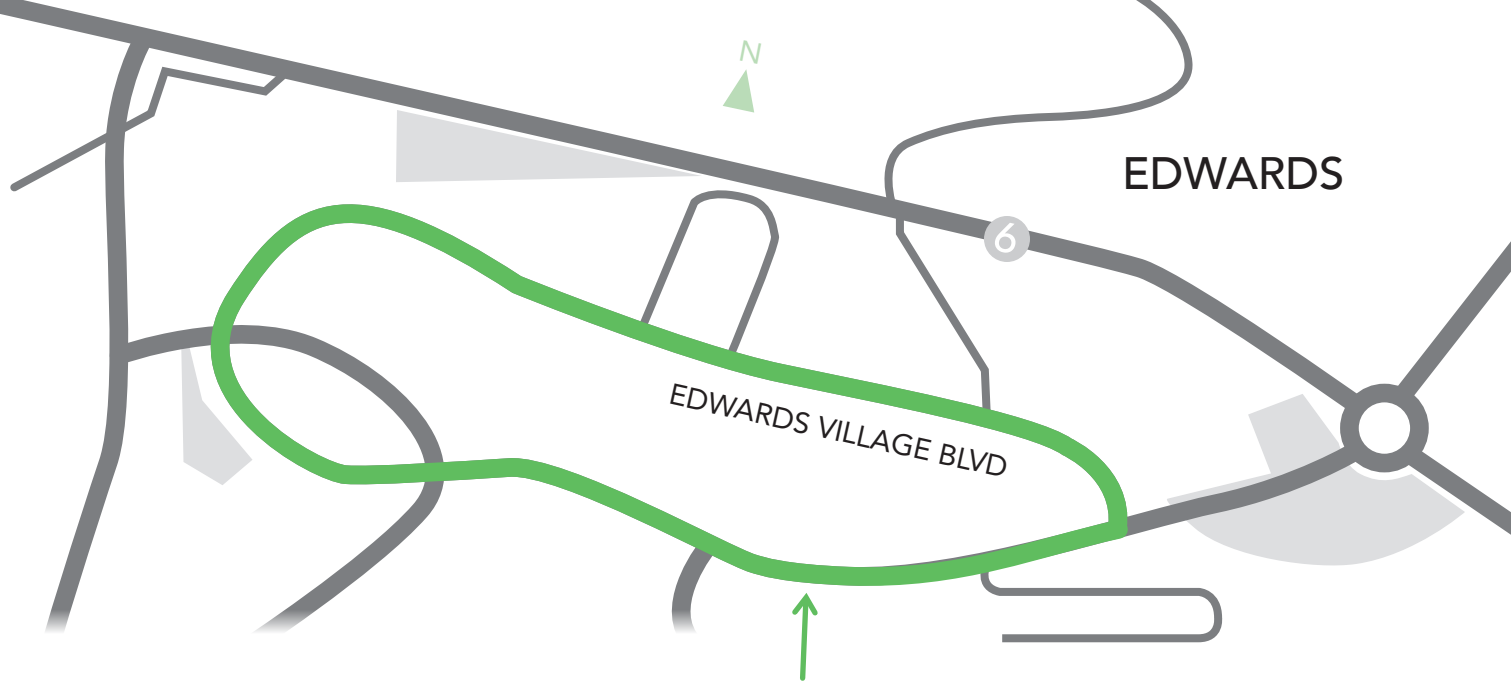
EMD has also partnered with Eagle Valley Wildland to help reduce fire danger in our community, working toward being recognized as a Firewise Community. A key component of this initiative is the curbside neighborhood brush and limb chipping program, to which the district contributed \$50,000. This program is expected to continue into 2025.

Another successful initiative is the Shift E-bike rental program. EMD has partnered with Eagle County to join the Vail, Eagle-Vail Metro District, and Avon Shift E-Bike program. With this partnership, you can ride an e-bike from Edwards to East Vail. E-bike rental locations include Villas at Brett Ranch, Eagle River Village, Riverwalk, Colorado Mountain College, and Mountain Recreation.

If you've recently purchased an E-bike, EMD offers rebates of up to \$200 for residents of the district. We also provide water efficiency rebates. For a complete list of all available rebates, please visit www.edwards-colorado.com/rebates.

