Town of Silverthorne

Community Profile

SILVERTHORNE
COLORADO

Introduction

Since its incorporation in 1967, the Town of Silverthorne has undergone a remarkable transformation. What began as a makeshift construction camp for workers building the Dillon Reservoir evolved into a convenient refueling stop along the interstate and ultimately into a full-service, well-balanced community with an estimated population of 5,571 at the end of 2024.

Setting

Silverthorne is located in the Colorado Rocky Mountains, approximately 70 miles west of Denver, at an elevation of 8,700 feet. The Town lies in the Lower Blue River Valley, beneath the peaks of Buffalo Mountain (12,781 feet) and Red Peak (13,189 feet) and is bordered on two sides by National Forest and Wilderness Areas. Thanks to its prime location at the intersection of Highways 9 and 6 and just west of the Eisenhower-Johnson Tunnel along I-70, Silverthorne is often considered the gateway not only to Summit County, but to much of western Colorado.

Denver International Airport is located roughly 100 miles away, making for an approximately two-hour drive. Silverthorne also boasts convenient access to five ski resorts within a 30-minute drive: Breckenridge, Copper Mountain, Keystone, Arapahoe Basin, and Loveland. Other major resorts, including Winter Park, Vail, and Beaver Creek, are an hour or less away.

Town Description

The Town of Silverthorne experiences a high volume of year-round visitors, drawn in by the area's natural beauty and an abundance of recreational amenities. One of the Town's most significant features is the Blue River, which meanders through the heart of the community and serves as a popular, easily accessible fishing destination. The river also offers a scenic stretch for kayakers, canoeists, and rafters, while the Blue River Trail runs along its banks and connects to the county-wide bike path system, enhancing outdoor mobility and connectivity.

The Town boasts seven parks, including Rainbow Park, which features a skateboard park, sand volleyball courts, tennis courts, and a soccer field. Several nearby trailheads offer further opportunities for outdoor recreation. On the north side of Town, the 18-hole Raven at Three Peaks Golf Course provides year-round services, including a free Nordic center during the winter months. Silverthorne's 65,000-square-foot Recreation Center, currently undergoing a 26,000-square-foot expansion, offers a wide variety of amenities for both residents and visitors. These include four swimming pools, a comprehensive range of exercise equipment, and childcare services.

The Silverthorne Pavilion is a year-round event venue with capacity for approximately 275 guests, hosting a wide array of public and private gatherings. The Town also supports arts and culture through venues like the Art Spot Silverthorne Makerspace, a community hub dedicated to creative pursuits, and the Silverthorne Performing Arts Center, which provides performing arts programming and cultural experiences.

For shoppers, Silverthorne offers a variety of retail options. Silverthorne is home to many national retailers including Target, Lowe's, Murdoch's, TJ Maxx, and Sierra Trading Post. The Outlets at Silverthorne feature 27 name brand retailers such as Banana Republic, Columbia Sportswear, Le Creuset, and Ralph Lauren. Beyond shopping, the Outlets include attractions like The Sports Buffet sports simulator, Hidden Table Games, Thirsty Pika Taproom, and various dining options. The nearby Summit Place Shopping Center also hosts a mix of shops and restaurants.

Silverthorne is home to approximately 43 restaurants, ranging from fast food to unique, sit-down establishments. The Town also serves as a hub for service-oriented businesses, including a car dealership and numerous contractor and trade establishments, making it a go-to destination for Summit County residents seeking specialized services.

The Town Core District is designed to promote a vibrant, walkable downtown centered around the intersection of Highway 9 (Blue River Parkway) and 4th Street. This area encourages a compact urban form and continues to see dynamic growth. Recent developments include Bluebird Market (a food hall, indoor play area, and event space), Angry James Brewery, the Art Spot, Hotel Indigo and its on-site restaurant Kúcu Tequila Bistro, a mix of commercial units, and new multi-family housing. The Town Core is also home to the Silverthorne Transfer Station, which provides convenient and free public transportation via the Summit Stage. As the heart of the community, the Town Core holds continued potential for development, creating new opportunities for gathering, entertainment, and connections for both residents and visitors.

Topography and Climate

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 with large stands of lodgepole pine, aspen, blue spruce, and douglas fir. The geographical size of Silverthorne is approximately 4.1 square miles, compared to 599 square miles for Summit County as a whole. The following is a list of some of the natural features found in and around the Town, as well as climatological information about the area.

Geographical Features

Eagles Nest Wilderness Area:
- 133,496 acres, established in 1976

Ptarmigan Wilderness Area:
- 13,175 acres, established in 1993

Gore Range:
- Buffalo Mountain – 12,777 feet
- Red Peak – 13,111 feet

White River National Forest:
- 2,272,896 acres encompassing large portions of Summit County
- Most visited national forest in the country

Blue River:
- Headwaters to the south at Hoosier Pass; runs north through Silverthorne to the Colorado River; has an approximate length of 65 miles

Lake Dillon Reservoir:
- Completed December 17, 1963
- Surface Area – 3,330 acres
- Volume of Storage – 257,500-acre feet

Climatological Information

(sourced from the National Weather Service)

Annual Total Snowfall Normal (1991-2020):
115.5 inches

Annual Total Precipitation Normal (1991-2020):
14.89 inches

Mean High/Low Temp in July (1991-2020):
75.0 degrees F / 38.1 degrees F

Mean High/Low Temp in January (1991-2020):
31.1 degrees F / 1.5 degrees F

History

Incorporated as a Town in 1967, Silverthorne has a rich past. Credit for establishing the existing Town 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, along with providing many important services to the Town. According to the Breckenridge Journal, "At times, in the early days, he was the principal, and sometimes the only, businessman in camp. He was storekeeper, postmaster, justice of the peace, blacksmith and landlord by turns or all combined."

