



COMMERCE CITY, COLORADO TIMELINE

- 1850** First settlers came into the area. Danish, Swedish, Irish, Jewish and German immigrants build, dairy and produce farms.
- 1862-** Homestead Act adopted. The first homesteaders establish 160-acre
Pacific Railroad Act signed
- 1871** Plots on land east of Derby, later claimed by the U.S. Army.
- 1867** Danish settlers settled along Sand Creek and began Hog farming 1900s.
- 1869** Trans Continental Railroad crosses 72nd and Hiway 2.
- 1871** Adams County School District 14 began as a one room school house
- 1876** Colorado obtains Statehood
Riverside Cemetery was founded
The Colorado Legislature created the office of “Fish Commissioner”.
- 1881** Construction began in November on a new state fish hatchery near Dupont

Closed in 1963 and in 1973 The Division of Wildlife remodeled the The fish hatchery to become a Hunter Safety Rifle Range. Current day location is located at 88th and I-76, Built by Wilson E. Sistyneer. In 2013 there was a flood and the building was Demolished in early 2014.

The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad (QBC) completes rail Construction along the South Platte River from Cheyenne.

- 1885** The Burlington Ditch Reservoir was established.
- 1887** Derby recorded as a Burlington Northern Railroad Station. (72nd)
- 1889** Towns of Derby and Irondale were established. The Lincoln Land Co. and George McCullough file a plat.
- 1900** Germans, Scandinavians, Italians, and Russians immigrated to the Area.
- 1892** Rose Hill Cemetery was established, 62nd Oneida.
- 1902** School District 14 is officially organized
- Arapahoe County voters passed an amendment that approved the city And county of Denver. Six months later the residents of Adams County Voted to de annex the eastern end of the county.
- Adams County established
- Adams City was established by the Adams Land and Improvement Co.
- 1904** Election between Brighton and Adams City for the permanent County Seat. Brighton won 1,103 votes to Adams City 719.
- 1906** First District 14 grammar school is built.
- 1907 Hog Farming started along the Sand Creek area.
- 1908** Union High School Number One of Adams County was formed.
- 1909** Antero Reservoir is complete.
- 1910** First graduating class of Union High School. Two graduates (Marian Andrew, Edward Cook).

First Post Office established in the Derby area. Mrs. C.J. Irwin Postmaster.

Plats for Derby Gardens were recorded and selling.

- 1912** The first store opened in Derby owned by Tipton and Pearl Brewer
- 1913** The first lumber yard was built by J.H. Peterson, and in 1920 became Derby Lumber. In 1972 Younger Brothers Lumber and Hardware bought The business. East 72nd Place
- Derby School Built.
- 1914** Derby Population – 100.
- 1915 I.X.L. Dairy started by Axel and Lillie Johnson. Closed in 1954. In 1955 A son, Robert Johnson started 56th Avenue Alignment until 1989. Land Sold to Old Dominion Trucking company by Bruce Johnson in 2015. All Building demolished in early 2016.
- Rose Hill Grange number 256 established.
- 1918** Black's Garage established by Denver Black Sr.
- 1924** The Town of Irondale was incorporated and unincorporated in the 30s.
- 1925** Derby Lumber established 6350 East 72nd Place. The Younger brothers Purchased it in 1972 and named it Younger Brothers Lumber and Construction.
- Derby population - 200
- 1925** The first telephone company established in Adams County located in a Home close to Hazeltine school.
- 1926** Dupont Post Office established.
- 1929** Maddox Gas and Oil was established at 5591 E. 72nd Avenue.
- 1930** The Continental Oil Refinery was built. Acquired by Suncor in 2003. Gas stations come to town.
- 1936** Grain elevators were built by Oscar Mallow.
- 1938** Hungarian Flour Company was established.

The skating rink was built in Derby.

1939 The Denver Pet Cemetery established and moved to Commerce City from Around 38th and Walnut Street, In 1942, located at 72nd and Ivy.

1941 World War II

1942 U.S. Government establishes the Rocky Mountain Arsenal east of Quebec Street for the Chemical Headquarters for the U.S. Army removing about 200 families from the land east of Derby.

Adams County Volunteer Fire Department was formed

Big Ed's Tavern moved from the Arsenal land to 6141 Olive Street. Currently called the hideaway Bar.

