About the Town
Silverthorne:

Silverthorne is a young, determined mountain town with a modern vision. In the 48 years since the town incorporated, it has continuously evolved from a makeshift construction camp for workers building the Dillon Dam, to a convenient refueling stop along I-70, to a year-round, well-balanced community of an estimated 4,100 people. But this is just the beginning. Silverthorne is undergoing transformation. Spurred by its engaged community and through a series of Town initiatives, Silverthorne is creating a vibrant, walkable downtown core with a thriving arts and culture scene, recreation opportunities and economic viability. Each of these initiatives will enhance the community individually, and together they can be truly transformational, cementing Silverthorne’s role as the year-round heart of Summit County.

Town of Silverthorne Office:
601 Center Circle
P.O. Box 1309,
Silverthorne, CO 80498
(970) 262-7300
www.silverthorne.org
www.facebook.com/pages/Town-of-Silverthorne
@SilverthorneCO

Town Overview:

Silverthorne is located in the Colorado Rocky Mountains, approximately 70 miles west of Denver at an elevation of 8,730 feet. It is situated in the Lower Blue River Valley below peaks of 12,000 and 13,000 feet, and is surrounded on two sides by National Forest and Wilderness Areas, and offers breathtaking views of the Gore Range. The Town is considered to be the gateway not only to Summit County, but also to much of Western Colorado, due largely to its excellent location as the first exit west of the Eisenhower Tunnel along I-70, at the intersection of Highway 9 and Highway 6. The Denver International Airport is roughly 100 miles from Silverthorne, approximately a two-hour drive. There are five ski areas within a half-hour drive from the Town - Breckenridge, Copper Mountain, Keystone, Arapahoe Basin and Loveland - and a few others, including Vail and Beaver Creek, less than an hour away.

Topography:

Silverthorne is located in a scenic, high mountain valley carved by the Blue River. It is nestled below Buffalo Mountain and Red Peak, both part of the Gore Range to the west, and Ptarmigan Mountain and the Williams Fork Range to the east. Both sides of the valley are characterized by steep hillsides, large strands of lodgepole pine and aspen, and blue spruce and fir trees above 10,000 feet. The geographical size of Silverthorne is approximately 5.2 square miles, compared to 599 square miles for Summit County as a whole.
Climate:

Silverthorne averages 103 inches of snowfall annually with 14.4 inches of precipitation. Summer high temperatures average in the mid-80s, with lows in the high-30s. Winter high temperatures average in the 40s, with average lows in the -15-degree range. Average annual humidity is 60-65%.

Population & Key Demographics:

Silverthorne is the second most populous town in Summit County. As of December 2014, the resident population was estimated to be 4,100. According to the 2010 Census, Silverthorne's population is 72.7% White, 21.6% Hispanic, 2.6% Black and 1.4% Asian. The median age of residents is 37.1 years old; 32.6% are age 25-44; 11.3% are age 62+. 70% of Silverthorne's housing stock is permanently occupied; 45% is owner occupied, compared to 25% in Summit County. Silverthorne is made up of 56% full-time residents and 28% part-time residents.

Town History:

The Town of Silverthorne is young by most standards but has experienced overwhelming change and growth in the short time since its incorporation in 1967. Over the course of its existence, the Town has gone from a makeshift construction camp for workers building the Dillon Dam, to a convenient refueling stop along the Interstate, to a full-service, well-balanced community of an estimated 4,100 people. Today's residents have access to abundant natural beauty and resources, outdoor adventures, a culture of art and creativity, and businesses that fuel the vibrant, year-round hub of Summit County.

Credit for establishing the existing Town site goes to one of the more colorful characters in the history of Summit County, Judge Marshall Silverthorn. Known by most as “Judge” for his appointment as judge of the Miner’s Court in Breckenridge, Silverthorn arrived in Breckenridge in 1859, and stayed long enough to build and operate the Silverthorn Hotel, and provide many important services to the young Town.

Silverthorn also had a penchant for gold mining. In 1881, he and his colleagues purchased 160 acres from the U.S. Government, in the area between the Blue River and Highway 9 in present-day Silverthorne. Envisioning great profits from gold extraction, Judge Silverthorn purchased the 7/8 interest from his friends and was the sole owner of the property when he applied for a Mining Patent for what became known as the Silverthorn Placer in April, 1882. Unfortunately, not much gold was found, and upon Silverthorn's death in 1887, Silverthorn Placer was given to his daughters.

In the 1930’s, the “e” was added to end of the name Silverthorne, when it was considered fashionable to have names ended in “e.” Various mining companies owned the land until 1953, when it, and several other placer mines, were purchased by Clayton Hill for $18,500. Hill subdivided what are now the Buffalo, Silverthorn, and Silverthorne Colorado Subdivisions in the mid 1950’s. In 1957, Myrth and Robert Z. Roush subdivided Ptarmigan Trail Estates. These subdivisions were home to the construction workers building the Dillon Dam, which began in the late 1950’s and was officially completed on December 17, 1963.

When Silverthorne became an incorporated Town on September 5, 1967, it consisted of approximately 400 acres, and by 1970 boasted a population of 400.
Key Area Businesses:

Silverthorne offers businesses year-round viability with access to resources – including tax incentives, small business and site enhancement grants, no property tax, public-private partnership opportunities and the Urban Renewal Authority – unlike any other town in the region. The town is comprised of engaged citizens, a supportive business community and a visionary government that helps businesses thrive.