Silverthorn also had a penchant for gold mining. In 1881, he and his colleagues purchased 160 acres from the US 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 remaining 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 1930s, the "e" was added to the end of the name Silverthorn, when it was considered fashionable to have names ending 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, Silverthorne, and Silverthorne Colorado Subdivisions in the mid-1950s. 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 1950s 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.

Following the completion of the Eisenhower Tunnel in 1973, the population of Summit County more than tripled by 1990. It was during this time frame that the Town of Silverthorne adopted many of its Administrative and Zoning Regulations. The annexations of significant portions of Town also occurred during this time, including Eagles Nest, which added 1,059 acres to the north of Town. Since that time, the Town has annexed several more properties: Maryland Creek Ranch, Smith Ranch, Angler Mountain Vistas, Adams Avenue Extension, Split Creek Annexation, and Ptarmigan Trail Annexation.

Population

Silverthorne is the most populous Town in Summit County. As of the end of 2024, the resident population was estimated at 5,571*. Regionally, the Town of Silverthorne lies within the Central Mountains, which broadly refers to the Southern Rocky Mountains, a region dominated by high-elevation mountain ranges, including the Sawatch Range, Gore Range, and Mosquito Range, which form a portion of the Continental Divide.

The Town's population has increased steadily over time from 400 in 1970, to 1,768 in 1990, to 3,887 in 2010, to 5,571 in 2024. Summit County as a whole had an estimated permanent resident population of 30,465 in 2023 (from the US Census Bureau). While the population in Silverthorne continues to grow, the population in Summit County has been declining.

From 2000-2010, Summit County's population increased by 18.41% and from 2010 to 2020, the population increased by 10.42% according to Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program. For the same period (2010 to 2020), the rate of growth for the United States was 7.18%. According to the State Demography Office, the population in Summit County has been declining every year since 2020. The county's loss of permanent residents is likely due to workers leaving the county for more affordable housing elsewhere, owners selling their homes, and conversion of long-term rental and ownership units into short-term rentals and second home use, as stated in the 2023 Summit County Housing Needs Assessment.

**Population Estimate = Average Household Population (2.50) X Number of Built Units (3,326) X Occupancy Rate (67%). From the 2025 Build Out Analysis.*

Demographics

Summit County Population (State Demography Office 2023)

- Blue River – 835
- Breckenridge – 4,955
- Dillon – 1,016
- Frisco – 2,740
- Montezuma – 69
- Silverthorne – 5,571 (from the Town's Build-Out Analysis)
- Unincorporated – 15,822
- Total – 30,441

Silverthorne Ages (2023 American Community Survey)

- 25 to 34 – 13.8%
- 35 to 44 – 15.6%
- 45 to 54 – 15.0%
- 62+ – 22.3%

47.2 *Median Age*

Silverthorne by Race (2023 American Community Survey)

- White – 76.9%
- Hispanic or Latino – 21.0%
- Asian – 1.0%
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islands – 0.9%
- Native American and Alaska Native – 0.2%

Based on the data from the 2023 American Community Survey, summarized above, Silverthorne's population is aging and becoming less diverse. Factors indicative of an aging population includes the increase in the median age and a decrease in the size of the cohort aged 25-44. In 2010, the median age was 37.1 and the percentage of residents aged 25-44 was 32.6%. In 2023, the median age increased to 47.2 and the percentage of residents aged 25-44 decreased to 29.4%. Additionally, the population of residents 62+ increased by 11% from 2010 to 2023.

A decrease in ethnic diversity in Silverthorne is also evident by comparing 2010 Census data to the 2023 American Community Survey. The percentage of white residents increased from 72.7% in 2010 to 76.9% in 2023. In 2010, the percentage of Hispanic residents was 21.6%, Black residents was 2.6% and Asian residents was 1.4%. The 2023 American Community Survey indicates that the percentage of Hispanic residents was 21.0%, Black residents was 0.0%, and Asian residents was 1.0%.

Education

Quality education has always been a priority in Summit County. According to the American Community Survey for 2019-2023, 52.5% of the population in Summit County aged 25 years and older holds a bachelor's degree or higher. In comparison, the State of Colorado has 44.7% and the United States has 35% .

In the 2024-2025 school year, the Summit School District had 3,475 students enrolled at the high school, middle school, and six elementary schools. Silverthorne Elementary, located in Town along Highway 9, provides education for kindergarten through fifth grade and has an enrollment of 339 students. Summit High School (1,062 students) is located at Farmers Korner near Breckenridge, and Summit Middle School (737 students) is in Frisco. Snowy Peaks Junior and Senior High School, Summit School District's alternative high school, had 79 students.

Colorado Mountain College has two Summit County locations, in Dillon and Breckenridge, part of the college's 11 campuses located throughout Colorado's central mountains. In Summit County, CMC's academic offerings include bachelor's degrees in nursing and integrated sustainability; associate degrees in outdoor education and economics; and professional certifications in wilderness emergency medical services, plus dozens more fields. In addition, CMC has a robust concurrent enrollment program, providing college credit courses to local high school students. CMC Breckenridge also offers popular culinary community education classes. During the 2023-24 academic year, over 2,100 students attended CMC in Dillon and Breckenridge, with an average class size of 10 students.

Child Care & Preschool

Silverthorne has three licensed childcare facilities, one of which is the Wildflower Nature School. Wildflower Nature School opened in September 2023 and is an approximately 8,800 square-foot center located in the Smith Ranch neighborhood. Additionally, the Town will offer licensed school-aged care at the Silverthorne Recreation Center upon completion of its expansion, expected in Fall 2026. Access to affordable, high-quality childcare remains a challenge throughout Summit County, and the Town is committed to supporting these essential services where feasible.