Finally, the board of directors is eager to hear your suggestions on how we can enhance our services or address any issues you may be experiencing. Here's how to contact us: www.edwards-colorado.com/contact-us.

Sincerely, Joanna Kerwin



EDWARDS

EDWARDS VILLAGE BLVD

SIDEWALK PROJECT

Map depicts where 6,600 feet of new sidewalk was installed.

New Sidewalk Project Welcomed

One of the newest and most-used improvements completed by Edwards Metropolitan District is more than a mile of new sidewalks throughout Edwards.

The \$2 million project took two construction seasons to complete, said project manager Deron Dirksen of SGM Engineering.

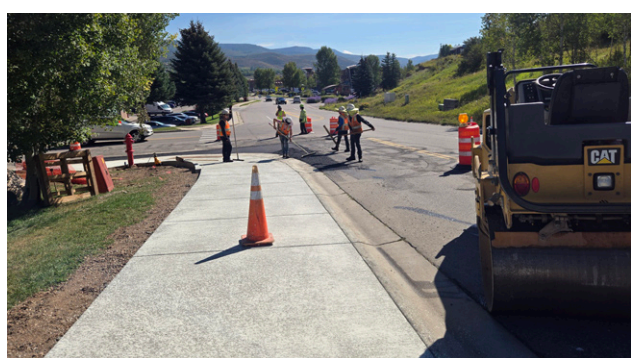
The new sidewalk replaces an old patchwork of sidewalks along Edwards Village Boulevard and Homestead Drive.

One of the most important elements, in Dirksen's view, is the safety improvements installed near Edwards Elementary School. These include safer crossings at Meile Lane, as well as a fence and sidewalk on the east side of the school to help separate children and vehicles. Dirksen said the contractor, Gould Construction, and the Metro District worked closely with the school district to resolve some of the safety issues.

"Now, a bike posse of kids can get to school safely," Dirksen said. "All the improvements add to the safety for kids."

In addition to the hard surfaces and some curb and gutter work, some areas are being revegetated and reseeded, he said.

Behind the scenes, a lot of surveying, mapping, and engineering were done prior to the start of construction





Edwards neighborhood chipping program helping reduce wildfire risk

Edwards residents reduced wildfire danger to their homes with the neighborhood wood chipping program conducted by Eagle Valley Wildland.

“It’s part of an ecosystem reset to reduce fire danger,” said Hugh Fairfield-Smith, Fire Management Officer for Eagle Valley Wildland.

Homeowners in Edwards contributed 113,250 pounds of vegetation. That’s more than 200 truckloads of chips that were generated during the 4-month the curbside chipping program.

Materials consisted of branches, trees and brush that reduced the potential wildfire fuels load in and around neighborhoods in Edwards.



Eagle Valley Wildland (EVW) is an intergovernmental partnership between Eagle County, Eagle River Fire Protection District; Greater Eagle Fire Protection District and the Gypsum Fire Protection District to counter the growing wildfire threat within Eagle County. The program was formed in August 2019.

Eagle Valley Wildland also leads the Eagle River Fire Protection District Wildland Division, providing staffing and training functions for the district. In addition to these duties, EVW continues to work closely with its partners in Eagle and Gypsum, as well as the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

The Edwards Metropolitan District contributed \$50,000 to the wildfire reduction effort in 2024, and the curbside chipping program will continue in 2025.

Visit the Edwards Metro District’s website at www.edwards-colorado.com/curbside-chipping.



Hillcrest Roundabout is Edwards newest improvement to road safety.

COURTESY EAGLE COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Hillcrest Roundabout resolves safety issues

One of the newest projects Edwards residents and visitors will encounter is the new roundabout recently completed on Highway 6 at Hillcrest Drive, 2 miles west of Edwards.

This \$4.3 million project was a joint Eagle County/Edwards Metropolitan district effort.

Planning for the roundabout began in 2019 as part of the West Edwards Corridor Plan.

The roundabout addresses safety concerns at the intersection where a number of serious vehicular accidents resulting in injuries have occurred over the years.

Over the course of 24 hours on average, traffic counts show more than 3,500 vehicles from Hillcrest Drive, which is the access to Highway 6 for residents of Lake Creek Village, the Villas at Brett Ranch and the western access for the Cordillera Valley Club, use the intersection.

“It’s a big improvement for the area,” said project engineer Ricky Davis of Eagle County. “We were slightly under budget and ahead of schedule. Contractor Gould Construction was very competent and did a great job.”