RETAIL: Sales tax revenues are Silverthorne's major revenue source and the Town is committed to attracting commercial businesses that service the community and surrounding areas, and bring in revenue. As a Retail Destination, the Town not only offers the region’s best shopping via the 70+ brand-name stores at the Outlets at Silverthorne, it is the only place in the county where residents and visitors alike can purchase day-to-day necessities though major retailers including Target, Lowes and Murdoch's.

DINING & BREWERIES: Silverthorne offers a variety of dining experiences from grilling your own steaks at the historic Mint, to fast-casual restaurants, and several delicious ethnic eateries. Locally-owned Red Buffalo Coffee & Tea offers hand-crafted drinks and deli-fare. The town is also emerging as a leading destination for craft breweries with the opening of the Bakers Brewery in 2015 and the highly anticipated Angry James Brewery, slated to open in late 2016.

HOSPITALITY: From affordable inns to high-end private vacation home rentals, Silverthorne offers accommodations to suit any budget. A new 88-room Hampton Inn & Suites opened in Silverthorne in 2015 providing another lodging choice to travelers.

ADVENTURE, SPORT & WELLNESS: Home to The Blue River, the Dillon Ranger District and surrounded by natural open spaces, Silverthorne offers a variety of services focused on adventure, sport and wellness. Colorado Angler, Trout Unlimited and Cutthroat Angler provide gear and guided excursions on The Blue River. The numerous licensed outfitters provide rafting, hiking, mountaineering and biking experiences in the Dillon Ranger District in the White River National Forest. Silverthorne Recreation Center offers state-of-the-art facilities and a variety of fitness classes and programs.

Key Area Attractions:

**BLUE RIVER TRAIL:** The Blue River Trail is Silverthorne’s recreational backbone and link to the county-wide paved trail system. The trail begins at the top of the Dillon Dam and ends at North Pond Park. The Blue River Trail is unique to the Summit County Recreation Path system because it is a meandering, family-friendly paved trail. Some of the most spectacular views of the Blue River can be seen from the trail. Numerous public fishing access points are available, along with many benches and picnic areas.

**THE BLUE RIVER:** Considered by many residents to be the heart and soul of the community, the Blue River runs through the center of Town and is home to some of the best catch-and-release fly fishing in the state. The river is a Gold Medal Fishing Stream, which means that it has a higher percentage of fish 14” or longer than most rivers. The Blue River, within the Town of Silverthorne, is “catch and release” only.

**THE OUTLETS AT SILVERTHORNE:** The Outlets at Silverthorne welcomes travelers off of Interstate 70 into the Silverthorne community, offering a unique shopping experience nestled in the Rocky Mountains. Visitors meander between three shopping villages, which house more than 70 nationally noted stores and brands. The Outlets at Silverthorne is one of the Town’s largest employers and contributors to the Town’s sales tax revenues.
OPEN SPACE: The Town has assembled 215 acres of open space properties within the Town limits. Open space areas include the Willow Grove Open Space Park, and undisturbed portions of the Ponds, Angler Mountain Ranch, Blue River Run, Cottonwood, and the Ray Property.

LAKE DILLON AND GREEN MOUNTAIN RESERVOIR: Lake Dillon is the centerpiece of Summit County and is the focus for many activities over the course of the year. At an elevation of 9,000 feet, it provided the first sailing opportunities in the region, and boasts the highest yacht club in the nation with marinas in Dillon and Frisco. Green Mountain Reservoir, located about 25 miles north of Silverthorne, allows recreational vehicles and activities that have more of a motorboat, water-skiing, and jet ski orientation, but is also very popular for windsurfing.

RAVEN AT EAGLES NEST GOLF COURSE: This privately-owned course is an 18-hole, 7,000-yard, par-72 golf course with spectacular views. The course was built in the mid-1980’s in the Eagles Nest Subdivision.

HIKING AND MOUNTAIN BIKING: Silverthorne’s hiking and biking opportunities are nearly endless. Hiking and horseback riding trailheads for the 133,496-acre Eagles Nest Wilderness Area may be accessed at numerous points throughout the town. Ptarmigan Trail provides stunning views of the Gore Range.

SKIING: Silverthorne offers easy access to four world class ski resorts within the Summit County including Arapahoe Basin, Copper Mountain, Breckenridge and Keystone, and is within an hour of Loveland, Vail and Beaver Creek.

**Signature Events:**

**BREWER'S ROCK FOR RESCUE, JANUARY:** This annual beer festival was created by Summit County brewers to support and raise funds for the Summit County Search and Rescue Group. The event includes craft beer samples, delicious food and live music.

**ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DAY COMEDY SHOW, FEBRUARY:** A Valentine’s Day tradition, national comedy acts come to Silverthorne for a one-night engagement at the Pavilion.

**COLORADO POND HOCKY TOURNAMENT, FEBRUARY:** The Pabst Colorado Pond Hockey Tournament is the largest pond hockey event in Colorado and west of the Mississippi, drawing 150 teams and roughly 900 players from 45 states. Spectator viewing for all games is free and open to the public. [www.coloradopondhockey.com](http://www.coloradopondhockey.com).

**SUMMER EVENING FAMILY FUN, JUNE:** Rainbow Park is the place to be for an old-fashioned summertime evening full of fun for the entire family. Includes hot dogs and ice cream, bounce houses, sack races, games and amusements.

**OSPREY DAYS, AUGUST:** This free family event to celebrate and learn about Silverthorne's local Osprey population includes educational programming and seminars.

**PUMPKIN FEST, OCTOBER:** Silverthorne’s largest signature event, the free annual pumpkin patch provides more than 1,200 pumpkins to community children. The event also features a pumpkin carving station, free petting zoo, carnival games and more.