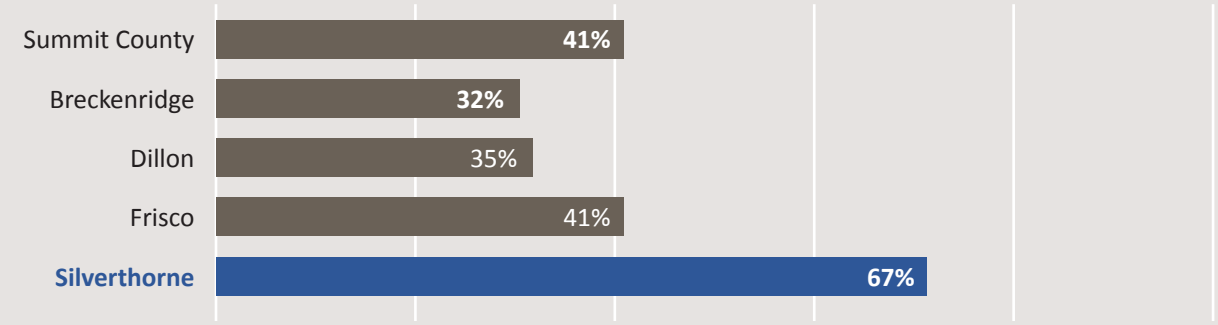
Housing

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of July 1, 2023, Summit County had more housing units (32,645) than permanent residents (30,465). With an average household size of 2.46 people per housing unit, this equates to a surplus of approximately 20,000 units. As noted in the 2023 Summit County Housing Needs Assessment, housing development in Summit County has historically struggled to meet the growing demand from second homeowners, vacationers, workers, retirees, and investors. This challenge is compounded by a short construction season, limited developable land, and high building costs, factors that distinguish it from more urbanized markets.

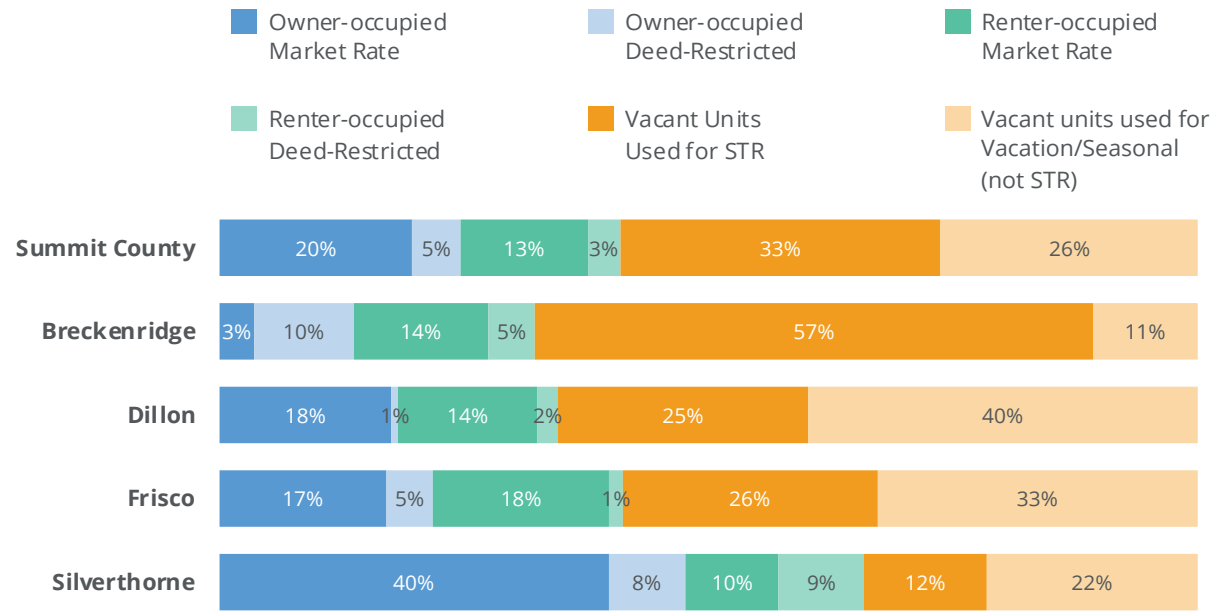
Despite these constraints, Silverthorne continues to lead the region in providing accessible, year-round housing. The Town has the highest resident occupancy rate in the County and the lowest share of short-term rental (STR) units at 12%. Forty

percent of Silverthorne's market-rate units are owner-occupied, a figure significantly higher than in other Summit County communities, highlighting the Town's relative affordability for homebuyers. In total, 67% of all housing units are permanently occupied by either owners or long-term renters.

Full-time Year-round Occupancy Rates:



Distribution of Occupancy and Use of All Housing Units, 2021-23



Source: SCHA, Summit County, towns, Colorado State Demographer, Root Policy Research.

Silverthorne has also been a regional leader in workforce housing, establishing its first subsidized housing more than 30 years ago. Since then, the Town has continually expanded its supply of high-quality, deed-restricted units designed for full-time residents working in Summit County and earning below a specified percentage of the Area Median Income (AMI). There are deed-restricted, owner-occupied units located in the Solarado, Retreat on the Blue, and Smith Ranch developments. Rental units for lower-income residents are available in the Villa Sierra Madres I and II, Blue River Apartments, and Smith Ranch Apartments neighborhoods. Maintaining a sufficient supply of attainable housing across all income levels remains a top priority for Silverthorne, as the Town continues to support a resilient, inclusive, and year-round community.

A complete summary of zoned, platted, and built units is available on the Town's website.

Tourism

Tourism continues to be a dominant force in Summit County's economy, with sustained growth across the region. According to the Summit County Housing Needs Assessment, travel spending increased from an estimated $687 million in 2012 to $1.8 billion in 2021. Notably, Summit County captured the largest share of travel spending among surrounding counties by 2019, surpassing Eagle County, with its share rising from 35% in 2012 to 48% in 2021. Visitors are increasingly drawn to Summit County, and particularly Silverthorne, to enjoy year-round outdoor recreation and arts and cultural opportunities.

