

TRINIDAD, COLORADO

Planner



THE COMMUNITY

Recently named as one of Colorado's 10 Most Beautiful Places by Culture Trip Magazine, Trinidad's natural and architectural splendor, its moderate seasons, affordable cost of living, and growth of the arts combine to create an attractive quality of life. Trinidad was also named one of the "Ten Best Colorado Towns in Which to Buy a House," by Niche in October 2015 and named one of the "10 Best Cities to Retire in Colorado" by The Retired Blog in 2016.

Trinidad, Colorado, the county seat and most populous city in Las Animas County, is located at the foot of Raton Pass along Interstate 25, the most highly traveled route between Colorado and New Mexico. Only 13 miles north of the New Mexico border, the 8,500 residents of this historically rich community have easy access to major cities and ski resorts in both states. Las Animas County covers 4,749 square miles and is home to 14,446 residents who rely primarily on a farming and ranching economy. The County is home to Perry Stokes Airport, a general aviation airport located northeast of Trinidad.

Almost half of the 35 properties and districts on the National Register of Historic Places in Las Animas County are in the historic district of Trinidad. The Colorado Historical Society's Trinidad Museum features a block of homes and gardens, as well as historic artifacts and exhibits about the Santa Fe Trail and Trinidad's heritage. One of the largest collections of old Victorian-style homes west of the Mississippi is found in Trinidad, known for its beautiful architecture and lively history. Today multi-colored trolley cars traverse the red brick streets, offering free tours of the historic city.

Trinidad began as a trading center on the Santa Fe Trail and later grew as a hub for large ranching operations and as a railroad town. The rich coal mines drew immigrants from around the world. Trinidad was officially incorporated in 1876, shortly before Colorado became a state. The town became home to a number of well-known people in the 1880s, including Bat Masterson, Wyatt Earp, and Kit Carson. By the turn of the century, the population had grown to 7,500 and the community was home to two English-language newspapers and one that was published in Spanish. In the early 1900s, Trinidad became nationally-known for the first woman sports editor of a newspaper, when in 1908 Ina Eloise Young was the only woman sportswriter to cover the World Series.

With its motto of "Welcoming Adventurers since 1821," Trinidad has much to offer outdoor explorers from its skate park, aquatic center, and disc golf course, to the downtown Cimino Park, along the river walk. Other parks include Kit Carson Park, Central Park, and Los Nino's Soccer Complex. The Purgatoire River, teeming with brown trout, runs through the town. Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy fishing, as well as boating, hiking, and waterskiing, at Trinidad Lake State Park.

The immaculately manicured Trinidad Municipal Golf Course, framed by the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, is routinely recognized as one of Colorado's best nine-hole courses. Sports fans enjoy the Trinidad Triggers, part of the independent professional baseball Pecos League.

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THE COMMUNITY, continued

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Seasonal festivals and events include the Labor Day Rodeo, Santa Fe Trail Days, the TrindieFest independent film festival, and Art Treks with its open shops and street entertainment. ArtoCade, an annual art car festival and parade, was awarded the 2015 Governor's Award for Downtown Excellence.

The Louden-Henritze Archaeology Museum, A.R. Mitchell Museum Gallery, and Trinidad History Museum are valued venues for preserving and sharing Trinidad's history. Several local galleries showcase a wide range of media and feature local and traveling exhibitions. The Carnegie Library offers a wealth of information, including A Walk through the History of Trinidad, a self-guided tour of downtown architecture.

Ensuring ongoing support for the community's arts are the Trinidad Art League, Trinidad Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission, and Trinidad Area Arts Council. The City has been designated by the State of Colorado, Council on the Arts, as an "Emerging Creative District." Trinidad was chosen as the first site for Space to Create, Colorado, a \$6 million state driven initiative that brings together public and private partnerships to develop affordable artist housing and work spaces.

Trinidad's early economy was based on coal mining, railroading, and agriculture. Due to natural gas in the area, mineral extraction became an important industry and economic driver until natural gas prices declined. More recent economic resurgence has been spurred by historic restoration efforts, new housing communities, and regional tourism. In the past year, Trinidad has experienced an exciting increase in economic activity, and job and population growth.

La Puerta, a multi-phase, multi-year development, is expected to bring restaurants, retail, a boutique hotel, and riverfront access to an abandoned rail station. A private developer has acquired the land, with plans to partner with the City on development and design. The City recently finalized an \$11 million development agreement rehabilitating three abandoned buildings and relocating an auto dealership to downtown that will create or retain more than 60 jobs in the area.