1945 C & C Creamery is formed.

1946- First Bakery – Elmer and Jean Hemus

School District 14 formed by consolidating area school districts and Union High School becomes Adams City High School.

1947 The Hazeltine Phone Exchange switched to the dial system located at 72nd and Brighton Road.

1948 The first football field at the high school was dedicated to Ed Krogh in October

Highway 6 & 85 was built

1949 The first graduating class from Adams City High School.

Mile High Kennel Club opened.

1950 First Hardware store – Jack Williams and Eli Koff

Commerce City Police Department was formed. First Police Chief Ed Marzano.

Orrel Daniels First Lawyer for the City.

First Bank established – Metropolitan State Bank.

Adams City Service and Café' established by Jake and Jenny Riggi. The Adams Heights sub division is building and new homes

Purchased. Land owned by Mr. Jake Riggi and Dominick Saurini.

1951 South Adams County Water and Sanitation District was formed and by 1953 the first wells were dug.

1952

South Adams County Kiwanis Club was organized

Commerce Town was incorporated Dec 12 due to Denver wanting to annex the Southern part of the City into Denver. This included Rose Hill and South Adams City.

South Adams County Fire Protection District #4 was formed

Alfred Krogh was elected first Mayor. Mr. Krogh died June 19, 1989.

Television comes to Colorado, with Channel 2 as the first station.

1953

Natural gas to Derby

Dial phones installed – Hazeltine Exchange discontinued

Busley's Food market opens in Derby, Red Owl in the early 60's and Hilo In 1965.

Administration for South Adams Water and Sanitation is built and Three wells and pump stations built.

1956

Sewer system and sewage treatment plant approved by voters March 13 And operational by 1957.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Federal Highway Act. Rainbow Bread started building and was operational by spring of 1957.

1957

Rainbow Bread Company opens in spring

1958

Rainbow Break discount store was open.

1960

Mitchell and Sons Campers moves from Henderson to C.C. (64th Avenue). Other businesses are starting to come. Dry Cleaners, Car Lots, Print Shops, tire and auto parts stores .

1961

First part of Derby annexed

The Krogh Field House was dedicated to Al Krogh in 1961.

- Commerce City Rotary Club chartered.
- 1962** All of Derby annexed, Commerce Town changed to Commerce City due to the increasing population from 4000 to 16,000, including Adams City, Rose Hill, Dupont, Irondale and Derby.
- 1965** Major flood hits Denver and surrounding areas including Commerce City.
- 1963** New Commerce City Post Office opens at 7351 Magnolia. Postmaster Floyd Templeton. Mayor Al Krogh.
- 1964** First Commerce City Memorial Day parade.
- 1966** I-70 opens as the major east-west route through Denver.
- 1967** First park to be built (Gifford Park – 6120 Monaco Street).
2nd City Hall opened with a Library at 5291 East 60th Avenue.
- 1969** City Council approved master street grade and drainage plan
- 1970** Home Rule Charter was approved by voters May 5
I-270 opens in 1970. The new interstate links I-70 with I-25 and U.S. 36 in northeast Denver and Commerce City.
- 1972** First Founder's Day, July 8.
Derby Lumber purchased by Younger Brothers and became Younger Brothers Lumber and Hardware.
- 1976** Commerce City Merchant's Association is formed, now known as Commerce City Business and Professional Association.
- 1979** McDonalds opens. First fast food chain to build in C.C.
- 1987** The Recreation Center opens.
- 1988** Commerce City Beacon opens. Closed March of 2009.
The Adams County voters approved to allow Denver to annex lands from unincorporated Adams County to build Denver International Airport.
The City of Denver paid 6.5 million dollars to Adams County for

53 acres for the location of the Denver International Airport.

The construction begins on the tollway, E-470, which today bypasses I-25.