With the rise in tourism comes increased traffic. During the 2023–24 ski season, the Colorado Department of Transportation recorded 4.40 million eastbound and westbound vehicles traveling through the Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial Tunnels between December and March, a slight decrease from 4.42 million the previous season (sourced from The Colorado Sun article published on June 17, 2024 https://coloradosun.com/2024/06/17/colorado-ski-areas-visits-spending/). While not all vehicles stop in Silverthorne, the town experiences secondary impacts from this high volume of traffic, which contributes to congestion and strains local infrastructure and public services. As Silverthorne continues to grow in popularity, managing the impacts of visitor traffic remains a key priority.

Additional travel data obtained by using mobile device data shows that, between June 2023 and May 2024, 55% of vehicles traveling on Highway 9 north of I-70 were pass-through trips, 27% were regional (with one trip ending in Silverthorne or Dillon and the other outside the area), and 18% were local (with both trips ending in Silverthorne or Dillon). This indicates that while many travelers may not be stopping overnight, Silverthorne still bears the infrastructure demands of a tourism hub. This leaves Silverthorne with the delicate task of balancing a thriving tourism industry while maintaining a high level of service for its residents.

Employment

Major Full-Time Employers

The Silverthorne region has a diverse range of employers. In 2025, the total number of businesses physically located in the Town of Silverthorne was estimated at 455 based on business licenses. Major employers in Silverthorne include the Town of Silverthorne, Lowes, Target, Epic Mountain Express, Breck Commercial Laundry, UPS, and Xcel Energy. Additionally, employers such as The Raven Golf Course and Neils Lunceford have large seasonal staff.

Workforce

According to the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) Economic Update from June 2024, the labor force in Summit County had a 0.9% growth over the previous year and a 10% growth over the last 10 years. The tourism/outdoor recreation sector continues to be the dominant sector in Summit County, accounting for 40% of all jobs. This sector can be further broken down into accommodations and food services (32%) and arts, entertainment, and recreation (8%). The retail sector is also dominant, accounting for 13% of all jobs. Other sectors contributing to the Summit County economy include public administration (8% of jobs), construction (7% of jobs) healthcare and social assistance (5% of jobs), and real estate (5% of jobs). Summit County's total labor force is reported at 22,638 for April 2024 and the county's unemployment rate is still relatively low, reported at 2.7% as of December 2024.

Income

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) establishes the Area Median Income (AMI) for a community. The AMI is the midpoint of a region's income distribution, meaning half of households in that area earn more than the AMI and half earn less. It is also adjusted for household size. HUD uses AMI rather than average as it provides a more representative and stable measure of income levels within a specific area and is less susceptible to the extreme highs and lows that can skew an average. The 2025 Median Family Income for Summit County is $139,600. At this rate, a household of 4 making 80% AMI earns $106,400 per year, which is considered low-income per HUD standards.

Economic Activity

Building

The data below includes both existing and new construction permits for commercial and residential (single and multi-family) projects. The Town saw a construction boom after the Performing Arts Center was completed in 2016, which was further stimulated by the post-COVID pandemic construction boom, with residential construction almost doubling. While commercial construction slowed down immediately following the pandemic, there was a rebound in 2022 and 2023. Recent commercial and mixed-use developments include the Performing Arts Center, 4th Street Crossing, and 4th Street North — all of which contribute to Silverthorne's Town Core district. Recent residential developments include larger neighborhoods like Smith Ranch, Angler Mountain Ranch, Angler Mountain Vistas, and Summit Sky Ranch, and numerous smaller residential developments. In 2024 there was a decrease in development and permit numbers, and total valuations were at a five-year low. However, development is normalizing back to a level seen prior to the construction boom in 2018.

Year	Number of Permits	Total Valuation	Residential Valuation	Commercial Valuation
2019	219	$81,731,933	$68,504,955	$13,226,978
2020	204	$88,894,470	$65,584,812	$23,309,658
2021	251	$118,510,076	$110,216,624	$8,293,452
2022	203	$148,413,565	$113,089,852	$35,323,713
2023	169	$92,118,794	$78,867,294	$13,251,500
2024	119	$62,227,275	$40,607,353	$21,619,922

Business Licenses

As of March 2025, 1,288 business licenses have been issued from the Town of Silverthorne. This number includes many businesses located throughout Summit County and the State, as well as some from out-of-state. There are 455 businesses located within Silverthorne Town limits, in the categories shown below.

- Contractors, Trades & Maintenance Services – 112
- Food & Beverage (including sales, service, and alcohol) – 52
- Hospitality & Lodging – 9
- Miscellaneous/Other – 81
- Professional Offices & Services – 69
- Real Estate & Property Services – 8
- Retail & Services – 22
- Retail (brick and mortar & online) – 99
- Utilities & Infrastructure – 3

Sales Tax, Retail Sales, and Other Taxes

As a home rule municipality, the Town of Silverthorne is authorized to collect its own taxes. The Town of Silverthorne does not collect property tax. As of January 1, 2023, retail sales inside the Town limits are taxed at a rate of 8.375%. This includes a 2.9% Colorado State tax, a 2% Summit County tax, a 0.75% Summit County Transit tax, a 2% Town of Silverthorne tax, and a 0.725% 5A Housing tax.

As detailed above, the Town receives 4% in retail sales tax (2% Summit County sales tax and 2% Town sales tax). The Town began self-collection of its 2% share of the sales tax in August of 1995, while the State of Colorado continues to collect the County tax and remit it to the Town. 60% of the Town's 2% sales tax is allocated to the Capital Improvement Projects Fund (per a vote in 1992), with the other 40% directed to the General Fund. 100% of the County sales tax collections are directed into the General Fund.

The 5A Housing tax increased from 0.125% to 0.725% in January 2017. The additional 0.6% tax sunsets in 2046. 5A funds are dedicated to providing workforce housing and/or programs and are accounted for in the 5A Housing Fund.

