

Douglas County Acreage Communities

To the south of Denver, **Douglas County** continues to attract those who work in the city but wish to enjoy a rural lifestyle. It is the fastest-growing county in the United States, with the highest per capita income and an award-winning school district which boasts achievement scores above both state and national averages. Its populace is primarily young and affluent.

Located 35 minutes from Denver and 15 minutes from the Denver Technological Center, and surrounded by rolling, wooded hills, **Parker** offers a panoramic view of the Rocky Mountains. Once a tiny settlement on the open plains of the Wild West, the community today is not only the fastest growing city in the U.S., but a clean, safe haven of nearly 35,000 residents seeking land of their own and quiet away from the big city. With its award-winning schools, education is a high priority among residents of this small town, most of whom commute to employment in Denver or Colorado Springs. Equestrian interests abound, with several large horse properties, training and boarding centers and polo facilities.

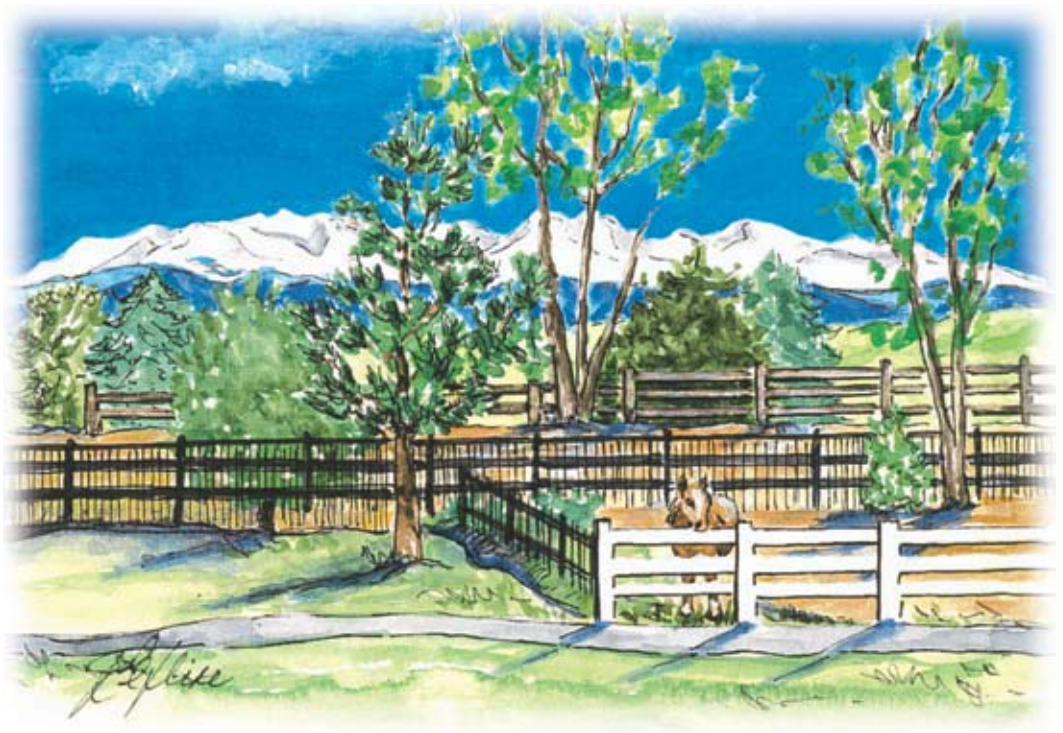
Parker's Main Street retains its old town charm and hosts year-round Arts Commission events, such as Olde West Gamblin' Night, the Christmas Carriage Parade, Arts and Crafts Fair (featuring rides in antique carriages drawn by horses, dogs and llamas), and the Parker Country Festival. The nationally recognized Parker Rec Center offers residents a lap swimming pool, basketball, volleyball, aerobics and callanetics. Other amenities in the community include an extensive Parks and Recreation program, the paved Cherry Creek Trail which runs to Denver, dozens of churches, a state-of-the-art public library, and eight area golf courses.

Further south off I-25, **Castle Rock** is also an ever-growing community of over 28,000 residents residing in a variety of numerous planned neighborhoods. Natural and cultural beauty abound. The ArtFest art festival is held in

September and attracts artisans from all over the country with approximately 20,000 attendees. Growing cultural attractions include fine art and photography galleries, historic walking tours and museums like the Cherokee Castle, a few miles north of Castle Rock and Castle Rock Museum, that is located in the historic train depot.

The Castle Rock Recreation and Senior Center includes an indoor swimming pool, gym, running track, fitness center and childcare, all within walking distance via a local trail system. The new Town of Castle Rock Community Park features ball fields, playgrounds, inline hockey facilities and an amphitheater. Castle Rock offers theatrical productions and entertainment for all ages.

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For homebuyers who want substantial acreage, two other fast-growing areas of note are **Franktown** (in Douglas County) and **Elizabeth** (in Elbert County).