

Attractions

ARVADA

Arvada is a city of over 107,000 people, land area of about 20,872 acres (32.6 square miles) located in the Northwest part of the Denver Metropolitan area, is Colorado's 7th largest city, and sits at the foot of the beautiful Rocky Mountains. **Arvada** history goes back to 1850 when the Cherokee Indians found gold in Clear Creek, but they were not interested in the gold. In 1852 a wagon train came through heading to California with a man named Lewis Ralston who found about \$5.00 of gold in a stream that was later named for him in the **Arvada** area. Mr. Ralston returned to this area in 1858 to pan for gold but did not find much. In 1863 a man by the name of B.F. Wadsworth settled on land just to the east of the Olde Arvada Town area of today, and was the person who helped to get established its first General Store, and encouraged a blacksmith to move here. Bridges were built and in 1870, the Colorado Central Railroad was built that linked the town with Denver, which was about 12 miles away. And because the town needed a name to receive mail, Mrs. Wadsworth named the town after her brother-in-law, Hiram Arvada Haskins.

Arvada was a great place for growing grains, vegetables, and small fruits, celery, tomatoes and peas. **Arvada** became known as the Celery Capital of the World. Even though the **Town of Arvada** was established in 1870, it was not incorporated until 1904. Today you can do a walking tour of Olde Town **Arvada** and still see some of the original buildings with all kinds of shops to shop or eat in.

Arvada not only has lots of history, it was recently named the 12th safest city with a population of 75,000 or higher in America. It is approximately a 45 minute drive on I-70 to Denver International Airport. There are 38 elementary,

Middle, High Schools, Charter Private, and Parochial schools within **Arvada**. There are 17 Colleges and Universities within a close radius. We have more days of sunshine than Miami or San Diego with 76 parks, hiking trails, 2000 acres of open space, three golf courses, plus many recreation centers, etc. **Arvada** has its own Police Department employing more than 200 people.

The **Arvada Chamber of Commerce** was established in 1917 as the outgrowth of an earlier civic club and still a very active and prominent organization of the community. For more information please phone **Arvada Chamber of Commerce** (303) 424-0313 or visit our web site at www.arvada-chamber.org

AURORA

Located just minutes away from Denver Int. Airport, off I-70.

Sweeping fairways, blue waters and a spectacular mountain backdrop greet visitors to **Aurora**, Colorado's third largest city.

The strategically located city serves as the gateway to the Rockies, flanked by the E-470 toll way loop to the east and I-70 to the north and with I-225 flowing north-south through town. Given this simple mobility, a vast array of recreational, cultural and dining amenities are within easy reach. **Aurora's** many accommodations, conveniently situated throughout the city, offer a place to stay for every taste and budget.

Recreational enthusiasts can take a dive, hop aboard or sink a line at the 820-acre Aurora Reservoir. Supreme greens await golf aficionados at **Aurora's** seven nationally acclaimed championship municipal courses. Catch the thrill of fast-pitch softball and championship soccer at the 212 acre Aurora Sports Park or watch the BMX, in-line and skateboard wheels roll at the Aurora Wheel Park.



Olde Town Arvada water tower (photo courtesy Arvada Chamber of Commerce)

When the snow-capped Rockies beckon, a short drive to winding mountain highways leads to scenic vistas, world-class powdery slopes, hiking challenges and alpine slides.

Celebrate the seasons and the community at one of **Aurora's** free festivals. July's KidSpree gives kids a chance to explore, create and play at the city's Bicentennial Park. Held in October, PumpkinFest means hot cider and flying pumpkins

When hunger calls, head to one

of **Aurora's** 100-plus ethnically diverse eateries where savory tastes from around the world are sure to satisfy. Or satiate another kind of yearning at the area's malls, shops and antique stops.

Neon lights of a restored 1940's-era movie house summon theater-goers itching for Shakespearean soliloquy or a comedic escapade. Just outside the city and only minutes away, performances of every genre grace the stages of the Denver Center for the Perform-



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