The Town has a Development Excise Tax that puts funds toward the acquisition or constitution of capital assets such as roads, trails, and parks, related to growth in Silverthorne. Additionally, the funds may be used towards the operations and maintenance expenditures in the Public Works and Public Safety departments due to growth. The Development Excise Tax and the use of the funds were approved by the voters of Silverthorne in April of 2000.

The Town also imposes a Lodging Tax of 8% on the rental of lodging units for occupancy of less than 30 days. This includes hotels, motels, bed & breakfasts, and property management companies and homeowners who short-term lease their Silverthorne residences. This revenue stream goes directly into the General Fund.

Silverthorne Sales Taxes by Month of the Year (in Dollars)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change from PY
JAN	921,764	969,901	1,077,219	1,243,940	1,368,047	1,330,157	-2.77%
FEB	872,851	896,207	1,092,927	1,351,266	1,262,995	1,287,003	1.90%
MAR	1,067,353	803,182	1,399,163	1,570,347	1,617,638	1,486,724	-8.09%
APR	769,877	654,733	995,477	1,115,729	1,069,116	1,125,542	5.28%
MAY	1,019,604	822,617	1,043,114	1,204,785	1,194,795	1,160,844	-2.84%
JUN	1,191,209	1,221,145	1,552,762	1,598,113	1,577,659	1,617,491	2.52%
JUL	1,192,519	1,304,240	1,467,979	1,557,013	1,427,421	1,542,848	8.09%
AUG	1,193,502	1,251,475	1,336,094	1,599,315	1,521,058	1,496,910	-1.59%
SEP	1,153,033	1,409,632	1,385,779	1,566,348	1,630,663	1,517,541	-6.94%
OCT	1,004,624	1,156,700	1,180,820	1,374,996	1,227,739	1,264,417	2.99%
NOV	971,770	1,118,262	1,274,107	1,290,143	1,372,323	1,235,449	-9.97%
DEC	1,328,041	1,355,362	1,724,771	1,828,034	1,762,135	1,740,732	-1.21%
TOTAL	**12,686,146**	**12,963,456**	**15,530,213**	**17,300,029**	**17,031,589**	**16,805,657**	**-1.33%**

Town Comparisons of Annual Sales Taxes

Year	Silverthorne	Breckenridge	Dillon	Frisco
2019	$12,686,146	$16,548,676	$4,328,175	$4,993,384
2020	$12,963,456	$15,358,273	$7,875,186	$5,044,846
2021	$15,530,213	$21,131,290	$9,125,661	$5,824,912
2022	$17,300,029	$23,404,279	$9,980,908	$6,316,214
2023	$17,031,589	$23,222,228	$9,827,960	$6,655,482
2024	$16,805,657	$22,909,571	$9,589,339	$6,879,884

Town Government

The Town of Silverthorne is a home-ruled community consisting of a council-manager form of government with power vested in an elected, seven-member Town Council. The Mayor and Town Council members act as the political head of the town. They are responsible for setting policy, approving the budget and formulating broad long-term policies that outline the Town's public function. The Town Council determines the policies and laws necessary to regulate growth and development. By adopting the town's annual budget, the Town Council sets funding levels for all town services, programs and activities. The Town Council appoints a Town Manager to execute laws and administer Town Government.

Council members are elected at large for four-year overlapping terms on the basis of the largest number of votes received, while the election of the Mayor requires a majority of all the votes cast for that position. The Town Council may take action through ordinances, resolutions and motions.

The Town Council also appoints a seven-member Planning Commission, plus one alternate, whose primary responsibilities are to review development proposals and periodically update the Comprehensive Plan and the Three-Mile Plan.

Town Council and Planning Commission Members *(as of June 2025)*

Town Council

Ann-Marie Sandquist, Mayor
Tim Applegate
Kelly Baldwin
Jonnah Glassman
Amy Manka, Mayor Pro Tem
Tanecia Spagnolia
Erin Young

Planning Commission

Jenny Gloudemans, Chair
Mike Bohlender, Vice-Chair
Craig Phillips
Michael Molloy
Leanne Shaw
Brian Birenbach
Valerie Connelly
Nancy Higuera, Alternate Member

122
FT employees

201
PT employees

Updated information on Town Council members, Planning Commission members, and Town Staff can be found on the Silverthorne website.

Silverthorne Staff *(as of June 2025)*

Directors

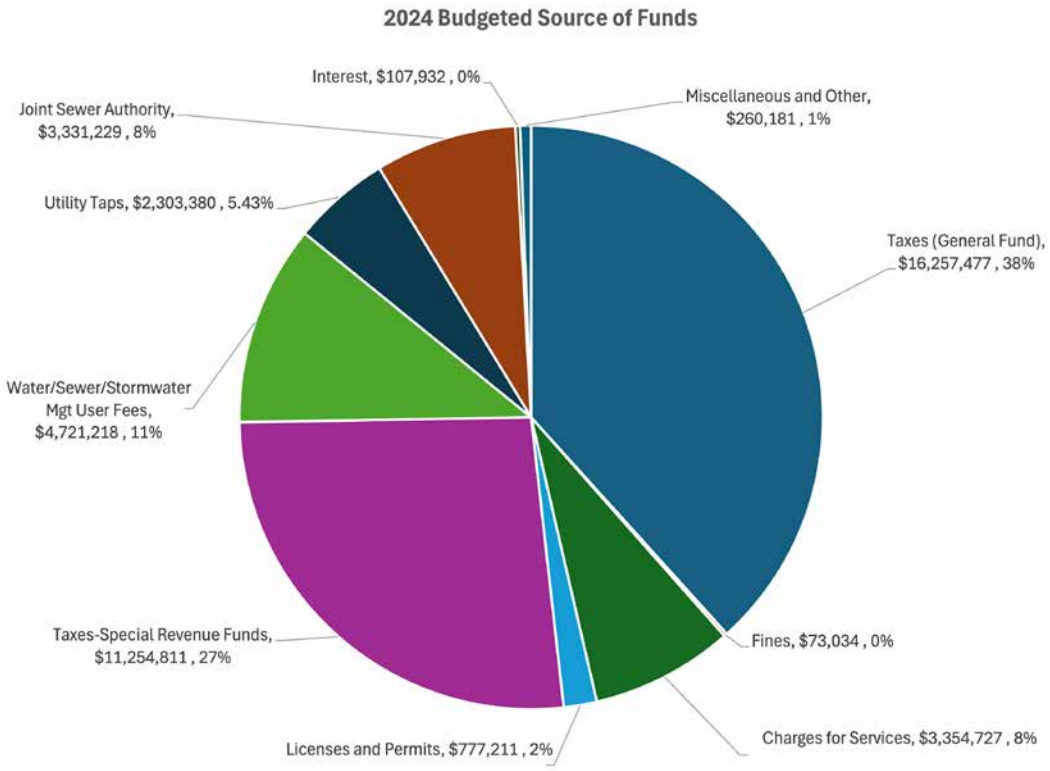
Mark Leidal, Interim Town Manager
Joanne Cook, Assistant Town Manager
Alice Cary, Chief of Police
Tom Daugherty, Director of Public Works
Laura Kennedy, Director of Finance & Administration
Steven Herrman, Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Director
Danelle Cook, Community Development Director
Sydney Drake, Arts, Events & Venues Director
Sarah Thompson, Human Resources Director
Kristina Nayden, Communications Director

