

Anythink Nature Library Fact Sheet



PARTNER: City of Thornton

LOCATION: 136th Avenue & Quebec Street, Thornton, CO

LIBRARY SIZE: 33,000 square feet

ACREAGE: 15 acres on 140-acre Aylor Open Lands

ARCHITECTS: Davis Partnership and THK Associates

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY: GH Phipps

OPENING DATE: Aug. 8, 2026

WEBSITE: www.anythinklibraries.org/
anythink-nature-library

OUR VISION: Help people find their place in nature

The Anythink Nature Library occupies 15 acres on the 140 acre Aylor Open Lands site in the City of Thornton.

As the first public library in the United States designed using the Environmental Kinship Model, library services and programs are grounded in the understanding that “everything in the natural world is interrelated and that humans are a part of this as cohabiters.” (Learn more about the Environmental Kinship Guide at environmentalkinship.org.)

The vision of the Anythink Nature Library is to “help people find their place in nature.” This is a place where learning happens through science, play and hands-on exploration — where children can climb boulders, experiment with water flow in the outdoor mud zone, plant seeds in the learning garden or engage with interactive exhibits that invite them to touch, question and discover.

Developed in direct response to community input and research, made possible through a partnership with the City of Thornton, and guided by our Indigenous Advisory Council, the Anythink Nature Library addresses real barriers to outdoor access — whether transportation, education, gear or confidence.

The Anythink Nature Library provides restorative natural spaces, services and programs grounded in a holistic understanding of wellbeing that includes relationships to land, community and culture. For example, Anythink offers outdoor gear for checkout, immersive learning environments and nature-focused programming. Here, the outdoors is accessible to everyone, with programming and interpretation shaped by both scientific knowledge and Indigenous ways of knowing.

Underscoring Anythink’s commitment to environmental stewardship and long-term sustainability, the Anythink Nature Library is pursuing LEED Gold Certification. Notable features include a geothermal field for heating and cooling, fully electric mechanical systems, more than 300 rooftop solar panels and LED lighting throughout.