The community is served by Mt. San Rafael Hospital, a 25-bed critical access facility, and Mt. Carmel Health, Wellness & Community Center offering primary health care to Trinidad and the Las Animas County community.

Trinidad School District Number One, the oldest public school district in the state, serves more than 1,000 students in grades K-12 on four campuses including two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Hoehne School District, a K-12 public school district, offers small class sizes for more than 350 students and enjoys graduation rates that exceed the state average. Additionally, Grace Christian School and Trinidad Catholic School provide private education options for families.

For those seeking higher education, the 17-acre Trinidad State Junior College, the first community college in the state, has the highest completion rates of any community college in Colorado. Nearby universities include Colorado State University – Pueblo with an enrollment of 5,000, and Adams State University in Alamosa, Colorado, with 3,700 students. The median household income in Trinidad is \$50,590, and the median home value is \$138,700.

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GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATION

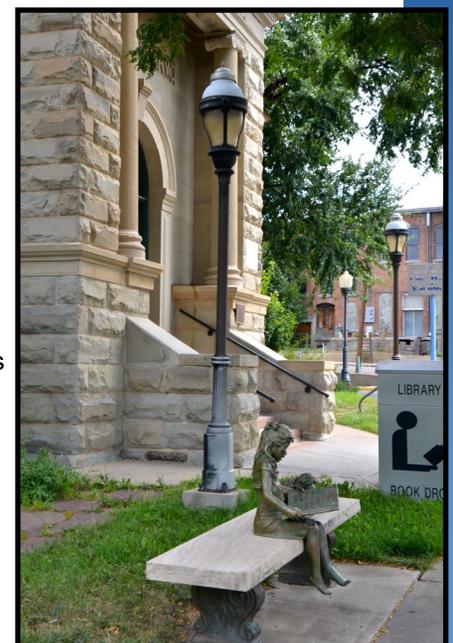
The City of Trinidad is a Home Rule City with a Council-Manager form of government. The City Council is comprised of a Mayor, elected at large, and serving up to four consecutive two-year terms. Six City Council Members, also elected at large, serve up to two consecutive four-year terms. The City Council appoints a professional City Manager to direct the day-to-day operations of the organization. Trinidad's new City Manager Gabriel Engeland, previously served as Assistant to the Town Manager and in the areas of development services and economic development for the Town Manager of Gilbert, Arizona, one of the ten fastest growing municipalities in the nation. Mr. Engeland is responsible for a staff of 155 employees and oversees an annual budget of \$38 million.

The Trinidad and Las Animas County Economic Development (TLAC) Advisory Board members are chosen by majority vote for three year terms. The mission of TLAC is to "increase community prosperity through economic enhancement in the City of Trinidad, the County of Las Animas, and all communities therein."

THE POSITION

This position would include a variety of activities, all for an individual searching for a challenging and rewarding experience. This individual should have a community mindset, working towards the betterment of the development of the community. Tasks and values performed by the Planner include administrative, technical and clerical work in support of the Development Services Department, grant administration, General Planning services, and Historic Preservation services. This includes all aspects of land use planning including application processes, grant writing, zoning, and Planning, Zoning, and Variance Commission packet preparation.

Most aspects of this position require a background within municipal planning and/or engineering. The individual to receive this position will be able to improve their own skills within the planning career as well as have the ability to improve the community of Trinidad. This position specifically will have access to several boards and commissions, working with each one on a personal level, creating relationships that foster growth and improvement within the community. If you have a passion for historic preservation and downtown revitalization as well as have a commitment to creating walkable and moving environments, you may be a perfect fit for our community!



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KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, & ABILITIES

Knowledge of local zoning and land use regulations and the principles and techniques of local planning. The ability to interpret engineering drawings and development proposals and work with computer based programs. Must have excellent communication skills both oral and written.

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

Bachelor's degree in planning, urban development, public administration, or a related field or a minimum of three years of experience in the field of zoning and land use administration, development services, planning, or local government. Experience in Municipal Planning is preferred.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

The annual salary range for this position is \$50,000 - 60,000. The City of Trinidad provides a full range of leave and insurance benefits as well as training and travel pay. The City offers a retirement plan that includes an employer matching rate to employee contribution.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please submit a completed application, cover letter, and resume to HR@trinidad.co.gov. First application review will be Monday, March 7th, but applications will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.

Applications are found on our website, www.trinidad.co.gov. For more information on this position, contact: Anna Mitchell (719) 846-9843, Ext. 133. The City of Trinidad is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity in its workplace. Finalists for this position will be subject to a comprehensive background check.

RESOURCES

The City of Trinidad
<http://www.trinidad.co.gov>