Departments and Employees

Administrative – 9 FT (full-time) employees
Arts, Events, & Venues – 3 FT employees and 14 PT (part-time) employees
Communications – 2 FT employees
Community Development – 9 FT employees
Joint Sewer Authority (JSA) – 7 FT employees
Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails – 31 FT employees and 167 PT employees
Pavilion – 3 FT employees and 18 PT employees
Public Safety – 26 FT employees and 1 PT employee
Public Works – 21 FT employees and 1 PT employee
Town Manager's Office – 6 FT employees
Water & Sewer – 5 FT employees

Financial Plan

The Town generally considers revenues in different categories, each with different purposes: Taxes are imposed for the purpose of generating revenues; charges for services / licenses and permits recover costs from those benefiting from the service; and fines are assessed with the purpose of changing behavior or impacting social decisions. The Town uses a conservative approach in budgeting expenditures and revenues due to dependence on tourism and sales tax revenues. There is added uncertainty in this budget cycle due to the current economic conditions with high inflation and low unemployment. The Town's total revenue sources for 2024 were projected to be $42,441,210.



Although the fiscal year of 2024 ended with revenues exceeding expenditures, sales tax and lodging tax revenues did not perform as expected. After 12 years of continuous revenue growth, tax revenues plateaued in 2024. Silverthorne is not alone in this trend, as Summit County, Breckenridge, and Dillon are also experiencing a slowdown. Silverthorne continues to abide by a "balanced budget" policy, by decreasing expenditures, continuing to identify other revenue sources and/or continuing to expand its sales tax base.

2024 YTD Sales Tax Revenue by Category (from December 2024)

- Consumer Retail – 27%
- Building Retail – 21%
- Food/Liquor – 13%
- Online Retail – 9%
- Outlets – 9%
- Auto – 7%
- Services – 7%

Budget

FUND	2025 Beginning Projected Balance	Revenues	Transfers In	Expenditures	Transfers Out	2025 Budgeted Ending Balance
General Fund	14,554,339	21,638,038	1,837,493	24,295,354	-	13,734,516
Capital Improvements Fund	26,786,143	6,080,189	8,760,000	36,605,402	-	5,020,930
5A Housing Fund	8,765,785	3,628,989	-	1,241,362	6,575,000	4,578,412
Nicotine Tax Fund	1,138,294	920,001	-	1,368,001	-	690,294
Development Excise Tax Fund	102,573	379,501	-	-	400,000	82,074
Conservation Trust Fund	445,410	52,293	-	-	-	497,703
Water Fund	5,128,893	2,587,438	-	3,985,234	456,287	3,274,810
Sewer Fund	3,895,398	2,829,261	-	3,654,406	345,475	2,724,778
Stormwater Management Fund	3,345,591	355,132	-	264,669	35,731	3,400,323
Joint Sewer Authority Fund	10,332,172	3,861,063	-	4,276,813	-	9,916,422
Urban Renewal Fund	4,208,298	2,325,000	-	1,296,679	2,600,000	2,636,619
TOTAL	**78,702,896**	**44,656,905**	**10,597,493**	**76,987,920**	**10,412,493**	**46,556,881**

Utilities

Sewer

Wastewater collection and treatment facilities are paid for through the sewer enterprise fund. The Town Utility Department maintains the sewer collection system, which serves all development within Silverthorne Town Limits. The Silverthorne/Dillon Joint Sewer Authority (JSA) operates the Blue River Wastewater Treatment Plant located at the north end of Town. The plant has a total capacity of approximately 4 million gallons a day and serves Silverthorne, Dillon, Dillon Valley, Buffalo Mountain Metro District (Wildernest), and Mesa Cortina. The Town of Silverthorne is the lead agency for the JSA and is responsible for managing the capital improvement programs, operation, and maintenance of the plant and interceptor lines.

Water

Water production and distribution facilities are paid for through the Town of Silverthorne water enterprise fund. The Town has a system of wells, storage tanks, booster stations, and distribution lines. There are eight wells, six of which produce 300 gallons per minute, and two that produce 450 gallons per minute. The Town has six water storage tanks, all located underground, that provide a total storage capacity of 3.16 million gallons. The Town's water system has five pressure zones. The system serves all development within Silverthorne Town Limits.

Sustainability

With abundant outdoor recreational resources being a main attractant of both residents and visitors alike, the Town developed its first Sustainability Strategic Plan in 2024 to balance the needs of the environment, the economy, and society. Ultimately, this plan helps to protect both the local ecosystem and the tourism-based economy that relies on it. The plan establishes goals in five focus areas: energy, waster, materials, mobility, and greenhouse gas emissions. Learn more about Silverthorne's sustainability efforts in the Sustainability Strategic Plan.