Work on the project started April 16 of this year and was substantially completed prior to the September 30 deadline.

Safety Enhanced with Crosswalks Flashing Beacons

Roundabouts and pedestrian crossings are challenging for motorists-because of limited view corridors while using roundabouts- and for pedestrians because of the volume of vehicles and multiple lanes.

In Edwards where both traffic and pedestrians interact, there are pedestrian-activated bright flashing lights at all of the crosswalks on the Edwards Access road and the on- and off-ramps for I-70 to notify motorists of pedestrians using the crosswalks. They bring traffic to a halt and enhance pedestrian safety.

The project, completed in late 2023 at a cost of \$214,000, has already seen significant use. “They



Magdalena Gembal and Cliff Thompson using improved crosswalk in Edwards.

COURTESY EDWARDS METRO DISTRICT

work well, and pedestrians are encouraged to use the crosswalk buttons,” said Magdalena

Gembal, Edwards District Metropolitan District Account Manager.

Installed Water Saving Native Vegetation in demonstration plot in Edwards

Want to reduce your home water use but aren't sure how to proceed or what you can do?

If that's the case, you need look no farther than the Edwards Access Road west of Riverwalk.

A native vegetation demonstration plot there has replaced the thirsty non-functional Bluegrass stretch on the east side of the road.

Now growing, it was constructed and planted by volunteers working with the Eagle County Conservation District and Eagle River Coalition in June.

While sprinklers are required the first growing season to get the vegetation established, the vegetation will be self-sustaining, requiring only natural precipitation over the long term to keep it going.

By contrast a typical bluegrass turf lawn requires 14 gallons of water per square-foot over the course of an irrigation season.

If you want more information on what vegetation to use, or how to begin a water-saving project, please visit: www.beyondlawn.org program or Eagle County Conservation District at www.eaglecountycd.com.

Also check available water efficiency rebates with Eagle River Water and Sanitation District at www.erwsd.org/conservation/water-efficiency-rebates.

The vegetation in the demonstration plot, which is curated specifically for the site by Gore Range Landscaping, consists of these native plants: Missouri Evening



Eagle County Conservation District planting native vegetation in Edwards. COURTESY EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

Primrose, Wagon Wheel Penstemon, Prairie Jewel Penstemon, Bridges Penstemon, Silverton Penstemon, Pearly Everlasting, Chieftain Manzanita, Blonde Ambition Blue Gramma Grass, Violet Gayfeather,

Indian Rice Grass, Big Bluestem Grass, Autumn Amber three leaf Sumac, Dwarf Blue Rabbitbrush, Four Wing Saltbush, Prairie Coneflower, Giant Sagebrush, Pawnee Butte Sandcherry.

REBATES FOR A GREENER EDWARDS

To help residents save money and live sustainably, Edwards Metropolitan District is offering a number of rebate programs to promote energy efficiency, water conservation, and green transportation. Here's a quick overview of the available rebate programs:

1

E-BIKE REBATES

Switch to a clean and energy-efficient way of getting around town with an electric bike!

WHAT: Get a rebate on the purchase of an e-bike, helping you reduce your carbon footprint while enjoying the scenic routes of Edwards.

HOW MUCH: \$200 per bike (limit two per household)

HOW TO APPLY: Visit the E-Bike Rebate Application to learn more and apply.

2

WATER EFFICIENCY REBATES

Save water and money with our water efficiency rebates!

WHAT: Rebates are offered for irrigation system upgrades, smart irrigation controllers and irrigation evaluations.

HOW MUCH: vary depending on the equipment installed.

HOW TO APPLY: To explore all qualifying products and apply for rebates, visit the Water Efficiency Rebate Page.

3

CLIMATE ACTION & ENERGY REBATES

Be part of the climate solution by improving your home's energy efficiency.

WHAT: Rebates are available for home energy upgrades like solar panels, energy-efficient windows, and more.

HOW MUCH: range from \$500 to \$1000 based on the improvement made.

HOW TO APPLY: Head over to Climate Action & Energy Rebates for details and the application form.

By taking advantage of these rebates, you'll not only reduce your utility bills but also contribute to a cleaner, greener future for Edwards. Don't miss out on these fantastic opportunities! Please visit www.edwards-colorado.com/rebates for more information.



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