- 1992** Congress passes the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) National Wildlife Refuge Act, designating 27 square miles as a future refuge.
- 1995** Denver International Airport opened. February 28 was the last day at Stapleton International Airport located at 32nd and Quebec Street. March 1st was the first day at Denver International Airport.
- 1995** URA (Urban Renewal Authority established)
- Denver International Airport opens, moved from Stapleton International Airport.
- 1996** Buffalo Run Golf Course opened August 9.
- 1997** New City Maintenance Facility was built at 8602 Rosemary Street, which Moved from 60th and highway 85 (next to Wendy's.
- 1998** GID (General Improvement District Established).
- Water and Sewer resolved for Northern developments. Larry Ford, Bob Gehler, and United Power representing the entities.
- 1998** Community Enterprise Founded
- 1999** Larry Ford with South Adams County Water and Sanitation District And Bob Gehler, City Attorney, negotiated agreements with water and sewer for the development in the north areas.
- C.C. residents voted on April 6 on an initiative *not to restrict* growth in The northern areas.
- Eagle Creek subdivision is the first northern subdivision built. (96th and Highway 2, followed by River Run.
- 2000** Two year planning session begins (City, Shea Homes and Fulenwider) a 3000 acre master plan for the north.
- 2002** Belle Creek and Reunion subdivisions are built.
- 2003** Fronterra subdivision built.
- Final segment of E470 opens in the Northern Range of C.C.

- First Shea homes for sale.
- 2004** Pioneer Park opens.
917 acres purchased from the Arsenal on July 22 for 4.7 million dollars.
- 2005** The Prairie Gateway was formed.
- 2006** Parade of Homes
- 2007** 3rd City Hall Complex (The Civic Center and Dick's Soccer Stadium opens, called the Prairie Gateway complex.

Bison reintroduced to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

The City overwhelmingly voted to retain their city's name in the City Election on April 3.

Quebec Parkway opens
- 2008** Mile High Kennel Club (Wembley Stadium) closes. Last race in July 2008
- 2009** The new Adams City High School opens in the fall at 72nd and Quebec.

Commerce City Historical Society Founded.

Prairie Gateway name changes to Victory Crossing.

October 15, Final deletion of land from the arsenal to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife.

November 9, dedication for the new renovated Veteran's Memorial.

CCHS developed.
- 2010** May 26, Opening of the new Visitor Center for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.
- 2011** August 2 – Commerce City purchases the Mile High Kennel Club through the Urban Renewal Authority.

Suncor pledged one million dollars for a Boys and Girls Club. The City donated 2 acres of Land at 62nd and Holly Street.

August 30 – ground breaking for King Soopers at 104th and Chambers.

2012 Fracking started in Adams County East of Reunion.

South Adams Water and Sanitation District breaks ground for a new Administration building at the current location, at 6595 East 70th Avenue.

King Soopers Mega store opens June 29 at 104th and Chambers.

Mile High Kennel Club buildings demolition started November 10

South Adams County Water and Sanitation District builds new office Building directly behind the old building. The last board meeting in the old building is held Wed October 10, 2012. The first meeting is held in the new building on Wed November 14, 2012. (6595 East 70th Avenue)

SACWSD (water department) building starts demolition of old office Building on Tuesday November 20, 2012.

2013 January 24 Building dedication of Stevenson Administrative Office Building (SACWSD)

El Jardin Restaurant opens Benitos Cantina – January

February 1 last part of the Mile High Kennel Club demolished.

City approves to begin development of the Commerce City History Master Plan with the Planning Department and the Commerce City Historical Society

Adams City High School Demolished June – October 2014

Voters passed 1% Sales Tax (5 projects 5 years) 2K
New Recreation Center 112th & Chambers
3 new parks (Fronterra, Turnberry, Villages at Buffalo Run East)
Leisure Pool at Pioneer Park
Tower Road Access Ramp
Current Recreation Center enhancements

Fire Department passed a bond issues. First Paid Fire Fighters

2014 Groundbreaking for Boys and Girls Club, Pioneer Outdoor Pool and Fronterra Park

2015 April 8, 2015 – Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center

Is named after Pat Schroeder.

Adams County, Commerce City and Denver sign an agreement for Economic Development around DIA.

Outdoor pool opens (July 9,10, 2015)

Boys and Girls Club opens - August 26, 2015

Fronterra park is completed and opens - August 25, 2015

Election 2015 – November

1A for DIA – revenue sharing passed

2016

Turnberry Park opens.

Villages at Buffalo Run East park opens, Sept. 22, 2016.

CC Chamber of Commerce established August 2016

2017

Ground breaking for Hi way 2 widening project-October 26, 2016