Arts and Culture

The Town of Silverthorne has invested in the arts since 2015 with goals to boost the local economy, brand Silverthorne as a place Where Art Meets Adventure, and increase community attachment. Silverthorne is a vibrant and creative cultural hub where world-class actors and musicians mingle with local artisans and creative professionals. At the center of this dynamic community is the Silverthorne Performing Arts Center, a 16,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility that is home to the renowned Theatre Silco. Every year, myriad performances, art exhibits and events take the stage at the Performing Arts Center and the surrounding cultural complex, which includes the Town Pavilion. Silverthorne maintains a robust events calendar of social gatherings ranging from comedy shows to musical performances to maker's markets to First Friday community events and more.

The Town works closely with various artists, local to Summit County or the state of Colorado, for public art displays across the town. These public art displays can be viewed outside the Silverthorne Performing Arts Center, in Town parks, along the Blue River Trail, and throughout the downtown area.

The newest addition to Silverthorne's creative community is the Art Spot Silverthorne Makerspace. Opened in 2023, it was a long-time vision of the Silverthorne Art Board to have a physical hub for the arts in Silverthorne. The Art Spot is Silverthorne's primary place for artistic expression and provides opportunities for the extended community to come together to create, converse, collaborate, and learn through classes, events and more.

The Town updated the Arts & Culture Strategic Plan in 2024. The plan envisions Silverthorne as a modern mountain town, with the ideal combination of small-town warmth and fearless expressions of arts and culture and provides goals and action items to achieve this mission.

Recreation and Parks

The Town adopted a revised Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan in 2021 that works in tandem with the Town of Silverthorne Comprehensive Plan to promote parks, open space, and trails that serve residents and add to Silverthorne's quality of life. The Town also utilizes the Blue River Trail Master Plan, last updated in June 2004, to guide the design and construction of the Blue River Trail, which connects to the Summit County Rec Path.

Silverthorne Recreation Center

The Silverthorne Recreation Center, located at 430 Rainbow Drive, officially opened on August 20, 1994. The 65,000 square foot center houses four pools, two water slides, an 8,106 square foot gym, a 1/11-mile indoor track, cardio and weight rooms, as well as a hot tub, sauna, and steam room. The Recreation Center also a variety of drop-in classes.

In February 2025, the Town Council approved an approximately 24,000 square foot expansion to the Recreation Center that will include expanded fitness areas, a Multi-Activity Court (MAC) gym, administrative/support areas, and a licensed school-aged childcare facility. The project is anticipated to start in the spring of 2025 and be completed in Fall 2026.

Town Parks

Rainbow Park

Located adjacent to the Recreation Center at 430 Rainbow Drive, Rainbow Park is one of Silverthorne's most popular parks. The 12-acre park contains a playground, tot lot, two restrooms, five picnic pavilions with three BBQ grills, skateboard park, multi-purpose playing fields, basketball court with lines for pickleball, two tennis courts with lines for pickleball, four sand volleyball courts with picnic tables, concrete walking track and soft surface trail, and sledding hill in the winter. Its bowl-shaped field also serves as an amphitheater for spectator events and community festivals.

Trent Park

Trent Park is a 10.65-acre park located at the entrance to Willowbrook neighborhood that recently went through an expansion. The original park consists of a pavilion, a baseball field, two tennis courts and six pickleball courts (shared), a pirate-themed play structure, and a fishing pond for kids with an ADA-accessible dock. The recent expansion includes a manufactured bouldering area, a basketball court with lines for pickleball, two bicycle pump tracks (one of which is ADA accessible), a court game area, a warming hut with bathrooms, a perimeter trail, and additional parking.

Arctic Placer Park

Arctic Placer is 1-acre in size and has a small, covered picnic area and a small playground. Although not intended as a major trailhead due to limited parking, this park also provides access to National Forest land just west of the Town via soft-surface trails.

River's Edge Park

Built in 2012, River's Edge is located west of Highway 9 just north of the I-70 Interchange. It has walking paths, picnic tables and benches, and provides access to the Blue River and close proximity to the Outlets and surrounding restaurants.

North Pond Park

North Pond Park is a 5-acre park located directly south of Silverthorne Elementary School. It is a unique mountain wetland and pond area that is home to osprey nests and quality fishing. Recreational opportunities include canoeing, bird and wildlife viewing, river and pond fishing, stand-up paddleboarding, ice skating, hockey, and ice fishing. Restrooms, parking, fishing docks, and picnic pavilions are also available.

Maryland Creek Park

Maryland Creek Park is the Town's largest park. The park is over 20 acres in size and is located at the entrance to the Summit Sky Ranch neighborhood. The park is host to a variety of amenities, including a loop trail that connects with the Gore Range Trail, two dog parks, 9-hole disc golf course, multi-purpose field, warming hut, restrooms, and a sledding hill.

Open Space

The presence of open space in the Town supports long-held community values for passive recreation. The Town has been active in assembling open space properties within the community for a total of approximately 235 acres, some of which has been in partnership with the County. Open space areas include the Willow Grove Open Space, the Ponds, Angler Mountain Vistas and Angler Mountain, Blue River Run, the Ray Property, Smith Ranch Open Space, the Lowe Estate, and the Willow Creek Placer parcel.

Blue River Trail

The Blue River Trail is Silverthorne's recreational backbone and links to the county-wide paved trail system. The trail is ADA accessible and open to non-motorized uses (with the exception of e-bikes). The Blue River Trail connects to the Summit County Rec Path at the Outlets and extends to North Golden Eagle Road. Along the way, it passes by the Outlets, Town Center, the North Branch Library, Willow Grove Open Space Park, and North Pond Park. 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.

Community Garden

Located next to the Recreation Center, Silvana's Community Garden was brought to life in 2008 by community volunteers and continues to operate solely on a volunteer basis. With 33 raised and in-ground plots varying in size, this working garden welcomes all members of the community regardless of gardening experience.

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 Blue River is an exceptional resource not only for Silverthorne, but also for all of Summit County and its visitors. Policies set forth in Silverthorne's Comprehensive Plan aim to enhance and preserve the Blue River.

Raven at Eagles Nest Golf Course

This privately owned course is an 18-hole, 7,000-yard, par 72 golf course with spectacular views along the way. The course was built in the Eagles Nest Subdivision on the north end of Town and redesigned in 2000. The golf course amenities include a clubhouse, a golf shop, a restaurant, patio dining, and "cart-through" refreshments. Club members also benefit from a private lounge, lockers, and sun deck.

Nordic Center

The Silverthorne Nordic Center is located at the Raven Golf Course on Golden Eagle Road. The course is maintained by the Town and is open daily in the winter from sunrise to sunset. The Nordic Center offers several different levels of trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, which are clearly marked with differed colored signs. The North Loop is a 2.5-mile intermediate trail, and the South Loop is 2.3 miles of groomed trails for beginners.

Skiing and Snowboarding

Skiing is the mainstay of the economy in Summit County and one of the primary reasons most people come to visit and live here. Colorado accounts for 22% of ski and snowboard visits in the US. There are four world-class ski resorts within Summit County. The first ski area to open in the County was Arapahoe Basin, which started towing skiers up the hill in 1949. Breckenridge Ski Area opened in 1961, followed by Keystone in 1970 and Copper Mountain in 1972.

Hiking and Mountain Biking

The offerings for these activities are nearly endless as there are miles and miles of opportunities within minutes of Silverthorne. Hiking and horseback riding trailheads for the 133,496-acre Eagles Nest Wilderness Area may be accessed at the top of Ryan Gulch Road in Wildernest, Mesa Cortina, Willowcreek Highlands, or Eagles Nest Subdivision. Ptarmigan Trail provides stunning views of the Gore Range. Mountain bikers can explore the Salt Lick trail and other area trails open to biking.

Lake Dillon and Green Mountain Reservoirs

Lake Dillon is the centerpiece of Summit County and is the focus for many outdoor, year-round activities. At an elevation of 9,017 feet, it boasts the highest yacht club in the nation and maintains marinas in Dillon and Frisco. The reservoir was completed in December of 1963, has a surface area of 3,233 acres, a shoreline of nearly 27 miles, and a storage volume of 257,304 acre-feet.

Green Mountain Reservoir, located about 25 miles north of Silverthorne, allows recreational vehicles and activities that are more motorboat, water-skiing, and jet ski oriented and is a popular place for windsurfing. At approximately 7,700 feet above sea level, the reservoir is warmer than Lake Dillon and is the lowest point in Summit County. Camping and boating at the reservoir have long been favorite activities of Summit County residents. The reservoir was filled in the spring of 1943, has 2,130 acres of surface area, 19 miles of shoreline, and has a storage volume of 154,645 acre-feet.

Community Resources

Silverthorne Town Hall
601 Center Circle (PO Box 1309)
Silverthorne, CO 80498
970-262-7300
www.silverthorne.org

Silverthorne Recreation Center
430 Rainbow Drive (PO Box 1309)
Silverthorne, CO 80498
970-262-7370

Art Spot Silverthorne Makerspace
(PO Box 1309)
401 Blue River Parkway
Silverthorne, CO 80498
970-262-7350
artspotsilverthorne.org

Summit Fire & EMS
26300 Blue River Parkway
Silverthorne, CO 80498
PO Box 4910, Frisco, CO 80443
970-262-5100 (HQ)

United States Post Office
390 Brian Avenue
Silverthorne, CO 80498
800-275-8777

US Forest Service
680 Blue River Parkway (PO Box 620)
Silverthorne, CO 80498
970-468-5400

Summit County Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 5450
Frisco, CO 80443
970-668-2051
www.summitcountychamber.org

Silverthorne Elementary School
101 Hamilton Creek Drive (PO Box 1039)
Silverthorne, CO 80498
970-368-1600
www.summit.k12.co.us

Summit County Government
0037 County Road 1005
Frisco, CO 80443
PO Box 68, Breckenridge, CO, 80424
970-453-2561
www.co.summit.co.us

Colorado Mountain College
107 Denison Placer Road (PO Box 2208)
Breckenridge, CO 80498
970-453-6151
www.coloradomtn.edu

Summit Historical Society
403 La Bonte Street (PO Box 143)
Dillon, CO 80435
970-468-2207
www.summithistorical.org

Xcel Energy (Gas/Electric)
200 W 6th Street (PO Box 1819)
Silverthorne, CO 80498

Wildflower Nature School
160 Ruby Ranch Road
Silverthorne, CO 80498
970-760-6950
www.wildflowersilverthorne.org

CommonSpirit St. Anthony Summit Hospital
340 Peak One Drive (PO Box 738)
Frisco, CO 80443
970-668-3300
www.mountain.commonspirit.org

Summit County Library – North Branch
651 Center Circle
Silverthorne, CO 80498
970-468-5887
www.summitcountylibraries.org

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
249 Warren Avenue
Silverthorne, CO 80498
970-468-0295
www.nwccog.org

Summit Community & Senior Center
0083 Nancy's Place, CR 1014
PO Box 1845
Frisco, CO 80443
970-668-2940

Summit Combined Housing Authority
331 W Main Street (PO Box 4760)
Frisco, CO 80443
970-668-4172
www.summithousing.us

Mountain Dreamers
619 Main Street (PO Box 1972)
Frisco, CO 80443
970-368-6354
www.mountaindreamers.org

Family Intercultural & Resource Center
PO Box 4990
Breckenridge, CO 80424
970-262-3888
www.summitfirc.org

High Country Conservation Center (HC3)
620 Main Street, Unit 8
Frisco, CO 80443
970-668-5703
www.highcountryconservation.org